



Jacksonville 2018

December 4th, 2017

Re: Annual Meeting – Jacksonville, FL February 8th, 9th and 10th, 2018

Dear Society Members,

As many of you know your Board of Directors have approved a full annual meeting this coming February in Jacksonville, FL. Details and registration forms have been circulated in the current issue of Lines South now hitting your mail boxes and are available online at our website www.aclsal.org; online registration is also now posted.

Of note, since Lines South went to press our hotel advised they would prefer we use the following phone number and code for reservations for our room bloc: call 1-877-559-0015, block code is “ACL”.

We had a team review our past two meetings in developing this event and to make sure we do not run over budget as we did in 2016.

From the review we concluded that for a successful event with good attendance we needed to do the following:

1. Provide “good value” and choices,
2. Expand our market by opening the event to the CSX Transportation Historical Society and the Sunshine Region of the NMRA.
3. Provide the members with as much information as we can, as early as we can, to help you in your decision to attend.
4. Manage the costs.

We feel we have developed such a package and here is what we have planned:

Date: February 8th through 10th, 2018 – This coincides with the annual Jacksonville Train Show which is February 10th, 2018.

Location: Crowne Plaza Jacksonville Airport/I95N – This location has served us well over the years, with reasonable rates and good facilities, plus free parking. We encourage you to stay there, but we do understand that we have a large contingent of locals and others who elect to stay elsewhere. Our room commitment reflects this, but must be met to ensure continuation of the annual meeting. So please consider staying at the Crowne for all or part of your stay. This location is reasonably close to the convention center, Amtrak, the airport and Folkston, GA. It also has numerous nearby options for restaurants (we will post a list).

Value: Value comes from the following:

- 1. The Banquet:** We have a great banquet speaker lined up in Clarence Gooden. Clarence was President of CSX Transportation for the last several years, retiring in March 2017. Clarence started with the SCL in Waycross, GA as a car cleaner in the early 1970's. He worked in both operations and commercial, and "saw it all". A great speaker, who can tell what candid comments he may make! For added value we will dispense with the old-style raffle in favor of following up Clarence with a Jax Terminal presentation by Joe Oates , if anyone wants to volunteer (call me), conclude with an old-fashioned slide show (projector or power point), wrapping up by 11 PM. We can expect the usual great food from the Crown as before.
- 2. Presentation Program:** Given we have seen about all we can by bus in the Jacksonville area, and the good reception of our 2016 program, we are lining up some 15+/- presentations for you to choose from on Thursday and Friday. Most if not all will be presented twice, and you can see up to 10 of these. They will cover ACL/SAL/SCL topics (some marking the merger in 1967), CSX topics, and modeling. We have already have several selected, presented by such noted luminaries as Doug Riddell and Danny Harmon, some familiar society faces, and one on the Bone Valley Phosphate District by an active CSX officer. We do plan to fill all 15 slots and please note that any changes to those planned, (some

may be replaced, some may be given just once) and those added, will be updated on the web site as we near the event.

3. **Pricing:** We have a great bargain all-in deal of \$85 for the presentations and banquet. (This is the same as we paid combined in 2014 for a Friday “adventure tour” by bus, a single presentation that night and the banquet.) We also are providing options of presentations only and banquet only, and a discounted banquet price for immediate family for those who register for the “all-in” deal. Given the content and variety, we believe each of these alternatives provide substantial value. As for the standalone presentation and banquet pricing they provide you that option and I admit are priced a little to incent combination all in registration, but are still reasonable. Of note in the past the separate registration fee had provided some cross-subsidy for the banquet.

- We do not plan to “make money” on this event. The pricing does provide a modest margin to cover some potential room commitment or food short fall. It will also allow us perhaps to keep some banquet slots in reserve for late registrations after January 19th and/or some refreshments/snacks during the presentation sessions.

Deadlines

We are all familiar with deadlines. We have two deadlines for this event:

- **Special Room Price - Tuesday January 9th, 2018**
 - This is normal. You may be able to get rooms after that date, but may pay more. They may also sell out before that date!
 - Correct block code is “**ACL**”, call **1-877-559-0015**
- **Banquet Registration - Friday January 19th, 2018**
 - The banquet is our largest and most controllable expense. Low banquet attendance accounted for 2/3 of our shortfall in 2016.
 - This deadline is new. We have a cap on space, and a deadline shortly after the 19th of January to commit a head count to the Crowne Plaza, therefore we are posting this deadline for registering for the banquet. This is also a deadline for the all-inclusive presentations and banquet package.

- Please note that we could sell out of the banquet and all-inclusive package before January 19th. Also, at some point attendance may require a second banquet room and your room assignment will determined be by your registration date. All will be able to be in the main room for our speaker and following presentation(s).
- Any banquet seats available after January 19th will be available on a first come first served basis.
- If the banquet is sold out, you could still register for the Thursday/Friday presentations; we might consider a waiting list.

Added Incentive to meet Deadlines

We may have two or more raffle prizes, one for someone who reserves at the Crowne by the room deadline, and one for someone who registers prior January 19th. We may also have special “early” registration prizes. Once we work out some details we will post them on the web site.

Market Comparison:

Of note I attended the Penn Central Railway Historical Society meeting in Harrisburg, PA in September. Room costs were comparable, and cost of all options much higher (\$165 total – registration/presentation/Saturday trip, + banquet + bus tour to rail yards). I went in for all options and had a wonderful time. I believe our 2018 meeting provides equal or better value. Their event started September 21st, and had a comprehensive registration deadline of August 31st which they let slip to about September 4th.

Wrapping Up:

So, please consider attending our event, we need decent turnout to sustain this effort. Besides the content this meeting is also a terrific opportunity for you to meet and talk with other society members. Given we had 40 or so show up on short notice this past February we are hoping for a turnout of 70-80 or more (perhaps over 100). In just the few days details have been hitting the street we have been getting great feedback and expect some new attendees.

We appreciate your input, comments and suggestions to help design future events.

Hope to see you there and **please register early!**

Sincerely,

W. James (Jim) Langston – JAX 2018 Meeting Chair

Please call me if you have any questions or suggestions - 727-365-4077

ACL & SAL HS Annual Meeting

Jacksonville, FL - February 8th through 10th 2018

Marking the 50th Anniversary of the ACL & SAL Merger

Open to All and members of the ACL & SAL HS, CSX
Transportation HS and Sunshine Region of the NMRA

HOTEL INFORMATION - Crowne Plaza Jacksonville Airport/I95N, 14670 Duval Road, Jacksonville, FL 32218-9429, (I-95 at Airport Road). We have a special room block price of \$119 per night, single or double – call 1-877-559-0015 (**Code: "ACL"**) to reserve

****THE DEADLINE FOR OUR SPECIAL ROOM PRICE IS TUESDAY JANUARY 9th****

****THE DEADLINE TO REGISTER FOR THE BANQUET IS FRIDAY JANUARY 19th****

This also includes all-inclusive registration for all presentations and banquet!

We have a capacity limit for the Banquet, registration is first come first served and will determine dining room priority (see web site). We must commit dinner head count shortly after January 19th. Banquet and all-inclusive registrations after deadline may be accepted on a space available basis.

We will have a special prize drawing for those who meet each of the above deadlines!

New and Improved Program and Format!!!

Up to 15 presentations to choose from (history, prototype, modeling) each presented twice on Thursday thru Friday plus store and expanded traditional Saturday Banquet.

Banquet speaker: Clarence Gooden, President CSX Transportation (retired-2017)

More Details on Other Side and at www.aclsal.org

Event Pricing: or by mail to:

Please register online using PayPal at www.aclsal.org,

Jim Langston JAX 2018

P.O. Box 16235

Clearwater, FL 33766

Make checks or money orders payable to **ACL & SAL HS**, or use Visa/MasterCard/Discover:

Card No. _____ - _____ - _____ - _____ Exp. date: _____ - _____

3-digit security code on back _____ Signature: _____

YOUR NAME _____

GUEST NAME(S) _____

ADDRESS _____ Phone (_____) _____

E mail _____

1 - Registration for all presentations and banquet, all-inclusive price: _____ @ \$85.00

1B - Banquet only, for spouse / children of all-inclusive registrant: _____ @ \$55.00

2 - Registration for Thursday/Friday Presentations Only: _____ @ \$30.00

3 - Banquet only, other than spouse / children of full registrants _____ @ \$70.00

All charges are per person Total: \$ _____

Please check affiliation: _____ ACL & SAL HS _____ CSXT HS _____ SSR NMRA _____ Other or None

We must have your contact information to advise you if banquet is sold out

Refunds and refund deadline: Because of advance guarantees we cannot honor refund requests received after Friday, January 19th, 2018.

2018 Meeting Schedule

Details and schedule will be posted at www.aclsal.org and updated as needed with any changes
 Thursday and Friday Sessions are in the "Capitol Rooms" in the base of Tower 2

Thursday February 8th - Presentation Sessions - Preliminary Schedule

Session	Room >		Montgomery	Atlanta	Columbia	Raleigh
	3:00 PM	4:00 PM	Registration and Store	Set Up		
1	4:00 PM	5:00 PM	Registration and Store	CSX 1	ACLSAL 1	SSR 1
Dinner	5:00 PM	7:00 PM	On Your Own			
2	7:00 PM	8:00 PM	Registration and Store	CSX 2	ACLSAL 2	SSR 2
3	8:30 PM	10:00 PM	Registration and Store	CSX 3	ACLSAL 3	SSR 3

Friday February 9th - Presentation Sessions - Preliminary Schedule

Session	Room >		Montgomery	Atlanta	Columbia	Raleigh
	8:30 AM	9:00 AM	Registration and Store	Joint Welcome		
4	9:00 AM	10:00 AM	Registration and Store	CSX 4	ACLSAL 4	SSR 4
5	10:30 AM	11:30 AM	Registration and Store	CSX 5	ACLSAL 5	SSR 5
Lunch	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	On Your Own			
6	1:00 PM	2:00 PM	Registration and Store	CSX 6	ACLSAL 6	SSR 6
7	2:30 PM	3:30 PM	Registration and Store	CSX 7	ACLSAL 7	SSR 7
8	4:00 PM	5:00 PM	Board Meeting	CSX 8	ACLSAL 8	SSR 8
Dinner	5:00 PM	7:00 PM	On Your Own			
9	7:00 PM	8:00 PM	Registration and Store	CSX 9	ACLSAL 9	SSR 9
10	8:30 PM	10:00 PM	Closed	CSX 10	ACLSAL 10	SSR 10
	10:15 PM	10:30 PM	Joint Wrap up			

Saturday February 10th

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
6:00 PM	6:30 PM	Reception - Cash Bar - Sago Room (and Canary, if needed)
6:30 PM	7:30 PM	Buffet Dinner - Sago Room - the traditional quality Crowne buffet we all know well
7:30 PM	8:30 PM	Guest Speaker - Clarence Gooden, Chairman / President CSX Transportation, retired
8:30 PM	8:45 PM	Break
8:45 PM	10:00 PM	Joe Oates- Jacksonville Terminal Revisited - Expanded and Remastered
10:00 PM	11:00 PM	Open for Slides - any volunteers? Call Jim Langston at 727-365-4077

Note - Saturday night events are in the Sago Room in the rear block, not the Garden Ballroom as in past years. To save time we will dispense with the old time door prizes but will announce the winners for the registration incentives.

Sunday February 11th

9:00 AM	7:00PM?	Train watching at Folkston, GA - ACL & SAL HS Information Table at Platform from 10 AM through 7:00 PM, perhaps other events
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Planned Thursday and Friday Presentations (subject to change) include:

ACL/SAL/SCL Oriented: Larry Goolsby: "ACL & SAL passenger Trains mid-60's"; Paul Faulk: "SCL locos and cars"; Jim Langston: "The Florida Special – The Last 10 Seasons (ACL/SCL/Amtrak)"; "Jacksonville Passenger Consists 1968-1970 – Update on Digitizing Project"; Joe Oates: "Night Trains"

CSX Oriented: Ryan Higgins (CSX Director Rockport): "The Bone Valley in the 21st Century"; Doug Riddell (retired SCL/Amtrak engineer): "35 Years From the Cab – Maryland, D.C., Virginia, and the Carolinas"; Gilbert Thomas: "Tropicana Juice Train"; Danny Harmon: "Railfanning CSX in the Southeast"

Modeling Oriented: Paul Newton: "Weathering Scenes and Modern Freight Cars"; Gilbert Thomas: "Spotting Freight Car Eras"; Jim Langston: "Modeling SCL Passenger Cars"; others pending

For Event Information Call Jim Langston at 727-365-4077

10/31/17