

The “Big Bend Ties” monthly newsletter of the Gulf Wind Chapter, NRHS

Oct. 7, 2026

Big Bend Ties is a monthly publication of the Gulf Wind Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society.



Built by the Pensacola & Georgia Railroad in 1858, the historic Lloyd Depot will provide a backdrop for the free community event Lloyd Day at the Depot on Oct. 24. On hand will be food and craft vendors, as well as local agencies and nonprofits with exhibits on their programs and services. *Photo by Dave Hodges*

Gulf Wind Chapter hosts Lloyd Day at the Depot

Lloyd Day at the Depot is coming up Saturday, Oct. 24, a fall festival presented by various local agencies and nonprofits in conjunction with the Gulf Wind Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society.

The free event takes place on the grounds of the historic Lloyd Depot, Florida’s oldest remaining train station. The festivities begin at 10 a.m. that Saturday and conclude at 2 p.m. During that time, there will be tours of the Lloyd Volunteer Fire Department station next door to the depot, as well as exhibits by local food and crafts vendors, Jefferson County government offices, and various nonprofits.

“We have traditionally had a fall open house at the depot, but this year’s event is expanded to include many of our agency partners and other local organizations,” said Dan McDaniel, president of the Gulf Wind Chapter. “In addition, the event is a celebration of Lloyd, its residents, and the community’s history.”

A centerpiece of the Lloyd Historic District, the depot was built in 1858 by the Pensacola & Georgia Railroad. Lloyd Day at the Depot is a chance for guests to see and explore the chapter’s numerous railroad artifacts and memorabilia on display and

learn about the building's historical significance.

At lunchtime, the chapter members will be selling pulled pork sandwiches to raise money for the depot's continued restoration.

The Lloyd Depot was in service until the 1960s. When the building was closed by the Seaboard Air Line Railroad in 1966 and faced demolition, the railroad agreed to transfer the building to the Jefferson County Historical Association for preservation. The Gulf Wind Chapter assumed ownership of the building in 1975 and has carried out several phases of restoration work since that time.

Vendors and exhibitors on hand for Lloyd Day at the Depot include the following:

- American Cancer Society
- Community Emergency Response Team and Jefferson County Emergency Management
- First Baptist Church of Lloyd
- Florida Gulf & Atlantic Railroad
- Grove and Garden
- Gulf Wind Chapter, National Railway Historical Society
- Jefferson County Animal Services
- Jefferson County Health Department
- Jefferson County Sheriff's Office
- Lloyd Volunteer Fire Department
- Mae Mae's Sweet Crumbs
- Red Cross
- Steve Isbell
- UF/IFAS County Extension Service
- Waukeenah Honey



Lloyd Day at the Depot will be a celebration of the community, its residents, and local history. At the historic Lloyd Depot, there will be displays of various railroad artifacts and pieces of equipment, including the restored 1938 Fairmont S-2 section car, pictured here. The free community event takes place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Oct. 24.

For more information on Lloyd Day at the Depot, visit the Gulf Wind Chapter website at gulfwindnrhs.org. The depot is located at 8781 Old Lloyd Road, just east

of State Road 59. Additional parking for guests will be available at the fire station next door and at the First Baptist Church of Lloyd nearby.

Grant will fund museum's baggage car restoration project

The Southeastern Railway Museum in Duluth, GA, has been awarded a "Placemaking Grant" of \$19,000 by the community organization Gwinnett Creativity Fund for the museum's restoration of a former Southern Railway baggage car.

The museum said one goal of the restoration is to create a rental event space that would be unique to Gwinnett County. At present, the baggage car is in the museum's shop, where volunteers are making repairs to the side sills before the car is painted.

Also included in the project are updates for the car's electrical system, insulation, and heating and air-conditioning systems. The museum expects the restoration to be finished in early to mid-2027, when the baggage car will be available for meetings, birthday parties, family gatherings, classes and other activities. For more information about ongoing projects, visit train-museum.org.



Blue Ridge Scenic Railway locomotive No. 4631 gets ready for a fall foliage trip in north central Georgia. The BRSR is one of the scenic railroads that offers special excursions as the weather gets cooler and the leaves turn.

Scenic railways now booking popular fall foliage tours

With the days getting cooler and autumn in full swing, now is the time to book a fall foliage tour on the many scenic railroads offering these special excursions.

One option is catching a ride on the Western Maryland Scenic Railroad. Operating out of Cumberland, MD, the vintage railroad has regular excursions to the charming mountain community of Frostburg. The *Frostburg Flyer*, which rolls out of Cumberland, winds through the scenic Allegheny Mountains. The trip lasts 4.5 hours and includes a 90-minute stop in Frostburg for guests to visit local shops and restaurants.

To book your trip, visit <https://wmsr.com/frostburg-flyer> for available dates and departure times through the end of October.

Another option is no further away than north central Georgia. The Blue Ridge Scenic Railway makes trips through the Chattahoochee National Forest to McCaysville, GA, and Copperhill, TN. The excursions follow the Toccoa River through the North Georgia countryside.

Tickets are available now for either 2-hour or 4-hour fall foliage tours, which continue through the end of November. The BRSR is located at 241 Depot St., Blue Ridge, GA. The number for more information is (877) 413-8724. The website is <https://brscenic.com/fall-rides/>.

Check out this list of other scenic railroads in various locations around the country. Chances are there's a trip option to suit you this fall or during the upcoming holiday season:

- Catskill Mountain Railroad, Kingston, NY (catskillmountainrailroad.com)
- Colebrookdale Railroad, Boyertown, PA (www.colebrookdalerailroad.com)
- Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad, Antonito, CO (cumbrestoltec.com)
- Durbin & Greenbrier Valley Railroad, Elkins, WV (mountainrailwv.com)
- Essex Steam Train, Essex, CT (essexsteamtrain.com)
- Great Smoky Mountains Railroad, Bryson City, NC (gsmr.com)
- Vermont Rail System Passenger Services, Burlington, VT (www.rails-vt.com)
- Mount Washington Cog Railway, Mount Washington, NH (www.thecog.com)



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Keep in touch! You can follow the Gulf Wind Chapter on Facebook at facebook.com/GulfWindNRHS/. Be sure to "like" us. Our web site is gulfwindnrhs.org. The chapter's mailing address is P.O. Box 3464, Tallahassee, FL 32315-3464.

The Gulf Wind Chapter of the NRHS joins Operation Lifesaver, Inc. in reminding rail fans and pedestrians to stay safe around railroad tracks and to always obey signals and crossing gates. For more information on rail safety, visit oli.org.

The Gulf Wind Chapter is the Tallahassee area affiliate of the National Railway Historical Society, an organization that is committed to preserving and promoting railroad history in the United States. For details, visit nrhs.com.

All tax-deductible donations we receive help fund the Lloyd Depot's ongoing restoration. Thank you for supporting one of the Big Bend's most notable historic sites.

If you have rail history or railroad news for "Big Bend Ties," send it to us at the e-mail address below.

Dave Hodges
Editor
Gulf Wind Chapter, NRHS
davehodges55@gmail.com
gulfwindnrhs.org