

# Carolina Conductor



Volume 2, Number 11

Monthly Newsletter of the Carolina Railroad Heritage Association, Inc.

November 2015

## Preserving the Past. Active in the Present. Planning for the Future.

### Meeting Site:

Woodmen of the World Bldg.  
721 East Poinsett Street  
Greer, SC 29651-6404  
Third Friday of the Month at 7:00 pm

### Hub City Railroad Museum and SOU Caboose #X3115:

Magnolia Street Station  
298 Magnolia Street  
Spartanburg, SC 29301-2330  
Wednesday 10-2 and Saturday 10-2

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Newsletter articles and news due  
by 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of the month.

## Doodle Trail—Easley to Pickens

by Jim Shepard

Photos by the Author

On May 23, 2015, at a ceremony in Easley, the brand-new 7.4-mile *Doodle Trail* from Easley to Pickens was officially declared opened. Dozens of bikers, runners and walkers flocked onto the trail and the trail has seen heavy use since then. The trail was built on the former roadbed of the Pickens Railroad, nicknamed the Pickens Doodle.

The Pickens Railroad (PICK) later renamed to the Pickens Railway completed its line from Easley to Pickens in 1898. It operated successfully for well over a hundred years but by 2012 the line was little used and the railroad sought permission from the Surface Transportation Board to abandon the 8.5-mile right-of-way. The last train ran from Pickens to Easley on April 2, 2013.

On August 2, 2013, the cities of Easley and Pickens purchased from Pickens Railway the 8.5-mile line for \$500,000. The next month the two



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# Arrivals

## Southern Museum of Civil War and Locomotive History



Of the many historic rail sites located in the Mid-South region, few bring together two of the South's most historic aspects, the Civil War and railroads. That's what you'll find at the Southern Museum of Civil War & Locomotive History at Kennesaw, Georgia. The Southern Museum has first opened in Kennesaw in 1972 as the Big Shanty Museum. This early iteration of what is today a Smithsonian Affiliate housed the steam locomotive General and was dedicated to telling the story of the April 12, 1862 "Great Locomotive Chase," and event which briefly rose that engine and Kennesaw to prominence during the Civil War.

Over time the museum changed its name to the Kennesaw Civil War Museum and began to collect and interpret other artifacts from the War. The General, for obvious reasons, was still the main attraction at this humble facility. It wasn't until the mid-1990s that the impressive locomotive-building collection of the Glover Machine Works of Marietta, GA became available that the museum was able to grow into what it has become today. Following a two-year renovation and expansion, the facility reopened in 2003 as the Southern Museum of Civil War and Locomotive History. The nearly-50,000 square foot facility houses three permanent galleries – Railroads: Lifelines of the Civil War, Glover Machine Works:

and is home to various temporary and traveling exhibits as well. In addition to this broader focus, the museum also became a member of the prestigious Smithsonian Affiliations Program. This program allows the Museum to host traveling Smithsonian exhibits, book Smithsonian historians for lectures and feature Smithsonian artifacts within its permanent collections.

In 2007 the museum expanded again with the opening of the Jolley Education Center, an 8,000 square foot facility devoted to educating and entertaining youth through railroad history. This area offers classroom space for programs



and rentals, as well as separate space for the very young to safely play alongside their older siblings. The Jolley Education Center also houses a "40 & 8" Merci Boxcar, a gift from the French people to the state of Georgia following World War II.

The newest addition to the Southern Museum will come in 2015 with the opening of a new Research Center. This 8,200 square foot structure will house the museum's large and ever-growing collection of archival material: documents which trace the growth and operations of some of the South's largest railroads. You can check it all out on the Museum's website at [www.southernmuseum.org](http://www.southernmuseum.org)

# Departures

## CSX to Reduce Operations in Erwin, TN

CSX Corp. announced today it's reducing train operations in Erwin, Tenn., as a result of a drop in coal traffic in the region. The action will affect 300 contract and management employees.



The Class I will close a locomotive service center, project shop and car shop, and eliminate switching operations at the Erwin Yard, CSX officials said in a press release. Operations in Erwin primarily served coal trains moving from the Central Appalachian coal fields. Diminished traffic levels no longer support activities performed there, CSX officials said.

A combination of low natural gas prices and regulatory action has significantly decreased CSX's coal movements during the past four years, resulting in a \$1 billion decline in coal revenue over that time.

Affected employees in Erwin will receive at least 60 days of pay and benefits. Many furloughed employees will be eligible for jobs in higher demand areas of the CSX network. Affected management employees will be offered relocation opportunities as they become available, the company said.

Remaining coal traffic, as well as merchandise traffic including grain unit trains, will be rerouted efficiently across other parts of the CSX network, railroad officials said.

### Wanted—Articles for the Carolina Conductor

You too can be famous! Submit an article of 100 words or more and some photos and see them in print. Every one of us has some unique railroad experience that would make interesting reading.

## GRLW Santa Express



Greenville & Western Railway (GRLW) Company is pleased to announce that Santa Claus will be riding the rails again on December 12, 2015 as GRLW hosts its Ninth Annual "Santa Express." Following Santa's arrival at each stop, all little boys and girls in attendance

will have an opportunity to step on board Santa's caboose and tell Old Saint Nick exactly what they want for Christmas and receive a sweet treat. Plus Santa will draw the winning tickets given to each child at every stop to give special gifts from his magic gift bag before the train departs.

**Santa's 2015 schedule will be:**

**Honea Path** at Hamby Road 9:00 AM - 10:15 AM  
**Belton** at O'Neal Street 10:45 AM - 12:15 PM  
**Cheddar** at Cheddar Road 1:30 PM - 2:45 PM  
**Williamston** at Williams Street 3:15 PM - 4:15 PM  
**Pelzer** at Lyman Street 4:45 PM - 6:15 PM

**How may I give to those in my community who are in need?**

GRLW is partnering with the Belton Interfaith Ministerial Association (BIMA) and the Presbyterian Food Bank of Pelzer and Williamston (PFB) to collect food for those in our community who may presently find themselves in a time of real need. Greenville & Western encourages those who attend this year's event to bring a donation of one or more non-perishable food items to the train. Greenville & Western, BIMA and PFB volunteers will be staffing the boxcar (the black car just ahead of the caboose) to accept your donations and thank you in advance for your generous support of both organizations' food ministry.

**How may I support the annual Santa Express?**

In response to enthusiastic community support following the First Annual Santa Express in 2007, GRLW partnered in 2008 with the Greenville Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society, Inc., a non-profit corporation under Section 501(c)(3) of Internal Revenue Code, to establish an account for the exclusive purpose of providing a way for the public to support the "Santa Express" each year. GRLW is pleased to again announce that interested parties may make tax-deductible contributions to help fund this and all future "Santa Express" trains at any Wells Fargo Bank, NA.

There are two convenient ways to make a contribution to allow a greater number of gifts and giveaways to be purchased each year for the "Santa Express":

- If you only require your canceled check as your receipt, you may make a deposit at any Wells Fargo branch. Your check should be made payable to: Greenville Chapter NRHS DBA Santa Train Account.

- If you should require a receipt for your contribution, mail your check (payable as above) to: Greenville Chapter NRHS, 2123 Old Spartanburg Road, Suite 129, Greer, SC 29650-2704.

# Rare Mileage

## Preserving the Past in the Present

The Johnson Railway Service (JWRX) used the Pickens Railroad (PICK) shops for their locomotive rebuilding business until the sale of the railroad to the towns of Easley and Pickens. The photos below show some of the interesting items that traveled through the facility in the past decade. The operation has been moved on the Anderson to Honea Path line of the Pickens Railroad (PKHP). All photos by Bruce Gathman.



# Manifest

Continued from Page 1 - *Doodle Trail*



Above: Train on display at Pickens.  
 Left: Track leaving Pickens at Railroad Street crossing.  
 Below: New Doodle trail at Railroad Street Crossing.



Above: 1979 view of the PICK train near the concrete plant in Easley.  
 Below: 2015 view of the new Doodle Trail at the concrete plant.



Left and Below: Before and after views of the Alice Manufacturing plant at Arial.

Drive, about a mile from the end of the right-of-way in downtown Easley. On January 29, 2015, a ground-breaking ceremony for the trail was held at Pickens. Just four months later, the trail was completed and, on May 23, 2015, the grand-opening of the Doodle Trail was held. The trailheads at Easley and Pickens are still being developed.

Pickens Railway (PKHP) remains in operation at another location. In 1990 the railroad had started remote operations in the Honea Path-Belton-Anderson area under the name Honea Path Division, which, after some expansion, became 28.5 miles long. From all indications, it is a prosperous operation, serving several major industries.

cities agreed to pay for a study of the feasibility of building a trail on the roadbed. On



May 1, 2014, a master plan for the trail was discussed at a public meeting. In December 2014 King Asphalt Inc. won a contract for \$1.9 million to design and build the trail, 7.4 miles long. This was shorter than the 8.5-mile former right-of-way because the trail in Easley started at Fleetwood





# Marker Lights



## My Trip to the *Hub City* of Rochelle, IL

By Bruce Gathman

Photos by the author.



This month I was able to spend a day at the Rochelle, IL railfan park. It is amazing at the same time. Heritage units in predecessor paint schemes show up regularly.

ing the amount of trains and variety of power seen. The UP and BNSF have a double track diamond surrounding the raised park shelter—complete with scanner and WiFi for radio and ATCS reception.

You never know who you might meet and talk to. The Rio Grande truck was an ice cream delivery truck a railfan had specially painted. Sometimes more than one train is



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