

The Rockton-Rion Flyer

News and Information from the South Carolina Railroad Museum
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EGGSPRESS TRAINS ARE A HIT!



The Bunny greets passengers on the *Lake Rion* dining car. A young passenger views the G scale train with Open Car in background.

FLYER NEWS FLASH:

The Eggspress Trains were a success with almost 900 passengers carried despite weather challenges. The first Mother's Day Brunch Trains were also well received. A new sign greets visitors and focuses on the railroad. The track crew has made progress in the Rion yard area and railroad. Our Air Force diesels are sporting a new look.

HOT TOPIC: WE NEED YOUR HELP

with our upcoming events as a car host or in the gift shop. Contact Rodger Stroup or Joe Palma for more information. Do you want to make a difference that shows? Help spruce up our locomotives and passenger cars and see the results of your efforts every time you visit! Contact Rodger or Vince for details.

UPCOMING EVENTS: Summer Saturday excursions begin May 31st and run through September 6th at 10 AM and 1:30 PM. The train will be diesel locomotive No. 1276, the *Lake Rion* Dining Car, the *Green Giant* Open Car, and a caboose.

MEMBERSHIP MEETING: Saturday, July 12th at 10 AM will be our next membership meeting in the Rion office building. All members are encouraged to attend.

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS:

Please send articles and pictures to:
SCRM, P.O. Box 7246, Columbia, SC 29202
email: libreez@carolina.rr.com.

Vince LiBrizzi, Editor <>



The track crew uses the inserter to place a new tie under the rails.

Making Tracks

By Phil Woodell

The track crew has been busy with several projects aimed at keeping our railroad at FRA Class I standards. Denis Wright, Chris Lainis, Clif Hall, Charles Weber, Larry Robb, and Phil Woodell have been working hard to keep the trains running smoothly over our 5 miles of track.

Over the winter, we installed more than 30 ties at Guardian, Greenbrier, and in Rion. We also cut down pine trees in the Rion yard east of Garibaldi road. We have started chipping trees and will be removing stumps with our backhoe soon. Leaves and pine straw have been removed from the entire right of way to improve appearance and limit the effects of moisture on the track.

Our projects include stacking ballast for track maintenance and removal of scrap materials in the Rion yard. These items will be sold for funding new track construction in Rion. A tamper and ballast regulator was borrowed from the N.C. Transportation Museum to tamp ties and dress ballast this year. Members are invited to participate in track maintenance or donate to the cause. You can make a difference in the condition of our railroad! <>



The new sign at Rockton with the water tower in the background.

New Sign, Tickets, and Marketing Have RR&W Name

By Rodger Stroup

The first thing our visitors see when entering our parking lot in Rockton is our sign. We now have a new sign with a design that focuses on the railroad, but also refers to the museum and our website address. The design was created by member Hal Von Nessen's firm RESH Marketing and installed by museum members. Thanks to Gene Allen for managing and initiating this project.

Our passenger tickets, brochures, and marketing now incorporate this new design and RR&W name. Also, our web page (www.scrm.org) and Facebook page (South Carolina Railroad Museum) have this new look. If you haven't already done so, please "Like" us on Facebook and spread the word about "the hidden gem of South Carolina" as more than one passenger has called our railroad and museum. We have more than 1,575 "Likes" to our page so far!

As time and budgets permit, all four passenger cars and the *Lake Rion* dining car will be lettered **Rockton Rion & Western** to reflect our new focus. First, we need to repaint the coaches and patch and paint their roofs, and we could really use your help to accomplish this. See Rodger or Vince for more information. <>



No. 1276 at Rockton with the Mother's Day Brunch Train.

Mother's Day Brunch Trains Popular

By Vince LiBrizzi

On Sunday May 11th, the Rockton Rion & Western ran its first-ever Mother's Day Brunch Trains. Great weather and strong interest brought out many families out to honor Mom on her special day. The passengers were treated to a serene air-conditioned ride on the *Lake Rion* dining car while being served a delicious brunch by Hoots Catering. The 90-minute excursions, powered by diesel No. 1276, ran the complete line to Rion and allowed passengers the option to ride in the *Green Giant* open car on the ride back to Rockton to enjoy the view and summer-like weather. This train, including the Chessie System caboose, will be our setup for regular operations throughout the summer season.

The members that made this event possible were: Rodger Stroup, Conductor; Vince LiBrizzi, Engineer; Bill and Trish Eccles, First Class Car Hosts; Kelvin Woods, Car Host; and Joe Palma, who staffed the gift shop where over \$300 in merchandise was sold. Thanks to all for giving up a very important Sunday for this event. All aboard had an enjoyable experience and plans are being made for more events like this soon. <>



Young passengers meet the Easter Bunny at Greenbrier.

Eggpress Trains a Success Again

By Rodger Stroup

For the second year, our Eggpress trains were scheduled for passengers to detrain at Greenbrier and enjoy activities. In addition to the Easter Bunny, face painting, storytelling, and an operating G Scale Thomas and Friends layout were among the attractions available. On Saturday April 12th, the weather was perfect with Carolina blue skies and moderate temperatures. A total of 425 passengers were carried on the five trains.

Saturday April 19th proved to be a different story with wind and heavy rain that flooded the Greenbrier area. Our quick thinking members moved all of the activities to Rockton, setting up face painting in tents between the depot and museum gallery. The Easter Bunny visited with all the passengers on the train instead. The G Scale Thomas layout was set up in the recently renovated museum gallery. Despite the inclement weather, 464 passengers rode the trains, which travelled to Rion Road, and not a single complaint was heard about the event. Kudos to the hard working members that made these two days possible, especially when faced with such challenges.<>

**South Carolina Railroad Museum
PO Box 7246
Columbia, SC 29202-7246**

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RS4-TC-1A diesel locomotive No.1276 has a new look.

RS4-TC-1A Diesels Sporting New Look By Vince LiBrizzi

Our former Air Force RS4-TC-41A diesel locomotives have had the same paint job and markings since they were rebuilt by the Air Force in 1992. Compounding and polishing No. 1249 and No. 1276's paint finish last year improved their appearance, but the USAF lettering and markings were faded and worn. I took on the task of removing the old USAF markings, finding matching touch up paint, and applying reflective vinyl decals in the same font used for SW8 No. 2028. No. 1276 is now sporting new numbers and will soon have RR&W lettering applied. No. 1249 will also get the same treatment. <>