Wisconsin Chapter National Railway Historical Society

Volume 66 Number 6



June 2016

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



In This Issue

- From the President
- Chapter Outing Announcement
- Mainline Steam to Visit WI

Upcoming Events June 2016

AMRC All Star Railroad Night - 35th Season

As of right now NO schedule for September 2016. Group is looking for possible new venue. Please watch for updates. Thank You for 35 Years.

TMER&THS (Traction and Bus Club) www.tmer.org

Saturday June 18, 2016 Chase Bank - Cudahy 7:30pm SE Corner Packard and Layton Use East Lot "Kankakee Transit" by Bill Shapotkin

WISE Division NMRA
www.wisedivision.org
No Monthly Meets in Summer
NMRA National Convention
July 3rd to July 10th
Indianapolis, IN
www.nmra2016.org For more Information

Milwaukee Road Historical Association www.mrha.com

June 23-26, 2016 Carleton, Montana

C&NW Historical Society www.cnwhs..org

NRHS National Convention www.nrhs.com July 19-24, 2016 Denver, CO

To Contact the Wisconsin Chapter NRHS

President Dave Nelson Email at engine 1385@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

June 3rd "An Hour of Slides taken by Cyril "Cy" Mennen

Join us Friday June 3rd for a very special treat. Matt Planning the Grandson of Cyril "Cy" Mennen will be presenting an hour of his Grandfather's slide. Cy Mennen worked for the Milwaukee Road from 1935 to 1975. During that time Cy took slides of the Milwaukee Road. These slides have never been seen by any group other than a small group that included friends of Cy. Matt is not a train enthusiasts but he says that the slides will be of interest to all. He is also looking for help in identifying locations and other items of interest in the slides. Hopefully our chapter members can help him with that. Should be a great night and the final meeting of the 2015-2016 season.

The meeting will begin at 7:30pm with announcements and any rail news from the area. After the brief announcements the slides will begin. The meeting is in the basement of the North Shore Congregational Church at 7330 N Santa Monica Dr. The basement is handicap accessible with an elevator. Please arrive on time as the doors must be locked by 8pm. Bring a friend or enemy



Wisconsin Chapter Meeting Schedule

Friday June 3, 2016 - Milwaukee Road Slides of Cy Mennen Friday September 9, 2016 - Favorite Slide/Digital Photo Night NOTE CHANGE IN DATE FOR SEPT 2016!!!

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

May 2016 Meeting Summary

With the May 2016 meeting being the annual Chapter banquet there is no meeting summary.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Once again we enjoyed a very pleasant evening and a good meal at the Pallas Restaurant for our annual banquet. Many thanks to Don and Debbie Goerke for working on the menu and on the door prizes. Our guest speaker, Rick Grossman, put a great deal of thought into his overview not only of his own lengthy railroad career but the general topic of modern day freight car ownership. Many thanks to Mike Yuhas, also, for introducing me to Rick and in making this presentation come to pass.

Mike has also worked hard at transitioning the Chapter's website into the start of a new and I hope exciting era of internet-based communications and presentations of matters of interest to Chapter members and the railfan community as a whole. Visit the website and you will see a difference, and this is just the beginning. We do need to thank Andy Mueller for graciously keeping the Chapter website live and intact for these many years.

From the President continued

Long-time Chapter member Ed Ahrenhoerster alerted me to the interesting collection of slides owned by Matt Planning, that were taken by his grandfather Cy Mennen during Cy's 40 year career with the Milwaukee Road. Matt has graciously agreed to be our presenter in June and I am fascinated at the chance to see classic Milwaukee Road photos that have not been shown to other railfan group in the area. Thank you, Ed, for this service to the Chapter.

In this issue is an article about the trip to the National Railway Museum in Green Bay that has been arranged by our "events" committee of Ralph McClure and Bob McLeod. I encourage you to join us at what promises to be a more interesting opportunity to see the inner workings of the Museum.



Chapter to Visit National Railway Museum in Green Bay June 25th

On June 25th we will be going to Green Bay to the National Railway Museum, where for the price of \$13.50 each we will not only have regular admission to the Museum as a whole, but will be given special "Behind the Scenes" tours of items not on display, the engine shops, and areas where exhibits are prepared for display. Each tour is limited to 12 persons.

Transportation to Green Bay is entirely up to you. The Museum is at 2285 South Broadway, one block east of Highway 32. Plan to arrive around 10:15 am. Group tours (45 minutes) will start at 10:30. After enjoying the Museum those who wish will make their way to Titletown Brewing in downtown Green Bay for food and libations, but again, this is entirely up to each of you.

Many thanks to Ralph McClure and Bob McLeod for arranging this Chapter event.



New Chapter Website is Live

In early May, the chapter's new website went live at nrhswis.org. Content, for now, consists of PDFs of recent issues of Sparks & Cinders (in color!), information about the chapter, info about our meetings (and a map to make navigation easy for newcomers), and a PDF of Dan Grudzielanek's railroad radio frequency listings. Additional content will be added over the next few months.

The new website will augment Sparks & Cinders, and will be able to provide members with important, late-breaking chapter info. For instance, if a meeting needed to be cancelled due to inclement weather, a notice would be posted on the website.

The new nrhswis.org features responsive design, which means the content display is optimized for the user's particular browser. In other words, smartphone users will have a viewing experience equal to that of desktop computer users.

As the new website is a work in progress, ideas for content are actively solicited. Please contact webmaster Mike Yuhas (mike@ mikeyuhas.org) with suggestions.

The chapter gratefully acknowledges the contributions of Andy Mueller for maintaining the previous website for many years.

For news about your chapter, please remember to visit nrhswis.org often!



The Plymouth Model Railroad Club is hoping to find a buyer for its five-ton Plymouth gasoline-hydrostatic industrial switcher which for some years has been displayed near the two depots in Plymouth. The 3-foot gauge, 92 horsepower engine was built in 1968 and was purchased by the club in 1996 from the old Badger Ammunitions Plant in Baraboo. Also included in the sale are a 20 foot flatcar and a stack of railroad ties (stored in Glenbulah). Purchaser is responsible for all pickup, loading and removal. Operating manuals and diagrams for the engine are included in the sale. The club asks that there be inquires from serious buyers only. Darrell Menzer, club president, is at 920-889-4264. Ron Merriman, club treasurer, is at 920-994-2966. Calls between 10 am and 8 pm Monday to Saturday, please.



Annual Chapter Banquet May 7th

About 40 members of the Wisconsin Chapter NRHS gathered at Pallas Family Restaurant in West Allis, WI to enjoy some good food, fellowship and learn about freight car management. The banquet went well. The food was well received by those in attendance. Don and Debbie Goerke are to be thanked again for their efforts in organizing the banquet and for the many door prizes available for those in attendance.

Rick Grossman was the speaker for the evening. Rick works for Wells Fargo Rail former FURX First Union Rail. Rick discussed the travels of a freight car and the challenges of managing a fleet of close to 185,000 cars and 1,800 locomotives. Thank you to Mike Yuhas for arranging for Rick to be the speaker at the banquet.



Chapter President Dave Nelson thanks Rick Grossman for his presentation at the Banquet. *Photo by Mike Yuhas*

Rio Grande Turntable heads for Illinois Railway Museum

A former Denver & Rio Grande Western turntable in Colorado is headed for the Illinois Railway Museum. Museum representatives bought the 130-foot long turntable at auction in late March for their property in Union, Ill. The turntable had previously been in use at the Union Pacific Burnham Shops in Denver, a facility the Union Pacific closed in February.

The turntable is now en route to Illinois on railroad flat car. It is expected to travel from the Class I railroad's North Yard in Denver east to North Platte, Neb., in the coming days.

The American Bridge Co. turntable was delivered to the D&RGW in April 1943, replacing a smaller turntable that had served the Burnham roundhouse. The turntable was refurbished in 2013 after being out of service for several years. The refurbishments costs were valued at \$500,000 to \$750,000.

Courtesy Kalmbach Publishing—TRAINS Newswire



Chapter Member Keith Schmidt receives 2016 Chuck Zehner Award

On Friday May 13, 2016 at the Milwaukee School of Engineering several events were celebrated including the handing out of the 2016 Chuck Zehner award. Wisconsin Chapter NRHS member Keith Schmidt received the 16th Zehner award.



Rich Misunas, emcee of All Star Railroad Night presents Keith Schmidt with the 2016 Zehner Award.



Previous Chuck Zehner Award recipients in attendance at All Star Railroad Night May 13th at MSOE. From Left to Right - David Rohr, Bob Gallegos, Dave Meyer, Keith Schmidt, Jerry Hilton, Bob Baker and Jerry Brettschnieder.

This was the final All Star Railroad Night to be held at Milwaukee School of Engineering. Due to the SOME Model Railroad Club disbanding at the school year. So the group is looking for a new venue to host the monthly event. Hopefully a new location will be found. Please watch for more information about the 2016-2017 season. Thank You for 35 years of support.



Nickel Plate #765 to pull Excursion in Wisconsin

The Fort Wayne Railroad Historical Society has announced that the Nickel Plate #765 Van Swerigen Berkshire 2-8-4 steam locomotive will pull a passenger excursion from Glenview, IL to Janesville, WI and return on Sunday June 12, 2016. The train will run on the Canadian Pacific and Wisconsin and Southern (Watco) rails.

This is the first steam excursions on portions of the line since 1953. "The Varsity" excursion will depart from The Glen of North Glenview Metra station at 7am that Sunday morning. The train will then head north on the Canadian Pacific tracks to Rondout, IL where it will take the Fox Lake sub cut off.

There will be another passenger stop at Fox Lake Metra station scheduled for 8:00am. Then the train will continue northwest on the WSOR tracks to Janesville with announced arrival at 11:00am.

After turning the train in Janesville the NKP #765 will lead the excursion out at 12:30pm. The train is scheduled into Fox Lake at 2:30pm with a one hour stop in Fox Lake.

The train is scheduled to arrive in The Glen of North Glenview at 5:30pm.

This trip is part of the NKP #765 visit to Chicago. On Saturday June 11th the #765 will be on static display at Franklin Park Railroad Days.

For more information or to buy tickets check out www.fortwaynerailroad.org







METRA Trip #4 will Operate on July 30th

All aboard for a day of fun as we run a unique journey aboard three different Metra lines on Saturday, July 30th. Armed with your \$8 Weekend Pass, join Jeff Marker as he leads us a full 200 miles roundtrip from Waukegan to Downers Grove to Manhattan, that's Illinois of course.

If you are interested, we will need to know by Friday, July 22, to match riders and those of you who offer to drive to Waukegan. Telephone Jeff at 414/906-8883, no emails. Cars must load and depart from Milwaukee by 7:30 a.m., to reach the Waukegan Metra Station with ample time to catch the 8:50 a.m., morning Express to downtown Chicago. See the May Sparks & Cinders for additional information.

Arriving Ogilvie Transportation Center at 9:46 a.m., it's just a two block walk south to Union Station to eatch the BNSF 10:40 a.m., local to Downers Grove Main Street. There's ample time to see this landmark station and watch several departures.

At Downers Grove, we cross the tracks in time to return to Chicago aboard the 11:45 a.m., Lollapolooza Express. We run 23 miles non-stop on the famous BNSF "Racetrack" back to Union Station in just 30 minutes. Arriving back it is lunch time with a wide variety of dining options in the food court on your own.

At 1:30 p.m., we're all aboard the only open coach on the Southwest Line local, just one of three roundtrips this day to Manhattan. We run right past Sox Park and Norfolk Southern's big southwest side yard.

Alone at Manhattan, we return to Chicago aboard the 3:15 p.m., departure arriving at 4:40 p.m. Then it's back two long blocks to Ogilvie to catch the 5:10 p.m., evening Express to Waukegan. Arriving at 6:06 p.m., we go our return routes to Milwaukee arriving before 7:30 p.m. Don't forget your camera!!!





UP #844 Announced as pulling the Cheyenne Frontier Days 25th Anniversary Train

After a three year "steam drought" on the Union Pacific it has been announced that the UP #844 4-8-4 Northern will be pulling the 25th Anniversary Cheyenne Frontier Days Excursion train. This train runs from Denver to Cheyenne during the Frontier Days festival and rodeo.

Ed Dickens who is in charge of the Union Pacific steam program has said that the majority of the restoration work on #844 has been completed. He says that the #844 will be ready for Frontier Days train that will run in late July 2016. This is great news for Union Pacific steam fans who enjoyed steam trains for many years either pulled by #844 or the Challenger #3985.

The addition of Big Boy #4014 to the steam fleet last year added some additional work for the crew. The plan is to have the #4014 restored and ready to steam in 2019 for the 150th Anniversary of the Golden Spike at Promontory Point, Utah.

The Challenger #3985 is not being retired. According to Dickens it is just being put on the back burner for right now and will eventually be restored back to running condition.

Article and Photo by Keith Schmidt



UP #844 departs Cheyenne, WY eastbound in July 2005

Is Something Missing??

Did anyone notice something missing from the issue of Sparks and Cinders? If you did you are correct. June was usually the month when the membership roster of the Chapter was printed in Sparks and Cinders. It was decided that since we now put Sparks and Cinders on the chapter website in PDF form that putting the members names, addresses and phone numbers online for all to see would not be the best idea. Tom Hoffmann maintains the membership records. Please get in touch with Tom if contact information is needed for another Chapter member.

Thank You for understanding in this matter. I just felt that this would be the best way to proceed for the future. Keeping in mind the safety and security of our members.



Milwaukee's Harbor Gets some New Track

Over the past several months track crews have been busy down at Milwaukee's harbor, Jones Island. The five track yard on the east side of the harbor has been completely replaced with new rail, switches and ballast. It looks very nice. There have also been some other track replacements done in the same area. Hopefully this is a sign of the island seeing some increased rail traffic. The track on Jones Island is owned by the City of Milwaukee and the Harbor Commission and is used by both the Union Pacific and Canadian Pacific railroads. The Union Pacific Marsh Job is pretty much a daily visitor to Jones Island during the week. The CP visits as needed.



New Yard tracks at Milwaukee Harbor April 17, 2016. *Photo by Keith Schmidt*



Some new rail laid on the track connecting the east and west sides of the harbor. *Photo by Keith Schmidt*



UP switcher on the connection track on Jones Island June 2010 Photo by Keith Schmidt

From the Archives

June 1951 — 65 Years Ago

"This week the trustee for the Milwaukee Rapid Transit & Speedrail Co. asked that the Waukesha-Hales Corners rapid transit lines be abandoned in order to pay off creditors...Local transit is a losing proposition, financially speaking. It is no longer a business but merely a public service. Therefore, it should be publicly owned...Let's just hope something can be done before this fine steel expressway is turned into scrap. If the government can spend \$3.5 million for a new airport terminal, they can spend \$250,000 for this line."— from an editorial by Don Ross

June 1956 — 60 Years Ago

Steam is still in operation on the Omaha where Mikes 417 and 420 head the daily except Sunday way freights between Elroy and Altoona. Operation is expected to continue most of the summer....The Riverside & Great Northern 15 inch gauge steam line at Wisconsin Dells will have an additional half-mile in operation (total of 2 miles) by July 1. The line uses two 4-4-2s.

June 1961 — 55 Years Ago

"Most unpleasant news was the demise of the Olympian Hiawatha as a separate entity. We hate to see the end of an institution such as the Olympian Hiawatha, yet progress and advance not being practical, the Milwaukee's only choice was a strategic retreat. To replace the Olympian, Train 15, lv. Minneapolis 8:40 p.m., ar. Deer Lodge 5:00 p.m. MST, and Train 16, lv. Deer Lodge 8:15 a.m. (MST), ar. Minneapolis 6:35 a.m. will be run. This schedule is effective 23 May. Consist will include Touralux sleepers (coach tickets honored), cafe car, and coaches (unreserved) plus the head end cars. So long Olympian – you went down fighting." – Carl Solheim, editor....Editor Solheim also reported on a field trip on the North Shore Line to Waukegan and return with his class from 38th St. School.

June 1966 - 50 Years Ago

The Combined Depot: With a modest amount of publicity and a minimum of confusion, C&NWpassenger trains began using the new Milwaukee Road Station Monday, May 16. First arrival was Train 147X from Chicago at 7:30 a.m. CDT with E7 5019A, coaches 823, 839, and deadhead diner-lounge 7900. First departure: Train 152 at 7:40 a.m. CDT with E7 5012B, coaches 803 and 809, diner-lounge 7804, coaches 800 and 840. The connection to the C&NWis at Washington Street, handled by the Milwaukee Road "C&M" dispatcher via CTC. The north side connection is at the new "station" of Canco where the Milwaukee Road passes beneath the C&NWWiscona complex. It is handled by the Milwaukee Road operator at North Milwaukee tower.

June 1971 - 45 Years Ago

There were a number of articles detailing the last days of passenger service before Amtrak took over roughly one month ago. The consists of the last BN and the last "City" trains on the Milwaukee Road were listed....The Schlitz Circus Parade Limited is scheduled to leave Baraboo for Milwaukee at 6:15 a.m. June 30 and move on the C&NWvia Madison, Waukesha, and West Allis.

June 1976 - 40 Years Ago

Amtrak's SDP40F locos are the source of bitter complaint by the enginemen who operate them. The locos are said to bottom out, sway, and are subject to violent lateral motion. A number of derailments have occurred and tests are being conducted to improve the stability of the locos....The Wisconsin Chapter hosted the Metropolitan Regional Convention of the Wisconsin Council for Local History on May 8th. Fifty-five persons attended and toured the Milwaukee Road shops and the Wisconsin Club, former residence of Alexander Mitchell

June 1981 - 35 Years Ago

News of the continuing bankruptcy woes of the Milwaukee Road occupied several pages in this month's S&C.

June 1986 - 30 Years Ago

The current liability insurance crisis has forced cancellation of all fantrips, including trips with C&NW No. 1385 scheduled for this summer. To compound the situation, on May 18, an employee special powered by N&W No. 611 derailed in the Great Dismal Swamp....Jerry Hilton reported on steam operations in England, which are flourishing in contrast to the situation in the colonies

June 1991 - 25 Years Ago

Amtrak has signed a contract with Bombardier Corp. for the purchase of 140 new Superliner cars, the first new longdistance cars to be purchased since 1982. The new cars will be used to convert the City of New Orleans, the Capitol Limited, and the Auto Train from Heritage to Superliner cars....Trancisco Tours' Sierra '49er Express, the San Jose/Bay Area - Truckee/Reno luxury train lost \$2.5 million since January and service was suspended on April 28.

June 1996 - 20 Years Ago

The Great Circus Train will run on a new route this year via the UP from Baraboo to Madison, then WSOR via Milton Jct. to Waukesha, then WC to Rugby Jct., then WSOR to Horicon, then back to DBR Jct., then UP to Wiscona, Butler, St. Francis, and the lakefront. The two-day trip will be on July 8 and 9.... BNSF has closed railfan access to Cajon Pass after a February 1st derailment there....Several street crossings on the WC line through Oshkosh have been paved over and crossing gates removed.

June 2001 - 15 Years Ago

Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson resigned as chairman of Amtrak, bowing to White House pressure....Rail service is returning to normal after major flooding on the Upper Mississippi River during April and May....The STB agreed to put the CN/WC merger on fast-track review. The STB agreed that the merger was a "minor" acquisition and therefore exempt from the current moratorium on "major" rail mergers....At a panel discussion former Milwaukee County Executive Dave Schultz said high-speed rail is the answer to crowded airports since airport expansion faces heavy opposition.

June 2006 - 10 Years Ago

Ex-Milwaukee Road Super Dome No. 53 returned to its roots when it was acquired by the Friends of the 261 in 2005 after a series of owners including CN, VIA Rail, C&NW/UP, and North Carolina DOT. It has now been re-painted in its original orange and maroon color scheme....The next UP Heritage paint scheme locomotive will feature D&RGW. A C&NW Heritage unit will debut in mid-July and an SP unit will complete the series which began with MP and WP units in 2005....Railroad Development Corp. of Pittsburgh has acquired two Chinese Q2 class 2-10-2 steam locomotives which will be brought to the Iowa Interstate Railroad. RDC is hoping to sell the locomotives to tourist railroads.

June 2011 - 5 Years Ago

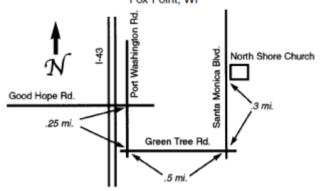
On May 7th Maurice King Manager of Operating Practices for the Union Pacific was the guest speaker for the Chapter's annual banquet at South Woods in Cudahy. Maurice's presentation demonstrated the role that the Union Pacific plays not only in Wisconsin but nationally. It also showed the daily emphasis on safety used by the UP. After the presentation Maurice answered questions from those in attendance. The banquet was well attended and a big Thank You was given to Don and Debbie Goerke for the door prizes.

Sparks & Cinders 1102 Aspen Dr Waukesha, WI 53188



Chapter Meeting Location

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



BAD WEATHER GANGELLATION

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. Radio TV Radio WTMJ - AM620

WISN - AMII30 Internet

www.todaystmj4.com (click on "closings") www.wisn.com (click on "weather," then "closing

WTMJ Channel 4.1 WISN Channel 12.1

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 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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