Caboose 0711

Timeline

- **1960s**: The ACL Waycross Shops (in Georgia) built the first steel cabooses (Class M-5s) and they were numbered 0600 – 0786. They were called Cupola cabooses because they had small windowed projections on the roof where the crew sat to inspect the train from above.

- **1964**: Caboose 0711 was built new for the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad (which merged in 1967 with Seaboard Air Line Railroad).

- **1983**: Retired from service

- **1986**: Seaboard Coast Line Railroad donated Caboose 0711 to the Boca Raton Historical Society.

- **1987**: Arrived by rail and was hauled four blocks to the Boca Train FEC Depot at a cost of $3,000.

- **1996**: The caboose was sandblasted and repainted and is currently on display at the Boca Express Train Museum.

Interesting Facts about Cabooses

- A caboose was a “manned railroad vehicle” at the end (usually) of a freight train that provided safety functions for the train and housing quarters for the conductor, brakeman, and flagman.

- The caboose provided a place for the crew members to observe the train from the rear. This allowed them to address and resolve any problems encountered (such as train cars separating, axles overheating, etc.).

- In the United States all freight trains were required to have a caboose up until the 1980s, when technology eliminated the need for them due to modern switching and communications systems (which performed the necessary safety functions).