Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the Society will be held November 9 – 11 in Union City, TN, right on GM&O Mainline. A registration form is attached. Reservations include programs on Friday night, the Annual Meeting Banquet Saturday night, attendance at the Member Swap Meet on Saturday, tour of the GM&O Depot, modeling displays (if interest is sufficient) and more. Quality Inn in Union City, TN is our host hotel and a block of rooms has been set aside. Members need to make thirty (30) days prior to November 9 by calling straight to the hotel at 731-885-8850 then press 2. Call the hotel directly instead of reservations.

Please add an extra day to your trip to Union City to visit Discovery Park of America, http://discoveryparkofamerica.com, a world class theme park, located one mile from our hotel in Union City. It’s a major entertainment and educational experience. With more than 70,000 sq. ft. of galleries focused on nature, science, technology, history and art to engage all comers. From dinosaurs to Native American history to space exploration, Discover Park of America will inspire you and provide greater understanding of our world—past, present and future. It’s Middle America’s Epcot Center.

Election

By now you should have received a Call for Nominations for this year’s Election of Officers and Board. Those serving currently are: President Brian Johnston, Vice President Jason Parham, Secretary Gary Osing, Treasurer David Johnston, Board Member Andy Sisk, St Louis, MO, Bill Strong, Germantown, TN, David Price, Purvis, MS, Joe Hunt, Trenton, TN and Tim Hubbell, Mt Vernon, IL. President Brian Johnston has chosen to not stand for re-election for 2018-19. Vice President Jason Parham was elected in 2017 for 2018-19.

The GM&OHS has now survived 46 years, longer than the GM&O Railroad. That survival is a testimony to the commitment made through the years by volunteers to keeping the lore and legacy of the GM&O RR alive. The survival of the GM&OHS depends on new generations of members willing to make the commitment necessary to provide volunteer leadership. The primary reason for recently outsourcing much of our administrative work is the lack of volunteers stepping up to help. The Board, urges you, long-time member or not, to consider a few hours a month of commitment to helping guide the Society into the future.

Modeling News

Atlas O Trainman has just released their 3-Bay PS-2 Covered Hopper in GM&O, two car numbers. The 3-rail Item Number is 2002510-1 and -2. One car number is GM&O 80959, Build date 8-61. This car is also available in 2-rail but under a slightly different Item number.

Lionel has also just released their 40-foot Trailer 2-pack in GM&O Piggyback Service scheme. These trailers are silver with red lettering and GM&O Wings. The Lionel Item Number is 6-84883.

It appears that both companies did a good job to produce accurate paint schemes in both of these great new releases. Both are available at hobby dealers now. Remember in all scales that the more GM&O we buy, the more that the manufacturers will want to produce.

Articles

We need articles, authors and topics of interest to our Membership. We now have an entire generation of members who are not familiar with many aspects of the GM&O history and operations. Providing articles of interest to those newer members requires that those with information share that with others. White River Publications’ Mike Schafer and GMOHS Publications Chair Andy Sisk will polish any article submitted to asisk@sbeglobal.net.
Photographs Wanted

We are looking for photographs to be used with future publishing projects. We would like to borrow some good quality photos to help illustrate some planned articles and/or booklets. If you have these items and could loan them to us for scanning, please contact the society Secretary at the address shown below. We are looking for good-quality photos of the following:

Line-side structures, photographed during the ‘GM&O era’ (1940-1972):
- Okolona, Mississippi station (track side view)
- Walnut Grove, Mississippi station (track side view)
- Reform, Alabama station (original, as-built, with turret over bay window)
- Government Street Station, Mobile, Alabama
- Alton, Illinois College Ave. station (track side view)
- Wann, Illinois operator’s office (track side view)
- Wood River, Illinois tower
- GM&O trains in Jackson, Mississippi (either Capitol Yard or at station)

Preferred formats are color slides, 8x10” black & white prints, color or B&W negatives. Photos must be razor sharp and well exposed. Small 3x5” prints are not acceptable, as those do not reproduce well. We can also accept high-resolution digital scans. (See our guidelines for digital files on page 3 of issue no.140 of GM&OHS NEWS)

We Get Questions from Members

Sometimes Society members call or write to us asking for clarification about something printed in our magazine, the GM&OHS NEWS. Things like locomotive types and designations, train names and schedules/routes operated. We always do our best to explain things, but this is a situation that has plagued the rail hobby publishing industry, and we think, railroad historical societies for years. It’s the assumption that “everybody knows all that stuff”. Well, the truth is, everybody doesn’t know all that stuff! We are currently developing some basic-information type articles for future publication. All you ‘experts’ need not worry- There will be plenty of good stuff included that will satisfy even the most jaded ‘know-it-all’ fan.