

SCRM NEWS

The South Carolina Railroad Museum Newsletter

Volume 39 Number 3 Summer 2011

From your President, Rufus Timms:

As you undoubtedly know, I was appointed to the position of President of the SCRM by the Board of Trustees in January of this year and would like to give you a bit of background about me, especially related to the SCRM, the Winnsboro Blue Granite Corp. and the Rockton and Rion Railway.

I grew up near Anderson Quarry, at the western end of the Rockton and Rion Railway, where my Dad was master mechanic and machine shop foreman for approximately 40 years, except for 4 years and 4 days when he did his part in a little thing known as World War II. Growing up I spent a lot of time in the machine shop and during high school and college, I worked in both the quarry and on the railroad.

I am retired after 29 years with the South Carolina Department of Social Services working in the Fairfield County office. The Board of Trustees felt that my living in Fairfield County and my knowledge of the people in the county would be of benefit to SCRM as President. I have been a member of the SCRM for 28 years and have seen the growth of SCRM and its impact and potential benefit to Fairfield County.

One of the important local things that I have been doing, with full support of the SCRM Board, is visiting the schools in Fairfield County and talking with students and staff about the SCRM. One of the more fun things we have done is when Ron Jarosz and I

dressed up (Ron in his conductor's uniform and me in my overalls) and went to Richard Winn Academy in early December 2010 and read the Polar Express to the children in grades kindergarten through 4th grade.

We have also been networking with other agencies in the county to further promote the SCRM. Also, the Board of Trustees and myself are working to establish a closer relationship with the Town of Winnsboro, Fairfield County, the Fairfield County Chamber of Commerce, the Old English District and the State of South Carolina.

As President, I am tasked with overseeing building and grounds, other property belonging to the SCRM, the gift shop, ticket office, website, administrative matters and some personnel matters. For your information, the contract has been secured, reviewed and signed for the Steam Train event in October. We are looking forward to having a fun and productive Steam Train Event for 2011.

The Gift Shop/Ticket Office has currently been outfitted with a new dropped ceiling which should help with our cooling and heating costs, as well as significantly improving its appearance. Landscaping and building renovation at the Rockton site are ongoing and landscaping will soon begin at the Rion office building site.

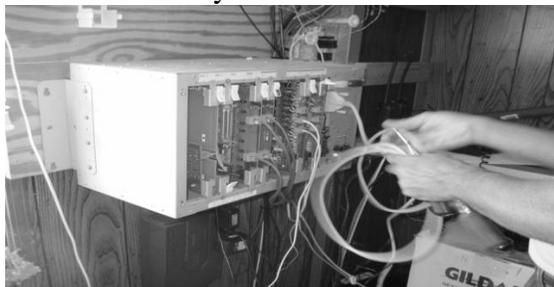
Rufus Timms, President SCRM <>

PLEASE: We are looking for someone to take over the position of **NEWSLETTER EDITOR**. The newsletter is currently published four times each year; is produced using Microsoft Word; and we are now able to have both postage and addresses automatically printed. Please contact me at HenryN215@aol.com or 215.888.5104.

Phone system repaired!

Last year a lightning strike wiped out our phone system. The Board decided to purchase a new (used) phone system from a local company that was upgrading to a larger system. Purchase was finally completed in Dec. 2010, but installation lagged because of multiple problems. Finally, our local phone provider, TruVista, completed installation at Rockton early in June.

Here is the old system:



Here is the new system:



Notice it is a LOT smaller, neater, and quite a bit more reliable. At the same time, because TruVista does not service Rion, the Board approved contracting with Frontier Phone to install a line into the Rion office building. This was also completed late in June after multiple delays, including working hard to get the wire installed underground using a Ditch Witch.



Presently dialing 803.635.9893 will get you to the recorded messages. 803.815.0650 will ring the phones in Rockton, and 803.635.4274 will ring the phone in the Rion office building. Recorded messages will be updated shortly. <

Volunteers Needed!!

Volunteers needed on train days to help on the trains, work in the gift shop and sell tickets. We will train you. This is an all volunteer operation and we need YOU! Please contact Rodger Stroup (histrycur@aol.com) or Rufus Timms (jrtimms71@yahoo.com) if you can help out.

Newsletter Help!

Help!! Besides seeking a new editor, we always can use articles and stories for the next newsletter. Please consider writing something and sending it to me at HenryN215@aol.com, or to SCRM, PO Box 7246, Columbia, SC 29202.

GUIGNARD FLAT CAR

By Rodger Stroup

Next time you visit the South Carolina Railroad Museum take a few minutes to examine the flatcar located just behind the Hampton & Branchville tender. Built about 1906 by the Pressed Steel Car Company this car is unusual because it has both Fox trucks and Climax couplers. Fox trucks were found to be unreliable, especially in derailments. They were fragile and often broke, causing a derailment. The Climax couplers also had a short life span. They tended to wear out quicker than the more popular Janey couplers. We don't know where this car began its life, but it ended its active service at Guignard Brick Company in Cayce, SC. It is hard to tell, but it might have originally been a boxcar or a gondola car that was renovated as a flatcar. It was acquired by SCRM in August 1985 from Guignard Brick Company in Cayce, SC.

Rodger Stroup <>



Note: Though the railroad tracks across Knox Abbott Drive in Cayce are long gone, next time you cross over the Blossom St. Bridge into Cayce, take a look on the north side of Knox Abbott Dr. at the old Guignard Beehive Brick Kilns. Four of the original round kilns are nicely preserved, along with some of the narrow gauge track that had been used to wheel loaded carts into the kilns.<>

For the first time, we are proud to add:

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:

My compliments! I wish to commend Rufus Timms for the efficient and professional manner in which he presides over the SCRM meetings. Also, I wish to commend Attorney Gene Allen for his efforts in researching deeds and titles to determine the boundaries of various properties claimed by the SCRM. I'm sure he has spent much time and effort reading and interpreting documents related to this task. This a very important endeavor as it will prevent doubts and confusion in future times. I commend Henry Nechemias, Editor of the SCRM News; he has done an outstanding job in gathering articles and information and publishing them in our Newsletter. This a very necessary means of communication to keep all of our members informed of what is happening at SCRM. Finally, it appears, by my observation of committee reports, that all committees are functioning as specified in our new bylaws. Many thanks to everyone who has worked so hard to bring us where we are today.

I. Carl Young,
Member SCRM & Charleston Chapter NRHS
JCARLYOUNG@BELLSOUTH.NET

South Carolina Railroad Museum

PO Box 7246

Columbia, SC 29202

Return service requested

Non-Profit Org. US Postage P-A-I-D Permit #1017 Columbia, SC
--

RECENT DEVELOPMENT

Grab your gloves, overalls and hat!!

The Federal Railroad Administration has given its blessing, and the Board of Directors has agreed to offer a “*Steam Engineer Program*” this year, which will allow SCRM members to sign up for the opportunity to actually drive the steam locomotive while it is on our tracks in October.

Since regular Steam rides will be offered the weekends of October 15-16 & 22-23, 2011, tentative plans are to offer the Steam Engineer program during the weekends of October 8-9 and 29-30, 2011. Pricing and details are still under discussion, but will certainly include the necessary safety training, operating instructions, and a chance to grab the throttle, blow the whistle and run the train down the track.

Keep your eyes open for details!!<>

