

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

March 1, 2026

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



A focal point of the Lloyd Historic District in Jefferson County and Florida’s oldest remaining train station, the depot was built in 1858 by the Pensacola & Georgia Railroad. The open house takes place Saturday, Feb. 28 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. *Photo by Dave Hodges*

Winter open house at historic Lloyd Depot is Feb. 28

Rail history fans and area residents are invited to join the Gulf Wind Chapter members on Saturday, Feb. 28 for our free open house at the historic Lloyd Depot in Jefferson County, FL.

The event is from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and includes exhibits of railroad artifacts and memorabilia, plus a model train layout. The lunch plan for the event is pulled pork sandwiches, sides and a drink for a suggested donation of \$12.

A centerpiece of the Lloyd Historic District in Jefferson County and Florida’s oldest remaining train station, the depot was built in 1858 by the Pensacola & Georgia Railroad. Depot open house events are a chance for the chapter to put numerous railroad artifacts and memorabilia on display and to discuss the building's historical significance.

Also open this Saturday will be the Lloyd Farmers Market, located adjacent to the depot property.

The depot is located at 8781 Old Lloyd Road, just east of State Road 59 at the railroad tracks. For information, visit gulfwindnrhs.org.



An eastbound freight train passes through Lloyd near the historic depot on a recent Saturday morning. Lloyd served as a shipping point for various farm products in the depot's heyday. That same rail corridor remains active today, running across northern Florida from Jacksonville to Pensacola. *Photo by Dan McDaniel*



RailCamp participants stay busy with various activities during the exciting weeklong program. The deadline to sign up is April 1 and there are two locations available, Tacoma, WA, and Newark, DE. Information is available at the National Railway Historical Society website, nrhs.com. *Photo courtesy of NRHS*

RailCamp gives students a taste of railroad operations

High school students who would like real hands-on experience learning about railroad operations, maintenance and history are invited to sign up for the National Railway Historical Society's RailCamp program that takes place this summer.

RailCamp is an educational experience for high school students who have an interest in railroads and railroading. The program teaches students about 21st century railroad operations, dispatching and maintenance while providing a simultaneous experience in the early history of U.S. railroads in the development of the United States.

According to the NRHS, students will learn both modern and historic elements of America's most vital transportation mode, including how diesel, electric and steam locomotives function, how track is built and maintained, and how early freight and passenger cars were constructed.

RailCamp East takes place from June 21 to June 27, 2026, and will be based at the University of Delaware in Newark, DE.

RailCamp Northwest will take place June 21 to June 27, 2026, and will be based at the University of Puget Sound in Tacoma, WA.

The cost for attending either camp is \$1,575. The NRHS says no camper has ever been turned away due to the inability to pay the tuition. In fact, there are sources of financial assistance available, including the organization's individual chapters and other sponsors.

The NRHS says the application form is available now and can be downloaded from the organization's website, nrhs.com. The final deadline for submissions is April 1. The website has additional details. The online application is available at <https://nrhs.com/programs/railcamp/>.



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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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