

**Alabama Southern Railroad Excursion
Tuscaloosa ,AL
October 19, 20 & 21, 2018**

Hello everyone! You are invited to join us on our third excursion on the Alabama Southern Railroad, and as last year, it should be a good ride. Below you will find details for the ride. As we know from last year, they are subject to last minute changes due to railroad activity.

Friday, October 19th

The set on location will be 2900 15th St. Tuscaloosa, AL. It is approximately 3 miles from the Baymont Inn. The directions from the hotel are as follows:

- Take a left on I-359 N, go 1.8 miles to exit 2 on 15th St. Turn left onto 15th St. Set on is approximately ½ mile on the right.

Set on will begin at 1:00pm. (Central Standard Time) and continue until 5:00pm. The set on location is the Alabama Southern railyard and this is an active yard. Safety vest and appropriate footwear must be worn all times while in the railyard. Please wait to be directed before setting on.

Saturday, October 20th

Set on for late arrivals will be begin at 6:00am (CST). Please do not set on without permission. The safety briefing will begin at 7:30am. **All operators and passengers must be present and attentive.** After the briefing we will head out onto the main line and head over the Blackwarrior River Bridge towards Columbus. This bridge is one the country's longest wood trestles at 3600 feet long. It was built by the Mobile & Ohio RR in 1898. It is 135 feet high and has an S curve on the north end and a slight curve on the south end. At the top there is a metal through truss bridge section. There is a slight grade coming up and down the bridge so watch your spacing and be sure to flag if you experience any trouble. The bridge walkway is **OUT OF SERVICE** so **DO NOT** get out on this or any bridge on this RR. As we roll along you may notice several old GM&O mile markers that have been converted to whistle posts. They are tubular in shape with a flattened top where the "W" is painted. We will stop in Reform (MP 43) for a bathroom/coffee break. There is a gas station located next to the track for snacks and coffee. You may use the restroom in the RR yard office or in the gas station. If you use the gas station restroom, please try to purchase a drink or snack in appreciation. After the break we will head towards East Columbus where we will turn our cars at MP 17.5. We will head back to Reform for a late lunch around 1pm. There are a few options for lunch in Reform including Boss Hogg BBQ, Subway, a Mexican restaurant, convenient store with chicken and pizza, and Jack's Hamburgers. The convenience store is next to the tracks, the other restaurants are from ¼ mile to ½ mile away. Boss Hogg's is a ¼ mile from the tracks so be prepared for a short walk. The BBQ Restaurant is fantastic! We will have approximately 1 and 1/2 hours for lunch, after which we will head for Northport (MP 69.6). In Northport, we will stop along side the old GM&O RR Depot for a restroom break, and a visit to the model train layout and train museum. After visiting the museum we will head back across the bridge to the railyard and tie our cars down for the night.

Because we will be needing to clear the main line for the daily train that runs from Reform to Columbus and back, there will be a zero breakdown rule until we are back in Reform for lunch. Total roundtrip miles for the day will be approximately 115.

Sunday, October 21th

Safety briefing will begin at 7:00am (CST). All operators and passengers must be present and attentive. After our safety briefing we will head out of the yard and on to the mainline and towards Brookwood. This is an active rail yard with switching 24 hours a day. We want to keep our car spacing tight through the yard so as to clear the yard as a group. Coming out of the yard we will head east up the Warrior sub (MP 0.0) over some street running and a several busy crossings. Please be very conscious of automotive traffic in this area. It may be necessary to flag some of these crossings depending on traffic. To our south we will be paralleling the Norfolk Southern main line for a couple of miles. This is their busy main line between the northeast and New Orleans and is the route of the Amtrak's Crescent passenger train. On the north side of the tracks is the University of Alabama and as we cross 10th Ave. at MP 1.13 you will be able to see Bryant Denney Stadium. At Brookwood junction (MP 3.9) we will head east off of the Warrior sub onto the Brookwood branch (MP 443.5). At MP 440, we will cross the Hurricane Creek steel trestle. This trestle was destroyed during the 2011 Tuscaloosa F5 tornado and then rebuilt. Again, please do not get out on this or any other bridge on this RR. As you pass through this area you will notice numerous trees still leaning and areas that look like they have been clear cut. This is all tornado damage. There will be a bathroom break in Peterson (MP 437.5) and then we will head for Brookwood (MP 430.5). There we will turn our cars and head back through Tuscaloosa and to the set off, arriving around 12:00pm. Total roundtrip miles for the day approximately 39.

Parking, Fuel & Restroom

There is ample parking for vehicles, trailers and motor homes at the set on location. There is a gas station close to the tracks in Reform for our Saturday run. Toilet facilities will be available at the set on location, Reform, East Columbus, Northport (Saturday) and Peterson (Sunday).

Safety

All NARCOA rules apply. Safety vests, over the ankle rugged sole shoes or boots (no tennis shoes or sandals), and long pants must be worn at all times while on RR property, this includes set on and set off. Safety glasses must be worn while motorcars are in operation. You can purchase safety glasses at Wal-Mart and most sporting goods stores. We will have clear safety glasses you may borrow during the run thanks to Frank Ahouse. Please avoid walking inside the gage of the railroad. When trains are passing our cars, please be inside the car, or if outside, be on the opposite side from the train. There will be train activity all day Saturday and Sunday. You must use appropriate caution whenever a train is approaching or passing. No climbing on RR equipment or entering any areas that we do not have permission. Do not exit your car on any bridge.

Radios

Radios are not required, but are recommended. Narrow-band radios only. Radio Channel will be one of the following: AAR Channel 78 (161.280), AAR Channel 34 (160.620) or AAR Channel 24 (160.470). Our backup channel will be NARCOA 2.

Hotels

I have arranged for a block of rooms at the Baymont Inn & Suites, the price is \$74 per night. The address is 5021 Oscar Baxter Dr. Tuscaloosa, AL. The number is 205-345-5018. Tell them you are with NARCOA. Please reserve your rooms ASAP, as this is football season.

Miscellaneous

You may want to bring bags chairs to sit in at lunch. In case of rain you may want to bring an umbrella or rain suit for the walk to the restaurants on Saturday. The ABS highrail will be able to carry the bag chairs.

Registration Details

There will be a 25-car limit. Please fill out the registration form below and mail it with a check for \$150.00, made payable to Chris Thompson. No refunds will be issued after September 19th, unless your spot can be filled.

Thanks

Thanks in advance for your safe participation on the Alabama Southern Railroad excursion. Please have a safe trip to Tuscaloosa and feel free to contact Jonathan or me with any questions or concerns.

E.C. Chris Thompson and E.C. Jonathan Blair

This is a SERO affiliate excursion

Contact Info: Chris Thompson, cbt1960@aol.com, Cell - 251-463-3270
Jonathan Blair, jlblair1981@aol.com, Cell - 706-252-1582

Alabama Southern Railroad Excursion

October 19-21, 2018

Registration

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Cell Phone: _____ Home Phone: _____

Email: _____

Primary Operator Certification No: _____ 2018 Insurance # 18- _____

Secondary Operator Certification No: _____ 2018 Insurance # 18- _____

Type Motorcar: _____ RR & Car# _____ Hi-rail: _____

Number of Passengers including operator: _____ RR Radio: _____ yes _____ no

Complete Registration Form and mail with check or money order for \$150 payable to Chris Thompson to:

Chris Thompson
299 Hannah Chase Way
Satsuma, AL 36572

SORRY, NO REFUNDS AFTER SEPTEMBER 19TH UNLESS YOUR SPOT CAN BE FILLED.

E.C. Chris Thompson - 251-463-3270 - cht1960@aol.com

E.C. Jonathan Blair - 706-252-1582 - jlblair1981@aol.com