

# ACL & SAL HS Jacksonville February 2019 Meeting

## Presenters, Presentations and Meetings

As of February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019, Subject to change; updates will be posted as necessary

### Saturday 2/09 Banquet

#### **42 Years on the Railroad with Roy Thigpen – Keynote speaker – Another Great Railroader from Georgia**

Our banquet speaker on Saturday night, Roy Thigpen, retired in 2004 as Assistant Vice President Operations in charge of the CSX Operation Center in Jacksonville, FL. Roy hails from Soperton, Georgia, a town on the old MD&S railroad which was bought by the Seaboard Air Line. As all railroaders Roy's "hire date" is permanently etched in his being: October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1962, location: Savannah, GA, railroad: Seaboard Air Line. Roy started as a Telegraph Operator, and then worked as a Depot Agent. In 1966 Roy was promoted to Train Dispatcher in Savannah and was an Assistant Chief Dispatcher by 1974. By 1977 Roy moved to headquarters in Jacksonville, Florida where he was Manager of Transportation and Power in the Seaboard Coast Line Operation Center at 500 Water Street. In 1981 he became the Director of the combined Seaboard Coast Line and Louisville and Nashville Operation Center in Jacksonville. In 1984 Roy moved up to General Manager of the then Seaboard System Operation Center at 500 Water Street, moving to West Jacksonville in 1988 in the same role at the new CSX "Dufford Transportation Center". From 1988 to 1992 Roy oversaw the consolidation of CSX dispatchers in Jacksonville. From 1997 through retirement in 2004 Roy had the title of Assistant Vice President Operations running the CSX operations center through and beyond the excitement of the Conrail consolidation starting in the summer of 1999. One former Conrail officer (who shall not be named.....ask me at the Rainforest Lounge) used to refer to him as "Cowboy Roy". On the one hand this was praise, but perhaps with a bit of envious twist. Roy learned operations from the ballast up, with many years of experience in the "saddle" of the dispatcher's chair. Roy ran the railroad with one or two telephones, multi-line, a handful of pens and pencils, a couple of legal pads, and a wealth of information in his grey matter. Yes, there was a computer on his desk, more ornament than tool. He had his own "built in" PC, and it walked around with him on his shoulders! That Conrail officer was no doubt envious; oh, did I mention he was gone less than a year after the June 1999 Conrail split date? As for Roy, he could not let go right away, and did consulting work with CSX through 2006. Always a pleasure to work with, Roy was a master of operations, and has many "tall tales of the Rail". I might note he claims to have several tall tales about Clarence, and I fear he may tell one or two about me! Today Roy is having fun, spending time at his Jacksonville area home in Middleburg, FL and a family home in southeast Georgia. Roy has been spotted at the McDonalds in Folkston, GA several times by ACL & SAL members but we do not have any confirmed sightings of Roy at the Folkston Platform, yet!

### Thursday 2/07, Friday 2/08, Presentations and Presenters

2019 marks the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the introduction of streamlined passenger trains in Florida, namely the Silver Meteor in February of 1939, and the Champion and Henry M. Flagler in December of 1939. To celebrate this turning point in time we will have several presentations about these great trains. We will also have a variety of other presentations to cater to most if not all interests and tastes. Given our topic, we are inviting our friends from the Florida East Coast Railway Society to participate.

### Do You Want To Be A Presenter Next Year?

Please step up and call Jim Langston at 727-365-4077.

As with last year, most presentations will be given twice, but some only once as noted. We are following a similar format but have made a couple tweaks. Of note, the General Meeting will be Friday from 4 to 5 PM. This will provide 2 hours for dinner ( 1 ½ did not cut it last year), and result in the Friday night presentations starting at 7 PM instead of 6:30 PM. Also, Doug can then go all night Thursday and Friday to midnight and beyond, though I would suggest that at some point you drag Dough from the meeting room to the Rainforest Lounge and get him "refueled" to carry on.

### Here are the presentations presently on tap:

#### **The L&N and its Kentucky Distillery Business – Yes.....Bourbon!**

Charles Boggart is President of the CSXT Historical Society and will provide a unique perspective of the Louisville and Nashville's lucrative distillery business. The L&N was owned by the Atlantic Coast Line and in the 1970's was a part of the SCL Industries "Family Line" marketing and sales regime. Not sure if Charles plans to bring any samples but no doubt for rail and modeling enthusiast alike this should be an interesting, if not intoxicating, presentation!

## **More from the Cab**

Doug Riddell, well known writer, photographer and raconteur, worked 35 years with Seaboard Coast Line, Seaboard System, CSX and Amtrak, will be back again with more tall tales and great photos.

## **CSX Rail Network Update – Or, where has our ACL and SAL gone?**

Eric Hendrickson is Director of Network Planning with CSXT in Jacksonville, FL, having worked for the Soo Line, CP Rail and Amtrak before joining CSXT in 2003. Eric's presentation last year was very popular, and he will be back to provide an update on the CSX rail network and progress with the CREATE program in Chicago. Due to business travel, Eric will not be able to be with us Thursday night, but will present Friday evening at 7 PM and plans to attend the banquet.

## **The 1939 Silver Meteor and Champion**

Larry Goolsby, author, Lines South Editor and longtime member of the ACL and SAL HS, and Jim Langston, not quite as longtime member, combine forces to present an overall view of the new and radical New York to Florida seven car streamliners of 1939. The presentation will cover at a high level the genesis of these trains, their common builder yet disparate cars and consists. This will include many plans and photos of the trains, cars and locos and a deep dive on the car plans and consists.

## **The 1939 Champion and Henry M. Flagler – an FEC Perspective**

Seth Bramson, author, long time Florida East Coast Railway Society member, and known to many as "Mister FEC", will provide us a deep dive presentation on the 1939 Champion and Henry M. Flagler Streamliners as only he could do. With the success of the Silver Meteor during the winter/spring of 1939, Atlantic Coast Line and their partner Florida East Coast realized "they needed one of those new-fangled streamliners as well". Sourced from the Budd Company of Philadelphia, the same builder of the Silver Meteor, ACL and FEC went "all in" buying four trainsets of seven cars each, three identical sets to cover daily service from New York to Florida (named "The Champion", two owned by ACL, one FEC), and a fourth nearly identical set owned by FEC for Jacksonville to Miami local service (named "Henry M. Flagler"). Overall the service was a success, with additional cars being bought in 1940 to expand the capacity of the Champion. 1940 also saw the redeployment of the Henry M. Flagler to Chicago to Florida service as the Dixie Flagler, running every third day opposite the new seven car coach streamliners City of Miami (Illinois Central) and South Wind (Pennsylvania).

## **1939 Silver Meteor - \$\$\$ and Suppliers**

Bill Howes, long time ACL and SAL HS member and veteran of the B&O, C&O, Chessie System and CSX will give us a deep dive into the economics and construction of the Seaboard Air Line's 1939 Silver Meteor. Bill will review the economics, \$\$\$, that justified its construction and the resulting financial success that expanded the train from every third day operation to daily, later leading to longer trains, and encouraging the Seaboard's competitors Atlantic Coast Line and Florida East Coast to join the streamliner club with the Champion. Bill will also reveal details from a Railway Age special issue in 1939 which detailed the suppliers of the components for the Silver Meteor and its construction.

## **Bad Day at Eloise – the 1968 head-on collision of the Silver Meteors**

"Uncle Joe" Oates, co-founder and, for many years, prime mover and magazine editor of the ACL & SAL HS, and longtime SAL/SCL/SBD/CSXT employee, will provide a detailed and gruesome presentation of the August 1968 head-on collision of the Silver Meteors near Winter Haven, FL at the siding named "Eloise". Despite involving well over 500 passengers and two crews there were only one or two fatalities. Several locomotives and cars were destroyed, and the famed Sun Lounge Hollywood Beach (then SCL Sun Ray) was badly damaged. Any other railroad would have scrapped Hollywood Beach, but Seaboard had Pullman repair the car and today it is the sole operating survivor of the three famous Sun Lounge cars. The story of the wreck will include review of the ICC report, the repair of the Sun Ray (Hollywood Beach), and revelation of what filled in for Sun Ray for over 6 months while under repair.

## **C&O and B&O passenger cars sold to the ACL, SAL and SCL**

We drafted Bill Howes to do a second presentation this year to tell the tale of the odd relationship between the C&O and B&O with the ACL, SAL and SCL that saw many passenger cars move from the north to the south over two decades. This will include the sale of many of C&O's "Imperial Salon" coaches to the SAL, the sale of surplus Budd and Pullman built C&O cars to the ACL and SAL (coaches, sleepers, twin-unit diners and similar coaches from the Nickel Plate), and the sale of B&O and C&O sleepers to SCL in 1969/70. The B&O cars were leased for several years prior to purchase, and Bill knows a lot about them. He should, as a B&O officer he oversaw their sale! Hopefully he got a good job review that year!

## **SCL Passenger Trains and Consists**

Reid Adams, society member and owner of the Seaboard Air Line 5-2-2 sleeper Fort Lauderdale will provide photos, consists and insights on SCL passenger trains of the late 60's and an update on the restoration of Fort Lauderdale. The only surviving 5 double bedroom 2 Compartment 2 drawing room sleeper from the SAL, Fort Lauderdale was directly ahead of the Sun Ray (SAL Hollywood Beach) in the infamous collision at Eloise and like Sun Ray was damaged and repaired by Pullman.

### **Passenger Car Trucks – Everything You Wanted to Know but Were Afraid to Ask!**

Jim Langston is delaying the next instalment of the Jacksonville Passenger Consists Scanning update (he has been bogged down in presentation consulting with Larry, Uncle Joe and Bill Howes!). Instead he will present an in-depth review of passenger car trucks, real and model, focusing on lightweight cars but also including heavyweights and noting which were used by ACL and SAL.

### **Freight train modeling considerations for the 1960's modeler**

Gilbert Thomas will also provide us key spotting features on freight cars and locos etc. for the 1960's and other modeling considerations for this era. This will compliment last year's presentation on the 1970's.

### **Weathering scenes and Modern Freight Cars**

One performance only, Friday morning.

Paul Newtson recently wrapped up a 19+ year career with CSXT and is on to other challenges at the Florida East Coast. A long time ACL & SAL HS member, Paul will share his techniques for weathering scenes and modern freight cars. Scheduled for last year's meeting, Paul was down and out with the flue, so we drafted him to have a second go at it. Due to his work assignments, there will be only one performance, on Friday morning.

### **And Now for Something Completely Different – Locomotives of Thailand!**

Harvey George, ACL & SAL member and world traveler will be presenting an exotic photo review of the locomotives of Thailand.

### **Update on Amtrak and other passenger service and the Rail Passenger Association**

Bob Stewart, ACL & SAL member, and long time NARP/RPA member and retired board member will give us an update on intercity passenger rail in the United States. This will include Amtrak, Brightline and no doubt some interesting comments on the "leadership" at Amtrak.

### **The Clarence Gooden Address**

If you missed it last year, or you want to see it again, we will have a couple of opportunities for you to see Clarence in action. Yes, we recorded his address, and we promised him we would not post it on the internet for at least 5 years, if ever. So here is your best chance to see this epic performance!

## **Meetings:**

### **General Meeting of the ACL & SAL HS**

This year the meeting will be held on Friday afternoon from 4 to 5 PM. An agenda will be available. If we wrap up on time, you will have a full two hours for dinner. Non-ACL & SAL HS members are more than welcome to attend.

### **ACL & SAL HS Board Meeting**

Now scheduled for 8 AM Sunday, this will likely occur in an annex to the restaurant and will be a breakfast meeting. This meeting is restricted to ACL & SAL HS members, as space available.

What else is coming up? Well, we were considering have a meeting in Richmond, VA this summer in July, 2019 with our friends of the RF&P HS. However, to plan this properly we will likely defer this to 2020. This could include visits to Broad Street and Mainstreet Stations, and a trip to Washington D.C. for a tour of Union Station. If you like the idea, let me know. As for 2020 in JAX, we are open to ideas, but one thing we may focus on will be the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Chicago to Florida Streamliners – City of Miami, South Wind and the Dixie Flagler. We could also use some freight for a change – how about SAL Razor Back Service, anyone?

That's it for now!

W. Jim Langston

**Preliminary Meeting Schedule Follows – on next page**

- Schedule may be adjusted as to times and content. Updates will be circulated and posted

## 2019 Meeting Schedule - Revised as of February 1st, 2019

**Note - Presentations and Schedule Subject to Change - Updates will be posted at [www.aclsal.org](http://www.aclsal.org)**

**Want to be a Presenter next year? Call Jim at 727-365-4077 or e-mail [wlangston@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:wlangston@tampabay.rr.com)**

### Orientation of Presentations

<b>Special</b>	<b>Passenger</b>	<b>Freight</b>	<b>General</b>	<b>Modelling</b>
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### Thursday February 7th - Presentation Sessions - Preliminary Schedule

Thursday & Friday Sessions in the "Capitol Rooms" in the base of Tower 2

Session	Room >	Montgomery	Atlanta	Columbia	Raleigh
			ACL - SAL - SCL	SCL - SBD - CSXT	Modeling - NMRA-SSR
	3:00 PM	4:00 PM	Registration & Store		
			Set Up		
1	4:00 PM	5:00 PM	Langston: Passenger Car Trucks	George - Locomotives of Thailand	Replay of Clarence Gooden - 2018 Banquet
	5:00 PM	7:00 PM	Dinner On Your Own		
2	7:00 PM	8:00 PM	Boggart - The L&N and Kentucky Distillers (yes - Bourbon!)	Adams: SCL Passenger Trains	Bill Howes - C&O and B&O cars sold to the ACL/SAL/SCL
3	8:30 PM	9:30 PM	Riddell: More From the Cab	Seth Bramson - The 1939 Champion and Henry M. Flagler – an FEC Perspective	Thomas - Modeling considerations for 1960 freight trains
	9:30 PM	???	Retire to The Rainforest Lounge		

### Friday February 8th - Presentation Sessions - Preliminary Schedule

Session	Room >	Montgomery	Atlanta	Columbia	Raleigh
	8:30 AM	9:00 AM	Registration & Store		
			Joint Welcome		
4	9:00 AM	10:00 AM	Goolsby/Langston: 1939 Silver Meteor & Champion	Adams: SCL Passenger Trains	Newtonson: Weathering scenes and modern freight cars
5	10:30 AM	11:30 AM	Bill Howes - 1939 Silver Meteor - \$\$\$ and Suppliers	Joe Oates - Bad Day at Eloise - 1968 head-on-of the Meteors	Replay of Clarence Gooden - 2018 Banquet
	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	Lunch On Your Own		
6	1:00 PM	2:00 PM	Langston: Passenger Car Trucks	Bill Howes - C&O and B&O cars sold to the ACL/SAL/SCL	Thomas - Modeling considerations for 1960 freight trains
7	2:30 PM	3:30 PM	Goolsby/Langston: 1939 Silver Meteor & Champion	Boggart - The L&N and Kentucky Distillers (yes - Bourbon!)	Joe Oates - Bad Day at Eloise - 1968 head-on-of the Meteors
	4:00 PM	5:00 PM	Closed	General Meeting For ACL & SAL members - others welcome	Replay of Clarence Gooden - 2018 Banquet
	5:00 PM	7:00 PM	Dinner On Your Own - Two Hours this year!!!		
8	7:00 PM	8:00 PM	Seth Bramson - The 1939 Champion and Henry M. Flagler – an FEC Perspective	Hendrickson: Update on CSXT Network	Bill Howes - 1939 Silver Meteor - \$\$\$ and Suppliers
9	8:30 PM	9:30 PM	Closed	Riddell: More From the Cab	Bob Stewart - Rail Passengers Association Update
	9:30 PM	???	Retire to The Rainforest Lounge		

### Saturday February 9th

9:00 AM	5:00 PM	40th Annual Jacksonville Rail Fair - Prime F. Osborn, III Convention Center - ACL & SAL HS Store Open at the Show	
5:30 PM	6:30 PM	Reception - Meet and Greet - Sago Room and Foyer - Cash Bar	
6:30 PM	7:30 PM	Buffet Dinner - Sago Room- the traditional quality Crowne buffet - Special Addition - ACL & SAL "Chicken Mulligatawny Soup"	
7:30 PM	7:50 PM	Early Registration and Hotel Special Prize drawings and Announcements	
7:30 PM	7:50 PM	Special Guests - Ed Jones, Gary Sease and Robert Barnwell	
7:50 PM	8:00 PM	Guest Speaker introduction and lead in video	
8:00 PM	9:00 AM	Guest Speaker - Roy Thigpen - AVP Network Operations CSXT (Retired - 2004) - SAL 1962	
9:00 PM	???	Retire to Rainforest Lounge for tall tales and tall drinks!	

### Sunday February 10th

8:00 AM	9:00 AM+	Board Meeting - Crowne Plaza dining room annex - ACL & SAL members only, as space available
9:00 AM	7:00 PM?	Train watching at Folkston, GA