INFORMATION FOR THE SOUTHERN RAILWAY 154 PHOTO SPECIAL SATURDAY, APRIL 9, 2011

The Schedule, Map, and Runby Diagrams will be available at the links below on Tuesday morning:

Map / Schedule: http://steamspecials.com/files/documents/201104-schedule.pdf
Runby Diagrams: http://steamspecials.com/files/documents/201104-schedule.pdf

We plan to ride the train during the day.

Lodging: if you plan to participate in the pre-dawn photos, you might want to stay in the downtown area. If you prefer getting a bit more sleep (especially if you are coming from Roanoke), the hotels at I-40 Exit 398 (Strawberry Plains Road) are very convenient to our first runby location of the day.

Friday evening prior to the trip, we expect no. 154 and train to be parked at the Three Rivers Rambler boarding site at the southwest end of Volunteer Landing. Approximately 5:30am Saturday, the train will be moved to the water tank to begin the day.

During the event: Our group has developed excellent relationships with the various host railroads because we emphasize safety. We expect you to know and follow applicable safety rules, and to act in a safe manner around the railroad, including helping others around you. If you drive to photo locations, we expect you to be aware of all applicable rules and regulations, drive safely, park safely, and cross roads safely. If you act in an unsafe manner, we reserve the right to refund your money and terminate your participation.

Photo locations are shown on the map. You are welcome to pick photo locations other than those indicated on the map. We ask only that you not set up in view of an organized photo line.

Arrival, parking and boarding: Our train will depart from the northeast end of Volunteer Landing, adjacent to Ruth's Chris steak house. From I-75, follow James White Parkway to Neyland Drive. The entrance to Volunteer Landing is shown below (left turn):



(Note that this is NOT the lot used for Three Rivers Rambler passenger train parking.)

Proceed to the northeast end of the lot, park, and follow the walkway across the bridge in the direction of Ruth's Chris Steak House to the Three Rivers Rambler's engine facility.



If you are unfamiliar with the area, allow plenty of time to find the boarding area, or that you spend some time Friday becoming familiar with the area in daylight.

See also: http://steamspecials.com/files/documents/201104-vl.pdf

If you are not planning to participate in the pre-dawn photo session, please arrive by 6:30am.

Our boarding location is directly adjacent to condominiums, so keep in mind that the most normal thing you could be doing at 6:00am on a Saturday is . . . sleeping. Please help the railroad maintain a good relationship with its neighbors: speak softly, and keep conversation to the minimum necessary.

Instructions for the pre-dawn photo session: Our day will begin at the Three Rivers Rambler engine shed at Volunteer Landing, adjacent to Ruth's Chris Steak House.

We will be lighting several small vignettes simultaneously: three scenes from 6:00am to 6:20am (diagram 1), and four scenes from 6:20am to 6:40am (diagram 2).

Move from one scene to another at your own pace, and budget your time wisely. Once you're satisfied with your results, move on and let someone else have the position. If you want to adjust a light, or repose an actor, go ahead if no one objects - please put things back like they were when you're done.

Study the diagrams provided to you prior to arriving Saturday morning. If you have any questions about how the photo session will proceed, contact us prior to Saturday, or arrive early on Friday and familiarize yourself with the location. We will be available to answer questions on site at 5:00pm Friday, April 8.



Our photo location is directly adjacent to condominiums where people will be sleeping, and the railroad has asked us to be a good neighbor. The photo session will be conducted with no announcements and an absolute minimum of conversation.

FOR THOSE WHO ARE UNFAMILIAR WITH OUR 'HUMAN INTEREST' NIGHT PHOTO SESSIONS: Digital cameras and floodlights have revolutionized night photography. If you are a veteran of the traditional 'big open flash night photo session,' be prepared to un-learn some behaviors and inhibitions that made sense then, but don't now.

EXPECT THIS,





NOT THIS.

If someone crosses in front of you during an exposure, remember, you're shooting digital with floodlights - just take another shot. If you find it necessary to pass through the field of view, do so quickly - if you get in another photographer's shot, he can delete and shoot again.