



# SPARKS AND CINDERS

*Our purpose as members of Wisconsin Chapter—National Railway Historical Society is to gather, preserve and disseminate information, both historic and current, pertaining to railroading in Wisconsin and the Upper Midwest.*

Visit the Chapter Webpage [www.nrhswis.org](http://www.nrhswis.org)



Is this photo showing what will happen. Will the BNSF stand between the Canadian Pacific acquiring the Norfolk Southern. 2016 could be an interesting year for the railroads. This photo was taken at Duplainville, WI on May 16, 2015 *Photo by Keith Schmidt*

#### In This Issue

- *From the President*
- *January Board Meeting Minutes*
- *Canadian Pacific RR Frequency Changes*

## Upcoming Events February 2016

### AMRC/MSOE All Star Railroad Night - 34th Season

MSOE 1025 N Broadway 7:30pm

Friday February 12, 2016

"Farewell to Military Railroads" by Sgt. Dave Myers

"Railfanning while going to Work" by Bob Gallegos

### TMER&THS (Traction and Bus Club)

[www.tmer.org](http://www.tmer.org)

Saturday February 20, 2016

Chase Bank - Cudahy 7:30pm

SE Corner Packard and Layton Use East Lot

"Modern Streetcars and More" by Dave Shtaida

### WISE Division NMRA

[www.wisedivision.org](http://www.wisedivision.org)

NO Monthly Meeting

February 2016

Midway Hotel and Suite

1005 S Moorland Road

12:30pm to 4:00pm

Swap Meet and Clinics

Layout Tours

### Milwaukee Road Historical Association

[www.mrha.com](http://www.mrha.com)

Check Webpage for Information about Annual Convention

### C&NW Historical Society

[www.cnwhs.org](http://www.cnwhs.org)

May 12 - 17, 2016

Minneapolis, Minnesota - Check webpage for information

### NRHS National Convention

[www.nrhs.com](http://www.nrhs.com)

July 19-24, 2016

Denver, CO

### To Contact the Wisconsin Chapter NRHS

President Dave Nelson

Email at [engine1385@aol.com](mailto:engine1385@aol.com)

**Thank You** to all those that contributed to this issue of Sparks and Cinders. Member contributions make this newsletter YOUR newsletter. - Sparks and Cinders Editor

### Wisconsin Chapter Now on Facebook !!

Thanks to Keith Schmidt the Chapter now has a Facebook Page. It Can be accessed at <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Wisconsin-Chapter-NRHS/170129169765334> (Must enter the number string)



Sparks and Cinders is published by the Wisconsin Chapter, National Railway Historical Society. President: Dave Nelson 1506 E Fox Lane Fox Point, WI 53217. Send all address changes and dues to the treasurer, Tom Hoffmann, 1102 Aspen Dr., Waukesha, WI 53188. Send all material for publication to the interim editor, Keith Schmidt 3286 S Springfield Ave Milw, WI 53207 or at [sparksandcinders@gmail.com](mailto:sparksandcinders@gmail.com)



## Wisconsin Chapter Meeting Schedule

**\*\*NOTE SCHEDULE CHANGE \*\***

Friday February 5, 2016 - Dave Nelson - Bucyrus-Erie Factory and its Railroad

Friday March 4, 2016 - Tom Dannemann - Montana

Friday April 1, 2016 - Bob Baker - To Be Announced

**MEETINGS NOW START AT 7:30PM !!!**

*Programs Subject to Change*

If you would like to present a program at a Chapter Meeting

Contact Dave Nelson at email [engine1385@aol.com](mailto:engine1385@aol.com)

## January 2016 Meeting Summary

President Dave Nelson called the annual formal business meeting to order at 7:34 pm. A total of 28 people were present. All officers and directors who were present were seated at the double front table.

President Dave Nelson asked Secretary Tom Marcussen to read the minutes of the previous formal business meeting on January 2, 2015. Tom stated that they ran to 5 full typewritten pages, and had been published in the February 2015 edition of Sparks & Cinders. None of the members present had any interest in their being read aloud. Tom Hoffmann moved that the minutes of the above previous business meeting, as published in the February 2015 edition of Sparks & Cinders, be approved. Bob McLeod seconded the motion. It was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Treasurer Tom Hoffmann presented his financial report for 2015. The details are the same as shown in the minutes of the January 2, 2016 Board of Directors meeting minutes, except for the inclusion of our certificate of deposit, valued at \$27,558.29 on December 31, 2015, and our mutual fund, valued at \$47,402.21, as of September 30, 2015. These are the latest statements that Tom had received.

Board member Mike Yuhas and member and CPA Jerry Krug will audit the financial records on Thursday, January 21, 2016.

President Dave Nelson explained that the certificate of deposit and mutual fund had not been part of the regular financial report up to now. This money had originally come from our participation in Butler Railroad Days in the early 1980's. It was used to finance publication of A Railfan's Guide to Wisconsin. The profits from it were rolled into first Wisconsin Rails I and then Wisconsin Rails II. Changes in the publishing industry make publishing of further books financially unattractive. Publication costs for the first Railfan's Guide in the late 1980's had been in excess of \$41,000. There may a partial update of the Railfan's Guide. It may be published on line to reduce costs. Nothing is ready to publish yet.

Bob Joyce moved that the Treasurer's report for 2015 be accepted, subject to audit as stated above. There was a second. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

President Dave Nelson presented a summary of the Board of Directors meeting on Saturday, January 2, 2016. (As the complete minutes of that meeting are being published, the summary will not be shown here.) Ralph McClure is in charge of planning for 2016 events. He is actively looking for both event ideas and committee members.

The next order of business was the election of officers and directors for 2016. All of the incumbents had indicated their willingness to continue on. There are no longer any term limits to prevent their doing so. President Dave Nelson called twice for any other nominations from the floor. There were none. Therefore the existing Board of Directors meeting nominates:

Dave Nelson for President  
Keith Schmidt for Vice President  
Tom Hoffmann for Treasurer  
Tom Marcussen for Secretary  
Bob Baker, Ralph McClure, Bob McLeod, Greg Mross, Andrew Roach, Cathy Wegner, Neil Wegner and Mike Yugas for the Board of Directors.

Bob Joyce moved that the nominations be closed, and the above slate be declared elected. Jerry Krug seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote. President Dave Nelson called for any other business to be discussed. There was none.

There will be another Board of Directors meeting in a few weeks. The next formal business meeting will be on Friday, January 6, 2017 (unless there is a major issue that calls for another such meeting sooner).

Bob McLeod moved that the formal business meeting be adjourned. Kathy Wegner seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote. The formal business meeting was adjourned at 7:54 pm.

#### **Announcements and Discussions**

Treasurer Tom Hoffmann has reserved space at Pallas Restaurant for our 2016 annual banquet on Saturday, May 7, 2016. Tentatively we shall have the same menu as the 2015 banquet. Banquet chairs Don and Debbie Goerke may adjust it. Don and Debbie are now actively seeking door prize donations. Our tentative speaker will be Rick Grossmann (spelling?), Vice President and Manager of Equipment for First Union Rail, a Chicago-based nationwide lessor of freight cars that is owned by Wells Fargo Bank.

All or most of the members present have now received their annual dues / renewal notices from NRHS National. National dues remain at \$50.00 per year, payable to National. They will now accept checks with no added charge. Payments of National and Chapter dues remain separate. Chapter dues are payable to Treasurer Tom Hoffmann. They are \$15.00 for those who are National members through this or another Chapter. The cost for Sparks & Cinders subscribers who are not members is \$17.50.

National has resumed publication of the full-color National Railway Bulletin. They will attempt to again print and mail some issues of the black-and-white NRHS News. It is unlikely to again be every two months. The primary means of publishing news will be on the web site.

There will be an exhibit on the art (and photography) of the North Shore Line at the Milwaukee School of Engineering Grohmann Art Museum from January 22 through April 24. Opening night is Gallery Night, with free admission and a presentation by well-known North Shore photographer John Gruber at 7:00 pm. President Dave Nelson is organizing an informal dinner at the Water Street Brewery at 5:00 pm. Members interested in attending should contact him directly.

Dave Nelson exhibited the brown hat that was left behind after the meeting on November 6, 2015. Bob Joyce claimed it.

Neal and Cathy Wegner reported on their round trip on Amtrak's Empire Builder for the New Year's Eve celebration at the Izzak Walton Inn in Essex, Montana. Westbound train 7 was on time and ran without incident. All trains ran close to on time while they were there. When they appeared at the depot on the morning of Saturday, January 2, to board eastbound train 8 at 9:00 am, they were told it was running 6 hours late, and would not appear until 3:00 pm. It left Essex at 8:00 pm, which was 11 hours late. It got back to Milwaukee at 1:00 am on Monday, January 4, which was also about 11 hours late. Amtrak provided a complimentary dinner on both nights of January 2 and 3, but its quality was low.

Kathy Bruecker reported on reported her experience riding the Hoosier State between Chicago and Indianapolis. The Hoosier State is privately operated by Iowa Pacific Holdings on the days that Amtrak's Cardinal does not run. Business class offers dome rides and premium food service for \$22.00 more than the regular fare. The Sheraton Downtown hotel offers premium space in 26 former Pullman cars in the former Indianapolis Union Station. There will be a full report on this service in the March issue of Trains magazine, which should be published early in February.

The announcements and discussions ended at 8:11 pm, and were followed by a 7-minute interval for payment of dues to Treasurer Tom Hoffmann.

#### **Presentation**

Tom Hoffmann presented his (excellent—as usual) “20 Years Ago—1996,” from 8:18 to 9:07 pm.

President Dave Nelson urged all present to be cautious on leaving the meeting. The temperature was 34F and dropping when we had come in, and it was still raining lightly.

Respectfully Submitted  
Thomas W. Marcussen  
Chapter Secretary

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## Schedule Change for February 2016 Meeting President Dave Nelson presents

Due an unavoidable schedule conflict, Tom Danneman will not be able to present at the February Chapter meeting. Instead he will be giving his presentation on railfanning in Montana at the March meeting. Chapter President David Nelson will move up his scheduled presentation into the February slot: the Bucyrus-Erie factory and Its Railroad. This will be a look at one of the oldest and largest remaining industrial rail operations in the Milwaukee area, and will include rare interior shots of the factory itself and historic photos from the Bucyrus-Erie archives. The meeting will begin at 7:30pm with announcements and raifan news. Come and enjoy this unique presentation.

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## ***FROM THE PRESIDENT***

Many thanks to all members who attended our Annual Meeting on January 8. The incumbent Board was re-elected and we thank you for your continued confidence. Also thanks to those who took the opportunity to pay their membership dues, or Sparks & Cinders subscription payments, to treasurer Tom Hoffmann. If you have not paid your dues to Tom (or your National dues to the NRHS) please do so ASAP. It is good to know that the NRHS is no longer bleeding money as it was and that our dues payments (and donations) to NRHS actually help accomplish the goals of the organization again.

At the Chapter Board's meeting on January 2, a number of important topics came up. I want to discuss three of them here. The first is the matter of our website which as you may know has been inactive for a few years, and does little or nothing to encourage attendance at our meetings. We are going to take steps to make it more informative and entertaining to you the members, and of greater interest to the railfan and rail historian communities as a whole with more content and continuously changing content. To that end, Mike Yugas, Keith Schmidt, Bob Baker and Andrew Roach have agreed to serve on a newly formed media/marketing committee to make recommendations to the Board about how to improve and expand our website. If any of you would like to assist, I would encourage you to contact me or any of those three gentlemen. We are particularly interested in those with actual website development experience.

*From the President continued from Page 3*

Another topic that came up (again) at the meeting from Board member Ralph McClure is, isn't there more the Chapter can do in the way of "events" and activities beyond the nine Friday night presentations and the banquet? Ralph was "rewarded" for his persistence on this topic by being made the head of an Events and Activities committee, which will report specific proposals to me and to the Board as a whole. Bob McCleod and Bob Baker agreed to help Ralph on the committee. I am sure they would welcome your thoughts, information, and assistance. There is no shortage of worthwhile day trips that come readily to mind. I would only say that, after the experience of trying (and, mostly, failing) to get enough people interested in taking a Badger Bus to the Janesville roundhouse last summer, it is unlikely that we would attempt that again.

Lastly, as those of you who attended the January meeting noted during the financial report, in addition to the active funds and accounts that the Chapter maintains and which have been reported on regularly at our business meetings, many years ago the Chapter accumulated and carefully set aside substantial sums of money in a CD and in an investment account to prepare for the considerable expenses associated with creating and publishing a Wisconsin Rails III book. Those sums came from Butler 400 excursions, and from the sales of the old Wisconsin Railfan's Guide and the Wisconsin Rails books. Because of the dedicated purpose for those funds they were not routinely reported on in the financial reports. Please note: this is NOT to say that we are ruling out a sequel to Wisconsin Rails I and II, and in fact there seems to be some genuine interest in updating and improving a Railfan's Guide to Wisconsin for publication. Rather, those projects are not so immediate that there is any compelling reason not to include those funds in the usual financial report and treasurer's report to the members. It may well be that some of those funds will be needed for the website changes and improvements.

*Dave*

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## Dues Renewal Time—Please Read !!

**DUES RENEWAL:** It is my understanding that National Headquarters has placed the responsibility of collecting local chapter dues up to the local chapter. Therefore we are giving notice that renewal for 2016 has begun. Rather than having members cut up a page from Sparks and Cinders, we are requesting that you send your remittance direct to the Treasurer at the address that appears on S&C.

Tom Hoffmann  
1102 Aspen Drive  
Waukesha, WI 53188

For persons that belong to NATIONAL, the annual membership is \$15.00, payable to Wisconsin Chapter NRHS.

To Only SUBSCRIBE to Sparks & Cinders, the annual subscription is \$17.50, payable to Wisconsin Chapter NRHS.

With your payment to Tom PLEASE include an email address if one is available. We are trying to establish a Chapter email list.

Persons that belong to National, but are members via another chapter, will be addressed separately via email or telephone.

Deadline for Chapter Dues renewal is February 1, 2015.

Tom Hoffmann, Wisconsin Chapter  
Treasurer

## 2016 Wisconsin Chapter NRHS Officers and Board of Directors

**Congratulations** to the newly elected or re-elected Officers and Board members of the Wisconsin Chapter NRHS  
President - Dave Nelson, Vice - President - Keith Schmidt  
Secretary - Tom Marcussen, Treasurer - Tom Hoffmann

Board of Directors - Bob Baker, Mike Yuhas, Ralph McClure, Robert McCleod, Andrew Roach, Neil and Cathy Wegner and Greg Mross.

Thank You for serving and helping to maintain railroad history in the State of Wisconsin.

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## Canadian Pacific Radio Channel Updates

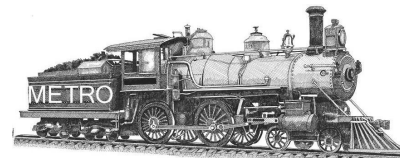
During the month of November the Canadian Pacific changed the radio channels used for voice communications on a portion of the C&M Subdivision and on the entire Watertown Subdivision. Frequency 160.770 (AAR 44) is now once again used on the entire Subdivision from Chicago to the Cut-Off in Milwaukee. The Watertown Subdivision, from the Cut-Off to Portage, moved over to 161.370 (AAR 84).

With these changes the CP's radio channels in the region are now as follows:

160.770 (AAR 44) C&M Sub. Chicago - Cut-Off  
Fox Lake Sub. Rondout - Fox Lake  
161.370 (AAR 84) Watertown Sub. Cut-Off - Portage  
161.430 (AAR 88) Muskego Yard General Yard Master  
160.725 (AAR 41) Muskego Yard

*Article by Dan Grudzielanek*

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## The Original 21st Annual Model Railroad Show

Sunday March 6, 2016

9am to 4pm

Circle B Recreation  
Cedarburg, WI

- ◆ Multiple Operating Layouts
- ◆ Model Train Swap Meet 50+ Tables
- ◆ Indoor Train Ride for the Kids

Sponsored by the  
Metro Model Railroad Club Ltd of  
Port Washington, WI

Directions I-43 to Hwy 60, Hwy 60 West for 4 miles  
Address 6261 Hwy 60

Admission: Adults \$3.00 Kids 12 and Under FREE !!

For more information contact:  
www.metroclub.org  
email jbartelt@metroclub.org  
Call Jim Bartelt 262-284-5876

# Minutes of Board Meeting

## January 2, 2016

President Dave Nelson called the Saturday, January 2, 2016, meeting of the Board of Directors to order at 12:37 pm. Also present were Vice President Keith Schmidt, Treasurer Tom Hoffmann, Secretary Tom Marcussen, Past President (and Director) Bob Baker, and other directors Ralph McClure, Bob McLeod, Andrew Roach, and Mike Yuhas. Greg Mross, Cathy Wegner and Neil Wegner were absent.

Secretary Tom Marcussen had brought the minutes of the January 2, 2015, board meeting. The last previous board meeting was on April 10, 2015. Those minutes were not available. They were sent and approved by a later e-mail canvass.

Treasurer Tom Hoffmann presented his report. As of December 31, 2015, our US Bank balance is \$2650.51. Almost all of our 2015 transactions were on that account. At Waukesha State Bank, we have \$2222.44 in checking and \$8701.44 in savings, a total of \$10,923.88. That yields a grand total of \$13,574.39—exclusive of CD and investments (see below). We had total receipts of \$3142.87 and expenses of \$4822.78, for a net loss of \$1679.91.

Two annual payments to the North Shore Congregational Church fell into 2015. Each one consisted of a \$450.00 donation to the church, in place of rental, and two \$25.00 gift certificates, one to each of the two church custodians. The North Shore Congregational Church is currently undergoing a change in leadership.

The August 1 charter trip on the East Troy Electric Railroad showed a net loss of over \$500.00.

We had \$425.00 in book sale revenue. Almost all copies of Wisconsin Rails I are gone. Some boxes of Wisconsin Rails II are left. Some sold at Train Fest, through the C&NW Historical Society. The booth rental to sell them ourselves is so much higher that we would not make up the difference, making that idea a money-losing proposition. Only a few were sold at National Train Day at Milwaukee Union Station. Amtrak will not repeat that event in 2016. The Goerkes sold some books. No one knew whether or not they were for sale at the Illinois Railroad Museum in Union, Illinois. They were still for sale at the East Troy Electric Railroad when they closed for the season. Tom Hoffmann is trying to get some more copies into Wall Drug in Wall, South Dakota, and the Black Hills Central Railway gift shop in Hill City, South Dakota, on his trips out there. We did not sell enough to pay any sales tax above the minimum administrative fee to hold a Wisconsin reseller's (sales tax) license.

Mike Yuhas moved that we accept the Treasurer's report subject to audit. Mike volunteered to serve on the audit committee, and to call Jerry Krug (a member who is also a CPA) to serve with him. The audit will be scheduled to be held before a future regular membership meeting. Keith Schmidt seconded the motion. It passed on a unanimous voice vote.

Agenda Item 1 was the nomination of a slate of Chapter officers for 2016. All of the incumbents had indicated their willingness to continue on. There are no longer any term limits to prevent their doing so. No one present made any other nominations. Therefore the proposed slate consists of Dave Nelson (President), Keith Schmidt (Vice President), Tom Hoffmann (Treasurer), Tom Marcussen (Secretary), and Bob Baker, Ralph McClure, Bob McLeod, Greg Mross, Andrew Roach, Cathy Wegner, Neil Wegner and Mike Yuhas for the Board of Directors. Nominations will be accepted from the floor, and elections will be held, at the annual business meeting on Friday, January 8, 2016. Agenda Item 2 was the revised reporting of the value of our Certificate of Deposit and Mutual Fund shares. These were bought with funds dating back to Butler Railroad Days in the early 1980's, and the Railfan's Guide to Wisconsin in the late 1980's.

They had been held in reserve for the possible publication of a Wisconsin Rails III. Bob Baker, the author of Wisconsin Rails I and Wisconsin Rails II, indicated that he is unlikely to produce another book. The book market has changed, making another book unlikely to be a paying proposition. There was a suggestion to more aggressively manage these assets to produce more income. Long term it appears both accounts have earned satisfactory returns. Moreover, Internal Revenue Service rules do not allow not-for-profit organizations to have business income unrelated to our stated purposes. Taking on greater investment risks with Chapter funds just to get a higher return is not necessary or wise for a not-for-profit. Bob Baker moved that Tom Hoffmann change the Treasurer's report to include the above assets with their current value, purpose, and history. Keith Schmidt seconded the motion. It was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Agenda Item 3 was the Chapter Web Site. We currently pay our Web Master Andy Mueller \$95.49 per year for the web space and our domain name. The content has not changed for a long time. It does put our name and a lot of photos out there. It would be more useful if the meeting information were kept current. Doing so would require providing the information to our Web Master well in advance of its publication in Sparks & Cinders. Mike Yuhas moved that we appoint a Marketing and Media Committee to explore our options and make a recommendation(s), with a target date between April and June of 2016. Keith Schmidt seconded the motion. It passed by unanimous voice vote. Dave Nelson appointed Mike Yuhas as the committee chair (which Mike accepted), and asked for additional volunteers. Keith Schmidt and Bob Baker volunteered. We will ask for more volunteers at the regular membership meeting on Friday, January 8, 2016.

Agenda Item 4 was planning for Chapter events in 2016. All agreed that the charter tour of the East Troy Electric Railroad on August 1 had worked out well. There was some reluctance to do the same thing(s) every year. It was not known whether the cancelled Janesville Roundhouse tour (August 15, 2015) would be rescheduled, or on what date. If it is, there will not be a charter bus due to low interest and response in 2015.

Ralph McClure suggested that we need 3 or 4 events per year to expand the Chapter membership. We could do an overnight trip to the Illinois Railroad Museum. There is a Super 8 Motel on Illinois Route 47 south of Woodstock, and another one in Hampshire, at US 20 and the Northwest Tollway (Interstate 90). We could go to Rochelle, Illinois, and have a cookout. Other possibilities include the National Railroad Museum in Green Bay, the Mid-Continent Museum in North Freedom, Galesburg Illinois, Little Americka in Marshall, the Silver Creek & Stephenson in NW Illinois, The Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago, the SS Badger out of Manitowoc, or the railroad museums at Colfax, Duluth, or Osceola. Ralph McClure remains in charge of the excursion / activities committee. Bob McLeod and Bob Baker also volunteered. They are actively seeking suggestions. They will ask for more help and suggestions at the regular membership meeting on Friday, January 8, 2016.

Agenda Item 5 was whether or not to consider donations to any other railroad causes or organizations. We still want to try to tie these to our scope and purpose—railroad preservation in Wisconsin, or no further away than the Midwest USA. It would also be helpful if a donation could open the door to an excursion or event (above). President Dave Nelson will come up with some suggestions, up to \$500.00. He is open to other's suggestions. NRHS National was moving toward becoming a donor organization, before the reorganization was voted down. There are rumors of a proposal to make payment of National dues optional. It is considered unlikely to pass. NRHS National is now recommending that members not use the "Amelia" system for on-line payment of dues.



Board Meeting Minutes Continued from Page 4

Agenda Item 6 was the May 2016 banquet. The tentative date is Saturday, May 7. We will try to go back to Pallas (the site of our 2015 banquet). No reservation exists now. We will bring our own sound system this time. Mike Yugas will try to get Rick Grossman, Vice President at a freight car leasing company, to be our speaker.

Agenda Item 7 was the lightly attended annual picnic at the Milwaukee Light Engineering Society railroad park in the Town of Jackson. We had been donating about \$75.00 in most years, and up to \$250.00, to them. Attendance has been getting lighter and lighter. We gave \$75.00 in 2014, and nothing in 2015. The consensus was to not have a formal event in 2016. There may be another picnic somewhere else, maybe a park with a view of full-size railroad operations.

Agenda Item 8 was the presentations at our regular membership meetings. We are especially seeking a more diverse base, and less repetition of the other programs out there. We may have to offer to pay expenses to bring in presenters from a wider area. Dave Nelson will do the presentation in March. Bob Baker will do April. We are still looking for somebody for June. President Dave Nelson asked if there were any additional business or topics to discuss. Mike Yugas thanked everyone in attendance for coming in on a Saturday afternoon, for a much more extensive discussion than would have been possible before a regular general membership meeting. There was no other business to add.

Mike Yugas made a motion to adjourn. It was seconded and passed by unanimous voice vote. The board meeting was adjourned at 2:24 pm.

Respectfully Submitted  
Thomas W. Marcussen  
Chapter Secretary

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## Save the Date - Annual Banquet

The annual Chapter banquet will be Saturday, May 7 at the Pallas Restaurant at 1657 S 108th St Highway 100 (the same as last year). Final details will be announced in the next couple of months. However it is never too early to get some good door prizes to Don and Debbie Goerke for the banquet.

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## Wisconsin has new Railroad Commissioner

In January 2016 Jeff Plale resigned as the Railroad Commissioner in Wisconsin. Jeff Plale was appointed as Railroad Commissioner in August 2011. Jeff was the speaker at the Wisconsin Chapter NRHS banquet in May 2013. Governor Walker has appointed Yash Wadhwa as the new commissioner. Commissioner Wadhwa is from Glendale, WI. He is a retired civil engineer that worked with the MMSD Deep Tunnel project. He also served as a board member for the Metropolitan Association of Commerce, Wisconsin Association of Consulting Engineers and Wisconsin Society of Professional Engineers. The appointment still has to be confirmed by the Wisconsin state senate.



## N&W #611 to pull excursions in 2016.

Even though the Norfolk and Southern announced the end of its 21st Century Steam Program steam in the south will still run pulled by the Queen of Steam Norfolk and Western #611.

The end of the 21st Century Steam Program means that the Norfolk Southern Railroad will not sponsor trips in the different areas of the NS system. These company sponsored trips had been pulled by several steam locomotives. The steam engines featured included Southern 630 a 2-8-0, Southern 4501 2-8-2 and Nickel Plate #765 2-8-4 Berkshire. These locomotives may run with excursions this summer but not sponsored by the NS.

Below is a list of the excursions that will be pulled by N&W #611 Class J 4-8-4 locomotive. The #611 was rebuilt and brought back under steam last year and pulled several trips. The #611 will be heading to Spencer and the North Carolina Transportation Museum where the locomotive will receive some maintenance.

On April 23 and 24, full-day trips will depart Greensboro, NC, to Roanoke, VA, and return to Greensboro.

611 will return to Roanoke to lead half-day excursions on May 7 and 8. Morning excursions will run from Roanoke to Lynchburg and back via the Blue Ridge grade. Afternoon trips will run from Roanoke to Walton and return via the Christiansburg grade. The morning and afternoon trips are separate excursions.

On June 4 and 5, 611 will pull a total of three trips from Manassas, VA, to Front Royal, VA, and return: One roundtrip on the morning of Saturday June 4 and two roundtrips on Sunday, June 5, as part of the 22nd Annual Manassas Heritage Railway Festival.

All excursions are round trip:

April 9, 2016 – The Virginian, Spencer, NC, to Lynchburg, VA

April 10, 2016 – The Blue Ridge Special, Spencer, NC, to Asheville, NC

April 23, 2016 – The Roanoker, Greensboro, NC to Roanoke, VA

April 24, 2016 – The Roanoker, Greensboro, NC to Roanoke, VA

May 7, 2016 – The Powhatan Arrow, Roanoke, VA, to Lynchburg, VA

May 7, 2016 – The Pelican, Roanoke, VA, to Walton (Radford), VA

May 8, 2016 – The Powhatan Arrow, Roanoke, VA, to Lynchburg, VA

May 8, 2016 – The Pelican, Roanoke, VA, to Walton (Radford), VA

June 4, 2016 – The American, Manassas, VA, to Front Royal, VA, (runs once)

June 5, 2016 – The American, Manassas, VA, to Front Royal, VA, (runs twice)

For safety reasons, there will be no open vestibules or open vestibule windows, or photo run-bys. The public is encouraged to take pictures of 611 for personal use when the locomotive is stopped in publicly accessible locations and when it is in operation. All passengers and spectators must stay off and away from the tracks, respect Norfolk Southern and other private property, and adhere to all instructions from NS and other security personnel.



# From the Archives

## February 1951 — 65 Years Ago

The feature article, by Ed Willkommen, Jr., was a recap of a 1950 ride on the Milwaukee Road's Milwaukee-Janesville local.

## February 1956 — 60 Years Ago

Latest scrap news: Milwaukee Road: January 29 – 214, 1009, 1483, 221. February 5 – 264, 209, 229, 239, 213, 1027, 224, 227, 986....A fund has been established to put Milwaukee Road 265 in a city park. The goal is \$25,000. As of February 9 the total on hand is \$895.98....The Milwaukee Journal has donated \$35,000 to build a miniature railroad at the new zoo now being built. The railroad will be about two miles long. Equipment will consist of six coaches and a locomotive. What type of locomotive to be run has not been decided. There are two possible choices. First is a steam engine which would be an Atlantic 4-4-2, the other choice is a diesel, an EMD F-7

## February 1961 — 55 Years Ago

CB&Q O-5b No. 5632 will power a Sunday trip at the 1961 NRHS National Convention in Chicago. (sponsored by Wisconsin Chapter)....The Wauwatosa depot is no more, a bank having purchased the property and torn the depot down. Cannonball passengers now use a small shelter somewhat to the east of the now departed depot.

## February 1965 - 50 Years Ago

One of our more capable photographers has broken into the "big-time" as a formal travelog performer. Don Reck will present an expanded version of his D&RGW Silverton narrow gauge film (which was one of the better films ever presented at a Chapter meeting) as the Milwaukee Public Museum film of the evening for February 16. Don states, "The film can be classed as a documentary-travelog of the railfan nature. Since showing it to the Chapter, I have re-shot much in order to get better settings and light conditions. The film has some very beautiful scenes along the route of the Yampa Valley Mail as well as the narrow gauge. This is the first time a railfan film has been shown at the lecture series

## February 1971 - 45 Years Ago

Jim Scribbins has compiled a complete listing of all scheduled passenger rail service in Wisconsin. It includes 75 different schedules (not all daily), of long distance and suburban trains on four railroads....Jerry Hilton reports that currently Milwaukee Road Nos. 5 and 6, the Hiawathas, may be photographed in daylight at Duplainville. He recommends getting all the photos you can since it is possible all passenger service in the area will be eliminated when Railpax (the planning name for Amtrak — ed.) takes over the nation's rail passenger service....It was reported that the Milwaukee Road is planning to close its Milwaukee Shops sometime in February. This will result in the layoff of 800-900 machinists, electricians, carmen, boilermakers, and blacksmiths

## February 1976 - 40 Years Ago

Mike Schafer will present a program on how to put together a program at the February Chapter meeting....The February issue of Sparks & Cinders included an up-to-date Milwaukee Road locomotive roster.

## February 1981 - 35 Years Ago

Carl Wall, Chief Special Agent for the AT&SF will be the speaker at the February 6 meeting. His presentation will feature the coordination between railroads and railfans to combat vandalism to railroad property....The ICG ceased operations in Wisconsin on January 30 and the Chicago, Madison & Northern began operations on the line on February 2....The Circus World Museum in Baraboo announced that it would produce a circus parade in Chicago on May 24.

## February 1986 - 30 Years Ago

Bob Baker is looking for information regarding good photo locations, equipment on display, and other rail facilities for inclusion in the new "Railfan's Guide to Wisconsin" being published by the Chapter....The C&NW KK River Bridge is frozen and out of service because of record high water levels in Lake Michigan. The C&NW Mitchell Yard to Marsh Yard job is detoured over the Milwaukee Road Milwaukee River bridge....The North Freedom Snow Train™ is scheduled to operate February 15 and 16.

## February 1991 — 25 Years Ago

Shades of "Silver Streak." On the afternoon of December 31 as a Metra train was being coupled up at the Western Ave. coach yard it sprang to life and headed out on the main line for Union Station, unmanned. It sped by Tower A-2 at Western Ave. pushing six cars. It derailed on the tight curve north of Union Station, completely blocking the north entrance....American European Express operated its first train from Chicago to White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia, on December 21....Fifty years after its first run, a North Shore Line Electroliner, in its original green and red livery, will operate at the Illinois Railway Museum on February 9 and 10. Fare for the inaugural trip on February 9 is \$100.

## February 1996—20 Years Ago

The UP has made several changes to former C&NW operating subdivisions and radio frequencies. The Chicago-Milwaukee line has been re-mileposted....The ex-C&NW swing bridge across the Kinnickinnic River, built in 1894, was demolished by explosives on January 19....NRHS Chairman of the Board and Director of Membership Records V. Allan Vaughn passed away on January 14.

## February 2001—15 Years Ago

The proxies were counted and former WC CEO Ed Burkhardt conceded defeat on January 13. Burkhardt had hoped to gain control of the railroad and replace the Board of Directors with his own slate because he felt the current officers were not operating the railroad in the best interests of shareholders.... After just one month of operation, Amtrak's Acela Express high-speed train is living up to its billing by outrunning revenue projections and posting an on-time record that airlines can only envy....As of December 31, 2000, there were 64 ex-CNW units still active on the UP.

## February 2006—10 Years Ago

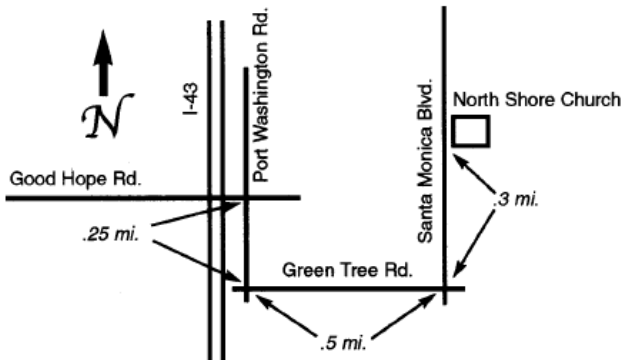
A lengthy article by Dave Ingles highlighted recent service expansions in Metra service. Among the notable items was the extension of the UP West Service from Geneva to Elburn; the North Central Service increased train frequency from 10 to 22 trains daily; the South West Service increased train frequency from 16 to 30 trains daily plus an extension from Orland Park/179th Street to Manhattan; and several infrastructure improvements including a second main track on the CN Waukesha Sub. and extension of the third main track on the UP Geneva Sub. from Geneva to Elburn....Amtrak is wrapping up an agreement with Chicago real estate firm Jones Lang LaSalle Inc. that would revive efforts to expand and spruce up Chicago's landmark Union Station. The proposal calls for an 18-story addition to the eight-story building at 210 S. Canal, which is owned by Amtrak. About 1.25 million square feet would be added to the building with no alterations to its Great Hall waiting room, regarded as one of the finest public spaces in the United States.

Sparks & Cinders  
 1102 Aspen Dr  
 Waukesha, WI 53188

**FIRST CLASS**

**Chapter Meeting Location**

North Shore Congregational Church  
 7330 N. Santa Monica Blvd.  
 Fox Point, WI



**BAD WEATHER CANCELLATION**

In case of inclement weather on a Chapter meeting night, check the radio and TV stations or web sites listed below for possible meeting cancellation.

<b>Radio</b>	<b>TV</b>
WTMJ - AM620	WTMJ Channel 4.1
WISN - AM1130	WISN Channel 12.1

**Internet**  
[www.todaystmj4.com](http://www.todaystmj4.com) (click on "closings")  
[www.wisn.com](http://www.wisn.com) (click on "weather," then "closings")

Sparks & Cinders is published by and for the members of the Wisconsin Chapter, Inc., National Railway Historical Society monthly except for July and August. The Chapter meets at the North Shore Congregational Church, 7330 N. Santa Monica Blvd., Fox Point, Wisconsin, on the first Friday of each month, except July and August, at 7:30 p.m. The Wisconsin Chapter, Inc., NRHS, is a not-for-profit corporation, affiliated with the National Railway Historical Society and the Wisconsin Historical Society, organized to preserve the history of railroading in Wisconsin and the surrounding area.

The interim editor of Sparks & Cinders is Keith Schmidt. All material to be included in Sparks & Cinders should be sent to him via U.S. Mail to 3286 S. Springfield Ave Milwaukee, WI 53207 or by e-mail to: [sparksandcinders@gmail.com](mailto:sparksandcinders@gmail.com) by the 15th of the month preceding the month of publication. All address changes should be sent to the treasurer, Tom Hoffmann, 1102 Aspen Dr., Waukesha, WI 53188-2314.

Membership in the Chapter is open to anyone having an interest in any aspect of railroading. A subscription to Sparks & Cinders is included in the annual dues of \$65.00 per year which also includes membership in the national organization and a subscription to its publications, NRHS Bulletin and NRHS News. Officers of the Wisconsin Chapter are: President, Dave Nelson; Vice-President, Keith Schmidt; Secretary, Tom Marcussen, Treasurer, Tom Hoffmann; National Director Tom Hoffmann; Directors, Greg Mross, Mike Yuhas, Robert McLeod, Ralph McClure, Andrew Roach, Neil and Cathy Wegner and Past President Bob Baker.

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