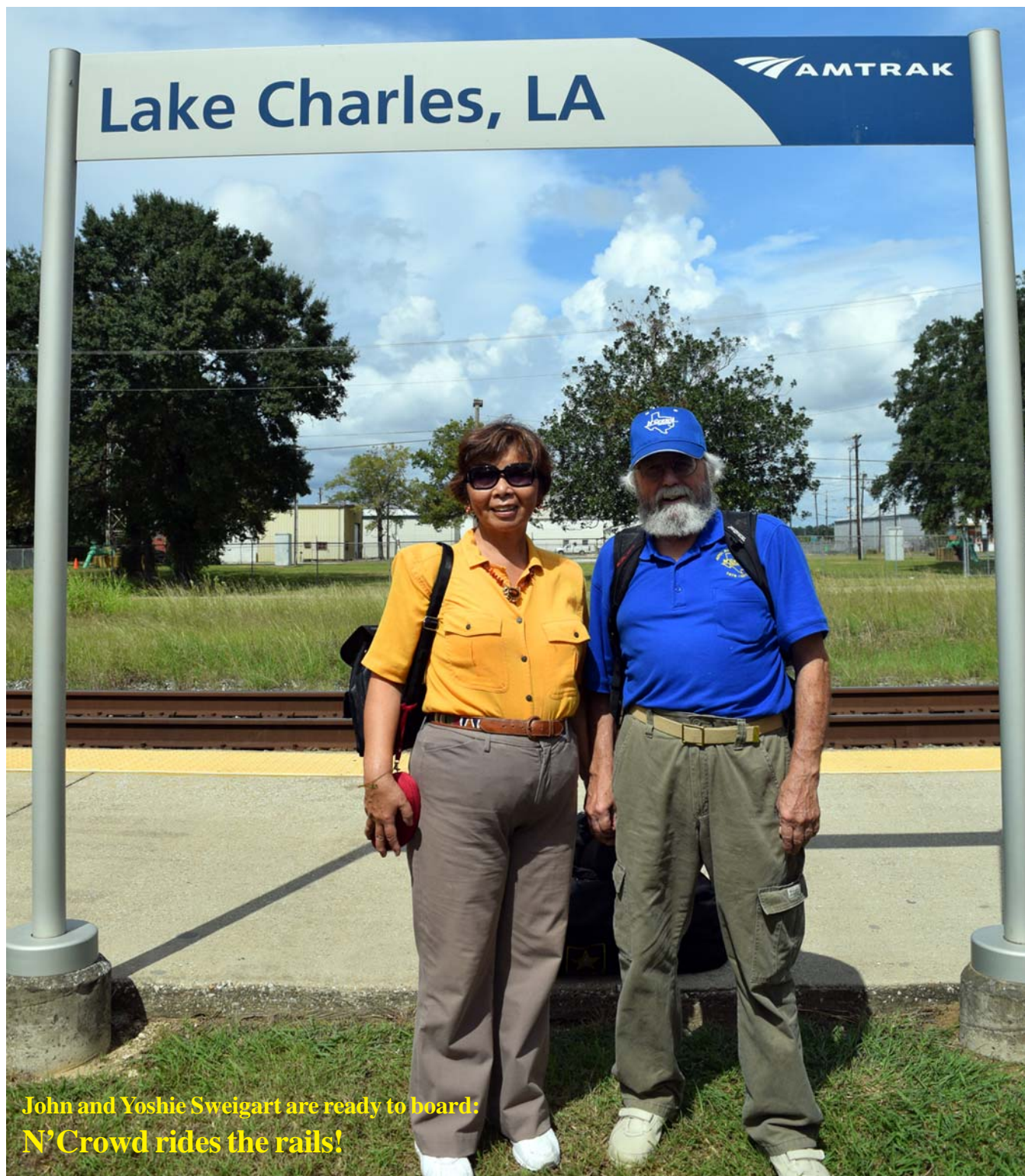


Special Edition



THE ORDERBOARD

Lake Charles Road & Rail



**John and Yoshie Sweigart are ready to board:
N'Crowd rides the rails!**

Photo by Michael Cianciolo

N'Crowd rides the rails

Photos as credited

N'Crowd members joined friends from Gulf Coast Chapter - NRHS for an entertaining road and rail excursion to Lake Charles, La., on Oct. 6. Our day trip included a motor coach ride to Lake Charles, a tour of the USS *Orleck* Naval Museum, lunch at the Golden Nugget Lake Charles (with a few trying their luck in the casino), and a ride back to Houston on Amtrak Train No. 1, the *Sunset Limited*.



Above, a KCS train rumbles through Houston's Amtrak station just prior to our group's early morning departure by bus for Lake Charles. Photo by Tom Marsh

Below, the group boards the USS Orleck in Lake Charles. Photo by Tom Marsh

On board the train, Amtrak arranged a special early seating for us in the dining car for dinner before arrival in Houston. The train ran close to schedule, arriving in Lake Charles 11 minutes late and at Houston 22 minutes late. The *Sunset* would have been on time in Houston, but Union Pacific dispatchers sent the train the long way around to the station via Belt Junction rather than the direct route through Englewood Yard.



Below left, according to museum staff, Elvis regularly patrols the waters around the destroyer. Below right, a 1946 Railway Express Agency shipping tag is part of a display on the USS Orleck. Photos by Michael Cianciolo

USS Orleck

The USS *Orleck* was commissioned on Sept. 15, 1945, just a dozen days after the end of World War II, and so became one of the earliest "Cold War Warriors." The destroyer operated primarily with the 7th Fleet in the Pacific, serving in both the Korean and Vietnam wars. In Korea, the *Orleck* was the first member of what became the "Train Busters Club", taking out two enemy supply trains with her main guns on different occasions. During the Vietnam war, the *Orleck* fired more rounds in support of ground troops than any other ship.





Above, our group enjoys dinner in the diner. Photo by Tom Marsh



Above, our train approaches Tower 26 near downtown Houston. Below, the Sunset Limited after arrival in Houston. Photos by Michael Cianciolo



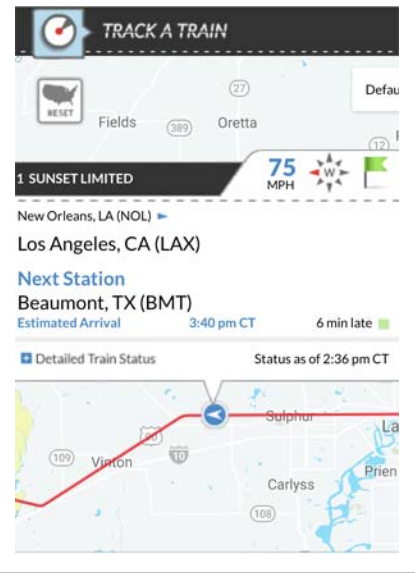
'Our' Sunset Limited

This *Sunset Limited* consist made up Train No. 1 (westbound) on Oct. 6, 2018, with N'Crowd members on board. The train arrived at Lake Charles 11 minutes late at 2:06 p.m., and at Houston 22 minutes late at 6:40 p.m.

- 159 GE P42DC
- 167 GE P42DC
- 39011 Superliner II transition sleeper
- 32094 Superliner II sleeper
- 38019 Superliner I diner
- 33031 Superliner II lounge
- 31007 Superliner I coach/baggage
- 34007 Superliner I coach

The *Sunset Limited* east of San Antonio for most of 2018 has included a new Viewliner baggage car, but recently the train has been running without one. A Houston station agent said they had been informed that the lack of a baggage car would be temporary. Not having a baggage car means that checked luggage is handled in the Superliner coach/baggage; station staff does not like having to use the coach/baggage cars because the baggage space is poorly lit and not laid out in a manner that makes for efficient baggage handling.

Below, Amtrak's Track A Train app showed us highballing at 75 mph between Lake Charles, La., and Beaumont, Texas.





“Our” train rolls through Dayton on its way to Houston on Oct. 6, 2018. Photo by Gordon Bliss



LCL *Less than Car Load: a few notes from your editor*

Thank you! Thanks to all of our 2018 contributors to *The Orderboard*. Remember, this only works with your support. Your contributions are encouraged and welcomed!

Best wishes: This is the last issue of *The Orderboard* for 2018, and I want to take this opportunity to wish you all a safe and happy holiday season, and happy railroading in 2019!

THE ORDERBOARD *from Houston N'Crowd*

Tom Marsh, Editor
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Send newsletter contributions to: tom@houstonncrowd.org.
Please note: We reserve the right to edit submissions for clarity and length.

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