

Florida Railroad Museum - January 2013

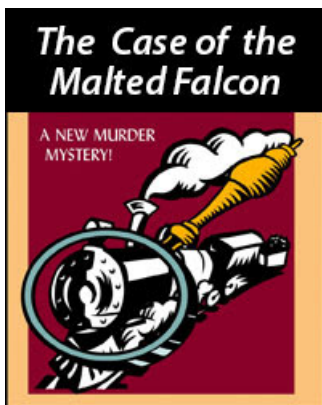
# eTracks

## Happy New Year!

As the museum rolls ahead into its 21st year running trains in Parrish, we'd like to re-cap the highlights of 2012:

- Carried a total of 30,923 ticketed passengers.
- Converted Union Pacific baggage car #6324 into a 100 seat open-air coach. See article below.
- Built a replica Seaboard Air Line Railroad station in Willow using original blueprints.
- Acquired a Seaboard Air Line caboose from Kissimmee. See article below.
- Replaced 1,000 ties and surface tamped entire 6.5 mile right-of-way.
- Hosted our largest Christmas event ever and still sold-out.

## Murder Mystery Dinner Train



The 2013 Murder Mystery Dinner train is now on sale. This season's mystery is called *The Case of the Malted Falcon*.

A priceless, edible sculpture is being shipped by train to the famous Willow Station gallery. Private eye Sam Club is charged with protecting the sculpture but winds up in hot chocolate -- er, hot water -- when the sculpture is stolen from the train! Can you come along and help Sam solve this sweet crime?

The show operates the last two weekends of February and the first weekend in March. All the event details including dates and prices are on the [website](#).

Volunteer help is also needed to run the Murder Mystery event both on and off the train. If interested, please contact [Peter Mason](#).

## Cotton Tail Special

**March 30, 2013**

Special online booking for members only!

The museum will be operating an extra trip on March 30 with a stop at our annual Easter Egg Hunt in Willow. Lots of activities are included in the ticket price. Mr. Bunny himself will be on hand to greet all the children. The Party Caboose is also available for charter.

Tickets are on sale now for **MEMBERS ONLY** until January 21st when general sales begin. We're also testing the frequently requested [online booking](#) for members during Early Access. Enter code 'FRRM13' to buy online or call the ticket office at 941-776-0906.



## Annual Meeting and Election of Directors

**March 11, 2013**

The Annual Meeting of Members will be held on March 11 this year. At the meeting, members will elect three people to the Board of Directors (if you can't attend the meeting, don't worry - we'll send you a ballot by mail!) The seats up for election are:

Gene Hughey, Woody Massara and Pat Masterson.

The Election Committee is currently seeking candidates for the election. If you have been a member for two years, and have the skills, knowledge and desire to lead the museum as a director, please [contact the committee](#) for information on submitting your nomination. The deadline is January 30!

Additional meeting information including the agenda and election ballots will go in the mail the first week of February.

## Kissimmee Caboose



The City of Kissimmee, FL donated an ex-SAL caboose to the museum in late 2012. Its' immediately former life was that of an ice cream and drink stand in a city park meaning the railroad interior is long gone. The caboose was originally built in 1952 by the International Car Company for the Seaboard Air Line Railroad. After the Seaboard and Atlantic Coast Line merged in 1967, the caboose was rebuilt similar to ACL's M-5 specifications and called an M-6 caboose.

The Mulberry Phosphate Museum has a sister M-6 caboose with the original interior. Paul Chapman and several other volunteers have gutted all the ice cream parlor "enhancements" and we now have a solid caboose shell. Once funding for a new floor and interior can be secured, this caboose will be restored to M-6 specs and returned to

charter service as the museum's first southern railroad caboose.

## Union Pacific Baggage Car Conversion



Pictured here are before and after photos of Union Pacific baggage car #6324. The completed car operated for the first time on the North Pole Express, adding 100 seats to the North Pole every night. Even with the extra seats and additional nights, the event was still a complete sell-out!

The history of the car is long and varied. Built in March 1961 for the Union Pacific, the car's life with UP was cut short following the creation of Amtrak in 1971. Union Pacific sold the car to Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Circus in 1972 where it became a stock car for elephants until 1999. Over a decade after being stored out-of-service, the car

came to the museum via an anonymous donor in 2012.

In addition to lighting, sound system and electrical outlets, the car also features two restrooms which doubles the sanitation capacity on the train. A second baggage car, UP #6330, was also donated and is a candidate for future conversion one funding and manpower can be identified.

There are quite a few members to thank for hundreds and hundreds of volunteer hours spent on this amazing conversion including: Roy Ancel, Mike Albertson, Paul Chapman, Pete Clifford, Tom Walenta and many others.



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