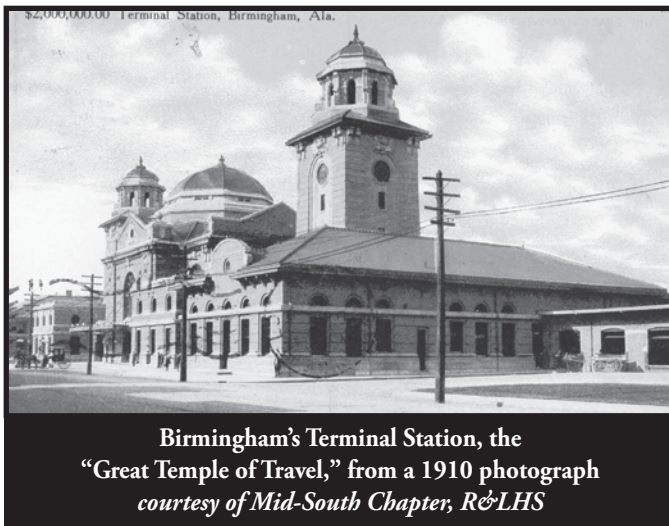


2012 R&LHS Annual Membership Meeting



“**Birmingham: Railroads, Red Ore, and Red Hot Iron**” is the theme of the 2012 R&LHS Annual Meeting to be held in Birmingham, Alabama during May 17-20, 2012.



Highlights: Hosted by the Mid-South Chapter, R&LHS, the 2012 Annual Meeting will feature tours of both historic and contemporary railroad and industrial sites in and around Birmingham. Planned venues will include one of Birmingham's first blast furnaces built in 1882, the Birmingham district's first modern rail hump yard, and a visit to the Heart of Dixie Railroad Museum, featuring an excursion over a portion of the former L&N Railroad's Alabama Mineral Division.

In addition to tours, the anticipated program will offer presentations on an appealing variety of historic subjects including

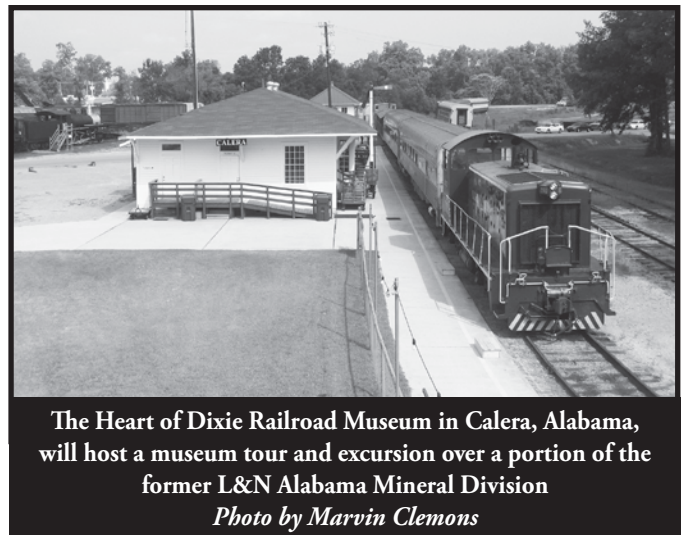
Red Mountain's iron ore “Mineral Lines” and the Birmingham Electric Company's extensive streetcar system. An informal Friday night slide show will feature images from Birmingham Rails, The Last Golden Era. Co-authored by Mid-South Chapter members Marvin Clemons and Lyle Key, Birmingham Rails was chosen for the 2009 R&LHS George Hilton Book Award.

Hotel: The Tutwiler, Birmingham's most historic namesake hotel, has been chosen as meeting headquarters. Noted for its historic charm, comfortable décor and Southern hospitality, The Tutwiler is resplendent with artifacts and images from Birmingham's past. An affordable rate of \$129.00/night is available for a king or double queen room (single or double occupancy), and includes a hot breakfast buffet and free valet parking.

This special rate is available only through April 17, 2012. After that date, reservations will be accepted on a space available basis at the full rate of \$159.00. Reservations may be made by calling Hilton reservations at 1-877-620-8002 and requesting the Railway & Locomotive Historical Society group rate. **Rooms at this special rate are limited, and early reservations are strongly advised.**

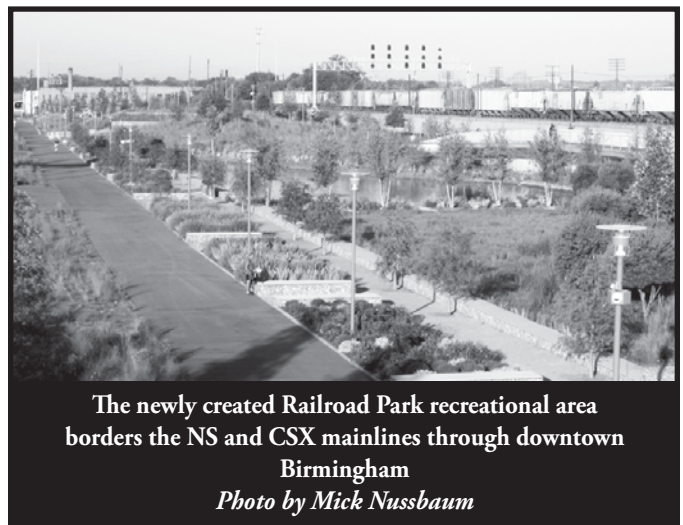
For those attendees who prefer alternative lodging, the Sheraton and Redmont hotels are within a short walk of the Tutwiler. A variety of chain and independent hotels are also available in the metro area for those wishing to commute to the meeting. **Please note that a daily \$8.00 valet parking fee will be charged to those not staying at the Tutwiler.** On-street parking in the vicinity of the hotel is extremely limited.

Transportation: For those arriving by rail, Amtrak's *Crescent* provides service between New Orleans, Birmingham, Atlanta, and the Northeast. The Amtrak station is located less than a mile from the hotel, and the Birmingham airport is only a 10-minute cab ride away. Call the front desk at 322-2100 to request hotel pick up. For those who wish, car rentals are available at the airport.

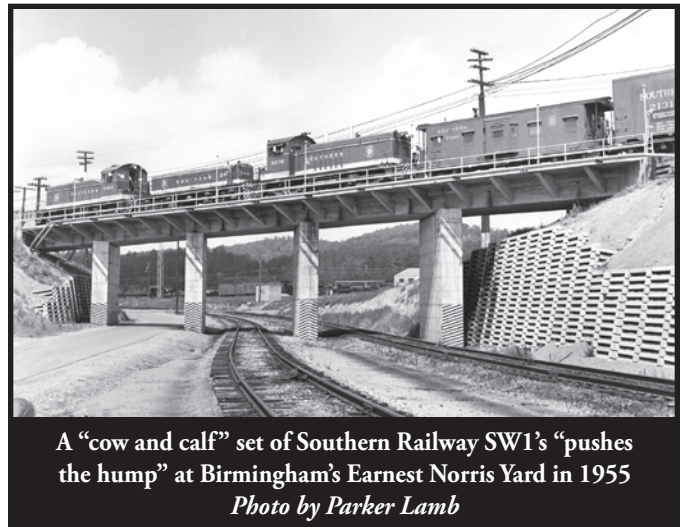




Norfolk Southern SD60 #6666 pulls by Leeds Depot, home of the Mid-South Chapter, R&LHS
Photo by Jeff Johnson



The newly created Railroad Park recreational area borders the NS and CSX mainlines through downtown Birmingham
Photo by Mick Nussbaum



A "cow and calf" set of Southern Railway SW1's "pushes the hump" at Birmingham's Earnest Norris Yard in 1955
Photo by Parker Lamb

Registration Fee: \$200.00 per person (all ages). This all-inclusive fee includes a richly illustrated meeting guide featuring history and maps of the Birmingham railroad district, bus transportation for Friday and Saturday tours, full lunch (Friday) at the Irondale Café, catered Southern Barbeque lunch (Saturday) at the Heart of Dixie Railroad Museum, the Heart of Dixie rail excursion, Saturday dinner banquet buffet, and the Sunday membership meeting breakfast buffet. For further information concerning the meeting, please visit the R&LHS website at www.rhls.org, or email Marvin Clemons at mclem46@att.net. **PLEASE NOTE: Meeting registration is limited to tour bus capacity of 110 persons, and early registration is encouraged to guarantee a seat. No "tours only" or "meals only" registration is available for this meeting.**



June 1914, a special Seaboard Air Line train delivered a critical shipment of furniture in time for the grand opening of Birmingham's new Tutwiler Hotel - *Photo from the Marvin Clemons Collection*

Planned Schedule of Events

THURSDAY, MAY 17

2:00 - 7:00 PM – Registration desk open at The Tutwiler. Local RR historical society displays and Mid-South Chapter company store open. Evening open with dinner on your own.

7:00 - 10:00 PM – R&LHS Board Meeting

FRIDAY, MAY 18

6:30 - 8:00 AM – Registration desk open.

8:30AM - En route to Sloss Furnace via Birmingham Terminal Station site.

9:00 - 11:00 AM – Tour Sloss Furnace

11:30 AM - 1:00 PM – Lunch at Irondale Café (“Fried Green Tomatoes”) with views of Norfolk Southern’s multiple main line action.

1:30 PM – Tour Norfolk Southern’s Earnest Norris Yard (tentative at press time)

En route to Leeds Depot

4:30 PM – Wine and cheese reception at the Historic Leeds Depot (Mid-South Chapter headquarters).

6:00 PM – Arrive at hotel. Dinner on your own and evening open. Local RR historical society displays open

8:00 PM – Informal slide program: Birmingham Rails (Marvin Clemons & Lyle Key, presenters)

SATURDAY, MAY 19

8:30 AM – Driving tour of L&N Depot site/Amtrak Station w/ stop at Railroad Park

En route to Heart of Dixie (HOD) RR Museum, Calera, Alabama
10:00 AM – Tour HOD Museum and Boone Memorial Library

11:00 AM – HOD Excursion over segment of ex-L&N Alabama Mineral Division

12:15 PM – Catered Southern Barbeque lunch at HOD Picnic Pavilion

En route to Norfolk Southern (NS) Intermodal Facility @ McCalla, Alabama

2:00 PM – Driving tour of NS Intermodal Facility (tentative at press time)

En route to Bessemer, Alabama

3:00 PM – Tour Bessemer Hall of History (former Southern Railway depot)

3:30 PM – Driving tour of Bessemer and Fairfield rail sites.

4:30 PM – Arrive at hotel. Open time. Local RR historical society displays open.

6:00 PM – Reception (cash bar)

7:00 PM – Annual Banquet. Guest Speaker: Eric McFerrin on the History of Red Mountain Ore Mining and Railroad Mineral Lines

SUNDAY, MAY 20

8:30 AM – Annual Membership Meeting. Guest Speaker: Lyle Key on Birmingham Streetcars

10:30 AM – Convention closes.

Birmingham Rails: 2012 Registration Form

Name: _____
(as you wish it to appear on your convention name badge)

Address: _____ City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email Address: _____

Companion Name(s): _____

Total Registrations: _____ @ \$200.00 each = \$_____ enclosed.

Mail this completed form with check payable to “Railway & Locomotive Historical Society” to:

Birmingham Rails
Robert Holzweiss
4027 Austin’s Estates Drive
Bryan, Texas 77808-7301

Registration form and payment must be received no later than April 15. Due to required guarantees for tour bus reservation and meals, registration will be closed after that date.