

Ben Bartlett and I traveled down to Greenville, SC on the 8th for an SER Board of Directors meeting.

The Palmetto Division folks will be hosting the 2015 Region Convention, so the Board met in Greenville for a tour of the Greenville Marriott, the convention hotel next year. The facilities look good; the hotel is currently renovating, so by the time we go there, the work will be done. There will be a goodly number of clinics, layout tours and operating sessions. Prototype tours are still in the negotiations stage, but may include Republic Locomotive Works, Greenville and Western Rwy and the SC Inland Port. Stay tuned for more information.

Highlights of the Board meeting:

The Treasurer reported the Region is in good financial shape.

My Superintendent's Report covered the elections and the Asheville Club's train show at the end of the month.

Membership spiked due to the National Convention, mostly due to a large number of Railpasses. National indicates the conversion rate to full-fledged membership runs at over 50%, so the Region continues to grow. The print Winter 2014 SouthErneR is going to the printer this week; the electronic versions lag behind due to their greater content. Print versions of the Spring 2014 will be going to all members in late March. It will have coverage and the ballot for Region elections. Please vote.

The Gulf Coast Division put together a "tool kit" for conducting Boy Scout merit badge training. It's available for other divisions to use.

The 2014 Convention was reviewed, although no representatives from Memphis were at the meeting.

Registrations are available online using PayPal for payments or you can register by mail.

Follow on conventions will be offered in Huntsville, Alabama in 2016 (That's Rocket City for space minded folks) and in Aiken, SC in 2017. These are small divisions in membership numbers, but big on enthusiasm. A new Region car is being studied for sales to the Region membership, but the prototype selected, a TAG triple bay hopper, is only available in HO scale. The N scale car may end up being a TAG flat, suitable for hauling trailers.

Huntsville, AL will have a mini-meet in mid-September. It's a full day of clinics and layout tours, with the SER Board meeting. These mini-meets are for the small divisions to help gathering new members. The division there has 15-20 members.

A change to the region By laws was approved to set up an annual review of the financial books.

The Region President, Glen Hall, asked us all to make sure our e-mails and postal addresses were kept current. Tell either Gordon Fewster or myself when either of these change. We will forward these changes to Steve Prevette, the Region Registrar.