

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

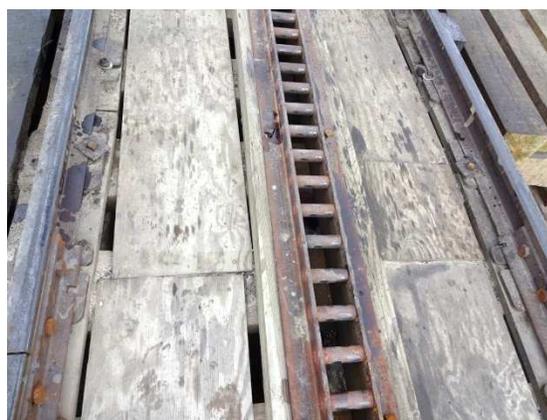
Web Site: WWW.RRVRS.ORG On Facebook: [Shreveport Railroad Museum](https://www.facebook.com/ShreveportRailroadMuseum)
Russell Pedro – President W. Conway Link – Vice-President Jim McClure – Secretary
Bill Hasheider – Treasurer Dave Bland – Newsletter Editor – DDBland@aol.com

October, 2015

SHREVEPORT, LA

Our 34th Year

The World's First Cog Railway: Mt. Washington, New Hampshire



Your Editor just got back from a trip to Vermont and New Hampshire, and one of the highlights was a ride up Mt. Washington on “The Cog” Railway. The steam engine boiler is constructed at an angle so that the water in the boiler will be relatively horizontal as the engine goes up the mountain. With inclines of up to 37 degrees, driving wheels on a normal steam engine would not be able to get traction, so a “cog” drive system is used. You can see one of the drive gears in the left photo above, and the “rack” in which they run in the right photo. The drive gears have teeth that fit down into the slots in the rack, providing positive pulling power as the train goes up the mountain, and positive braking action as the train comes down. Each engine pushes a coach that holds about 50 people up the 3,500 ft. ascent at a very slow pace, pulling over on sidings occasionally to allow descending trains to pass. It takes an hour to reach the top. A very unique train ride!

Built in 1869, the Mt. Washington Cog Railway is a National Historic Engineering Landmark. Unfortunately for those of us who love steam, they are running most of the trains now with biodiesel locomotives supposedly to help the environment by eliminating all that “terrible black smoke”. However, the employees say the fumes from the biodiesel locomotives give them headaches!

The only other cog railway in the United States is the Manitou & Pike’s Peak Railway in Colorado.

LASTA Membership Drive

The Louisiana Steam Train Association (LASTA) does a lot of great work, especially operating and maintaining Southern Pacific No. 745, a Mikado-type (2-8-2) steam locomotive. We all remember the tour they made in April 2005 including that memorable Sunday afternoon-night repair work in Bossier City! LASTA has asked us to help them by joining or renewing our membership in their fine organization. Go to www.lasta.org for membership and other information about their organization and equipment.

Upcoming Events

October 16 – RRVHRS Meeting – 7 p.m. - Shreveport Water Works Museum – 142 N. Common St. Call (318) 797-8008 for information.

Nov. 6 - First Friday Railroad Photography Meeting – 7:30 p.m. at the Shreveport Water Works Museum – 142 N. Common St. – Call (318) 797-8008 for information.

The President’s Message

Russell is in Katy, Texas at his sister’s house. He has 10 days of outpatient treatments at M.D. Anderson starting Oct. 13, so he will not be back in Shreveport for awhile longer. Please keep him in your thoughts and prayers.

Dave Bland

Are You Up To Date On Your Dues ?

Please send a check or money order for \$20.00 with this membership form to Bill Hasheider at 6813 Despot Road, Shreveport, LA 71108

Name _____ Email _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Red River Valley Railroad Historical Society
3012 Nottingham Drive
Shreveport, LA 71115

Next Meeting
October 16