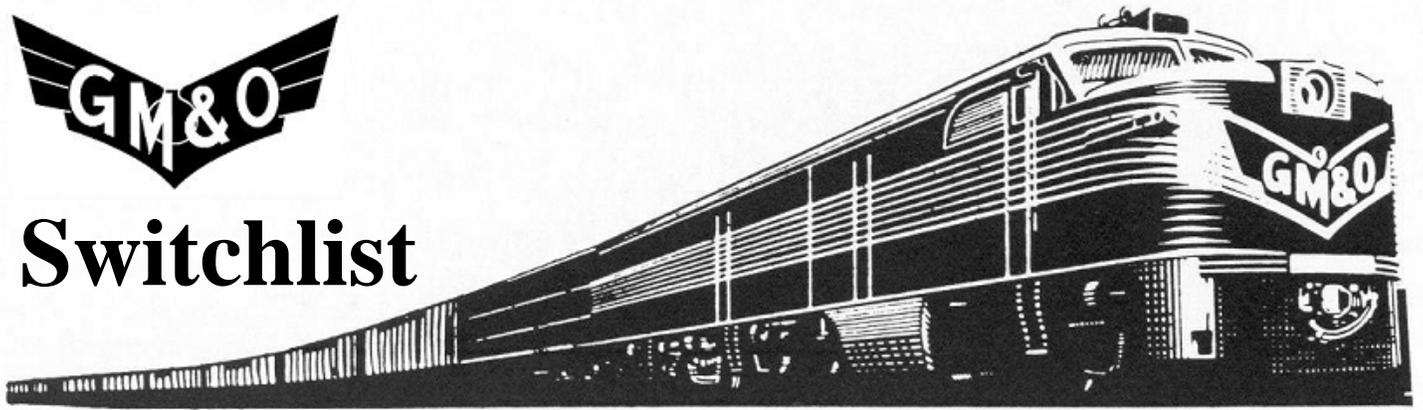




Switchlist



GULF, MOBILE & OHIO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Winter 2010, Vol. XXXVIII, No. 4

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Message from President Fred Bradley

I would like to take this opportunity to thank **Lawrence Taylor** and his staff at **Casey Jones Village** for helping put on one of our best Annual Meetings ever. They did an outstanding job and their efforts are greatly appreciated. Thanks also to **George M. Googe** and **Dave Wagner** for coordinating everything on the Society's end of preparations for a great weekend, and especially all of our members and vendors who were in attendance for their participation and support. You made it a great show!!

I regret that I was unable to attend because of my wife's illness. She is well now and hopes to make a full recovery. I would have really enjoyed this show and had every intention to be there.

As we enter a New Year I hope each member makes an effort to help make our Society the best in the nation. Get out and make an effort to sign up at least one new member. That should be an easy task. My best wishes go out to each and every one of you for a great 2011.

Secretary's Report from Marc Liberta

For an entire **decade** we have had no increase in our membership dues! Please do your part in controlling our costs by **renewing now**. It is a small but important way that you can help the *GM&OHS* prosper. Complete and mail the enclosed renewal form while it is on top of the pile.

Election Results for Membership Year 2011 (17% of eligible ballots returned) While President Fred Bradley and Vice President Tony Howe are currently completing the first year of their two year terms, the following persons will serve one year terms for 2011.

Secretary: **Marc Liberta**, Marion, IL (*write-in*)

Treasurer: **David Johnston**, Collierville, TN

Board of Directors: **Dwaine Hubbell**, Goldengate, IL; **Brian Johnston**, Pascagoula, MS;

Phil Kotheimer, Fairhope, AL; **Jason Parham**, McCalla, AL; **Dave Wagner**, Chicago, IL.

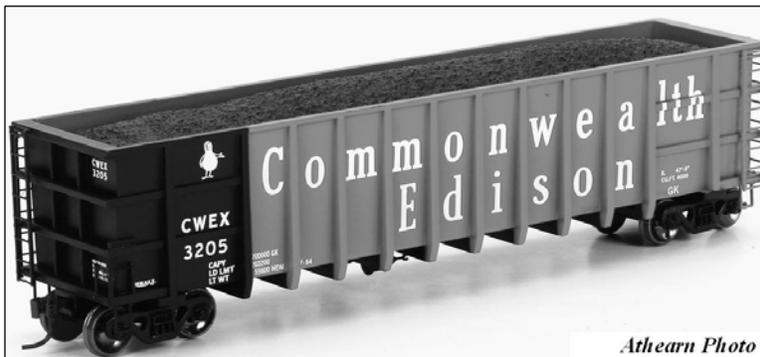
GM&OHS 2011 All-Color Calendar and a Coming Attraction

Calendars were mailed out on **November 1, 2010** via our regular bulk mail permit. If you have not received your calendar(s) by **December 6th**, contact the Secretary at the Marion, IL address, or by email. Thanks to everyone that supported the calendar program again this year.

Look in the **Spring 2011** mailing for our second release of the original *GM&O News* on CD. This will be a single disc containing all the issues from the 1960's and 1970's.

Modeling Committee Season Tidings

A very big box wrapped in a bow has been left under our tree this holiday season. Athearn recently released its HO Thrall coal gondola in CWEX (Commonwealth Edison) reporting marks as a single car and in three, five-car packs. This model is based on the same **Model Die Casting** (Roundhouse) tooling previously produced, but has received upgraded wire and plastic handrails, stirrup steps, ladders, and underbody details. The real improvement comes from **End Cab Models** proprietor **Dave Wagner** offering the **Mike Vickey**-drawn graphics used for *GM&OHS Special Edition Car #26* (released in 2003) to Athearn for their use free after noticing pre-release drawings were showing the original (and very incorrect) lettering being applied to the new release. Thumbs up to Athearn for their willingness to listen to Society advice, and adopting the correct graphics mid-stream in their production schedule. Now it's our turn to support their efforts by beating down the doors of local hobby shops and clearing out their inventory.



More good news: an **N-Scale version** of this model (using the same correct graphics), is set to be released in late March 2011 in four, five-car packs. MSRP for the HO models are \$19.98 (single) and \$99.98 (five pack), and the N-Scale five packs are \$89.98 each.

Life Magazine Photo Bonanza

In the December 5, 1949 issue of *Life* Magazine, a three page photo essay essentially sealed the GM&O's claim to being the first Class I railroad in the United States to fully dieselize. The well-known photo of an RS1 pulling down a wooden water tank dramatically illustrated the milestone. Photographer Francis Miller traveled to multiple locations along the GM&O to photograph the transition, and now nearly 200 of these historic images have been made available online. Go to <http://tinyurl.com/y92qgy4>.

In Memoriam

James Booklund of Joliet, Ill. passed away on October 19, 2010 at the age of 76. He served in the U.S. Air Force in the 1950's as a reconnaissance photographer. A lifelong fan of the Rock Island and Santa Fe in addition to the GM&O, he was an avid HO modeler of all three. James was instrumental in the organizing and computerizing of the GM&OHS membership records in the 1990's, and performed many behind-the-scene tasks for the Society's benefit. "Thanks for always being there, Jimbo".-*His Nephew, Ken Donnelly*

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.