

2016 GRA Annual Meeting

The Georgia Railroad Association met on River Street in historic Savannah, Georgia, Monday, June 6th – Wednesday, June 8th, at the Cotton Sail Hotel for our 2016 annual meeting.

The torrential rain from Tropical Storm Colin didn't deter us as we gathered at Vic's on the River on Monday evening for our Associate Member Hosted Dinner. Rail members and vendors mingled, caught up with old friends and made new ones. The view of the large container ships on the river provided a spectacular view.

After the Board of Director's meeting on Tuesday morning, we held our annual golf tournament at the Club at Savannah Harbor. Thankfully the storm had passed during the night and a beautiful, sunny day awaited 30 golfers.

Golf Tournament Results:

First Place Team: Kevin Price, Sach Price, Matt Cooper, Bob Snyder

Second Place Team: Duane Broxterman, Dave Gerstner, Jack Smellie, Austin Broxterman

Closest to the Pin (#8): David Martin

Closest to the Pin (#14): Dave Gerstner

A big thank you to Gary Stout from STX Corporation for sponsoring the drink cart.

Our feature event was held on Tuesday night at Rocks on the Roof at the Bohemian Hotel. Savannah Mayor Eddie DeLoach welcomed GRA to Savannah as members and guests enjoyed drinks, hors d'oeuvres and live music. Shrimp and grits and BBQ gave the event a southern flare. The unique rooftop venue overlooking the Savannah River provided a pleasant backdrop for networking with rail industry and legislators alike.

We got down to business after breakfast on Wednesday morning. Christy Sammon provided an excellent report from GoRail. Website developer, Stephen Caudill, then rolled out our new GRA website in a very informative presentation. He was followed by Bob Snyder, Senior Director, Procurement, OnmiTRAX. His presentation focused on the procurement process and the changes OnmiTRAX has made to streamline their system.

After a short break, Senator David Shafer introduced his vision for the Georgia Rail Program that he plans to introduce during the 2017 legislative session. Finally, a panel of five fielded questions from Mark Middleton and the GRA audience. The panel consisted of Carol Comer, GDOT; Brad Lafevers, HOG; Senator Steve Gooch; Representative Brett Harrell; and Bart Gobeil, GPA.

This was an extremely successful Annual Meeting. Thank you to our sponsors! We appreciate your support!

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Save the Date!

The GRA Annual Meeting is moving to May next year. We will be going to the Brasstown Valley Resort in north Georgia. The dates are tentatively scheduled for May 15th-17th.