

## Volunteer Spotlight - Wayne Minnick "Yard Boss"



**Wayne Minnick, Wife Charlene and Granddaughter**

Photographer unknown

Wayne Minnick is the happy-go-lucky guy with a gung-ho attitude you will encounter at the yard on work days or at special events. He is responsible for scheduling and prioritizing work around the yard. He is a jack-of-all-trades who works with electrical, plumbing, heating and cooling projects, fabricates various things of all sizes, and also cuts weeds and empties holding tanks when necessary.

"Yard Boss" is his nickname. "We all work together so titles are

just that: titles," he says. "We all come up with ideas and hash them out between all of us. I just try to keep everyone working and see that they have what they need to do the job."

"We have always worked with no money," Wayne reminds us. Low-budget accomplishments include: the self-contained air conditioning units under the cars; the completely satisfactory \$10 welding connectors that are used instead of more typical \$700 electrical cables for power between the cars; the Hankins car water barrels; the metal doors on the theater car ends that were salvaged from a renovation at Wayne's workplace; and the donated flood-damaged electrical generator that was successfully restored by LASTA mechanics.

Wayne was born in Baltimore, MD. After high school he joined the Air Force to see the world, and was stationed for four years in Biloxi,

MS. He then worked at IBM and is now an electronics technician at the USDA Southern Regional Research Center near City Park in New Orleans. He has built three homes and a camp, owns two 1954 Fords, belongs to the Horseless Carriage Club, and enjoys genealogy. His wife, Charlene, is from New Orleans; they have three grown children and ten grandchildren.

After reading about LASTA in the newspaper, Wayne joined in 2003. He has been volunteering his time ever since. He has a life-long interest in railroads and has collected model trains, but has no layout today. "I have a life size model to work on now," he

says.

"We really do work as a crew. All members contribute what they can, and we certainly have a great bunch of people," Wayne observes. He adds, "I certainly enjoy the results of our efforts that keep 745 on the rails."

*Jonathan Sturges*

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## LASTA Paves Way For Disney

Disney put together a unique marketing campaign this year for a Jim Carey movie, with the summer tour of "A Christmas Carol" train. Pulled by 2 Amtrak engines wrapped in artwork depicting scenes from the movie, the passenger cars were set up with interactive and static displays. The tour stopped in New Orleans for exhibition on 8/7-8/9 in the same spot LASTA has been using for Steam Fest for the previous 3 years!

As Disney is an icon of doing things, well, "Disney Like", obviously LASTA must be doing something right if Disney starts copying us!

Unfortunately for the crowds, the New Orleans show was damp-

ened by severe rain that shut down the tour. There were reports that the inflatable screening building collapsed under the heavy rain, and there were rumors that the moisture penetrated at least one of the cars - affecting the displays.

While the train was at "The Fly" behind the zoo, the lead motor was reportedly taken to the NOUPT shop to repair a compressor problem (sound familiar?). It seems as though some things never change, even with modern equipment! If you were lucky enough to have made the tour,



**Private car LAMBERTS POINT decorated for the Disney Christmas Carol train.** Shawn Levy Photo

please remember where you parked, and come see us in October for Steam Fest 2009!

*Bill Hamblin, Jr.*