

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE RED RIVER VALLEY RAILROAD HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

MAY, 2010

SHREVEPORT, LA

OUR 29TH YEAR

UP 844 Steam Engine in East Texas and Arkansas

Union Pacific 4-8-4 Northern No. 844 returned to Texas April 2 – April 29 as *The Valley Eagle*. The steam engine and her passenger train consist, heading back home to Cheyenne, arrived in Longview on Tuesday April 20th. After spending the night there, she headed for N. Little Rock a little after 8 a.m. on Wednesday the 21st. She arrived in Marshall at 9:10 a.m. and was greeted by a good crowd of folks including John Parnell and his son Thomas, Marie and Chuck Heimerdinger, Joe Hedl and your editor. After a brief stop to pick up members of the Marshall Depot board and guests, she left for Texarkana and arrived shortly after 11 a.m. After a 20 minute servicing, she headed on up to N. Little Rock. It was great to see steam on the mainline once again!

UP 844 Photo Contest Winner



Several photos were submitted and were judged by a “distinguished panel of judges” (not including your editor). The winning photo above was submitted by Society member Carol Foxworth and shows UP 844 entering the town of Magnolia, Texas on Sunday April 11. Great shot Carol!

Photo Contest Runner-Ups



The nice shots above were taken by Roger (left photo) and Melinda West (right photo). Roger took his photo between Hallsville and Marshall, and Melinda got hers outside of Jefferson at Lodi.



This neat photo was taken near the Amtrak Station in Longview by Normal Buell, who lives in Jefferson.

Cab Ride



Society member Tommy Crenshaw was able to get a cab ride in N. Little Rock, where he works for UP.

Trip to Longleaf on May 1



Because of the unsettled weather and other things, the only Society member that made the trip was Russell Pedro. He said the weather was beautiful after he got there and he especially enjoyed seeing and riding in Motor Car M-4. Russell took these great photos plus many others. More information is found in the President's Message.

Spring Banquet on May 15

As is our custom, there will be no business meeting during the month we have a Banquet. Instead, we will have a Fish Fry at Mark and Kelly Jo Brunettin's "Hangar 15" at the Shreveport Downtown Airport. The address is 1550 Airport Drive, which is across the street from the Gateway Tire Warehouse in north Shreveport. We will have fish, shrimp, hush puppies, cole slaw, etc. The time is from 3 to 7 p.m., and we will eat about 5 p.m. The cost is \$5.00 per attendee, and you can pay when you get there. If you would like to bring a dessert or other dish, please call Gary Fox at (318) 631-9164 or Kelly Jo at (318) 524-2832.

Upcoming Events

- May 8 T&P Retired Employees Reunion at the Marshall Depot (call 903-938-9495)
- May 8 National Train Day commemorating the 141st anniversary of the first transcontinental railroad's inception
- May 15 Spring Banquet at Hangar 15 – Downtown Airport - 3 to 7 p.m.
(No RRVHRS meeting in May)
- May 21-22 Caddo Lake Steamboat Meet in Uncertain, Texas
- June 12 Marshall Depot – 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. – "Reading at the Railroad"
- June 18 RRVHRS meeting at the Glen – 7 p.m.
- June 21-26 National Railway Historical Society Convention at Steamtown in Scranton, PA

The President's Message – May 2010

Hello Railfans:

It's time for another article. Can you believe it? Time passes so fast I can hardly finish one article and it is time for another. Well, here we go.

This past weekend I was down at Longleaf at the Heritage Day activities. The weather turned out fine in spite of threatening forecasts when I left Shreveport. The activities get better and the attendance improves every year. In the last two years they have made a lot of improvements at the museum. Now there is a complete circle of track around the entire complex (8/10 of a mile long) as well as a one mile section of the original railroad opened out into the woods north of the sawmill. The main attraction was a restored motor car from the Fernwood Columbia and Gulf Railroad in Mississippi. The car has been almost completely restored, lacking only windows and interior paneling. It was a great experience to ride in this motor car. There were a large number of antique tractors and automobiles on hand as well as lots of live music for people to enjoy.

Work has been progressing on our museum with all the brick work being finished. Next we will be replacing the windows. We have talked with the window company and they will meet us out at the building next week to take measurements for the replacement windows. Please plan to come out and help with this work.

Kelly Jo has been working with fund raising ideas to help pay for needed repairs. We will be discussing these with you at our next meeting. Remember we will not have a meeting in May because of the Spring Fish Fry. This year the outing will be held at the Downtown Airport in Hangar 15. I hope all of you will be there. We will have the usual fare of fried catfish, French fries, cole slaw and hushpuppies. If you would like to bring desert feel free to do so. It will be welcomed!

Well, for now that is all I can think of so I will close. I hope to see you at the Fish Fry.

Happy Railroading!
Russell

**RED RIVER VALLEY
RAILROAD HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.
Shreveport, LA
www.rvrhs.org**

Russell Pedro – President Dave Bland – Vice President
Mark Brunettin – Secretary Bill Hasheider – Treasurer
Dave Bland – Newsletter Editor – 797-8008 – DDBland@aol.com

It is time to pay your 2010 Annual Dues

Please send a check or money order for \$16.50 with this membership form to Bill Hasheider at 6813 Despot Road, Shreveport, LA 71108

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____