



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



A Cold Day in Milwaukee as Milwaukee Road steam locomotives wait for service and coal. Also seen in the background is the TMERL&Co right of way. No Interstate yet. Photo is not dated. Photo by Russ Porter from Keith Schmidt collection.

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Upcoming Events December 2016

TMER&THS (Traction and Bus Club)

www.tmer.org

Saturday December 17, 2016 - Annual Christmas Party
Chase Bank - Cudahy 7:30pm
SE Corner Packard and Layton Use East Lot

WISE Division NMRA

www.wisedivision.org

No Monthly Meeting in November or December

Milwaukee Road Historical Association

www.mrha.com

2017 Convention
June 22nd to 25th
Ames, Iowa

C&NW Historical Society

www.cnwhs.org

Chicago Area Get Together
November 19, 2016
Batavia, IL

Soo Line Historical and Technical Society

www.sooline.org

2017 Annual Convention
Check the website for more information

NRHS National Convention 2017

www.nrhs.com

June 20th to 24th 2017
Nashville, TN

To Contact the Wisconsin Chapter NRHS

President Dave Nelson
Email at 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

Railroad Trivia Night - Test your Railroad Smarts Friday December 2nd with Jim Wrinn

How good are you at railroad history ? Do you what makes a railroad work ? Come and test your knowledge with a fun and informative trivia night, brought to you by the publishers of TRAINS magazine. Editor Jim Wrinn will be your host and we'll have a good time while thinking back on railroading's great past. Come and join in the event. Let's make Trivia a chance to celebrate the chapter and holidays. There will be drinks and snacks available. Also TRAINS magazine and the Chapter will be providing prizes for the winning trivia teams. What those prizes are WHO KNOWS. I guess the way to find out is come to the meeting and join in. Trivia teams will be chosen at random that night. All are expected to take part. It will be a good chance to make some new friends at the chapter or maybe renew some old friendships.

Mark your calendar for Friday December 2nd and join in the FUN at Trivia Night.

As always the meeting will begin at 7:30pm with some brief announcements. We meet at the North Shore Congregational Church at 7330 N Santa Monica Dr in Fox Point, WI. The room is handicap accessible with an elevator. Come and join in the fun of Trivia Night.



Wisconsin Chapter Meeting Schedule

Friday January 6, 2017 - Burlington Northern in Illinois
Dave Nelson

Friday February 3, 2017 - Jerry Krug Presents - TBA

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 engine1385@aol.com or
Mike Yuhas at mike@mikeyuhas.org

October 2016 Meeting Summary

President Dave Nelson greeted the 30 people in attendance at 7:33 pm. Four of those identified themselves as guests. Three were local people who found out about us in the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel. The fourth guest has a connection to the Chapter. Her fiancé is the son of Russ Porter. An information sheet and copy of November *Sparks and Cinders* was handed out to each visitor with information about the Chapter and an invitation and information on how to join the NRHS.

President Dave Nelson made several announcements:

Trainfest is happening next weekend Saturday November 12th and Sunday November 13th 9am to 5:00pm. Invitation was made to stop by the Chapter booth and say HI !

Next month at the December meeting we will be having Railroad Trivia Night presented by TRAINS magazine and Kalmbach Publishing. TRAINS Editor Jim Wrinn will be our congenial host for the evening. We are hoping to have light refreshments and snacks based on the approval of the church.

On October 31st Halloween Night the "Ghost Train" appeared over Capitol Drive in Shorewood, WI. With the help of technology those in attendance were treated to a video of the Ghost Train that night shot by Keith Schmidt.

Continued from Page 2

After the video Dave introduced the presenter for the evening Dan Grudzielanek and the Overland Route. Dan's presentation was very well done with a lot of great photos ranging from 1996 to present and many various locations. UP #844 and the E Units were also featured in some photos. Dan was able to give the identification of each train and its origin and destination. Something not many railfans can do.

Next Month presenter is Railroad Trivia Night with Jim Wrinn. Meeting Ended at approximately 8:45pm

Respectfully

Keith Schmidt
Vice President

FROM THE PRESIDENT

We had a lot of visitors at our table at Trainfest, including some long-time members who are unable to attend meetings due to age and distance and a concern over night driving. These members told me they really look forward to Sparks & Cinders each month as their way of keeping in contact with the Chapter and its activities. We are planning some excursions and outings in 2017 and I hope some of these members will be able to join us for those.

Many thanks to Tom Hoffmann, Ralph McClure, Neal and Cathy Wegner, and James Weinert for volunteering their time to help us out at Trainfest. It is greatly appreciated -- not the least because Trainfest expects organizations such as ours which get a "free" table to offer volunteer hours for their own purposes; this year it was the "Junior Engineer" sign-in area. This year's Trainfest honored the Milwaukee Road and our booth (complete with orange and black table cloths) displayed some Milwaukee Road artifacts; next year the Soo Line is the featured railroad. It was also nice to chat with our colleagues and counterparts in the Soo Line, C&NW, Green Bay & Western, and Great Northern historical societies, all of which were our "neighbors" at Trainfest.

Now is the time to renew your NRHS dues (\$50) and Wisconsin Chapter dues (\$15). Remember, you pay your NRHS dues to National (either by check or using their website, which I found to be really quite easy), and Chapter dues to Tom Hoffmann, our Treasurer.

As of the most recent Chapter Board meeting, all the incumbent Board members and officers expressed willingness to stand for another term at this year's Annual Meeting on January 6. However, contested elections are perfectly acceptable and welcome so let us know if you have an interest in also running for the Board or for an officer position. Speaking personally, while the By-laws no longer provide for "term limits" as they formerly did, I am prepared to serve one more term as President in 2017 but I feel it is best if that be it.

I hope you are looking forward to the railroad trivia night that Trains Magazine editor Jim Wrinn has been planning for us at the December meeting. This will be something really different for a Chapter meeting and I think it should be a lot of fun. The North Shore Congregational Church has graciously permitted us to serve soft drinks and light snacks during the evening so I hope all of you will plan to attend what promises to be an enjoyable evening.

It appears we now have a full slate of presentations lined up for the rest of the 2016-17 "season" and announcements will be made soon about these programs, which I think you will like very much. Best of all, I already have several good prospects lined up for 2017-18, including John Winter, a fellow who introduced himself at Trainfest and showed me his newly published book about the WSOR line between Plymouth and Sheboygan Falls. Last year at the ground breaking ceremony for this rehabilitation project, I met and spoke to Jerry Thompson, Plymouth's railroad services coordinator, who was so instrumental in the rehabilitation of this old and historic rail line. I had hoped very much to have him present to the Chapter, and he expressed a willingness to do so, but Jerry died this last summer. With luck we can have John present the story of this fascinating piece of railroad to us sometime in 2017-18.

Lastly, and this is continuing a theme I have written about before, I hope those of you who enjoyed Dan Grudzielanek's "Overland Route" presentation for us noted that his photos include the train numbers. This is the kind of careful and thorough documentation that Dan is known for, and for which future rail enthusiasts will be very grateful. Those of us who take railfan photographers do need to be continually mindful that we are recording railroad history, even if that is not how it strikes us at the time.

Dave

Burlington Northern in Illinois by Dave Nelson presented on Jan 6,

In Illinois, all BN trackage was former CB&Q. This presentation will focus on former CB&Q/BN operations in Illinois, from Cicero Yard west on the triple track main to Aurora, where the line branches off towards Galesburg to the southwest and to the Twin Cities to the north-west (going through Rochelle and eventually along the Mississippi). The hub in Galesburg branches off to Peoria; the Twin Cities; Burlington IA to Denver and Texas; and Quincy IL to Kansas City and beyond -- "Everywhere West" was the CB&Q's slogan.

The focus of this original 35mm slide presentation will be on Chicago commuter trains, Eola Yard east of Aurora, freight trains running through Rochelle, and the hub in Galesburg, including Galesburg Railroad Days in its prime, with some coverage of the lines leading out of Galesburg. This was an era of varied EMD and GE diesel consists and mixed freight trains with a wide variety of traffic.

Ghost Train "400" to run throughout the Year

The "Ghost Train" light-and-sound recreation of the C&NW's legendary "Twin Cities 400" on the bridge over Capitol Drive in Shorewood is running every night for your enjoyment. The lights and sounds can be experienced at 8:00pm Northbound and 8:30pm Southbound everyday from October until Mid-March. Mid-March to October the train will run Northbound at 9:30pm and Southbound at 10pm every night. The traffic lights on Capitol are timed with the display and will stay red on Capitol Ave for the 30 second passing of the train. The "Ghost Train" is the work of artist Marty Peck.

To see the Ghost Train check it out on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BrgQyDMvhcY>



Canadian Pacific Holiday Train 2016 Schedule

Canadian Pacific is once again running the extremely popular 2016 Holiday Train. This year there is an added stop in the Milwaukee area. Last year there were thousands of people down at the Amtrak Station. Please Remember—SEE TRACKS THINK TRAIN !!
For information check out

<http://www.cpr.ca/holiday-train/united-states>

Monday December 5th

Sturtevant 9900 East Exploration Ct., Amtrak Depot
Arrival 5:25pm Event 5:35 PM - 6:05 PM
Milwaukee 433 West St. Paul Avenue, Amtrak Depot
Arrival 6:50pm Event 7:15 PM - 7:45 PM
Train will overnight in Milwaukee

Tuesday December 6th

Wauwatosa Harwood Ave Crossing
Arrival 4:45pm Event 5:00pm - 5:30pm
Hartland Parking lot adjacent to Cottonwood Ave and Pawling
Arrival 6:15pm Event 6:30pm to 7:00pm
Watertown Brandt Quirt Parking Lot - Ball Diamond
Arrival 7:45pm Event 8:00pm to 8:30pm
Columbus Amtrak Depot
Arrival 9:05pm Event 9:15pm to 9:45pm

Wednesday December 7th

Portage 400 West Oneida Street, Amtrak Station
Event 1:30 PM - 2:00 PM
Wisconsin Dells 100 La Crosse Street, Amtrak Depot
Arrival 2:45pm Event 3:00pm to 3:30pm
Mauston Division Street railway crossing
Arrival 4:15pm Event 4:25pm to 4:55pm
Tomah 205 North Superior Avenue, Amtrak Depot
Arrival 5:30pm Event 5:35pm to 6:05pm
Sparta Corner of South Water Street and Milwaukee Street
Arrival 6:40pm Event 7:00pm to 7:30pm
Lacrosse 601 Saint Andrew Street
Arrival 8:45pm Event 9:00pm to 9:30pm

Times are approximate—This is a working railroad BE SAFE !!



Chicago & Milwaukee Division.		CHICAGO to MILWAUKEE													
READ DOWN		For Suburban trains between Chicago-Deerfield-Fox Lake, see Suburban													
Northbound															
Table 27	Mls.	55	91	5	27	17	7	21	47	23	9	1	15	3	101
Union Station		AM	Tues. Thur. Sat.	Daily	Daily	Daily	Daily	Ex. Sun.	Daily	Daily	Daily	Daily	Daily	Daily	Daily
Chicago	Lv	0	1.55												
Western Ave		3.1													
Healy		6.4													
Grayland		8.2													
Mayfair		9.0													
Forest Glen		10.2													
Edgebrook		11.3													
Morton Grove		14.3													
Golf		16.2													
Glenview		17.4													
Techny		20.2													
Northbrook		20.9													
Deerfield, 28, 54, 61		23.9													
West Lake Forest		28.0													
Rondout, 28		32.3	2.40												
Wilson		36.8													
Gurnee		38.6													
Wadsworth		42.8													
Russell, Ill.		47.0													
Ranney, Wis.		51.6													
Truesdell		52.6													
Somers		57.5													
Sturtevant	Lv	61.8		11.55	9.33	10.44	11.52	12.45	3.05	4.15	4.33	6.13	8.02	10.20	10.40
Franksville, 23		66.0		12.40											
Caledonia, 23		69.4		1.15											
Oakwood, 23		72.8		1.45											
Lake, 23		77.9		2.15											
Stowell, 23		82.9		2.30											
Nat'l Ave 1, 23, 33		84.1													
Milwaukee	Ar	85.0	3.45	10.05	11.15	12.25	1.15	3.35	3.40	5.01	5.05	6.41	8.45	10.55	11.15
Union Station	Ar	85.0	AM	PM	AM	AM	PM	PM	PM	PM	PM	PM	PM	PM	PM

MILWAUKEE to CHICAGO																
For Suburban trains between Chicago-Deerfield-Fox Lake, see Suburban time table																
READ DOWN																
Southbound																
Table 27	Mls.	56	2	4	24	16	12	10	92	8	46	6	28	14	20	58
Union Station		Daily	Daily	Daily	Ex. Sun.	Daily	Daily	Daily	Mon. Wed. Fri.	Daily	Daily	Daily	Daily	Daily	Daily	Daily
Milwaukee	Lv	0	4.55	5.30	6.25	7.15	7.30	9.05	10.10	7.45	2.00	4.00	5.50	7.20	8.15	10.20
Nat'l Ave 1, 23, 33		0.9									2.04	4.04	5.55	7.20	8.19	
Stowell, 23		2.1														
Lake, 23		7.1														
Oakwood, 23		12.2														
Caledonia, 23		15.6														
Franksville, 23		19.0														
Sturtevant	Lv	23.4		3.07	7.46			9.39	10.41	10.55	2.35	4.31	6.25			9.05
Somers		27.5								11.10						9.12
Truesdell		32.4								11.50						9.18
Ranney, Wis.		33.4								11.55						9.21
Russell, Ill.		38.0								12.25						9.27
Wadsworth		42.1								12.55						9.33
Gurnee		46.4								1.20						9.39
Wilson		48.2								1.30						9.43
Rondout, 28		52.7								1.45						
West Lake Forest		57.0														
Deerfield, 28, 54, 61		61.1														
Northbrook		64.1														
Techny		64.8														
Glenview		67.8														
Golf		68.8														
Morton Grove		70.7														
Edgebrook		73.7														
Forest Glen		74.8														
Mayfair		75.0														
Grayland		76.8														
Healy		78.6														
Western Ave		82.2	6.40	7.24	8.49			10.40	11.44		3.39	5.34	7.34	9.04	9.54	10.45
Chicago	Ar	85.0	7.00	7.35	8.35	9.00	9.30	11.00	11.35		3.50	5.45	7.45	9.15	10.05	10.55
Union Station	Ar	85.0	AM	AM	AM	AM	AM	AM	AM		PM	PM	PM	PM	PM	PM

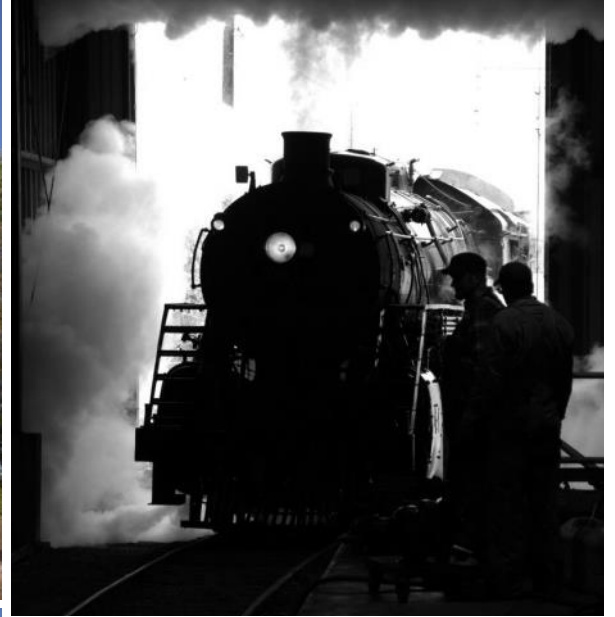
Chicago to Milwaukee Trains in December 1929. Plenty of quick trains between the two cities. Not many locals. Also NOTE - Typo in the Timetable. I guess the proofreader must have been on vacation. MILWAUKEE, not the usual spelling of MILWAUKEE. OH WELL !!



Photo Gallery - Soo Line #1003

October 2016

By Keith Schmidt



From the Archives

December 1956 — 60 Years Ago

The Milwaukee Road and North Western have run into bitter opposition in their attempts to discontinue unprofitable main and branch line trains. The Milwaukee Road wants to substitute buses between Watertown and Madison and between Wausau and Minocqua. The North Western has plans to discontinue its Madison local and nearly twenty other trains within the State. Both lines are attempting to end all train service to points where mail contracts have been lost or are threatened

December 1961 — 55 Years Ago

The Milwaukee Road operated football trains for all of the Big Ten games at Madison as well as numerous other Football Specials during the season

December 1966 - 50 Years Ago

MILW Train No. 1, November 18, morning: 3-E9s and 2-FP7s totaling 10,200 hp, which possibly represents a new high in passenger horsepower through Milwaukee. 20 cars in, 24 out, of which 10 were REX refrigerators and similar cars for storage mail. The extremely heavy numbers of such cars in some CMStP&P trains recently is because of the parcel post and “junk” mail mess in Chicago. Such mail, unsorted, is taken to St. Paul (where the Post Office Dept. has rented a CMStP&P freight house for the purpose), sorted, and returned to Chicago....Minneapolis-Madison passenger extras for the Wisconsin-Minnesota game consisted of 2-E9s, 1-FP7, 5 coaches, two tap cars, diner, RI sleeper Golden Dream, UP sleepers Imperial Palm and Imperial Rock (the last three to provide “room” accommodations)....CNW is returning its virtually new Alco RS-27s Nos. 900-903 for four Century 4-30s which are expected to be delivered via car ferry at Manitowoc....November 28 a two-car, one E7 round trip passenger extra from Chicago to Milwaukee was operated for the Chicago Symphony....And, in an unremarked event, your editor joined Wisconsin Chapter.

December 1971 - 45 Years Ago

The Milwaukee Road is second only to Union Pacific in on-time Amtrak performance, with trains arriving on the advertised just under 95% of the time. The Chapter trip on the first Amtrak train through Chicago was a great success as some 30 members traveled from Milwaukee to Joliet....The C&O car ferry service on Lake Michigan was suspended in October and November because of the national coal miner’s strike. The Grand Trunk vessels are oil-fired and continued to operate.

December 1976 - 40 Years Ago

Because of production and mail problems, this issue contained only six pages. The majority was devoted to a reprint of the inaugural address by the newly-elected President of NRHS, V. Allan Vaughan

December 1981 - 35 Years Ago

It was announced that noted diesel enthusiast Tom Hoffmann would present a program of steam slides at the December meeting....The Milwaukee Road employee timetable effective November 8 indicates that the entire railroad now consists of two divisions. The Northern Division includes everything north and west of Rondout and La Crescent including Davis Jct., Madison, and Beloit. Everything else is the Southern Division.

December 1986 - 30 Years Ago

The Soo Line is planning to single track the former Milwaukee Road main line from Duplainville to St. Croix Tower within the next two years.

December 1991 - 25 Years Ago

Just three hours before departure from Chicago on October 15, American-European Express announced cancellation of all service and dismissal of virtually all employees. Some 50 passengers were left stranded in Chicago. AEE blamed the shutdown on negative cash flow as a result of a June 21st derailment which damaged six of AEE’s twelve cars....The Grand Canyon Railway celebrated its second anniversary in September with a gala celebration in Williams, Arizona....The former Milwaukee Road depot in Muscoda was demolished in late October.

December 1996 - 20 Years Ago

WC has signed a letter of intent to purchase 220 miles of trackage in Wisconsin and Michigan’s Upper Peninsula from the UP. The Green Bay North lines were “orphans” and not connected to any other UP trackage....Wisconsin and Illinois agreed on a \$2.7 million funding package to keep the Hiawatha service operating through June, 1997.

December 2001 - 15 Years Ago

Amtrak named P42 No. 182 the “Governor Tommy G. Thompson” in honor of the former Amtrak chairman of the board at a ceremony in Washington, DC on November 1....UP and the Salt Lake City Committee for the Olympic Games unveiled the 2002 Olympic Torch Relay Train at Kansas City Union Station on November 15....A list of “Indicators of Terrorism” posted on the American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association web site encourages railroad employees to be on the lookout for seven types of suspicious activities. Railfans typically engage in most of the cited activities.

December 2006 - 10 Years Ago

Ex-Soo Line 2-8-2 No. 1003 powered the “Santa Train” on the WSOR from Burnett to Hartford on Saturday, November 11.... Wisconsin DOT has begun negotiations with the UP for the purchase of the former C&NW line between Plymouth and Kohler. Once the 11-mile line is acquired, the DOT will contract with the East Wisconsin Counties Railroad Consortium and WSOR to provide service on the line....The FRA is requiring railroads to make more frequent track inspections in response to three deadly derailments in 2002 and 2004. The rule applies to 90,000 miles of railroad with continuous welded rail. The FRA said failure of welded rail was the probable cause of all three derailments....The four remaining tracks at St. Louis Union Station may soon be removed according to the person who leases the tracks. The four tracks (the remainder of 42) occasionally see special trains....Metra has ordered Wabtec’s Electronic Train Management System® for 24 locomotives and 24 cab cars used on the Metra Rock Island line....Internet auction site eBay has banned the sale of railroad switch keys, citing national security concerns.

December 2011 - 5 Years Ago

On Friday November 11th Wisconsin Chapter Member Tom Hoffmann was presented with the Chuck Zehner Award. Tom at the time was a 40 year member of the chapter. Tom was also involved with Operation Lifesaver and has a large collection of railroad slides and photographs. The Zehner award was presented to Tom by Bob Baker the 2006 Chuck Zehner award member and 25 year chapter member... METRA approved a 25% fare increase for the Chicago area commuter rail provider. METRA was facing a 53.6 million dollar budget shortfall. Bob Joyce announced his desire to retire as editor of Sparks and Cinders after 22 years and 222 issues published.

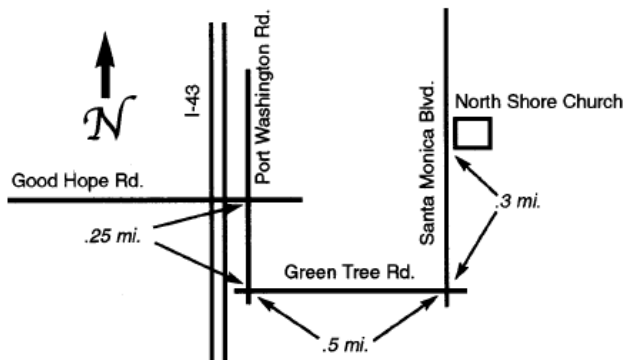


Sparks & Cinders
1102 Aspen Dr
Waukesha, WI 53188

FIRST CLASS

Chapter Meeting Location

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



For Weather Cancellations and Updates
check the Chapter Webpage
www.nrhswis.org

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 Yugas, Robert McLeod, Ralph McClure, Andrew Roach, Neil and Cathy Wegner and Past President Bob Baker.

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