The January winter storms have been brutal. Wicked storm after wicked storm pounded over the land with more frozen weather than we have ever seen. **Really cold and frozen.**

The nasty weather brought freezing rain to us. Something we totally were not experienced in and certainly not easily prepared for. Lots of car accidents in our area were a testament to the dangerous conditions out on the highways and byways. Black ice became a common adjective about road conditions, and sometimes even a curse word or two.

Unfortunately, a massive 17 vehicle pile-up on the I-10 bridge over the Blackwater River caused two fatalities and lots of injuries. Fortunately, none of the ECGRC members suffered such a fate or even a close call.

The brutally cold weather did exact its toll on things in the area though. Water pipes froze. Car windows frosted up with significant ice and we had no ice scrapers! The RR Museum suffered two major bouts of frozen pipes during January and February. Through it all, we persevered and still ran trains at the Jordan Lot.

Hang in there!

The ❄️🌨️ is March 20th!!!
President's Message

The layout has been operating for five years, now, and the wear and tear is showing up more and more in operating problems. We have been talking about doing some major track rehab. Bob Fasnacht is already planning to work on some problem areas he has identified.

In addition to the upcoming elections, it is time to review our by-laws, so look them over and see if you think any changes need to be made. Organizations tend to change over time, so you might see something that needs to be deleted, added or modified. The by-laws are on the club's website. Let me know if you have any suggestions. - - Jack

Foley Train Show

Our next train show is the Foley Train Show on Saturday-Sunday, 22-23 March 2014. This is the first of what is hoped to be many annual train shows at Foley. This is sort of a follow-on to the long running Fairhope train show.

The same SWARM folks are helping in close partnership with the Foley Caboose Club guys and gals. The Foley Train Show will be in the Foley Civic Center. Address is 407 E. Laurel Avenue, Foley AL in Baldwin County.

We are setting up a G scale train exhibit up on the Civic Center stage. It is an area of about 40'x25' or so. Think this will be much like the set up at the Hadji Temple in years past with the PMRC Pensacola train shows. Plans are to have some large curved ovals, maybe up to 20' diameter. And if it will fit, the elevated 20' diameter oval will be set up, too. We will see how it works out.

If you wish to participate, let Ed Dice or Keith Rapley know so they can keep you informed of what is happening, make proper plans, and catch you up on last minute details. A show flyer was sent out to folks, if you missed it or lost it, contact Ed to email you another copy.
2013 New Members

Using the vast historical archives of the ECGRC library and staff of librarians, we surmised that six families were new members during the 2013 year. Welcome aboard.

New members – for all of 2013
Tom & Lisa, Matthew Fitzpatrick – Feb 2013
Tim & Cora McCain – Feb 2013
Christopher & Tiffany Morris – March 2013
George Provan – April 2013
T.J. & Paula, Ian Takahashi – May 2013
Zachary Cox/Becky Cox – Nov 2013

If somebody got overlooked, sidetracked, or derailed, let the editorial staff know. We do want to keep proper track of you.

Remember to wear your nametags so we know who the new folks are.

Tailgate Swap Meet

The next Old Fashioned Tailgate Swap Meet is coming down the tracks soon. It is scheduled for the third Saturday of April, 19 April 2014. A flyer was sent out to the ECGRC Club earlier. If you need another, let Ed Dice know and he can email you one quickly enough.

Expect that like the three earlier swap meets, it will be another full house. Anticipate all 16 parking spots in the RR Museum Courtyard will be filled with various model train sellers of all scales. Plus, some folks will be inside the Freight House and also out on the Loading Docks. It will be a busy, busy place. There is also a chance that an O scale switching layout will be showing up. Now who can switch those cars in how many moves?

Need volunteers to help with the many small details.
Watching the coffee mess. Helping register and steer the sellers to their assigned spots. Getting sellers coffee or sodas so they do not have to leave their spot unguarded. And tasks like that.

If you need a selling spot, let Ed know quickly. Things do fill up fast. First come gets to pick their spot. And there are only 12 RR Museum tables available. And only so much real estate on the Loading Dock, too. But expect the Waiting Room will not be filled, so you could easily set up there out of the way, right?

One change this time is a small $5 charge for the use of the RR Museum tables. Need to help the RR Museum handle expenses like cleaning the bathrooms, supplies, electricity and water. The swap meet does not charge any admittance fee to the public nor mandatory space fee to the sellers. We are asking for a donation to the RR Museum. Maintaining the facility is key to ensuring smooth operations in the future.

Planning to have coffee and Krispy Kreme donuts. Likely, this will be located in the Freight House over by the inside sink next to the stairs down to the Baggage Room. The goal is to meet expenses for the donuts and coffee supplies with what is left over going to the Diner Car Cafe supplies.

So come on out. Bring your no longer treasured model train things to swap or trade. And of course, find some great bargains. See you at the Tailgate Swap Meet.
TAGGING

Well, the tagging talked about here is not the proverbial graffiti that we see adorned on so many, many railroad cars, but instead tagging of ourselves. Namely, Name Tags. Not tattoos.

We are getting more visitors to the Jordan Lot. And that is a good thing. But our visitors need to know who is who. In other words, who there is part of the RR Museum staff. Hence, the name tag sets us apart and identifies us. Plus, it makes it much easier to remember someone's name.

In addition, the old timers cannot remember everyone's name. Nor how it is properly spelled. Thus, the name tag comes to the rescue again.

AND, those seldom seen ECGRC members are not so well known as Norm at Cheers. Again, a name tag clarifies that they are indeed a Club member.

So, if you do not have a name tag or you need a replacement, let the Club secretary, Ian Sinclair, or the Publicity stickee, Ed Dice, know of your need.

Please wear your name tag. I forget who is whom. And whom am I talking to or talked to. Wear your name tag, please!!! Or ELSE, you get called "Hey You!"

May Craft Show

By: Bobbie Dorner

Just a heads up: St. Mary's Church in Milton is having a pre-Mother's Day Arts & Crafts Festival on Friday and Saturday, May 2 & 3, running 9am to 3pm. The Christmas show had everything from plants, wood crafts, embroidered and sewn items, quilts, jewelry, (and more) and of course, my floral jewelry and boutique items. So, if anyone needs ideas for Mother's Day, Father's Day, Graduation, or anything else, it's just a short drive from the Depot. Bobbie

Jordan Lot Activities

Things have been pretty busy at the Jordan Lot. In spite of the bitter cold, we kept running trains.

The Riding Train got some much needed attention with some new wiring for the starter. Bill Carrington got a new horn switch installed so now the horn sounds definitely like a horn. Now how to get it to sound like an air horn?

Ed got one of the two new crossing decks installed over by the new Storage Building. One more will be over by the picnic tables.

New crossing deck by Storage Building
Birthday parties have picked up. Art Tuttle reported over $800 in birthday party revenue during the month of January. This is great. Since the birthday parties are the primary income generator for the RR Museum operations. So spread the word. More birthday parties and office functions, like the Red Hat Ladies.

Noted that two birthday party groups in one day like we have had is a bit of a workload. Hang in there, Guys. It is all for the greater good.

Keith Rapley and others have been working on the new elevated back-n-forth in the first lobe, up front. It will start inside of Loop #4, Penalty Loop, and run around and up-n-over to the town area between Loops #3 and #2. Plans are to have it optionally use parts of Loop #4 for some of the back-n-forth transit. It will definitely be interesting and provide us another operating train track for our many visitors.

Elevated RR over the town – pic by Keith Rapley

As always, the need to weed is ever present. The leaves have been falling with great abundance lately. Think more leaves have fallen on the Jordan Lot Garden Railroad then were attached to all of the trees around the Jordan Lot. Where did all of those leaves come from? And the weeds, they did not die off with all of the freezes. So keep pulling, Folks. And do not forget the fence line and its undergrowth and overgrowth. A never ending chore.

A recent spate of derailments plagued the Riding Train. A bunch of grease applied to the rails seemed to rectify the problem. Keep that in mind for the next time. Those derailments caused one little boy some concern and he did not want to get on the Riding Train. Guess he had a terrible picture in his mind when he heard the word derailment. So, let's keep on track and Keep The Trains Running!

Atlantic Loco

The Atlantic locomotive is a 4-4-2 wheel arrangement. The name “Atlantic” comes from the Atlantic Coast Line (ACL) railroad. The Baldwin company designed and built a conventional 4-4-2 loco in 1894 for the ACL and hence the name “Atlantic” started there and stuck. There were other names via other locomotive builders for the 4-4-2 loco types. But overall, the Atlantic name has been the most prevalent and enduring.

Atlantic type steam loco - pic via American-Rails.com
The 4-4-2 loco wheel arrangement evolved from the usual need for more power and more speed. In 1887, the New York, Providence & Boston railroad experimented with adding a trailing truck to one of their existing 4-4-0 locos in order to spread its weight over more axles. Also, in 1887, the Hinkley company built an experimental 4-4-2 loco but with a center cab. And, AT&SF also bought another experimental like the center cab 4-4-2. So the evolution continued with steam locomotive design over the years.

Some of the Club members have Atlantic 4-4-2 locos that run very well out on the Jordan Lot Garden Railroad. History records do not indicate that the L&N owned any Atlantic locos in their herd of iron horses on the steel rails.

The Milwaukee Road railroad was the most famous for their use of four streamlined 4-4-2 locos that they name the "Milwaukee" locomotive. They used those Milwaukee locos to pull the infamous Hiawatha passenger trains. The AT&SF railroad owned the most 4-4-2 locos having totaled up 178 such locos in their motive power inventory.

Source: steamlocomotive.com website

**CSX Crossing Gates**

There has been a lot of activity on Henry Street. That is the road running in front of the RR Museum. The City of Milton has been installing sidewalks down Henry Street to go along with the recent improvements to Canal Street last year.

In addition to the four new small gates, a new power pole was installed by the CSX signal crew and they also brought in a larger signal relay box to handle the extra electrical controls for the new gates. And here we thought it was a simple job!

The new sidewalks are on both sides of Henry Street. Plans are to continue the sidewalks further down Henry Street south of the CSX railroad tracks towards Bagdad. Thus, there has also been a lot of activity at the CSX Crossing on Henry Street. New pedestrian crossing gates are being installed. A total of four new small gates will hopefully control the pedestrian traffic. This is an expensive project for CSX and not sure who is paying for it.
Orange Grove Hobbies

Keith Rapley and Bobbie Dorner made a run over to Gulfport, Mississippi and visited Orange Grove Hobby Shop on 10 February.

The hobby shop is off I-10, up 49 North about a mile. Their address is 11370 Highway 49, Gulfport MS and the shop is in Suite H. Tucked into the corner of the shopping strip. Big window has a highly detailed display G scale railroad with operating trains. Place your hand up on the window and the trains run. The window display was built by a local guy who loves to scratch build things.

The shop owner was very friendly and hospitable to Keith. They have mostly plastic models but there is a good assortment of G scale trains with track running about $10 a foot. There are some replacement parts for G scale trains, like motor blocks and tiny screws. Keith got some Aristo trucks and some USA truck frames.

It is a good hobby shop and worth a stop by if you are traveling through on the I-10 highway. Telephone is 228-832-0100. Email is OrangeGroveHobby@aol.com

Club Calendar

Well, finally after much delay, fits and starts. We have the 2014 Club Calendar. Bob Cope has them posted on the Club website under the Calendar section. These monthly calendars show the then-as-known birthdays and anniversaries, along with Club events and train shows. Other items of interest have also been sprinkled in there, too.

If you do not see your birthday or anniversary listed or not listed properly, let the Club secretary, Ian Sinclair, or Publicity person, Ed Dice know. We can only publish what we know about or can guess about.

Who knew that keeping track of dates was such a herculean task? Dust off your biceps, get a can of spinach, and lend a hand or two. Give us the right dates so we do not miss your important events.
**EVENTS AND DATES**

2 Feb – Super Bowl Football; sofa time
14 Feb - Valentine's Day
15 Feb - Museum Board meeting at 9:30 AM
15 Feb - Club meeting at Noon
23 Feb - Daytona 500; Varoom-varoom!!

9 Mar - Daylight Savings Times begin; spring forward one hour - No, the other way!
15 Mar - Museum Board meeting at 9:30 AM
15 Mar - Club meeting at Noon
17 Mar - St. Patrick’s Day
21-22 Mar - East Coast Large Scale Train Show (ECLSTS) in York PA
22-23 Mar - Foley Train Show
30 Mar - In UK/Europe, daylight savings time starts
4-12 April - Santa Rosa County Fair
19 April - Tailgate Swap Meet
19 April - Museum Board meeting at 9:30 AM
19 April - Club meeting at Noon
20 April - Easter
5-11 May - National Garden Railway Convention
17 May - Museum Board meeting at 9:30 AM
17 May - Club meeting at Noon
25 May - Indianapolis 500; varoom-varoom again!

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**Health & Welfare**

**Eva Dice** - Lost her cat, Sugar, of many years recently to health problems. Sugar was a good companion for many years to Eva. Now Eva is recovering well after her monster gallstone. The doctor and the nurses could not believe she was up and walking with that thing. Surgery went well without any hitches and now an initial strict diet that is getting back to normal has her mending well and with no problems. Ed has been a cheerful chauffeur for a few days.

**Mary Caraway** - Getting settled into her new home in Mountain Home, Idaho. Active with family affairs and lots of church activities. Mary is on the Vestry committee of the Episcopal church. Her dogs took some doing to get acclimated to the snow in the backyard. Mary says hello to everyone.

**Andy & Beth Sloan** - Andy reported back on 30 Jan that they are doing fine. His garden trains are drawing a neighborhood crowd. Every time he operates them Andy gets new and better ideas for next year. Beth got an iPad Air for her birthday. They did get down to a chilly 70 degrees one night. Andy found out his neighbor worked for DEA and worked with our own Mike Stokes. A small world!

**Tom Walkup** - Tom's recent knee surgery went well and Tom is getting around great. He visited the Jordan Lot recently with his extended family. Keep at the recovery regimen, Tom!

**Tim & Bunty Cantwell** - Tim & Bunty are still thinking of returning to the Pensacola area. They both report doing well.

**Ian & Barbara Sinclair** - Ian & Barbara are expecting to move south to the Cape Canaveral area of Florida. They will be closer to family down there.

**Margaret Bryant** - Our snowbird is planning to fly north back to New York in early or mid April. Safe travels to you, Margaret. Remember to bring a
nice warm coat next time, Margaret, since it does get cold down here in the South.

**Bobbie Dorner & Keith Rapley** - Health...as well as can be expected for old fogies. Car running good (corners REAL GOOD). - - Bobbie

**Paul Karczewski** - Paul and many, many friends have been busy building the P&S RR facilities. A new car barn is being raised and will soon be stuffed with equipment. Paul's newly built tank cars look absolutely great. Worth a trip to Mossy Head and see Paul's railroad in action.

**Tom & Kathy Perry** - Tom & Kathy report they are fine.

**Pat Stevens** - Pat reports "I am doing better. Trying to work three mornings a week now, but can't do much more. I will make a note on the calendar for March. Thanks for checking on me."

**Frank Paine** - Frank reports "No issues here."

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**Birthdays & Anniversaries**

- 3 Feb - Tom Perry birthday
- 3 Feb - Bob & Susan Cope anniversary
- 5 Feb - Beth Sloan birthday
- 5 Feb - T.J. Takahashi birthday
- 7 Feb - Paul Weston birthday
- 9 Feb - Ed Dice birthday
- 10 Feb - Keith Rapley birthday
- 20 Feb - Carolyn Rush birthday
- 23 Feb - Jim Rush birthday
- 6 Mar - Paula Takahashi birthday
- 20 Apr - Mary Caraway birthday

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13 May - Lorene Fasnacht birthday
22 May - Andy Sloan birthday
26 May - Angie Gomez birthday

Reminder: If you do not see your birthday or anniversary, be sure to let us know. Our mindreading scanner is broken waiting on parts from Europa now.

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**FIRST RAILROAD**

History states that the first approved railroad in the United States was issued a charter by the State of New Jersey in 1815 on 6 February. John Stevens was the owner and had been working to get his railroad recognized and used for years. Mr. Stevens had applied for a railroad charter in 1811 but was denied by the State of New Jersey. They thought Mr. Stevens' idea was too fantastic. The newly chartered railroad was the "New Jersey Railroad Company."

Stevens eventually struggled through skepticism and financing problems until in 1826 he built a steam train on a circular track in Hoboken, New Jersey. That steam train demonstrated the coming steam age in railroading and sparked public interest in steam trains. The first steam trains had to be imported from Britain. Trains became the primary mode of transportation in the late 1800's and early 1900's until planes and cars gained public attention.
RR Museum Changes

Many of the changes at the RR Museum are finishing up. The many display boards are up in the Baggage Room and Waiting Room. This includes the Fallen Flags display that Art Tuttle designed and constructed. It is worth a close study to see what railroads existed in the Florida panhandle, where they laid tracks and how long ago.

Other things are in the pipeline, mostly awaiting funding. A large grant is being applied for but no word on that yet. Things on the long list are painting both of the passenger cars, as well as the Frisco Caboose. The Boxcar and Flatcar both need some paint applied to gussy them up. The Dining Car Kitchen is still on the rehab list for new appliances and counters.

The Business Car windows are finally on a fast track to be started and completed. New window frames are to be built with much of the old glass window panels to be reused in the new frames. Then there is the matter of the Business Car interior which is a big job. Anyone game?

Bit by bit we work to maintain and improve the RR Museum and all of its artifacts, equipment and displays. Remember, none of it could happen without the ample hard work by the volunteers. The RR Museum Board thanks everyone for their support and hard work all through the year.

In the personnel staffing area, we had a change on the RR Museum Board. Ed Holtman resigned from the Board. That left a vacancy which needed filling. Art Tuttle appointed Mike Moore to fill the vacancy for the rest of the term. Mike is a very active RR Museum member. You see him at the Museum most every weekend. He set up and ran his O scale trains in the Freight House during the three weekends of Lionel Christmas this past December.

Welcome Aboard, Mike!

Also in the mix is Ian and Barbara Sinclair’s departure for South Florida sometime in the future. At that point, a replacement for RR Museum Treasurer and Club Secretary will be needed. Tentatively, Paul Weston has volunteered to fill the Museum Treasurer position. We will need another brave volunteer for the Club Secretary position.

CSX Derailment

The brutally cold and freezing weather may have played a significant part in a recent but uncommon CSX derailment up north of Pensacola on 28 Jan, in the vicinity of Molino and McDavid. It is a very remote location that complicated getting CSX teams into the derailment site. Total of 23 cars derailed including four tankers with phosphoric acid. Reports are a total of 30,000 gallons leaked onto the ground and a stream, but was contained before getting into the river.

CSX Derailment looks like on the Jordan Lot - pic via Paul W.

The CSX mainline was closed for a few weeks as the crews worked to clean it up. At one point there were at least 215 workers on site. Now how do you house and feed over 200 hungry railroad men in the middle of nowhere?

SCALE RULERS

On the last page of this newsletter is a full-size set of scale rulers. Print it out in color so you can decipher the different rulers. There are the 1:29 and 1:32 scales on one ruler. The other ruler shows the 1:20.3 and 1:22.5 scales.

In addition, figure silhouettes are shown for each of those scales so you can judge the relative sizes.

These came from Alan Prichard via website.