

# THE FLATWHEEL

The Official Monthly Publication of the Central Florida Railway Historical Society, Inc. and the Central Florida Railroad Museum



## January 2018

### January 2018 Meeting

Monday, January 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM  
 Central Florida RR Museum  
 101 S. Boyd St., Winter Garden, FL  
**Program:** Railroad Lineside Structures  
**By:** Warren Jennison  
**Refreshments:** Phil Piet

### February 2018 Meeting

Monday, February 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM  
 Central Florida RR Museum  
 101 S. Boyd St., Winter Garden, FL  
**Program:** Two of the Five Railroads  
 That Served Tavares  
**By:** Ken Murdock  
**Refreshments:** Les Westlake

## Central Florida RR Museum Host Duty Schedule January 2018

DAY	DATE	HOURS	MUSEUM HOST
Saturday	1/6/18	1 P.M. – 5 P.M.	Irv Lipscomb
Sunday	1/7/18	1 P.M. – 5 P.M.	Mike Forrester
Saturday	1/13/18	1 P.M. – 5 P.M.	Jerry Hardwich
Sunday	1/14/18	1 P.M. – 5 P.M.	Phil Piet
Saturday	1/20/18	1 P.M. – 5 P.M.	Ginger Honetor
Sunday	1/21/18	1 P.M. – 5 P.M.	Mike Kelly
Saturday	1/27/18	1 P.M. – 5 P.M.	Dan & Janet Crusie
Sunday	1/28/18	1 P.M. – 5 P.M.	Phil Baker
Saturday	N/A	1 P.M. – 5 P.M.	N/A
Sunday	N/A	1 P.M. – 5 P.M.	N/A

### January Birthdays

**Bobby Grenier 1/12**  
**Bill Dusenbury 1/17**  
**Irv Lipscomb 1/18**  
**George Diller 1/21**  
**Randall Thornton 1/31**  
**Al Weber 1/31**

### Thought of the Day

A PESSIMIST sees a dark tunnel.  
 An OPTIMIST sees light at the end of the tunnel.  
 A REALIST sees a freight train.  
 The LOCOMOTIVE ENGINEER sees three idiots standing on the tracks.....

### **January 2018 Museum Work Session**

**Saturday, January 20, 2018  
 8:30 AM to 3:30 PM**

**Please come out and help with the many chores that need to be done and the expansion project!!!!**

**Don't Forget The Weekly Wednesday Work Sessions — Come Out & Help If You Can. 8:30 AM to 3:30 PM.**

### **Orlando & Northwestern Railway**

Winter Operating Schedule Effective January 12, 2018

Operating 5 Days a Week. The Vista Dome "Jackson Square" Has Been Added to the Consist.

Fares:

Adult coach: \$20.00

Kid coach: \$12.00

Adult upper dome: \$30.00

Kid upper dome: \$22.00

Tickets Are Good All Day Long. Hop On - Hop Off.

**SPECIAL NOTE: Dinner Train Will Begin in Mid February**

# This Is The Way It Was

This monthly photo column by Ken Murdock features railroad scenes of the past, a look back into railroading's history.



Our NRHS chapter had a tour of Seaboard System's Piggyback Yard at Taft on May 19, 1984. The visit was arranged by society member Neil Aly who had the contract to maintain and repair railroad trailers and the Piggy Packer at the yard. This photo shows our group gathered around George Manning, Train Master, who was giving us a briefing on how the facility functioned – *Clayton Bishop photo*



While Manning was in the midst of his briefing, this yard tractor lost its trailer, making a very loud bang! This was somewhat embarrassing for Manning but not a big problem, however. They just called the Piggy Packer to come over and pick it up and Neil Aly had another trailer to repair. – *Ken Murdock photo*



This mammoth machine known as the Piggy Packer was used to load and unload trailers. This yard eventually had two of these machines to speed up the operation and to have a backup in case one was down for repairs. Prior to acquiring these machines, trailers were driven onto the flatcars with yard tractors with a hydraulic fifth wheel. With the advent of the Packers, spine cars were developed which provided floor decking only for the trailer wheels, thus reducing tare weight. - *Ken Murdock photo*

## December 2017 CFRR Museum Report

By Ken Murdock, Curator

We had our first Wednesday workday on December 6, with six members participating who included Phil Cross, Rick Sumner, Irv Lipscomb, Jerry & Ginger Honetor and I. It was a very productive day which involved finishing the wood trim, calking the trim and applying a first coat of trim color painting on most of it. The new Museum/Meeting Room is really shaping up! Cynthia Cardona, the Winter Garden Heritage Foundation director, stopped by to see our progress and she was quite pleased to see how the space is turning out. The electrician was also there finishing up a lot of loose ends as they prepare for their final inspection. Ginger worked on sprucing up the displays and hosted in the afternoon.

During our regular meeting on December 11th, David Rhea received the Glad Hand award for outstanding service during 2017. Dave, assisted by William Walter, has tackled many projects on his own which have included refinishing a switch stand, cleaning up a pair of highway crossing signals, rebuilding the steps to the caboose, rebuilding a recently donated Fairbanks freight cart, rebuilding the hand railings on the east end platform steps and installing guard posts to protect our A/C unit from cars parking on the tracks. Thank you, Dave, for all of your hard work and dedication to the society!!

Our second Wednesday workday was on December 13, and we had six members participating who included Phil Cross, Jerry & Ginger Honetor, Irv Lipscomb, Roger Wilson, David Rhea and myself. We continued with the painting of wood trim and doors. We also bought a new countertop for the refreshment bar and will finish its installation at the next session. David, Roger and Phil worked on the budget for 2018 and have it ready to present to the membership. The electricians also worked on Wednesday. As usual, Ginger worked on displays and hosted in the afternoon.

Our monthly museum workday was Saturday, December 16, and we had only four members who participated. They were Phil Cross, Jerry & Ginger Honetor and I. Phil and Ginger took care of the housekeeping chores and Jerry and I worked in the Roper Building where Phil soon joined us. Jerry and Phil concentrated on trim painting while I finished installing the countertop on our refreshment bar and mortised out for the lockset on the A/C closet. Ginger removed all of the chairs in the meeting room and gave it a thorough cleaning then hosted in the afternoon. Though the turnout was light, we still had a very successful day with many things accomplished.

On December 20, we continued with our weekly Wednesday workday. Those participating included Phil Cross, Rick Sumner, Jerry & Ginger Honetor and I. We continued mainly with caulking and painting and should wrap that work up in one more Wednesday workday. We also took care of some miscellaneous carpentry items and the disposal of surplus and duplicate items of little value. We are running out of storage space. Consequently, we are having to make some tough decisions on what to keep and not to keep. Ginger hosted in the afternoon.

My faithful workers wrapped up the month and the year without me on Wednesday, December 27, since I had out-of-town family visiting. Those participating included Phil Cross, Rick Sumner and Jerry & Ginger Honetor. They almost completed the caulking and almost all the painting and rehung several doors that were removed for painting. Ginger worked on maintenance of the collection and hosted in the afternoon. They also were present when the city building inspector came by to check the electrical and air conditioning work. He gave us final approval on that work so we have only the overall final left to pass. We still have the exit doors and flooring to complete before we call for that inspection.

We had a very productive month and year due to many of you who have supported our organization in so many ways such as helping with museum maintenance or construction or by hosting. Thanks to each of you. We couldn't do what we do without all of you who pitched to make 2017 another outstanding year!!

## Upcoming Events

**January 8, 2018** — Monthly Meeting of the Central Florida Railway Historical Society at 7:00 PM in the Central Florida Railroad Museum, 101 South Boyd Street.

**January 13 & 14, 2018** — Deland, FL — 62<sup>nd</sup> Florida Rail Fair, Volusia County Fairgrounds, 3150 East New York Avenue, 9 am – 4 pm and 10 am– 3:30 pm. Contact: Charles Miller, 386-736-8185, [rrshows@aol.com](mailto:rrshows@aol.com). Website: <http://www.gserr.com>.

**January 20, 2018** — Atlanta, GA — 54<sup>th</sup> Atlanta Model Train Show, Infinite Energy Center, Atlanta, GA. 9 AM to 4 PM. Contact: Charles Miller, 386-736-8185, [rrshows@aol.com](mailto:rrshows@aol.com). Website: <http://www.gserr.com>.

**February 10, 2018** — Jacksonville, FL — 40<sup>h</sup> Jacksonville Rail Fair, Railroadiana and Model Train Show, 9:00 to 5:00. Prime Osborn Convention Center, 1000 Water Street (former Jacksonville Terminal). Details: Charlie Miller, (703) 536-2954, [rrshows@aol.com](mailto:rrshows@aol.com). Website: <http://www.gserr.com>.

**February 12, 2018** — Monthly Meeting of the Central Florida Railway Historical Society at 7:00 PM in the Central Florida Railroad Museum, 101 South Boyd Street.

**March 12, 2018** — Monthly Meeting of the Central Florida Railway Historical Society at 7:00 PM in the Central Florida Railroad Museum, 101 South Boyd Street.

**April \_\_\_\_\_, 2018** — Semi-Annual Railwatch Event, Folkston, GA.

**April 9, 2018** — Monthly Meeting of the Central Florida Railway Historical Society at 7:00 PM in the Central Florida Railroad Museum, 101 South Boyd Street.

**April 14, 2018** — **Deland, FL** — 63<sup>rd</sup> Florida Rail Fair, Volusia County Fairgrounds, 3150 East New York Avenue, 9 am – 4 pm and 10 am– 3:30 pm. Contact: Charles Miller, 386-736-8185, [rrshows@aol.com](mailto:rrshows@aol.com). Website: <http://www.gserr.com>.

**May 14, 2018** — Monthly Meeting of the Central Florida Railway Historical Society at 7:00 PM in the Central Florida Railroad Museum, 101 South Boyd Street.

**June 2-3, 2018** — Tampa, FL — 19<sup>th</sup> Tampa Train Show & Sale, Florida State Fairgrounds Special Events Center, 9 AM to 5 PM Saturday, 10 AM to 4 PM Sunday. Contact: Charles Miller, 386-736-8185, [rrshows@aol.com](mailto:rrshows@aol.com). Website: <http://www.gserr.com>.

**June 11, 2018** — Monthly Meeting of the Central Florida Railway Historical Society at 7:00 PM in the Central Florida Railroad Museum, 101 South Boyd Street.

**July 9, 2018** — Monthly Meeting of the Central Florida Railway Historical Society at 7:00 PM in the Central Florida Railroad Museum, 101 South Boyd Street.

**July 14, 2018** — **Deland, FL** — 64<sup>th</sup> Florida Rail Fair, Volusia County Fairgrounds, 3150 East New York Avenue, 9 am – 4 pm and 10 am– 3:30 pm. Contact: Charles Miller, 386-736-8185, [rrshows@aol.com](mailto:rrshows@aol.com). Website: <http://www.gserr.com>.

**August 13, 2018** — Monthly Meeting of the Central Florida Railway Historical Society at 7:00 PM in the Central Florida Railroad Museum, 101 South Boyd Street.

**August 25, 2018** — Atlanta, GA — 55<sup>th</sup> Atlanta Model Train and Railroadiana Show, INFINITE ENERGY CENTER, 6400 Sugarloaf Parkway, Duluth, GA 30093, 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Contact: Charles Miller, 386-736-8185, [rrshows@aol.com](mailto:rrshows@aol.com). Website: <http://www.gserr.com>.

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## Live Steamers Winter Meets (Subject To Change)

Location	Meet Dates
North East Florida Live Steamers	Cancelled
Big Boots & Western Railroad	February 5 to 12, 2018
Largo Central Railroad	February 9 to 12, 2018
Manatee Central Railroad	February 13 to 19, 2018
Ridge Live Steamers	February 22 to 25, 2018
Central Pasco	Feb. 25 to Mar. 4, 2018
Sebring System Railroad	March 2 to 4, 2018

### Central Florida Railway Historical Society, Inc. Combined Board & Regular Meeting Minutes Central Florida RR Museum December 11, 2017 7:00 PM

1. Call to Order – Jerry Honetor
  - Meeting Called to Order at 7pm
2. Meeting Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance – David Rhea
3. Recognition of Guests and Visitors – Jerry Honetor
  - No guests or visitors present.
4. Recognition of Members/Friends Concerns – Jerry Honetor
  - Clarence Hurt reported that Mrs. Hurt has a head injury from a recent fell, but no bone breakage occurred.
  - Jan Sharp is ill with the flu and is recovering very slowly.
  - Jerry Honetor reported that Joe Lehmann is experiencing severe pain.
  - Roger Wilson reported that his mother passed away last month.
5. Museum Host Schedule for January 2018 – Irv Lipscomb
  - Some museum hosting slots for the month of January were filled by members present.
6. Installation of 2018 Officers – Clarence Hurt
  - The 2018 Board of Directors were officially sworn in.
    - \* Jerry Honetor: President
    - \* Irv Lipscomb: VP of Education & Public Relations
    - \* Phil Piet: VP of Membership & Programs
    - \* Ken Murdock: Museum Curator
    - \* David Rhea: Treasurer
    - \* Roger Wilson: Assistant Treasurer
    - \* Mike Forrester: Secretary (absent and will be sworn in at the January meeting.)
    - \* Mike Ryan: Assistant Secretary
    - \* Phil Cross: Historian
    - \* Bill Dusenbury: Immediate Past President
7. Presentation of the “Glad Hand Award” --- Ken Murdock
  - Ken Murdock presented the Glad Hand Award to David Rhea, as the 2017 recipient, for outstanding numerous contributions to the Museum and the Society.
8. Tonight’s Program: **Orange Belt Railway** by **Ken Murdock**
9. Tonight’s Refreshments Provided By: **Jerry & Ginger Honetor**
10. Approval of the November 13, 2017 Combined Board & Regular Meeting Minutes – Jerry Honetor
  - Motion by Phil Piet, second by Jarrod Reynolds; Motion passed unanimously
11. November 2017 Treasurer’s Report – David Rhea & Roger Wilson
  - David Rhea reported the financial report and the budget is solvent.

**Continued on Page 4.**

## 12/11/17 Meeting Minutes — Continued From Page 3

12. 2018 Budget – David Rhea & Roger Wilson
  - David Rhea reported that the Budget Committee will meet December 13<sup>th</sup> to draft the proposed budget for 2018.
13. Vice President of Membership & Programs Report – Phil Piet
  - Membership Report
    - \* Currently **81** Members.
    - \* Membership Renewals for 2018 Are Underway.
  - Field Trips Suggested/Planned for 2018
    - \* Gold Coast Railroad Museum in Miami, FL –**Scheduled for weekend of February 23<sup>rd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>, 2018.**
    - \* Largo Central Railroad in Largo, FL – First Saturday of Each Month.
    - \* Other Suggestions??
  - Programs & Refreshments Hosts for 2018:
    - \* Need programs for April 2018 and June 2018 through December 2018.
    - \* Need Refreshments Hosts for April 2018 through October 2018.
14. E-Bay Store Report – Ross Marvin
  - No report was presented.
15. Museum Curator Report – Ken Murdock
  - CFRR Museum Report – **684** visitors during October and **7,162** visitors for 2017 to date. 271.25 hours donated by the membership during October and **4,093.75** hours donated by the membership for 2017 to date.
  - Library Update. Small number of donations for the library
  - Technology Update. No report was given
  - Recent Acquisitions & Donations.
    - \* Jarrod Reynolds reported of a donation of Lionel O scale trains by his boss.
  - Expansion Plans/Status for the Central Florida Railroad Museum.
    - \* Expansion Expenses for **November** totaled **\$484.46**
    - \* Total Expansion Expenses to date are **\$25,218.55**
  - Fundraising Efforts to Support the Museum Expansion.
    - \* A total of **\$20.00** was raised during **November**.
    - \* A total of **\$43,045.00** has been raised since **October 2014**.
  - The Next Saturday Monthly Museum Work Session: **December 16<sup>th</sup>**, beginning at 8:30 AM.
  - Weekly Work Sessions are held each **Wednesday**, beginning at 8:30 AM.
16. CFRHS Facebook Page – Jarrod Reynolds
  - Jarrod provided the latest statistics for the page.
17. Items from the Board of Directors
  - Phil Cross – Exploring the Possibility of Re-Joining the NRHS. A motion to pursue for the Society to be an affiliate of the NRHS by David Rhea, second by Phil Piet; motion passed.
18. Items from the Membership
  - No items from membership.
19. Meeting Adjournment
  - Meeting adjourned at 9:18pm.

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### High-Speed Rail Sets South Florida Debut

*Associated Press  
Sunday, December 31, 2017*

Fort Lauderdale — A higher-speed passenger train that is eventually expected to run from Miami to Orlando is set to launch operations in South Florida. Brightline officials told local news outlets that the initial service between Fort Lauderdale and West Palm Beach will begin the week of January 8<sup>th</sup>. The Miami station is schedule to come on board within three months. The parent company, All Aboard Florida, had planned to launch the \$3 billion project between Miami and West Palm Beach over the summer. But a variety of factors delayed the project.

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### Mosaic to Close 430-Employee Plant City Fertilizer Plant at Year's End

*Wednesday, December 27, 2017*

PLANT CITY — Mosaic announced Tuesday it will close its Plant City fertilizer plant at the end of 2017 for at least a year to cut costs and improve profitability.

The plant, on State Road 39 just south of the Hillsborough-Pasco county line, has a work force of 430. The company said it is offering 200 voluntary retirement incentive packages to its Florida employees and has created about 100 more open positions through a hiring freeze over the last several months.

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"The hope is to place as many of those impacted employees as possible in open positions in the company's other facilities," Mosaic spokeswoman Jackie Barron said.

Mosaic has Florida operations in Hillsborough, Polk, Manatee and Hardee counties. Those not placed elsewhere will receive a severance package based on, among other things, their number of years with the company and pay.

The Plant City facility opened in 1965 and has the capacity to produce 2 million tons of fertilizer a year, the company said.

"Our business performed well in the third quarter, notwithstanding the impacts of Hurricane Irma on our phosphates operations," Mosaic president and chief executive officer Joc O'Rourke said on a conference call to announce the company's third-quarter earnings.

"We are making the move in Florida for several reasons," he said. "Plant City is the highest-cost facility amongst our Florida operations, and it requires a disproportionate amount of sustaining capital each year."

Idling the plant, he said, should help the company optimize capital investments and allow it to increase production at its most efficient Florida facilities to offset the tons produced at Plant City. And it also gives the company the option to re-open the Plant City plant if demand grows.

"While these decisions are difficult and have impacts on our employees, today's actions put Mosaic in a strong position to benefit as market dynamics improve," O'Rourke said.

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## DOT Approves Brightline PAB

*Written by Stuart Chirls, Senior Editor  
Wednesday, December 27, 2017*

Brightline, the in-process South Florida private passenger service operator, announced the U.S. Department of Transportation approved a \$1.15 billion Private Activity Bond allocation, and that Brightline also secured the final two South Florida Water Management District permits needed to construct the planned high-speed segment between Orlando and Cocoa.

The company said it plans to start construction on the Phase 2 high-speed line in early 2018.

"In another major step forward for Brightline's Phase 2 extension to Orlando, U.S. DOT approved a \$1.15 billion Private Activity Bond allocation," said Dave Howard, Brightline's Chief Executive. "After a successful \$600 million PAB closing this week, we are pleased to have this financing option available. We appreciate the leadership of U.S. DOT as they work to move major infrastructure projects forward, creating thousands of jobs and stimulating hundreds of millions of dollars in economic development."

A Private Activity Bond allocation typically comprises tax-exempt bonds issued by or on behalf of local or state government for the purpose of providing special financing benefits for qualified projects. The financing is most often for projects of a private user, and the government generally does not pledge its credit.

Brightline said it is still analyzing all financing options for Phase 2, including a Railroad Rehabilitation and Improvement Financing loan. With all federal approvals in place, Brightline is finalizing the engineering and design for the rail infrastructure. Additionally, it is working on the installation of a new signal system and Positive Train Control (PTC) for the entire system between Miami and Orlando. PTC will be in place between Miami and West Palm Beach in 2018 and will be operational along the entire 235-mile route at the time the extension to Orlando opens.

Brightline's station in Orlando is planned for the Orlando International Airport's new Intermodal Terminal Facility that will be the hub of the future South Terminal complex.

The company said it continues working toward operational readiness with the Federal Railroad Administration for the launch of introductory service between West Palm Beach and Fort Lauderdale, and will release details soon.

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## Feds Approve Brightline Express Train Extension Between South Florida and Orlando

*By Wayne K. Rouston, Sun Sentinel  
December 18, 2017*

Getting from South Florida to Orlando could be faster now that the federal government has approved the next phase of Brightline's high-speed passenger rail service that could begin construction early next year.

The leg between Fort Lauderdale and West Palm Beach was expected to open this year. With only a couple weeks left, ticket prices and a start date are coming "soon," company officials said.

The Federal Railroad Administration issued a decision Friday that essentially got the Miami-to-Orlando route back on track after Brightline's parent-company, All Aboard Florida, modified its plans.

"This is the most critical and final step in the extension of Brightline's service to Orlando, and we are excited to move forward," Brightline CEO Dave Howard said in a statement. "We look forward to launching service to Miami and starting construction north to Orlando in the first quarter of 2018."

## 2018 CFRHS Membership Statistics

Society Members	27
Society Century Members	16
Ward Britt	
Phil Cross	
Ann Cross	
Bill Dusenbury	
Charles Hanus, Sr.	
Chuck Hanus	
Linda Hanus	
Jerry Honetor	
Clarence Hurt	
Joe Lehmann, Jr.	
Irv Lipscomb	
Ross Marvin	
Ken Murdock	
Phil Piet	
Al Sharp	
Jim Shoemaker	
Society Friends	22
Society Family Members	14
Society Student Members	2
<b>Total Members</b>	<b>81</b>

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**Museum Work Session**  
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**The Flatwheel** is the official monthly publication of the Central Florida Railway Historical Society. Opinions and views expressed in this publication are those of the editor and contributors and do not necessarily reflect those of the members, officers or directors of the Society.

Material for the Flatwheel (including exchange newsletters) should be sent to the editor via e-mail at: [editor@cfrhs.org](mailto:editor@cfrhs.org).

**Please Note:** Material from The Flatwheel may be reprinted in other publications provided credit is given as to the source.

**The Central Florida Railroad Museum** is located at 101 South Boyd Street, Winter Garden, FL, 34787 (downtown Winter Garden, immediately north of the water tower).

The Museum is open daily from 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM (excluding selected holidays) or by special arrangements. Large groups are encouraged to contact the Museum at 407-656-0559 to arrange for their tour in advance.

The Central Florida Railroad Museum is operated under a cooperative agreement between the City of Winter Garden, the Winter Garden Heritage Foundation and the Central Florida Railway Historical Society, Inc..

**The Central Florida Railway Historical Society, Inc.** meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month at 7:00 PM at the **Central Florida Railroad Museum**. The Museum is located at 101 South Boyd Street in downtown Winter Garden immediately north of the water tower. Guests and visitors are welcome and encouraged to attend.

All correspondence and other materials for the Society should be mailed to:

Central Florida Railway Historical Society, Inc.

PO Box 770567

Winter Garden, FL 34777-0567

Or e-mailed to the Society at: [info@cfrhs.org](mailto:info@cfrhs.org)

Web page: [www.cfrhs.org](http://www.cfrhs.org)

**Mission:** The mission of the Central Florida Railway Historical Society, Inc. is: Promoting railway heritage and preservation and educating members and the public about rail transportation, its history and impact, with a focus on Central Florida.

**Purpose:** The purpose for which this Society is formed and the business or objects to be carried on and promoted by it are mainly historical, educational and not-for-profit. The more particular objects are:

- Preserve the historical materials of rail transportation of all kinds and issue publications relative to the subject.
- Acquire by donation, purchase, lease or otherwise, real or personal property, and to maintain, sell, lease, deed or otherwise manage in a manner appropriate for the Central Florida Railroad Museum and the above mentioned purposes.
- Plan and run a series of programs and events for Society members' education and participation.
- Work and support the activities of the Winter Garden Heritage Foundation. Assist in any and all group projects which benefit the goals and activities of the Society and the Winter Garden Heritage Foundation.

## Contact Us

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