

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

Sept. 5, 2026

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



Sopchoppy's fully restored depot is the last remaining station in Florida of the old Georgia, Florida & Alabama Railroad. It was the hub of rail travel and shipping in the community.

Sopchoppy presents annual Depot Days event

The Panhandle community of Sopchoppy extends a cordial invitation to area residents, visitors and rail fans for the annual Depot Days event, which takes place Saturday, Sept. 12 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The fully restored Sopchoppy Depot is the last remaining train station in Florida of the old Georgia, Florida & Alabama Railroad. It will be open throughout the event, with an array of historic exhibits and memorabilia depicting the town's railroad heritage. Also planned is a classic car parade down Rose Street at 10 a.m., and there will be food and craft vendors on hand, plus entertainment.

The Big Bend Model Railroad Association will have trains on display, including operating layouts located in the Towles House, the historic home next door to the depot. Across the street is Depot Park, with walking paths, gardens and a playground.

For more details, email inquiries and questions to discoversopchoppy@gmail.com and remember to visit the city's Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/SopchoppyFL>.



More than 60 percent of all train collisions with motor vehicles occur at crossings that are equipped with warning lights or gates. Operation Lifesaver, Inc. and its program partners will be promoting increased safety around crossings and tracks Sept. 21-27 during See Tracks? Think Train® Week.

Annual promotion puts focus on safety around tracks, trains

Operation Lifesaver, Inc. and its state and local program partners will observe a week of safety education and public outreach Sept. 21-27 which has been renamed as See Tracks? Think Train® Week.

Formerly known as Rail Safety Week, the observance was first held in the United States in 2017. The focus of See Tracks? Think Train® Week is to stress the importance of motorists and pedestrians making safe choices when driving or walking near railroad tracks and trains.

According to Operation Lifesaver, Inc., a vehicle or person is hit by a train every 3 hours in the United States, and more than 2,300 people are injured or killed in North America annually at crossings or while trespassing on railroad property.

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OLI has various safety educational materials, posters, prepared public safety announcements, social media static posts, videos and other items available for use. For complete information, visit <https://oli.org/about-us/public-awareness-campaigns/see-tracks-think-trainr-week>.

Club members host annual train show at The Villages

The Villages 2026 Model Train Show & Sale is scheduled for Sept. 19-20 at the Savannah Recreation Center, 1545 N. Buena Vista Blvd. in The Villages, FL.

There will be items in all gauges for sale and multiple operating layouts on display. Show hours on Saturday are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. On Sunday, the hours are 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Admission is \$9, with children age 12 and younger admitted free. Admission is by cash only. For more information, visit thevillagesmodeltrainclub.com.



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.

We support . . .



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.

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