

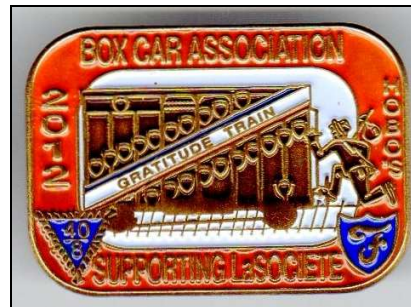
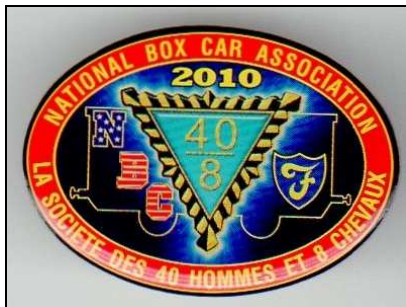
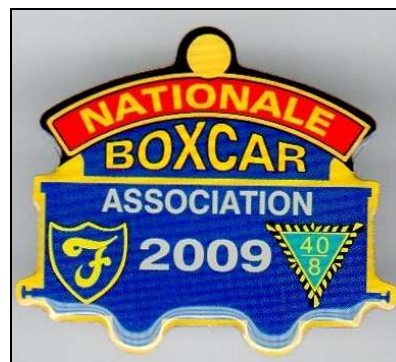
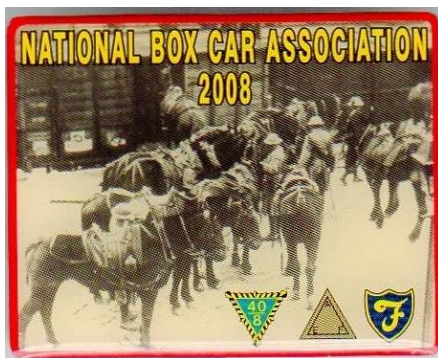
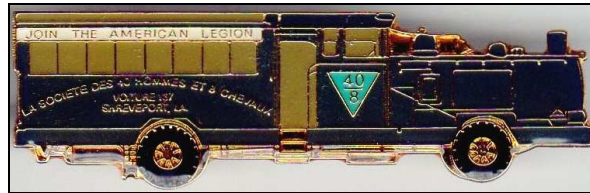
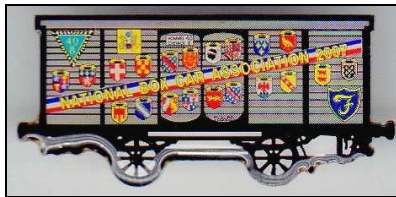
THE NEWSLETTER OF THE RED RIVER VALLEY RAILROAD HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

November, 2011

SHREVEPORT, LA

Our 30th Year

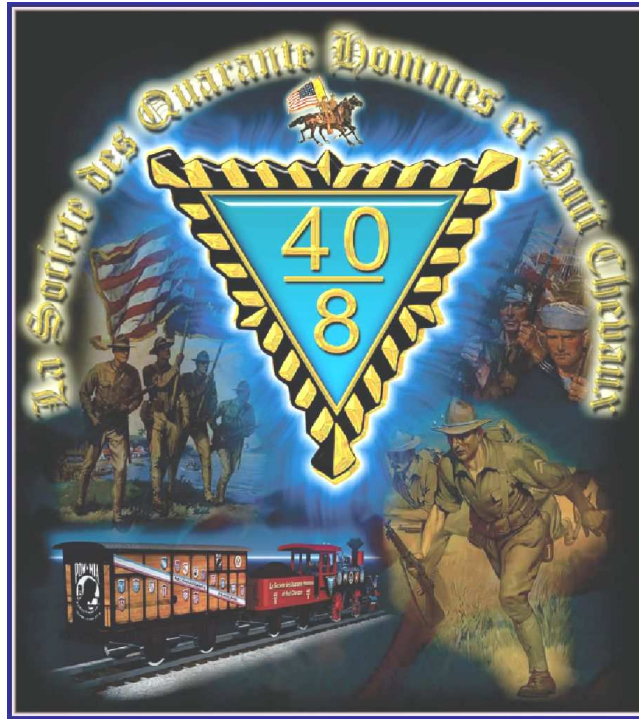
The National Box Car Association



No, it's not a "railroad club" that you have missed joining. It is a very special organization of people who have served our country and preserved our freedom to have railroad clubs. It seems to be appropriate to "salute" such an organization as Veterans Day approaches (November 11).

The National Box Car Association is an independent association within the Forty & Eight. The photos above show the attractive metal pins that are created each year to raise funds. They are especially attractive to us railfans because of their railroad-related themes. Your Editor received these pins from Forty & Eight member Shawn Bohannon who works at the LSUS Noel Memorial Library Archives & Special Collections. If you would like to have some of these pins to add to your collection, they will be available at our next meeting on November 18th. Each pin requires a \$2.00-\$3.00 donation to the organization, and supplies are very limited since these are the only remaining pins for each year. Start your collection now!

All funds raised by the National Box Car Association are used to support several projects such as a party for special children and their escorts who are treated to lunch, train rides and entertainment provided by HOBO Clowns and bands.



As you may remember, the RRVRHS newsletter for April this year contained photos of the local 40 & 8 train, information about the history of the organization and the background for their “boxcar” logo. The Forty & Eight is an independent, by invitation, honor organization of male and female U. S. veterans committed to charitable and patriotic aims. Their purpose is to uphold and defend the United States Constitution, to promote the well being of veterans and their widows and orphans, and to actively participate in selected charitable endeavors, which include programs that promote child welfare and nurse's training.

The titles and symbols of the Forty & Eight reflect its First World War origins. Americans were transported to the battle front on French trains within boxcars stenciled with a “40/8”, denoting its capacity to hold either forty men or eight horses. This uncomfortable mode of transportation was familiar to all who fought in the trenches; a common small misery among American soldiers who thereafter found “40/8” a lighthearted symbol of the deeper service, sacrifice and unspoken horrors of war that bind all who have borne the battle. The Forty & Eight was founded in 1920 by American veterans returning from France. Originally an arm of The American Legion, the Forty & Eight became an independent and separately incorporated veteran's organization in 1960. Membership is by invitation of honorably discharged veterans and honorably serving members of the United States Armed Forces.

Information for this article and the 40 & 8 logo image were obtained from www.fortyandeight.org

This “Gratitude Train” boxcar is represented on the collectible pins.



RRVRHS Fish Fry at the McNeill Street Pumping Station



Society members, families and friends enjoyed great food and conversation at our Fall Banquet that was held on Saturday, October 29th. The fish, shrimp, chicken, french fries, hush puppies, cole slaw and other goodies were prepared by Russell, Frank, Gary, Mark, Kelly Jo and others. There were at least 30 attendees including at least 5 “new” folks. Several people toured our museum building and saw the recently installed air conditioning system. Thanks go out to all that came and helped!

Next RRVRHS Meeting on November 18 at the Glen

The meeting will be held on Friday, **November 18** at **7 p.m.** in the library at the Glen Retirement Village, 403 East Flournoy Lucas Road. **Please be on time** for the beginning of the meeting so you won't miss anything. The Glen Retirement Village is located on the south side of Flournoy Lucas Road between Ellerbe Road and Youree Drive (Highway 1). For information or directions call Dave Bland at (318) 470-5933.

Upcoming Events

- Nov. 5-6 T&P Model Train Show, Marshall Civic Center
- Nov. 12-13 Fort Worth Train Show
- Nov. 18 RRVRHS Meeting – Glen Retirement Village – 7 p.m.
- Nov. 29-30 World War II B-17 Bomber at Downtown Airport – 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. www.B17.org
- Dec. 5 KCS Christmas Train stop in Shreveport – Festival Plaza - 4 p.m.

Receive the Newsletter in COLOR and several days sooner !!
Contact your Editor at DDBland@aol.com to get your name on the
email distribution list

The President's Message – November 2011

Hello Railfans!

The word “we” brings to mind an untold number of situations and memories that mankind has been involved in. In 1927 a young man had an idea that he could accomplish something that many others had failed to do and had even cost them their lives – to fly across the Atlantic Ocean alone. He put together a group of people to finance and build an airplane to do the job. He accomplished an almost impossible feat and afterwards wrote a book called “We”. He was saying in his book that he alone did not accomplish the job. “We” meant that Charles Lindbergh and everyone who had anything to do with the planning, financing, building the plane, and the plane itself accomplished the task together. He did not do it alone. I write this to remind everyone that we are building a railroad museum together. No one alone is doing or can do this task by himself. We are all working together to accomplish this project. Everyone has different talents and skills that combined will finish the job. The building is almost finished, lacking only floors and a handicap ramp to be complete.

On a different note...the Fall Fish Fry was a success and everyone enjoyed the food and fellowship. I would like to thank everyone for helping and attending. We did a good job and I am looking forward to the Spring Banquet.

Bobby Joe Miller and Lea could not attend. I understand Bobby Joe fell and was in the hospital for observation. Also, Bill Hashieder's wife has fallen and is in the hospital. On Monday after the fish fry, Frank Head's wife had to be taken to the hospital also. We are all wishing them a speedy recovery.

We have the engineer's plans for the proposed 7 ½ inch gauge railroad on the museum grounds, and Gary has sent them to Baton Rouge for approval. Dick Melcher is working on securing rail and track for the project.

Well, I can't think of anything else so I will close for now.

Happy Railroading!
Russell

**RED RIVER VALLEY
RAILROAD HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.
Shreveport, LA**

Russell Pedro – President Kelly Jo Brunettin – Vice President
Gary Fox – Secretary Bill Hasheider – Treasurer
Dave Bland – Newsletter Editor – 797-8008 – DDBland@aol.com www.rvrhs.org

Have you paid your Annual Dues ?

Please send a check or money order for \$16.50 with this membership form to Bill Hasheider at 6813 Despot Road, Shreveport, LA 71108

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