

January 2010 No. 1

Meeting - Monday January 11th 7:00 PM

Chapter News

2009 Chapter Activity Report

Contributed by Phil Cross
Photographs by Irv Lipscomb

The Central Florida Chapter enjoyed another active and exciting year during 2009. Chapter membership for the year totaled 57 regular, family and local members.

The Central Florida Railroad Museum had a record attendance of 6,463 visitors. Chapter members donated a total of 1,940.25 hours for the operation and maintenance of the Museum. The Central Florida Railroad Museum is operated under a cooperative agreement between the City of Winter Garden, the Winter Garden Heritage Foundation and the Central Florida Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society. The Museum is open daily from 1:00 to 5:00 PM and is located at 101 S. Boyd Street in Winter Garden, FL. The phone number is 407-656-0559. There is no admission charge.



Lloyd Brown (r) installs the officers for 2010 at the annual banquet. Pictured are (l to r) Phil Cross, Ken Murdock, Chuck Ansell, David Rhea, Clarence Hurt, Irv Lipscomb, Dan Cruise and Bill Dusenbury.

On January 17th, Chapter members Ken Murdock, Al Sharp, Roger Wilson, Jason Turcyn and Phil Cross manned the Chapter's table at the Model Train Show & Swap Meet held at the 2nd Annual Tavares Train Festival in downtown Tavares. Charter Chapter Member Clayton Bishop exhibited a number of items from his Lake County postcard collection in the Tavares City Hall. Chapter member Dan Crusie, a railroad artist, displayed a large number of his Central Florida railroad paintings that featured railroads that are long gone, but not forgotten. The festival was sponsored by the Inland Lakes Railway. The festival featured the Model Train Show & Swap Meet, historic displays in the City Hall, an antique boat, car and seaplane

show in downtown Tavares and at Wooten Park on Lake Dora, and authentic "train robbery" rides on the Inland Lakes Railway.

Ten Chapter members and guests traveled to the Big Boots & Western Railroad (7½-Inch Gauge Live Steam) in Candler, Florida for their Annual Winter Meet on February 21st. A number of trains were operated throughout the day, including several that members and guests rode.

Six Chapter members and guests traveled to the Ridge Line Railroad (7½-Inch Gauge Live Steam and G-Gauge Live Steam!!) owned and operated by the Ridge Live Steamers in Dundee, Florida for their Annual Winter Meet on February 28th. A number of steam and diesel trains were operated throughout the day. The members and guests rode just about every one that was hauling passengers. The highlight of the day was the Union Pacific passenger train that was pulled by 4-8-4 Number 844 or 8444. What a beautiful engine and passenger consist!!



Lloyd Brown presents an appreciation plaque to Ken Murdock, honoring his 27 years of service as museum curator.

On March 14th, the Chapter hosted the North American Railcar Operators Association (NARCOA) at the Central Florida Railroad Museum for their annual ride on the Florida Central Railroad from Winter Garden to Tavares and return. The Chapter provided breakfast for the participants prior to their departure to Tavares. There were 23 motorcars and 4 hi-rail vehicles that participated in the ride. Seven chapter members enjoyed the day's ride on the motorcars and hi-railers.

Eleven Chapter members and wives manned the Central Florida Railroad Museum for the 9th Annual Bloom & Grow *Spring Fever in the Garden* event in downtown Winter Garden on April 18th and 19th. The Museum was open eight hours on Saturday and five hours on Sunday. Attendance was 104 for Saturday and 100 for Sunday.

Chapter members Clarence Hurt and Allen Quinn manned the Central Florida Railroad Museum and hosted the Annual Meeting of the Florida Chapter of the Morse Telegraph Club on April 25th. The Club has been holding their annual meeting at the Museum for a number of years. Attendance for the event was estimated at 100. Vice President of Education Irv Lipscomb provided an excellent press release to the local media and a number of attendees indicated that this was the way they found out about the event.

On May 31st, Nine Chapter members and guests rode the Inland Lakes Railway's Railroad Ramble from Eustis to Orlando and return. The ride included a delicious dinner in the diner and a photo run-by on the return leg just west of the Apopka-Beauclair canal.

wives served as car hosts and ticket sellers for train rides on Saturday and Sunday. A total of 726 people rode the train on the 3rd. The rides were cut short on the 4th when the train suffered a minor derailment at Dillard Street in Winter Garden on the return leg of the first run. Eleven Chapter members and wives manned the Museum all three days. The Museum was open five hours on Friday, nine hours on Saturday and four hours on Sunday. Attendance was 80 for Friday, 236 for Saturday and 157 for Sunday.



New chapter president, Bill Dusenbury, presents an appreciation plaque to Phil Cross, honoring his service as president for the past two years.



Bill Dusenbury (l) is pictured with Ben Biscan, president of Florida Central Railroad. Ben was the guest speaker at the annual banquet.

The June issue of the Flatwheel featured an article on *The History of Railroad Rambles* by Ken Murdock, Bill Cogswell and Phil Cross. The rambles began in October 1962 and were the brain-child of Bill Berry and Gene Gaudette, two WDBO Television Channel 6 employees. The two men worked closely with officials of the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad and later Seaboard Coast Line Railroad to operate the rambles over Atlantic Coast Line and later Seaboard Air Line trackage in Central Florida. A total of 14 rambles were operated between 1962 and 1969.

During July, the Inland Lakes Railway ceased operations at Eustis and Mount Dora.

During September, Florida Rail Adventures begins operations out of Eustis and Mount Dora. Chapter member Neil Bagaus is the owner of the new operation.

The Winter Garden Heritage Foundation sponsored the annual *Music Fest* event in downtown Winter Garden on October 2nd, 3rd and 4th. The Chapter sponsored train rides between the Central Florida Railroad Museum and downtown Ocoee on the 3rd and 4th. Florida Rail Adventures provided the train. Chapter members Thomas East (engineer) and Neil Bagaus (conductor and owner) were part of the train crew both days. Ten Chapter members and

The 2009 Chapter Annual Banquet was held at the West Orange Country Club in Winter Garden concurrently with the regular monthly scheduled chapter meeting on December 14th. Guests and visitors included Winter Garden Mayor John Rees and his wife Linda, Ron Sikes & Betsy Shaw, Kay & John Cappleman, Jerry and Sue Chicone, Ward & Judy Britt, Bert and Barbara Roper, Ben Salata & Ben Biscan. After dinner, members and guests were entertained by the octet group "Tastes Like a Chicken". Ben Biscan, Vice President and General Manager of the Florida Central, Florida Midland & Florida Northern Railroads, was the featured speaker. He presented an excellent historical review of those railroads and expressed his views of the future of railroading following which he entertained questions from the audience. Lloyd Brown installed the Chapter Officers for 2010. Lloyd Brown then presented Ken Murdock "One Big ATTA Boy" plaque for his dedication and continued hard work as Museum Curator. Lloyd Brown and incoming President Bill Dusenbury presented outgoing President Phil Cross a plaque for his outstanding dedication and hard work for the Chapter.



"Sounds Like Chicken," an ensemble from Winter Garden's Garden Community Choir, sings for the guests at the chapter's annual banquet

January Birthdays

- Bill Dusenbury

Central Florida Railroad Museum Report November 2009

Submitted by Ken Murdock. Museum Curator

On Saturday, November 21, 2009 we had another very productive museum workday with ten members and two visitors participating. The visitors were Don Andrus and Warren McFarland of the Telegraph Club. They were there to install the operating telegraph display which they built from components donated by the family of the late Paul English. Don built a very nice desk for the display. Interestingly, Paul English began his railroad career at the ACL depot in Winter Garden as a telegrapher. He worked at a number of other locations before becoming a dispatcher for the ACL in Ocala. He later retired from the SCL as a dispatcher in Mulberry. Both visitors expressed interest in joining the chapter and took membership applications. Now, you just can't beat visitors like that!

Members present were Lloyd Brown, Irv Lipscomb, Al Sharp, Jim Shoemaker, Clarence Hurt, Dan Crusie, Allen Quinn, Jerry and Ginger Honetor and yours truly. We accomplished a number of tasks including cleaning showcase glass, hanging pictures, adding recently donated items to the displays and re-arranging displays, spot cleaning the carpet, cleaning the restroom, stripping the table in the caboose and preparing it for new paint and cleaning up around the museum exterior. Much was accomplished but much remains to be done!

The telegraph display is a real piece of work! The desk has a narrow raised shelf across the back. On the right side just below the top of the shelf is a switch to turn the display on and off. The switch rotates clockwise for the on or off position. When it is turned on a light is illuminated to let you know that it is on. If you have museum hosting duties, you need to be aware of this switch and turn it on when turning showcase lights on and off when closing up. By pressing a button on the desk top the display will send the message first sent by telegraph. The message is printed out next to the button. A telegraph key on the desk is for visitors to try their hand at sending a message. The Morse code will be displayed on the wall above the desk for visitors follow. There will also be a plaque displayed on the wall in memory of Paul English. The display comes equipped with a modem and phone line connection so that the Telegraph Club can make land line connections to send messages worldwide during their annual meet. We have been very fortunate to have hosted the Florida telegraph group's annual meet at our museum for a number of years.

Central Florida Railroad Museum Report November 2009

Submitted by Ken Murdock. Museum Curator

We had another very productive workday on December 12, 2009 with six members and one prospective member participating. Phil Cross was busy picking up trash, pulling weeds and blowing off walks around the outside and then vacuuming the inside. Al Sharp and Lloyd Brown rearranged the wall hangings over the new telegraph display so as to provide space for the Morse code and the plaque honoring the late Paul English whose family donated his telegraph equipment for the display.

Don Andrus, the prospective member who is with the Telegraph Club was there to do a few more things on the display. Don drives all the way from Largo! With Al Pfeiffer and John Richeson on the Atlantic coast and Don on the Gulf coast, if Don joins we can claim that we have members from coast to coast!! Allen Quinn worked in the caboose, securing the generator box to keep non-paying boarders out and continued work on refinishing the tabletop. Allen is going to make a part at home that was missing on the track level which was donated by Jerry Toler and Frank Brubaker. Bill Dusenbury worked with the photo collection, organizing and filing. I had two visitors who took up most of my time.

One of the visitors was Bob Rapalje who recently donated his late father's Trains Magazines collection to our library. The collection is complete starting with Volume 1, Number 1 except for 8 missing issues in 1940, 41, 42 and 43. Bob has been bidding on them on eBay and now has all but Volume 2, number 1, November 1941. Bob hasn't donated Volumes 1, 2, or 3 yet but wants to have them complete when he does. He has paid premium prices to get the missing issues.

Phil Cross came across an ACL Armspear marker light while on a recent trip to Georgia and has donated it to the museum. I brought it home to do some restoration work on it. It will make a very nice addition to our displays. Thanks Phil for thinking of the museum while traveling.

Lloyd Brown had museum hosting duties in the afternoon, so his wife Sylvia came out and joined us for lunch and then assisted Lloyd in hosting. Thanks Sylvia for the great job that you do for the chapter. We are very fortunate to have several wives who come out and assist their spouses in hosting. We all had lunch at Harry & Larry's Barbeque and as usual, we weren't disappointed.

CENTRAL FLORIDA CHAPTER, NRHS Combined Board and Regular Meeting Minutes November 9, 2009

Submitted by Bill Dusenbury. Secretary

The Meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by President Phil Cross.

Chapter Chaplin David Rhea led the members and guest in prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

The following Board of Directors were present: Chuck Ansell, Phil Cross, Bill Dusenbury, Jerry Honetor, Clarence Hurt, Irv Lipscomb, Ken Murdock, and David Rhea.

Recognition of Visitors – Phil Cross

- Frank Hruz – Winter Park, FL

Recognition of Members/Friends Concerns – Phil Cross

- Wes Coscia – Fell off of a roof while working and is doing well.

Approval of October 2009 Combined Board & Regular Meeting Minutes – Phil Cross

- A motion was made by David Rhea to accept the Minutes of the October 2009 Combined Board & Regular Meeting as printed in “The Flatwheel”. The motion was seconded by Chuck Ansell and the motion was accepted unanimously.

Treasurer’s Report – David Rhea

- Treasurer David Rhea summarized the Treasurer’s Report for the month of October 2009.
- The Finance Committee has drawn up a proposed budget for the year 2010. After discussion, Irv Lipscomb made a motion to accept the proposed budget for the year 2010. The motion was seconded by Jerry Honetor and was accepted unanimously.

Assistant Treasurer’s Report – Jerry Honetor

Nothing to report.

Vice President of Membership & Programs Report – Thomas East / Membership & Program Committees

Membership Committee

Jerry Hardwich reported that the Student Membership, age 13-18, is listed as \$20 on the website and \$11 on the application. The Membership Committee would like to propose the following:

Student Membership (age 13 to age 18) drop dues to the national level - \$10.00

Youth membership (age 5 to age 12) - \$5.00

Both memberships would receive the Bulletin.

Bill Dusenbury made a motion to accept the proposals of the Membership Committee. The motion was seconded by Chuck Ansell and the motion was accepted unanimously.

Programs

Tonight’s program will be presented by Ernie Kozac and will be about his experiences working for the CB&Q.

Events

None

Technology Committee Report – Thomas East / Jeff Dearmin

Ken Murdock reported that the projector has been shipped to the manufacturer. We should know the condition and cost to repair shortly.

Library Committee Report – Jerry Honetor

Acquired a flat screen monitor for the library.

Vice President of Education Report – Irv Lipscomb

The telegraph club has made an interactive display and will install it at the museum in honor of Paul English.

Museum Curator’s Report – Ken Murdock

The next Chapter work session will be held on November 21, 2009.

Ken Murdock is setting up a folder in the office to keep all equipment warranties.

The Canadian trip is moving along well. They have had about 20 serious inquiries.

Phil Cross would like to get the trip information on the Foundation’s and the Chapter websites.

Jeff Dearmin and Ken Murdock attended a training session on Past Perfect.

Secretary’s Report – Bill Dusenbury

- Nothing to report.

Assistant Secretary’s Report – Clarence Hurt

- Nothing to report.

Website Master & Flatwheel Editor Report – Jeff Dearmin

- Nothing to report.

National Director Report – Chuck Ansell

- Nothing to report.

Historian Report – Phil Cross

- Missing Flatwheel List – Continuing to search for a few missing Flatwheels.
- Chapter Activities History – Continuing to update the document as time permits. 2007 – 2009 complete.
- Tavares & Gulf Railroad DVD – working on finalizing intros. He also needs to get with Ken Murdock and Bill Dusenbury for photographs and captions.

President’s Report – Phil Cross

- October 2009 Museum Report – 763 visitors for the month of October and 5,565 visitors to date for 2009. 238.5 volunteer hours donated by the membership during October and 1,612.25 hours donated to date for 2009.
- WGHF Museums Advisory Board Report – Advisory Board meeting on November 2, 2009 and focused on upcoming events.
- Annual Banquet – December 14, 2009 at the West Orange Country Club. The menu has been finalized and we are working on the program. The cost will be \$30.00 per person. The schedule for the night is to start at 6:00pm with the social hour. Dinner will start at 7:00pm and the program will begin at 8:00pm.
- The Oakland Nature Preserve has already picked up one display case and will probably take 2 or 3 more.
- Request for trains at the 2010 Spring Fever in the Garden event. The Kiddie train and the real train were requested.
- Irv Lipscomb made a motion to sponsor the Kiddie Train at the 2010 Spring Fever in the Garden event.

The motion was seconded by Chuck Ansell and the motion was accepted unanimously.

- Phil Cross reported that he met with Ben Biscan on upgrading the track between 9th Street and the museum. Mr. Biscan suggested a budget of \$60,000 to \$70,000 for the project. The FCEN would not invest any cash, but could manage the project, order the ties, deliver and distribute the ties, and pick up and dispose of the old ties. The project has been brought to the WGHF and they would like to proceed.

FCRR Update – Bill Dusenbury
Nothing to report.

Election of Officers for 2010 – Jerry Hardwich.

Dan Crusie resigned from the Nomination Committee and accepted the nomination for Vice President for Programs and Memberships.

Jerry Hardwich presented the following slate of officers for 2010:

President

Bill Dusenbury

Vice President for Programs and Membership

Dan Crusie

Vice President for Education

Irv Lipscomb

Secretary

Mike Ryan

Assistant Secretary

Clarence Hurt

Treasurer

David Rhea

Assistant Treasurer

Jerry Honetor

National Director

Chuck Ansell

Museum Curator

Ken Murdock

Historian

Phil Cross

President Phil Cross ask for any nominations from the membership. None were presented.

- A motion was made by Al Pfeiffer to accept the slate of officers and instruct the Secretary to cast a unanimous ballot. The motion was seconded by Chuck Ansell and the motion was accepted unanimously.

Items from the Membership

- None

A motion was made by Jerry Honetor to adjourn the Meeting. The motion was seconded by Chuck Ansell and the motion was accepted unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,

William C. Dusenbury
Secretary

CENTRAL FLORIDA CHAPTER, NRHS Combined Board and Regular Meeting Minutes December 14, 2009

Submitted by Bill Dusenbury. Secretary

The Meeting was called to order at 8:10 pm by President Phil Cross.

Chapter Chaplin David Rhea led the members and guests in prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

The following Board of Directors were present: Chuck Ansell, Phil Cross, Bill Dusenbury, Clarence Hurt, Irv Lipscomb, Ken Murdock, and David Rhea.

Recognition of Visitors and Guests – Phil Cross

Ron Sikes and Betsy Lake

Kay and John Cappelman

Jerry and Sue Chicone

Ward and Judy Britt

Bert and Barbara Roper

Ben Salata

Ben Biscan

President Phil Cross recognized charter member Clayton Bishop.

Recognition of Members & Friends Concerns – Phil Cross

- Wes Coscia is well on his way to recovery from his fall.
- Dwight Stoffell is recovering from hernia surgery.

Approval of Minutes from the November Meeting – Phil Cross

A motion was made by David Rhea to accept the Minutes of the November 2009 Combined Board and Membership Meeting. The motion was seconded by Chuck Ansell and was accepted unanimously.

Treasurer's Report – David Rhea

Treasurer David Rhea summarized the Treasurer's Report for the month of November 2009.

Reports of Officers:

National Director – Chuck Ansell

Nothing to report.

Museum Curator – Ken Murdock

Nothing to report.

Assistant Treasurer's Report – Jerry Honetor
Absent

Secretary's Report – Bill Dusenbury

Nothing to report.

Assistant Secretary's Report – Clarence Hurt

Nothing to report.

Vice President of Education – Irv Lipscomb
Nothing to report.

Vice President of Membership & Programs – Jerry Hardwich
Helping Dan Crusie on the membership. We have 50% of the membership renewed.
Dan Crusie reported that the January 2010 program will be presented by Ken Murdock and the February 2010 will be presented by Patrick Smith.

President's & Historian's Report – Phil Cross

- We had 511 visitors for the month of November and 6,076 visitor's year to date for 2009. Chapter members donated 170 hours for November and 1,782.25 hours year to date for 2009.
- The T & G DVD is moving slow but sure. Ken Murdock, Bill Dusenbury, and Phil Cross are working on photos and captions for the narrated introduction to each section of the DVD.
- Wrapping up the 2009 Activities Report in preparation for submittal to the NRHS. The report will also be printed in the January Flatwheel.

Ken Murdock reported on the Canadian Rail Trip coming up from the end of July into the first week of 2010. This trip will raise funds for both the NRHS and the Heritage Foundation.

Installation of 2010 Officers – Lloyd Brown

- Lloyd Brown installed the Central Florida Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society, Incorporated Officers for 2010:
President: Bill Dusenbury
VP Programs and Membership: Dan Crusie
VP Education: Irv Lipscomb
Secretary: Mike Ryan
Assistant Secretary: Clarence Hurt
Treasurer: David Rhea

Assistant Treasurer: Jerry Honetor
National Director: Chuck Ansell
Museum Curator: Ken Murdock
Historian: Phil Cross

Lloyd Brown presented Ken Murdock "One Big ATTA Boy" plaque for his dedication and continued hard work as Museum Curator.

Lloyd Brown and incoming President Bill Dusenbury presented outgoing President Phil Cross a plaque for his outstanding dedication and hard work for the Chapter.

Florida Rail Adventures – Neil Bagaus

- They have the rights from Warner Brother's for the Polar Express. Over the previous weekend, they carried 1500 passengers.

Tonight's program will be presented by Ben Biscan, VP & General Manager, of the Florida Central, Florida Midland, and Florida Northern Railroads.

The Chapter members and guests were entertained by the octet group "Tastes Like Chicken".

The Annual Meeting was held in conjunction with Chapter's Annual Banquet at the West Orange Country Club in Winter Garden, Florida.

Phil Cross made a motion to adjourn the Meeting. The motion was seconded by Chuck Ansell and the motion was accepted unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:37pm.

Respectfully submitted,

William C. Dusenbury
Secretary

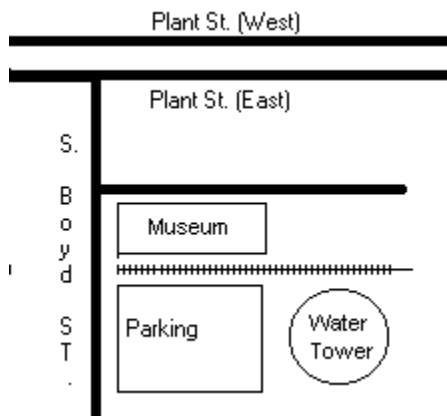
THE FLATWHEEL

PO Box 770567
Winter Garden, FL 34777

January 2010

The Museum: is located in downtown Winter Garden at 101 South Boyd Street, Winter Garden, FL 34787

It is open to visitors on **Daily 1-5 PM**, excluding holidays, or by special arrangements.



The Central Florida Chapter of the NRHS meets on the 2nd Monday of each month at 7:00 PM at the museum location. Guests and visitors are encouraged to attend.

Club correspondence and other materials for the club should be sent to:

CFC-NRHS
PO Box 770567
Winter Garden, FL 34777-0567

Web page: <http://www.cfcnrhs.org>

Flatwheel- Material for the Flatwheel (including exchange newsletters) should be sent to:

The Flatwheel
101 South Boyd Street
Winter Garden, FL 34787

Email: cfcnrhs@gmail.com