



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



WC #6516 SD45 leads a northbound train at Duplainville. The Wisconsin Central and WSOR will be the highlights of Dave Nelson's presentation on Friday February 1st. Photo by Dave Nelson

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Upcoming Events February 2019

TMER&THS (Traction and Bus Club)

www.tmer.org

Waterstone Bank

6560 S 27th Street Saturday February 16, 2019

Doors Open 2pm Meeting at 2:30pm

Bob Baker - The Chicago Northwestern in Milwaukee

WISE Division NMRA

www.wisedivision.org

Monthly Division Meet

Saturday February 16, 2019

Bus Trip to Mad City Train Show Madison, WI

Check the webpage for more information

NRHS National Convention

www.nrhs.com

May 7-11, 2019 Salt Lake City, UT

Check the webpage for information on 2019 Convention

Milwaukee Road Historical Association

www.mrha.com

National Convention

June 20-23, 2019

St Paul, MN

C&NW Historical Society

www.cnwhs.org

National Convention

May 30th - June 2nd

Milwaukee, WI

Soo Line Historical and Technical Society

www.sooline.org

Watch for upcoming events

The Green Bay & Western Historical Society will hold its Annual Meeting and Banquet in Green Bay on the evening of Saturday, April 27, 2019. It will be held at the Best Western Green Bay Inn Conference Center, 780 Armed Forces Drive, Green Bay.

To Contact the Wisconsin Chapter NRHS

President Mike Yuhas

mike@mikeyuhas.org

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. 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



Dave Nelson Presents WC and WSOR 1980 to 2008

Dave Nelson will show a two-part program of his 35mm slides taken between 1980 and 2008, focusing on the Wisconsin Central and the Wisconsin & Southern. The Wisconsin Central (WC) operated on the tracks of the former Soo Line once the Soo acquired the Milwaukee Road. From 1987 to its 2001 acquisition by the Canadian National, the maroon and cream paint scheme of the WC was a familiar sight through much of eastern and northern Wisconsin -- including some surprising locations. The Wisconsin & Southern (WSOR) began operations in 1980 when the State of Wisconsin acquired some Milwaukee Road trackage and the WSOR was formed to lease and operate the track. After three decades of growth, the WSOR was acquired by WATCO in 2012.

The meeting will open at 7:30pm with introduction of any guests and announcements regarding rail activity near and far. Please bring a friend, guest or even enemy to the meeting.

Monthly meetings are held at the North Shore Congregational Church at 7330 N Santa Monica Dr. in Fox Point. The church is handicap accessible. For more up to date information on meetings and speakers and also any weather cancellations check out the webpage at www.nrhiswis.org.



Wisconsin Chapter Meeting Schedule

Friday February 1, 2019 - WC and WSOR by Dave Nelson
Friday March 1, 2019 - Gone but not Forgotten - Brian Siegl

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

January 2019 Meeting Summary

Vice-President Keith Schmidt started the meeting at 7:37 pm. Twenty-eight people were then in attendance. President Bob Baker was not in attendance because of unspecified issues. Keith treated us to a digital slide of Chicago Metra's newest repainted Rail Heritage Unit, in early Milwaukee Road passenger-train colors of orange and maroon. They also have a Rock Island Rail Heritage Unit. Others are planned.

The Annual Business meeting followed. The Minutes are shown separately.

There was no other new railroad news or announcements.

Al Lederman re-joined for 2019. There were several visitors.

Presentations

Keith Schmidt treated us to "Coal Is Still King," an account of three of his trips to the Powder River Basin of Wyoming, extending from 1997 to October of 2017. This joint UP-BNSF line is still seeing a lot of traffic.

Tonight's presentation ended about 8:30 pm.

Dave Nelson will be showing slide of Wisconsin Central and Wisconsin & Southern, all taken before 2008, at the February 1 meeting. Brian Siegl will be presenting "Fond du Lac—Gone but Not Forgotten" at the March 1 meeting. Brian gave us a very detailed history of the railroads of Oshkosh about 3-4 years ago.

Respectfully Submitted

Thomas W. Marcussen

From the President

I'm sorry to have missed the January meeting, but a business trip called me out of town. I'd like to thank all members present for voting for the chapter's 2019 board and officers. I look forward to serving as your President.

Now's a good time to thank Bob Baker for his numerous years of service to the Wisconsin Chapter. I'm certain I'll be reaching out to Bob to tap into his experience, knowledge, and ideas.

Al Baker retired after a year on the board; we thank him for his service.

Long-serving director and past president Dave Nelson also retired from the board. Dave has contributed mightily to the chapter over the years, and I look forward to working with him even though he's looking for a less-active role in chapter operations.

Joining the board is longtime member Dan Grudzielanek. Thanks to Dan - and all existing directors and officers - for helping to chart the chapter's future.

Just a reminder: in the event of inclement weather or other calamity, news about chapter meetings will be found at the chapter's website, www.nrhiswis.org. Please bookmark our site for ready reference.

We've got three worthwhile programs scheduled over the next few months: IN February, Dave Nelson relates, through photography and narration, a two-part program of Wisconsin Central and Wisconsin & Southern operations. Then in March, we welcome the return of Brian Siegel for a program of railroads around Fond du Lac from the 1970s to today. And then in April, Kevin P. Keefe presents his program on the railroad photography of Wallace W. Abbey. Please make every effort to attend these meetings, and better yet, bring a friend or three!

If you have any thoughts about the chapter and how we can better preserve and present railroad history, drop me a note at mike@mikeyuhas.org. I look forward to your ideas!



Business Meeting Minutes January 4 2019

Vice-President Keith Schmidt reminded all attendees that business meetings are for members only. Only dues-paying members of NRHS National are Chapter members. Subscribers are only receiving copies of *Sparks & Cinders*, and are not members. Guests and non-members were asked to not participate in the business meeting. Keith Schmidt then called the annual business meeting to order at 7:40 pm.

Tom Hoffmann moved that we approve the minutes of the previous annual business meeting on January 5, 2018, as re-printed on Page 4 of the January 2019 issue of *Sparks & Cinders*, and the minutes of the special business meeting on December 7, 2018, as printed on Page 3 of the January 2019 issue of *Sparks & Cinders*. Bob Joyce seconded that motion. It passed by unanimous voice vote.

Treasurer Tom Hoffmann had no report yet. He is waiting for a final bank statement before closing the books for 2018. All of the numbers that he has to date match up. The checkbook balances.

The next topic of business was the election of 2019 officers and directors. Keith Schmidt read the names of the current 2018 officers and directors. Those that were present raised their hands on hearing their names.

Current President Bob Baker is not running for re-election. Keith then nominated Mike Yuhás for President. Mike is out of town on business. He has indicated his ability and willingness to serve to the current officers. Tom Hoffman seconded the nomination. There

were no other nominations for President. It was moved and seconded that the nominations be closed, and that Mike Yuhás be elected President. This motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

Similar more abbreviated procedures were followed for the other officers, resulting in the re-election of Vice-President Keith Schmidt, Treasurer Tom Hoffmann, and Secretary Tom Marcussen.

The special business meeting on December 7, 2018 had eliminated the automatic election of the Past President to the Board, and reduced the number of other at-large directors from six to five, resulting in the elimination of two positions. Three of the current board members are leaving the board: Al Baker, Bob Baker (current president), and Dave Nelson (who was in the Past President position). Mike Yuhás, who was an at-large director, has become President (above). Four other current at-large directors—Ralph McClure, Andrew Roach, Cathy Wegner, and Neal Wegner are willing to continue on. That leaves one vacancy among the five at-large director positions. Keith Schmidt called for nominations. Dave Nelson nominated Dan Grudzielanek. Dan is also out of town on business. He had indicated his ability and willingness to serve. Tom Hoffmann seconded the nomination. There were no other nominations. It was moved and seconded that the nominations be closed, and that the above five candidates be elected as at-large directors. This motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

Keith Schmidt indicated his appreciation for the services rendered by the departing President Bob Baker, and the departing directors Al Baker and Dave Nelson.

Dave Nelson moved that the business meeting be adjourned. There was a second. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote. The business meeting was adjourned at 7:44 pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Thomas W. Marcussen

Wisconsin Chapter Secretary

THANK YOU !! BOB BAKER

A huge THANK YOU to our past President Bob Baker. Bob has been a part of the Wisconsin Chapter NRHS for many years. Bob served as President several times in the past and was a fixture on the board as a director. Bob also was involved in authoring three Chapter publications - Railfans Guide to Wisconsin and Upper Michigan in 1986, Wisconsin Rails I in 1987 and Wisconsin Rails II in 1994. *All three of those books reside in my collections - Editors Note.* Bob also is a great photographer and his collection is quite vast. Bob's favorite railroad the Chicago and Northwestern is a prominent feature in the collection.

So on behalf of the Wisconsin Chapter of the NRHS THANK YOU BOB for everything that you have done to help and advance the mission statement of this organization - *To gather, preserve and disseminate information both historical and current pertaining to railroading in Wisconsin and the Upper Midwest.*

2019 Chapter Officers and Board Members

Congratulations to the 2019 Wisconsin Chapter Officers and Board Members as elected at the January 4th meeting.

President - Mike Yuhás

Vice President - Keith Schmidt

Secretary - Tom Marcussen

Treasurer - Tom Hoffmann

Directors - Andrew Roach, Ralph McClure, Neal and Cathy Wegner and Dan Grudzielanek.

- 3 Thank You for being willing to help the organization

Donations Needed to Return TMER&L Equipment to Service

Most readers know that the Illinois Railway Museum has the largest number of preserved pieces of equipment from the former Milwaukee Electric Railway and Light (Transportation) Company and WEPCO in their collection. These include passenger interurbans, streetcars, a variety of work equipment, locomotives and trackless trolley buses.

In fact, the two heavyweight interurbans (coach 1129 and parlor 1135) were among the very first pieces acquired by the museum in 1953. While little work has been performed on the two interurban cars, there is active interest at IRM in restoring one (probably 1135) to operation. This is a very long term goal, but the car has been inspected by a professional car restorer and if and when funds are available, it will become an active project. As in any rail museum, the two things that must come together to make a restoration happen are money and workers. If you are a serious TM fan, you should consider this car in your annual giving and your estate planning – and become a regular IRM volunteer.

There are, however, two locomotives in the TM collection that are HIGH priority restoration projects. Both have operated in the past, and one is considered *critical* to return to regular service in switching operations and mainline duty in pulling caboose and/or mixed freight trains. Those locomotives are L-4 and L-7, with L-4 being the most urgently needed. It ran regularly until 2017, when one of the motor armature bearings overheated. When the motor was removed, it was discovered that one of the center body bearing bowls was cracked. We urgently need funds to do a full restoration of the damaged motor (estimated cost: \$10,000) and to have two new bowls cast at an estimated cost of \$5,000. Several generous donations have already been made to the L-4 fund, but much more is needed – YOUR donation WILL make a difference and WILL help return this workhorse to duty in short order. The work will be done and the locomotive returned to service AS SOON AS THE MONEY IS RAISED!

Locomotive L-4 is a top priority project for IRM's electric car department – SEND YOUR DONATION NOW TO THE L-4 FUND at IRM, PO Box 427, Union Illinois! Operation in 2019 is possible if enough funds are raised soon!



TMER&L #L4 in action in 2014 at IRM

Dues Renewal Reminder and Contact Information

This form is for the renewal of Chapter Dues Only. National Dues must be paid directly to NRHS. Paying National Dues can be done online at www.nrhs.com. Follow the directions on the webpage. Also dues can be mailed to the National Railway Historical Society Attn Membership Renewal PO Box 31074 St Louis, MO 63131.

Chapter Dues are \$20.00 for the year. This includes a subscription to Sparks and Cinders. Please include this form with payment. The chapter is trying to utilize contact information especially email to keep people up to date on changes and important information. Thank You

Name: _____ Phone Number _____

Address: _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email Address _____

Payment of only Chapter Dues can be made to our Treasurer Tom Hoffmann at Chapter meetings or by mailing this form to him at Tom Hoffmann 1102 Aspen Dr., Waukesha, WI 53188. Please fill out this form whether mailing in dues or paying person. Thank You.

Steamy World War II Veteran



8/1/44
AMERICAN SOLDIERS IN FRANCE FIND U.S. RAILWAY ENGINE BROUGHT THERE IN 1917.
 U.S. Army soldier-railroaders met an old friend and a veteran of the last war in Europe when they discovered in a liberated French town a U.S.-built engine. The locomotive was brought to France in 1917 by the Americans and helped in the defeat of the Germans in that war. This crew of the Rail Division of the Army Transportation Corps repaired the engine and soon had it in use again. The Transportation Corps, now operating in five continents, has a strength of 350,000 men, larger than the entire U.S. Army before the war. Soldier railroad experts are now operating trains regularly out of Cherbourg and have plans ready to follow and keep up with the Allied army in its liberation of France.
 SERVICED BY NEW YORK TO LIST A 30732-FA
 APPROVED BY APPROPRIATE U.S. AUTHORITY

The above photo and description were submitted by Gaylord Yost. He won the photo at an auction that specialized in old photographs. THANK YOU !!



Original 24th Annual Model Railroad Show Presented by Metro Model Railroad Club

Sunday March 10, 2019 9am to 4pm
 Circle B Recreation Center
 Cedarburg, WI

Operating Model Railroad Layouts in Various Scale
 Over 50 Swap Tables

For more information check out
www.metrorrclub.org
jimbartelt@gmail.com



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New Look for Some METRA Power in Elgin,



Newly Painted METRA Units in Elgin, IL January 13 2019 photos by Keith Schmidt



A Sample of some shots that will be seen on Friday February 1st from Dave Nelson. Both shots taken from the Hampton Ave bridge over Butler Yard. (Left) Still showing Santa Fe paint #5965 visits Milwaukee. (Right) WC #6690 in BN paint and WC #6585 also stop in Milwaukee waiting to return to Fond du Lac.



EAST TROY RAILROAD MUSEUM, INC.

PO Box 943 • EAST TROY, WI 53120 • (262) 642-3263 • www.easttroyrr.org

November 8, 2018

Keith Schmidt
National Railway Historical Society - Wisconsin Chapter
3286 South Springfield Avenue
Milwaukee, WI 53202

I am pleased to acknowledge the receipt of the donation of \$500.00 to the East Troy Railroad Museum, Inc., a not-for-profit corporation registered in the State of Wisconsin.

I would like to express the gratitude of the members and volunteers of the Museum for this generous gift. It will play a significant role in our ongoing efforts to preserve and display the long history of The Milwaukee Electric Railway and Light Company in Wisconsin.

No gifts or services were provided to you in consideration for your generous donation to the East Troy Railroad Museum, Inc. Your gift is tax deductible to the full extent of the law. The letter acknowledging your gift should be retained for your records.

Sincerely,

Lindsay Jonas
Office Manager
East Troy Railroad Museum, Inc.

From the Archives

February 1954 - 65 Years Ago

Steam and juice movies will be featured at the February 26 meeting of Milwaukee Chapter. Don Hofsommer, of Spencer, Iowa, a member of Iowa Chapter, will show films of IC, CMStP&P, CB&Q, C&NW, etc., in the Tall Corn State. You'll also see a snowy winter in northwest Iowa, some wrecks, and a journey up to the Iron Range. Don will also show films of the Fort Dodge line and other Iowa interurbans, a ride on an M&StL freight from Spencer to Fort Dodge and return, and on a mixed from Bluffs, Illinois to Keokuk. He will also have some scenes from the St. Louis NRHS convention.

February 1959 - 60 Years Ago

The first Flexi-Van load out of Milwaukee was sent on January 14 on Milwaukee Road train 59 and was delivered in St. Paul. Plans have been announced to expand Flexi-Van service to the West Coast....The General Pershing arrived in Oakland, California, after 42 years of military service. The loco was built by Baldwin in 1917 and was used as a switcher by the Army until 1947 when it was sent to Korea. It was retired by the Korean government and will be on display at the National Railroad Museum in Green Bay.

February 1964 - 55 Years Ago

The Chapter is meeting temporarily at the North Shore Congregational Church (*We're still here 55 years later – so much for "temporary" – ed.*)....A detailed account of the trip of Russ Porter's Car 40 (which he had just purchased from the EJ&E) from Joliet to Rondout was recounted. Russ and company braved the icy February blasts to ride the open platform. Car 40 was hauled from Rondout to the Dells by the Milwaukee Road where it was restored and converted to a summer home and art studio. (*Your previous editor and many of our more senior members had the privilege to visit the car, which was a truly magnificent example of a railroad president's private car.*)

February 1969 - 50 Years Ago

A severe winter with record volumes of commuters and tonnage have caused a serious power shortage for the C&NW. After years in freight service, Geep No. 1651 has been frequently used on Chicago-Green Bay passenger trains 121-206 to help out the aging E7s. This is one of two Geeps with serviceable steam generators. On weekends, Cummins alternator-equipped F7s from suburban service are working freight in sets of three or four....L&N received permission to discontinue the Hummingbird, but the way they did it will go down in history as a lowlight of public relations. Most passengers were dining en route when the conductor announced, "We've discontinued the train. Get your baggage. We'll put you on a bus." And that's exactly what they did.

February 1974 - 45 Years Ago

A Regional Transit Authority designated to revolutionize mass transit in six counties, with Chicago as the hub, will come into being on July 1 if a March 19 referendum approves the idea. State funds, including proceeds from the state lottery, will help to hold down fares and improve service. All Chicago commuter railroads will be affected by the plan....C&NW and BN will jointly construct a new 90-mile coal line north from the C&NW at Douglas, Wyoming, into the Powder River basin coal country.

February 1979 - 40 Years Ago

Serious snow problems at the Milwaukee Road's Bensenville Yard have necessitated interchange with Conrail trains in Milwaukee. Solid Conrail trains, including power and caboose, started rolling into Milwaukee on January 20....The Rock Island's Peoria and Quad Cities Rockets made their last runs on February 1 after losing their subsidies

February 1984 - 35 Years Ago

C&NW has signed up its first customer for the new Wyoming coal line, scheduled for completion in mid-November. C&NW, UP/MP, and Arkansas Power and Light have executed a 20-year transportation agreement under which the railroads will haul about 11 million tons of coal a year beginning in 1985.

February 1989 - 30 Years Ago

WICT is now operating into Chicago via trackage rights over Metra and Belt Railway of Chicago to Clearing Yard. With the Chicago service, WICT grows to 375 miles....A replacement station at Wisconsin Dells will be dedicated on June 10. The station replaces one destroyed in a derailment a number of years ago.

February 1994 - 25 Years Ago

WSOR has finished construction on its \$1 million paint facility in Horicon....The SP GP20s stored at Horicon will be put back into service in the coming year as WSOR expands service.... Chapter member Bob Baker is looking for material for the new Chapter publication "Wisconsin Rails II."

February 1999 - 20 Years Ago

The Great Blizzard of 1999, which began on January 2 and continued for several days followed by sub-zero cold literally brought Chicago freight rail operations to a stand-still for several days. The Amtrak Hiawatha service survived the blizzard but was done in by the extreme cold which caused the annulment of several trains on account of frozen equipment.... Amtrak reportedly is reassigning the three Florida Fun Train F40s to the Chicago-Milwaukee Hiawathas. The U. S. Postal Service is scheduled to issue a series of five 33-cent stamps commemorating great American passenger trains. The stamps will depict the SP Daylight, PRR Congressional, NYC 20th Century Limited, Milwaukee Road Hiawatha, and AT&SF Super Chief. All will be represented in paintings by rail artist Ted Rose.

February 2004 - 15 Years Ago

The second annual Wisconsin Chapter Railfan excursion on the East Troy Electric Railroad will be on Saturday, April 24. This year we will be using ex-South Shore Car 30. There will be ample photo opportunities....A 13-year quest for an Amtrak station at General Mitchell International Airport will come to fruition in 2005. The station will be near Grange Ave. on the CP main line. Ex-Milwaukee Road 4-8-4 No. 261 is scheduled to visit the Milwaukee area in June.

February 2009 - 10 Years Ago

The National Press Photographer's Association has accused Amtrak of harassing photographers in violation of the U.S. Constitution's First Amendment, the association's magazine, News Photographer, has reported. The passenger railroad has come under increasing scrutiny since one of its officers arrested a photographer in New York Penn Station who was taking photos for the Amtrak calendar. In a letter sent by its general counsel, the association asked Amtrak "take immediate steps to remedy the railroad's unconstitutional treatment of law-abiding photographers."

February 2014 - 5 Years Ago

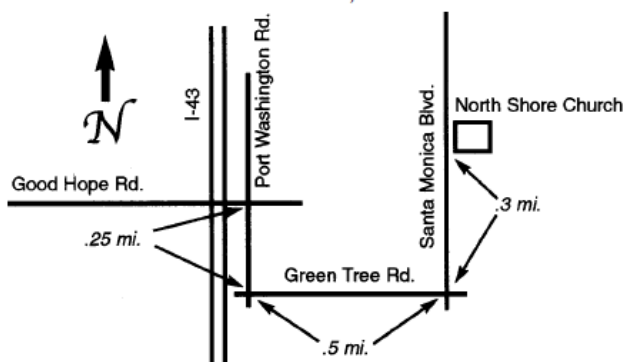
Arctic-like temperatures combined with nearly a foot of snow hit the Chicago area Sunday morning, Jan. 5, like a runaway train. For nearly two-weeks it left America's top-rated commuter railroad trying to recover from an almost "knockoutpunch." A combination of up to minus 22 degree weather, 16 inches of very fine and light blowing snow and an unprepared railroad resulted in countless cancellations, delays and inconvenience to Metra's more than 310,000 daily riders.

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 up to date changes and weather cancellations
check out www.nrhis.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 who is also a member of the NRHS. Paying \$20 annually to the Chapter will entitle you receive Sparks & Cinders. Paying the National dues of \$50 to the NRHS will entitle you to membership and subscriptions to the NRHS Bulletin and NRHS News. Officers of the Wisconsin Chapter are: President, Mike Yuhas; Vice-President, Keith Schmidt; Secretary, Tom Marcussen, Treasurer, Tom Hoffmann; National Director Tom Hoffmann; Directors, Ralph McClure, Andrew Roach, Neil and Cathy Wegner and Dan Grudzielanek

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