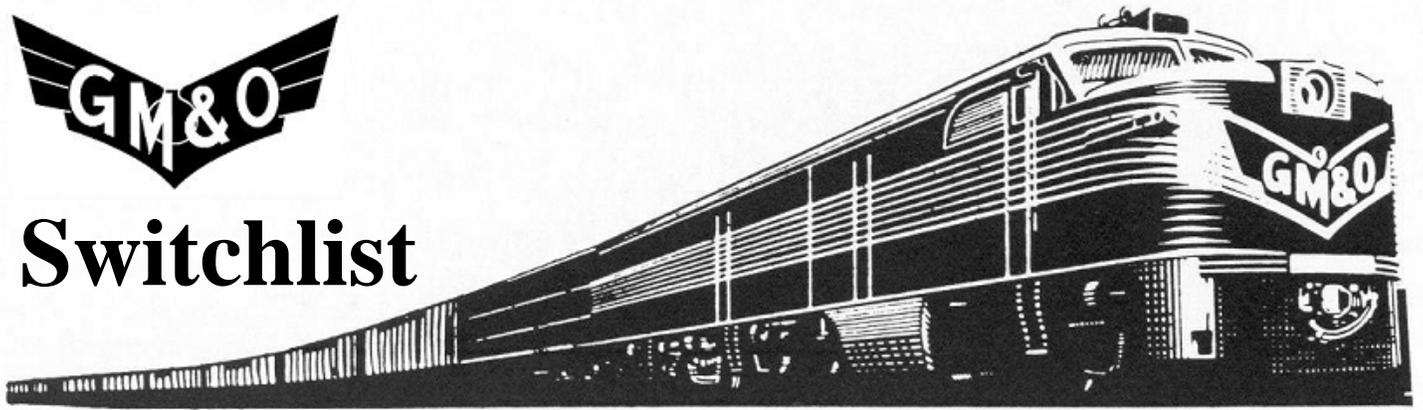




# Switchlist



## GULF, MOBILE & OHIO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Summer 2011, Vol. XXXIX, No. 2

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### Message from President Fred Bradley

Here we are half-through another year and things have been moving right along. The *GM&OHS NEWS* has some great articles in the current issue with more to follow, the 2012 Color Calendar is being put together and is moving along, and several model freight car projects are being developed that will follow our current offering. Last but not least, our Annual Meeting plans are taking shape for this fall in Bloomington, Ill. I want to thank all of the people who made all of this possible--good work fellows. This has been a good start to the year for the *GM&OHS*.

### Message from Secretary Marc Liberta

Nominations are now being accepted for the five seats on the 2012 Board of Directors as well as the offices of President, Vice President, 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 2012, 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](mailto: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 12, 2011.

### Bloomington Annual Meeting Multi-Media CD

We are offering something new this year, by putting together a special Bloomington CD-Rom for attendees of the Annual Meeting this October. It will contain an electronic version (PDF) of *GM&OHS NEWS* issue #23 (featuring the Bloomington Shops in its entirety), detailed **maps** (which show the GM&O's facilities [yards and station]; IC [yards and station]; NKP/P&E [trackage and station]; and IT [station]), MP3 **audio recordings** [three books-on-tape style historical radio segments and one vintage trackside action feature], and 50 **photos/images** (published and unpublished) of Bloomington railroading subjects (heavy emphasis on the GM&O, of course). **Preorders** are being taken at a special price, and may be included with banquet reservations for **\$10.00** (see bottom of enclosed flier). Your CD will then be waiting at the Society's tables Saturday for you to pick up. If not preordered, the price for this special disc at the **show** will be \$15.00. For those unable to attend the meeting, but wishing to purchase the *Bloomington CD*, **mail orders** will be taken for \$16.00 postage paid (check/money order payable to 'GM&OHS' and sent to the Society's Marion, Ill. address). Preorders and mail orders must be received by **October 27<sup>th</sup>**, at which time this offer expires. The Society's website will not have this CD offer posted, and all mail orders will be sent out the week following our Meeting.



## 2012 GM&OHS All-Color Calendar

Our calendar program continues to be a success because each year we have persons willing to share their color images of the GM&O. This is the time 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 they feel is special and would like to share, now is the time to come forward. Color images from the 1940's to the 1960's, taken anywhere throughout the system, are always needed, as we do try to balance the calendar geographically. If you think you have something you'd like to contribute for the 2012 calendar, please contact **Gene Glendinning** at 847-913-6341 or [geneglen@sbcglobal.net](mailto:geneglen@sbcglobal.net) Thank you.

## 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting Details

The 39th Annual Meeting of the Society will be held the weekend of October 28-30, 2011 in Bloomington, Ill. at the *Hawthorn Suites by Wyndham*. This is one of the newest hotels in the twin cities area having been built in 2001 and completely refurbished in 2008. The rooms are elegantly appointed with all the modern amenities that today's travelers desire. The Society was able to negotiate a special reduced room rate of \$79.95 per night, so remember to mention the 'GM&OHS' when booking your reservations to ensure that you receive the special rate. Please contact the Hawthorn directly at 309-829-8111.

We will start with our Friday Night Hospitality Suite at the hotel. This event is open to all, members and non-members, where we will have soft drinks and light snacks as we show various member's slides (and movies?). This is a great opportunity to show off the "gems" in your collection. We will start at 7 pm, and probably run to about 11 pm.

Saturday morning our Railroadiana Show and Sale opens to the public at 9 am (dealer set-up begins at 6 am). Admission is just \$3.00 per adult, and children under the age of twelve are free of charge. Once again, we will be sponsoring the *GM&OHS* Annual Model Contest. This is a great opportunity to let your fellow modelers see what you have been working on, and prizes will be awarded by popular vote of the membership present. More contest details will appear in the Autumn *Switchlist*. The Show concludes at 3 pm, allowing railfans in the crowd to explore what is left of the GM&O around town as those sites are no more than ten minutes from the hotel.

Our Banquet begins at 6 pm with a cash bar and social hour. The buffet style dinner will be served at 7 pm, followed by a short business meeting at 8 pm giving the "State of the Society". After a short intermission, **Mike Schafer** and **Jim Popson** of the *National Railway Historical Society* will present the *Blackhawk Chapter's* GM&O slide show. This dual projector/sound presentation has been presented at three previous Annual Meetings, (1981-Burr Ridge, 1995-Joliet and 2003-Springfield). Those fortunate enough to have seen this presentation know it will bring a tear to your eye, and for those that haven't, you will not want to miss this opportunity. After Mike and Jim's show, we will open the floor to any member that wishes to show slides or movies, capping off a splendid evening.

On Sunday morning, a Board of Directors Meeting will be held in the Conference room adjacent to the Banquet Hall. The Meeting starts promptly at 8:30 am and will last no more than an hour. Members and non-members alike are welcome to attend.

Contact show coordinator **Dave Wagner** with any questions. See you in Bloomington!



### Modeling Committee News

Enclosed with this mailing is the order form for *Special Edition Car #36*, the **Branchline Trains** 50' AAR Double Door Boxcar. The 52000-series scheme was incorrectly applied to **ExactRail's** Gunderson boxcar about eighteen months ago, but these **Blueprint Series** kits have the correct diagonal roofs, dreadnaught ends, straight sills and Youngstown doors. We were very fortunate to be able to acquire these cars, as Branchline has sold its model car portion of their business to **Atlas Model Railroad Co.** Future Branchline cars sold by Atlas will be built-ups rather than these great kits, which are so well-suited for our aftermarket custom design program. Be sure to get your order in promptly for this great looking (and accurate) set of cars, as availability is of course limited.

### N-Scale Special Editions Update

The first *GM&OHS* offering of an N-Scale version of one of our *Special Edition* releases was back in 2009 with *Car #34*. That first foray into N-Scale aftermarket painting/printing was a little disappointing, as the **InterMountain** cars used for the project were a bit too delicate, resulting in less than perfect results. Because the cars received had various degrees of imperfection, it was decided to provide a cost adjustment to those that had ordered sets which would be applied to the next offering made. To make good on this promise, a direct contact arrangement has been utilized with those individuals, after which we have seven remaining N-Scale sets of *Car #36* to offer at large. While not as completely accurate as the HO Branchline cars, a very good N-Scale stand-in has been used in the form of **Athearn's** 50' PS-1 Double Door boxcar. It has the Youngstown doors of differing widths, dreadnaught ends, similar sill arrangement, and the roofwalks have been eliminated to match the prototype. Even with this limited number of sets, we think there are enough to satisfy the remaining needs of our N-Scale members (it was a struggle to get the number of cars we did secure). Still, it would be prudent to order early.

### 2011 St. Louis Railroad Prototype Modelers Meet

The Fifth Annual St. Louis RPM Meet will be held on Friday and Saturday August 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> from 9 am to 10 pm (both days) at the *Gateway Convention Center*, One Gateway Dr., Collinsville, IL 62234. *GM&OHS* members **Dan Kohlberg** (paducah@mindspring.com) and **Lonnie Bathurst** (217-556-0314) are helping coordinate this large event which will have 50 vendor tables, multiple clinics, and numerous railroad historical societies present (including the *GM&OHS*), all complementing the focus of the show, models of all scales brought in by attendees.

For those unfamiliar with the RPM concept, the purpose of the meet is to share techniques, learn from fellow modelers, and see presentations by nationally-recognized modelers and historians. Everything from learning how to apply prototype research to one's modeling efforts, to hands-on weathering demonstrations will be offered (just bring a model). Admission for Friday and Saturday is \$20, or for Saturday only \$15. Kids under 13 are free with a paid adult. Vendor sales end at 5 pm each day. For the complete two-page PDF flier, go to: <http://icg.home.mindspring.com/rpm/stlrpm2011.pdf>



## Ingalls' Lone Locomotive Remembered

Board of Directors member **Brian Johnston** assisted **Joanne Anderson** with a story she wrote that recently appeared in the *Mississippi Press* (Pascagoula) under its *Sampling Our History* feature. **Ingalls Shipbuilding Corporation's** only venture into the diesel locomotive construction business is recounted for local interest. See the full story online at: <http://tinyurl.com/3hluuaf>

**More Watco, Inc. News...** In addition to the 'Up To Date' section of the current *NEWS*, there is more going on with **Watco** as the company began operations over 44 miles of former GM&O trackage between Maplesville and Montgomery Ala. in April 2011. An additional 10 miles of trackage rights over CSX is included in the link that takes over from former owner Norfolk Southern. The new line is called the **Autauga Northern Railroad** (AUT), and was historically the GM&O's link to Montgomery. Watco had already been providing contract switching services to the largest customer on the line, International Paper's Prattville, Ala. mill. Plans include upgrading the trackage, which currently has a speed restriction of 10 mph, to allow for 25 mph operations. This is the second stretch of former GM&O trackage that Watco has acquired, purchasing in 2005 the 85 mile line from Columbus, Miss. to Birmingham, Ala. (Alabama Southern Railroad). This now makes 23, the number of short lines that Watco owns and operates in eighteen states.

## In Memoriam

Former GM&OHS President **Bill Wyld**, age 78, passed away on June 8, 2011 after a two year struggle from complications due to liver failure. He had been living in a senior apartment building in Centralia, Ill. for several years. Bill was a colorful character and always ready with a good story and plenty of jokes. When elected as *GM&OHS* President, his acceptance speech began by telling us that his first three wives were all named Nancy. Then he said, "I don't know what that has to do with GM&O, but I thought you'd want to know about it." Bill will also be remembered as the one who arranged the *Gulf Transport* charter bus to the *GM&OHS* Annual Meeting in Jackson, Tenn. in 1979. He was a prolific photographer and modeler, even finding space for a small layout in his cramped apartment. The crown jewel of his layout was a building with a hobby shop on the first floor and a bordello on the second, and on the roof, a couple of 2nd floor "employees" were sunbathing. He said, "Well you know, guys can tell their wives they are going to a hobby shop, and that makes a good cover story." Only Bill would come up with something like this! He was in the auto parts business most of his life, but also operated a used book store in Carbondale, Ill. for a number of years. Later, he donated his time and talents to the Centralia Historical Society. Bill is survived by a son, three daughters, four grandchildren and one great-grandchild. Bill was a Korean War veteran and is now buried at Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery south of St. Louis. Bill, cloaked in red and maroon, as you make your final journey, may the track be smooth, the signals be green and a pretty lady waiting for you at the end of the line! *R.I.P.* our friend.

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 purposes of increasing communication between members and disseminating 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.