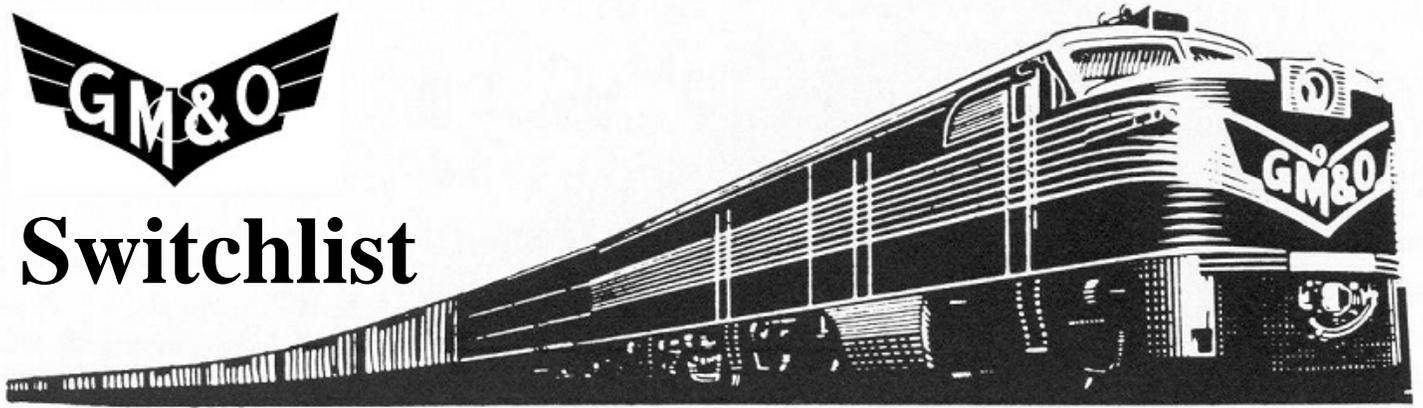




Switchlist



GULF, MOBILE & OHIO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Summer 2010, Vol. XXXVIII, No. 2

Page 1

Message from President Fred Bradley

Six months of 2010 have passed and time marches on. I would still like to see an effort made by every member to try to recruit at least one new member this year. We have a lot going on, and letting people know it would be well worth the investment to become a member of the GM&O Historical Society should be 'an easy sale', and you would also be supporting a part of American Railroad History.

We are approaching that time again when we will all get together for fun and fellowship at our Annual Meeting in Jackson, Tenn. There will be a lot going on there and we will all benefit from the time we will spend together getting to know new friends, discussing the ins and outs of the history of one of America's great railroads, and hopefully spreading the word about the GM&OHS in middle Tennessee. And of course, you might be looking to pick up at our show a little piece of the history that made the rail transportation system of this great nation the best in the world.

I sincerely hope that each and every one of you makes an effort to attend and participate in the activities of your great Historical Society and help make it the talk of the World of Railroad Historical Societies. We are proud of our heritage and only strive to make it better for all.

As Director of the Casey Jones Museum in Jackson Tennessee I would like to invite the members of the G.M. & O Historical Society to the annual meeting at our Museum in October. We are looking forward to hosting the meeting and introducing all of you to our great new facility at Casey Jones Village.

Lawrence Taylor



Messages from Secretary Marc Liberta

Nominations are now being accepted for the five seats on the 2011 Board of Directors as well as the offices of Secretary and Treasurer (the offices of President and Vice President are two year terms which are elected in odd numbered years). Please send written nominations to: **Election 2011, P.O. Box 1753, Marion, IL 62959**. A simple statement for the desired candidate and your signature are all that is required to nominate a willing member. Electronic submissions are acceptable, as well, and may be directed to marc.liberta@juno.com **Current Board Members are required to submit their names if they wish to run again for a seat on the BOD**. All nominations must be received by August 13, 2010.

Personally, I want to announce that I will be stepping down from the Secretary's position after five years in office. It has been a great privilege to serve the members of the Society that has been so influential in my own railroad education. I believe that an organization such as ours benefits from the infusion of new ideas and perspectives from time-to-time, and in stepping aside, the opportunity for someone else to make their mark on this great endeavor has arrived. For anyone considering throwing their hat into the ring, I would be more than happy to answer questions about what the duties of the office entail (contact me at the email address above).

A few of the basics regarding the Secretary's position might be helpful, so here are the highlights. Basic computer skills with Microsoft Word and Excel are needed. Most day-to-day correspondence and record keeping utilize templates which have been created, and will be passed along. Additionally, our membership database uses the Microsoft Works program (pretty straightforward), and if you are able to do some quick image manipulation, all the better. All necessary software programs accompany a **Dell laptop computer** that the Society purchased for the Secretary's use, but you will need access to the Internet and a printer (either your own, or at a library, etc.). The time commitment varies, with January being quite like an accountant's tax season (with renewals being submitted), but overall is not too demanding the rest of the year. A post office box will need to be established in your town (paid for by the Society), and you will be the person acknowledging receipt of *PayPal* orders from our website (though the mailing/distribution of ordered materials is largely delegated to several other persons). I will tutor (and be available for) the person that successfully vies for the position, so the transition can be as smooth as possible. No one will get thrown into the deep end.

If you are a fairly organized individual with an attention for details, this position will benefit from your set of skills. Most importantly, the Society as a whole will benefit from another member's talents and experience coming to the fore.

I would again encourage Life Members to consider stepping up to this level of participation in the Society (per my message from the Summer 2009 *Switchlist*), as it is extremely rewarding to be involved with the inner workings of this group, and to interact with so many great members.

2011 GM&OHS All-Color Calendar

Our resurrected calendar program continues to be a success, but only because we have persons willing to share their color images of the GM&O. This is the time of the year when we begin to put the new calendar together, so if anyone has clear, sharp color prints, negatives or slides of a GM&O image that they feel is special and would like to share, now is the time to come forward. Presently, only about one third of the calendar space is filled. Color images from the Southern Region from the 1940's to the 1960's, and the Western Division (ex-Alton Route to Kansas City) are always needed, as we do try to balance the calendar geographically. If you think you have something you'd like to contribute for 2011, please contact either **David Bridges** (662-323-2171 and dhb1@ae.msstate.edu) or **Art Richardson** (601-924-9440 and artrich999@aol.com). Thank you.

Modeling Committee Report from Jason Parham

Enclosed with this mailing is the order form for *Special Edition Car #35*, the **Accurail** 41' 6" Steel Gondola. Be sure to get your order in promptly for this great looking set of cars. Tentatively scheduled as our next special edition car offering is the **Branchline Trains** 50' Double Door Boxcar (the 52000-series scheme incorrectly applied to **ExactRail's** Gunderson boxcar recently).

Speedwitch Media, 645 Tanner Marsh Road, Guilford, CT 06437, (203) 747-0190 has a complete "kitbash in a box" available to model the 35200-series (nos. 35200-35249) 40 foot automobile boxcars received from American Car & Foundry in 1942. The kits include an undecorated **Branchline Trains** box car kit plus the necessary parts to build a prototypically accurate model, including the unique 10-rung ladders preferred by the GM&O, tubes for the tie-downs for the auto racks, and decals for the *The Rebel Route* slogan. The cars are product number **KC104** and list for \$32. Kits can be purchased directly on their website at www.speedwitch.com





Modeling Committee Report, cont.

For a different type of gondola news, **InterMountain** has released RTR HO and N scale USRA composite gons in both C&A tuscan red and Alton black paint schemes. Each scheme is available in six road numbers. The C&A version is product number **46618**(HO) and **66618**(N); the Alton version is **46619**(HO) and **66619**(N). Reports have it 300 of each were produced, and MSRP is \$29.95 for HO cars and \$19.95 for N scale cars. InterMountain has also announced a modified 1937 AAR boxcar in GM&O red with arched lettering and wings due for release in November/December 2010 (HO item #**45828** \$29.95, N #**65828** \$19.95), and a WWII War Emergency boxcar (HO item #**46076** \$29.95) in GM&O lettering, due in October/November 2010. Both models are also planned to have six numbers available. Though not officially announced, there is speculation that a later production run of the War Emergency boxcar may feature an Alton version as well. No N scale version of this car type has been announced.

Atlas N Trainman has announced a release date (two, actually, on their website, so be flexible), for its upgraded version of the 50 foot single door boxcar, with improved tooling of the dreadnought ends, diagonal panel roof, and 9' Youngstown doors. GM&O's as-delivered brown with straight white lettering scheme for its 9200-9599 series boxcars is being offered in two road numbers for \$12.95 (items #**38943/38944**). Models come with 50-ton friction bearing trucks and **AccuMate** couplers. Look for these to arrive in either August (or October), but preordering at your local hobby shop is recommended either way.

In Memoriam

The Society wishes to express condolences to the family and friends of Member **Russell L. "Russ" Starkey** of Normal, Ill. who passed away March 30th. Russ worked for the GM&O in the car department and operating department, in what would ultimately be a 47 year railroading career. He retired from the Union Pacific as an engineer on August 31, 2009. Russ was an early supporter of the GM&OHS, frequenting our shows and displaying a myriad of railroad memorabilia. He also was a great source of information to authors contributing to the *NEWS*, over the years.

We also must note the passing on May 3rd of **Jim Springer** of Auburn, Ill., one of the early-day GM&OHS officers. Jim was an enthusiastic rail historian, and liked nothing better than to track down the routes of long-gone railroads, looking for and often finding a surprisingly large amount of evidence, even from lines gone for 75 or more years. Despite recent, serious health problems, he was always eager to talk railroads. Both gentlemen will be greatly missed.

The *Switchlist* is a quarterly publication of the Gulf, Mobile and Ohio Historical Society, Inc. and is provided as a benefit of membership. The *Switchlist* is produced for the purpose of increasing communication between members, and provide time sensitive information. Members with information suitable for publication in the *Switchlist* should forward it to; GM&OHS *Switchlist*, P.O. Box 1753, Marion, IL. 62959.