

# Wisconsin Chapter National Railway Historical Society

Volume 69 Number 7



September 2019

## 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.*

***Since 1950***

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



Union Pacific #4014 BIG BOY visits Wisconsin. Nothing proves that more than the UP #4014 passing under the former CNW coaling tower at Clyman, WI. If this coaling tower could talk it would say it saw its share of steam locomotives, but never a Big Boy until that day. This shot was taken on Thursday July 25, 2019. Photo by Dan Grudzielanek

### *In This Issue*

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- ◆ *Doors Open Milwaukee*

# Wisconsin Chapter Meeting Schedule



Friday September 6, 2019 Favorite Slide/Photo Night  
Friday October 4, 2019 After Promontory with Scott Lothes

## Favorite Slide/Digital Photo Night

It is time for the annual Favorite Slide/Digital Photo Night. The meeting is being held on Friday September 7th at 7:30pm. A digital projector and slide projector will be provided. If you are showing digital it is best to bring your own laptop. PLEASE limit your presentations to 5 minutes. This should allow everyone that wishes to show photos a chance to do that within our time limits. Show off your best shots. Or let's see what you did over the summer. Maybe dust off some slides from the collection and let's see some classic stuff. This is YOUR night to shine.

Monthly meetings are held in the lower level of the North Shore Congregational Church at 7330 N Santa Monica Dr. in Fox Point. The church is handicap accessible. Refreshments are available for a donation. For more up to date information on meetings and speakers, and also any weather cancellations, check the chapter's webpage at [www.nrhwis.org](http://www.nrhwis.org).

Doors open by 7:00 pm, so arrive early to socialize. The meeting will start at 7:30pm sharp with introductions and railroad-related news and announcements. Please bring a friend!

If you have a program idea please contact Program Chair Dave Nelson at [engine1385@aol.com](mailto:engine1385@aol.com)

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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 May, July and August, at 7:30 p.m. The Wisconsin Chapter 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. Additional information is available on the chapter's website, [www.nrhwis.org](http://www.nrhwis.org).

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. Full NRHS membership is required to participate in chapter business discussions and to vote in annual chapter elections. All address changes should be sent to Tom Hoffmann, [treasurer@nrhwis.org](mailto:treasurer@nrhwis.org) (or via USPS at 1102 Aspen Dr, Waukesha, WI 53188).

Wisconsin Chapter officers are: Mike Yuhas, President ([president@nrhwis.org](mailto:president@nrhwis.org)); Keith Schmidt, Vice-President; Tom Marcussen, Secretary; Tom Hoffmann, Treasurer. Directors: Dan Grudzielanek, Ralph McClure, Andrew Roach, Cathy Wegner and Neal Wegner.

Contributions to Sparks & Cinders should be sent to Editor Keith Schmidt at [editor@nrhwis.org](mailto:editor@nrhwis.org) (or USPS at 3286 S Springfield Ave, Milwaukee, WI 53207) by the 15th of the month to be considered for the following month's publication.

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## Meeting Summary June 7 2019

President Mike Yuhas began the June meeting of the Wisconsin Chapter NRHS promptly at 7:30pm. There was a good number of attendees at this final meeting of the 2018-2019 season. The Goerkes were thanked for their help with the annual banquet at Meyer's Restaurant. There was some discussion regarding the 150th Anniversary of the Golden Spike in Ogden, UT and the return of a Big Boy 4-8-8-4 to running condition. There was some discussion of a chapter outing to the East Trolley Museum. Several options were presented. A lunch outing with a cost of \$50-\$55 per person. A dinner outing with cost of \$65-\$80 per person. A no meal charter similar to previous ones with photo runbys cost \$15. Members were asked to think about options and pass along their preference. After some other discussions Mike Yuhas introduced our presenter for the evening Lou Gerard. Lou gave an excellent presentation of Soo Line and Chicago South Shore shots. Also mixed in were other railroads and some lake boats. The presentation was well received. Mike wished everyone a safe and pleasant summer.

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Available at NO COST !!

Old Issues of Sparks and Cinders from 1973 to 2015. These classic issues are all in ring binders organized by month and year. FREE for the taking. I have scanned them. Now they need to find a new home. Open up your house to these collectors items. If interested let me know Keith at [kschmidt626@gmail.com](mailto:kschmidt626@gmail.com). I WILL DELIVER !!!

## Notes from the Prexy

There are still a couple weeks left in summer, but the shorter, cooler days can mean only thing: It's Wisconsin Chapter season again! I hope you can join us at our September meeting, and I hope you can share some of your favorite pictures in our "favorite slide night" - see details above. Looking ahead, our October meeting will feature "After Promontory" by Scott Lothes of the Center for Railroad Photography and Art. Scott will discuss the Center's publishing and exhibition project that celebrates the sesquicentennial of the transcontinental railroad, illustrated with photos from the book of the same name. Then in November, representatives from The Hop will present a program to commemorate the first anniversary of Milwaukee's modern streetcar.

Speaking of anniversaries, our friends at Union Pacific really know how to celebrate! Did you get a chance to see Big Boy 4014 when it pounded through the Milwaukee area in July? Several of our members did, and their work appears in the center of this edition of Sparks & Cinders. Hat tip to Union Pacific for the preservation and restoration of this important artifact representing the pinnacle of steam locomotion.

And: kudos to Editor Keith Schmidt for embracing the idea of running a couple S&C pages in color, and thanks to Drew Halverson for assistance with the layout of the color pages.

We're always looking for activities that can involve a good portion of our membership. There's been discussion on the board about taking another tour on our nearby favorite, the East Troy Electric. To get a sense of interest in two possible scenarios, we sent an email to every chapter member asking for preference. The first option would be to charter a lunch train, with fare expected to be in the \$55 range; option two proposed a simple excursion, without lunch, with a fare of about \$10 or \$15 per participant. The results of this unscientific poll: Four members raised their hands for the lunch train experience, while seven expressed interest in the traditional no-food charter excursion. I'd like to thank respondents for their input.

Did you receive that email? If not, we may not have a valid email address on file for you. We'd like to stay in touch (occasionally, to share important chapter-related news that can't wait for the next edition of S&C), so please send your email address to [president@nrhswis.org](mailto:president@nrhswis.org).



## Pembine, WI Depot Lost in Possible Arson Fire

A fire, believed to be arson, destroyed the joint Milwaukee Road/Soo Line depot at Pembine, Wis., Monday morning. The fire, reported at 10:43 a.m., according to local media sources, burned the structure to the foundation, rendering it a complete loss.

Two teenage boys have been arrested in connection with the fire. The boys, ages, 14 and 16, are both from the Pembine area of northeastern Wisconsin, the Marinette County Sheriff's Office says. Investigators did not release any more information about the boys or how they may have been involved.

A variety of construction dates have been given for the joint depot with two platforms and offices, at the crossing of the north-south Milwaukee Road line from Green Bay to Ontonagon (now the Escanaba & Lake Superior) and the east-west Soo Line from Sault Ste. Marie-St. Paul (later Wisconsin Central and now CN, with E&LS trackage rights from Pembine to Wells).

Although local news reports say the depot dated back to 1887, one account states the current depot was built in 1896, to replace a similar one that was destroyed when a Milwaukee train collided with a Soo Line train. The Railroad Station Historical Society online database gives the building's construction date as 1914. Canadian National and the E&LS shared use of the surviving depot in recent years for storage of maintenance of way materials. *TRAINS Newswire - Courtesy of Kalmbach Media*

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## The Extra Board - Upcoming Events

NRHS National Convention

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

2020 No Announcement Regarding Location

TMER&THS (Traction and Bus Club)

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

Waterstone Bank

No Meeting Information for September 2019 Available

WISE Division NMRA

TRAINFEST 2019

November 9-10, 2019 9am to 5pm and 9am to 4pm

More information at [www.trainfest.com](http://www.trainfest.com)

C&NW Historical Society

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

National Convention No Information Available

Milwaukee Road Historical Association

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

2020 National Convention - Elgin, IL No Dates

Soo Line Historical and Technical Society

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

National Convention September 14 2019

Wisconsin Dells, WI

# Doors Open Milwaukee 2019

Article and Photos by Dave Nelson

Just a reminder that Doors Open Milwaukee will take place September 28 and 29, 2019. This is a wonderful opportunity for those interested in historic or just plain interesting architecture and photography to gain access to properties which often are otherwise closed to the public. Many old business buildings, some of them formerly rail served, have been converted to other uses and can be toured. The list is usually published in an insert in the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, and is available at the [historicmilwaukee.org](http://historicmilwaukee.org) website.

Of special interest, and usually on the Doors Open tour, is the Colby Abbot building, 759 N. Milwaukee. The building was constructed to be the headquarters of the "old" Wisconsin Central Railroad (Colby and Abbot were officers of the railroad). Although substantially changed in recent years it has been rehabbed quite a bit. Another fascinating structure with some railroad related history (and a good view of the CP main line) is the old Milwaukee Gas Light building (no not the tall building downtown with the weather flame on top, but the huge brick structure in the Menomonee River Valley). This is where heating and lighting gas was manufactured by burning coal in an oxygen free environment to create coke. with gas as a by product. The Zimmerman Architectural Studios now occupy the expansive retort building and in prior years at least, they created fascinating historic videos and displays about this massive structure. Well worth a visit. The old Rexnord factory at 3073 S Chase houses a variety of interesting activities including a blacksmith shop, and the evidence of the structure being intensively rail-served is still very much present. But those are just a few examples of what is available during Doors Open Milwaukee. Bring your camera!



Dave also included some photos from the Milwaukee Fire Department Museum which is located at the old Firehouse at 16th and Oklahoma Ave. The museum has a nice collection of old Milwaukee Fire Department equipment.



Open for the first time last year was the Milwaukee Model Railroad Club located on East National Ave under the Canadian Pacific mainline tracks. It is located in the old Allis St Station. The club was formed in early 1930's and is where the National Model Railroad Association was organized. Its members included Al Kalmbach, William K Walthers, Frank and Carl Ziedler, Doug Jones and many more. They had over 2000 visitors last year during Doors Open.



# UNION PACIFIC BIG BOY 4014

In July 2019, UP 4014 toured the Midwest, the first time a Big Boy 4-8-8-4 steam locomotive ever operated east of the Mississippi River. Itinerary included Duluth, Minnesota - St. Paul - Altoona, Wisconsin - Adams - Butler - West Chicago, Illinois. Thousands of people came trackside to see, feel and experience the Big Boy.

Here are some photos from Wisconsin Chapter NRHS members of the Big Boy as it visited our area.

Photo by Dan Grudzielanek,  
West of Glen Oak, WI, 10th Road Bridge





(Opposite page, top left)  
Cambria, WI, Dave Nelson

(Left) Merrillan, WI.,  
South of Gilbert Road,  
Keith Schmidt

(Bottom) Lowell, WI,  
Shaw Brook, Mike Yugas

(Opposite page, bottom left)  
Adams, WI, Dave Nelson





(Top left, two) Milston, WI  
Tom Sharratt

(Top right) Wheaton, IL  
Dan Grudzielanek

(Bottom) Wauwatosa, WI  
Watertown Plank Road,  
Mike Yugas

# A Brief Presidential Visit in Wisconsin

Story and Photos by Keith Schmidt

As with all Presidential visits there is a lot of planning in advance. Schedules to be adhered to and plenty of security. Well there was an unplanned and unscheduled Presidential visit to Wisconsin on Memorial Day weekend and some people found out about it.

On Sunday May 26th I had gotten up and was getting ready for a nice leisurely Sunday morning with no real plans. I grabbed my phone and watch paging through Facebook and I noticed a post in a local railfan group. There was a comment that UP #4141 the President Bush unit was in Butler on a train headed for Adams, WI. Well this peaked my interest and I started to watch this. I then noticed a post that the #4141 was indeed in Butler and was second in a consist on a train preparing to leave. So I grabbed my ready camera bag and headed out. A fellow local railfan known to our NRHS chapter Cate Cratville-Wrinn posted that the train was departing Butler. This post popped up as I was on the freeway in the Zoo Interchange. I headed north on I-41 and exited at Silver Spring and caught the rear of the train crossing the bridge. So the chase was on.

I managed to get ahead of the train and caught the MPRWN at Marcy Road. Yes #4141 was the middle unit. I then headed west again and caught the train at Hwy 164 in Sussex. I then was trying to get it again at Lake Five Road but I saw the locomotives crossing the road as I was approaching. As I pulled up to the crossing I saw some familiar faces. Jim and Cate Wrinn were there. We decided to chase together and we set our sights on Ashippun. Unfortunately the train beat us to Ashippun. We then headed to Clyman and the coaling tower.

We arrived at Clyman and several railfans were there already waiting for the special visitor. We waited a few minutes and we heard that MPRWN had met another train in the siding and was now heading our direction. The train was only traveling about 5mph as it approached the grade crossing before the coaling tower. The train came to a stop with #4141 spotted right on the crossing. The train sat there for about a minute or two and then with two blast on the horn departed. We were just treated to a photo stop. After that I decided to give up the chase as did Jim and Cate and we headed home.

Now Part 2. Apparently at some point Sunday morning it was discovered the #4141 was NOT supposed to be on the MPRWN and in Wisconsin. So in Adams the #4141 was cut-off the train and was going to be heading back to Chicago as a light engine move long hood forward. WOW. So now chase #2 begins this time with a different crew of Dan Grudzielanek and his wife Tara we headed out to catch this even rarer move.

The three headed out towards Clyman again. This time we didn't go to the coaling tower but stayed east of there. We caught the now eastbound move at Hwy M. We were then able to catch it again at the west end of Rock siding at Upham Road. A very interesting Memorial Day weekend.





## Union Pacific Unveils “Powered by our People” Recognition Locomotive

Story and Photos by Keith Schmidt

In June 2019 the Union Pacific added another locomotive to its “Heritage” or Recognition units. This unit UP #1111 is honoring the UP employees that make the railroad run. The unit is quite colorful. It is a nice tribute to the thousands of employees of the Union Pacific railroad. There is some talk that the number #1111 is actually a reference back the CNW days when there was a safety violation form called the CNW Form #1111. Whether that is correct it could be.

In late June 2019 I was in Chicago for a National N Scale Convention. I heard that the UP #1111 was in the Chicago area. On Saturday June 29 in the morning I went out in search of the #1111. I wasn't able to find it. However later in the day talk at the convention was that the #1111 was now on display at the west end of Proviso. The exact location was also available from several railfans on Facebook. So I headed out. Below are some shots of the #1111. Unfortunately this little trip to check out the locomotive resulted in some damage to my truck. I didn't realize how close I had parked to a parking barrier and my nice blue truck now had a Union Pacific yellow racing stripe as seen in the photo below. Oh Well. *Just a note my truck has been fixed and looking good again.*



# From the Archives

## September 1954 - 65 Years Ago

Streetcar Route 27, 27th St. line, will be converted to buses this fall, according to Transport Company officials. New buses are on order, and it will not be long before this cross-town line is no more. Abandonment of Route 27 will leave only three streetcar lines operating in Milwaukee: Route 10 - Wells (with two branches; to Wauwatosa and West Allis); Route 11 - Howell; and Route 18 - National-Vliet.

## September 1959 - 60 Years Ago

On May 22, 1959 Russ Porter and another fan, Don Reuss, drove all night, Milwaukee-Proctor, arriving 7:00 a.m. - misty rain - prospects poor. (Rumor had it that Missabe would dieselize in June.) "We slung our cameras over our shoulders and walked out onto the bridge which runs alongside the roundhouse. One the ready track No. 226, a 2-8-4 sat waiting for a train to be made up. Two tracks away No. 506, a 2-10-2 was receiving water in her thirsty tank after coming in from the weighing scales with a load of ore. Another articulated was passing under the bridge, bound with a load of empties for the mines. We raced back to our car and beat the train to a highway bridge about a mile northwest of the roundhouse - a few minutes later No. 228 sped by in a swirling cloud of white smoke.

We decided to follow him but he lost us, but good. Now and then a patch of blue sky started to appear and our hopes for good weather materialized

## September 1964 - 55 Years Ago

On August 4 ground was broken for the first major passenger station to be built on the Milwaukee Road in 35 years, one which will replace the present Milwaukee station which was built in 1886. The new station will be accompanied by a new Post Office, Much negotiation between the Milwaukee Road, the City of Milwaukee, the State of Wisconsin, and the federal government preceded the final OK; now the only question is whether the CNW will abandon its plans for passenger facilities on the outskirts of the Milwaukee metropolitan area rather than to use the new Milwaukee depot as a Union Depot....With the help of Messrs. H. Warnahak and Jorgensen of the Electric Co., Rick Murphy was able to arrange an inspection trip to the Lakeside Power Plant for Chapter members and friends on September 12. As the Electric Co. is rather frugal with its passes, this may be the only chance we'll have in a long time to inspect and photograph the rolling stock and yards.

## September 1969 - 50 Years Ago

Remingford, Nebraska - When the Burlington's No. 41, bound from Lincoln, Nebraska. to Billings, Montana, jerked to a stop here one morning last week, 33 passengers rubbed their eyes and resigned themselves to a short stop. It wasn't so short. The railroad had won federal authority to discontinue the train and decided to move swiftly before the U.S. Supreme Court could reverse the decision.

But Justice Hugo Black reversed it anyway and the train ran again the next day. Final decision will be made late this month....If the Milwaukee Road is successful in taking off the Afternoon Hiawatha this will apparently mean the end of the Skytop lounges. The Morning Hi's have been using square end parlor cars lately....CNW's new timetable lists only train numbers, no names.

## September 1974 - 45 Years Ago

Plans are proceeding for MidRail '74 which will be hosted by the Wisconsin Chapter on October 4th and 5th. A tour of the Milwaukee Road shops and Milwaukee Solvay Coke's electric operations are scheduled as well as a special trip on the Kettle Moraine Scenic Railway. NRHS President Lewis Pardee will be the speaker at the banquet at the Wisconsin Club on Saturday evening

## September 1979 - 40 Years Ago

The recently released proposal to operate a 3400-mile railroad called "Milwaukee II" extending as far west as Miles City, Montana, was given a boost this summer when an agreement was reached between the Milwaukee Road and the State of South Dakota, and approved by the reorganization court, which will permit the railroad to begin initial rehabilitation of the line from Jonathan, Minnesota, to Miles City, Montana, using a \$2.3 million grant from the State of South Dakota

## September 1984 - 35 Years Ago

Butler Railroad Days '84 was a success, with a total ridership of approximately 4000....Ex-NKP No. 765 will visit our area in September with trips scheduled from Chicago to Sterling, Illinois, on the 15th, Chicago to Janesville on the 16th, and Chicago to St. Francis on the 22nd.

## September 1989 - 30 Years Ago

Things look different at Shops Yard on the Wisconsin Central. Parts of the original roundhouse have come down. The pigeons are circling in vain looking for their former home. Work is still going on to pull down the walls....Two ex-LS&I 2-8-0s passed through North Fond du Lac on their way to the Grand Canyon Railroad in Arizona

## September 1994 - 25 Years Ago

The Soo Line Technical & Historical Society Convention is scheduled for September 23-25 in Milwaukee. Activities will include a drive-through tour of the CP Rail (ex-Milwaukee Road) facilities and a tour of Northern Railcar....Ex-MILW

No. 261 was scheduled to power fantrips on June 11 and 12 on the FV&W Fox River Sub. Everything went fine on June 11 but on June 12, while the train was backing out of the depot, the rails spread and the engine derailed. An SD-45 was substituted. It took five hours to re-rail the steam engine....Two fantrips by ex-MILW No. 261 on the CP were canceled because the UTU strike against CP was not settled by August 15....CP announced that it would retire its "dual flag" livery. Apparently opposition to the logo, which depicts a com-

bined US and Canadian flag was vocal on both sides of the border. CP said the high cost of the decals was a consideration

## September 1999 - 20 Years Ago

Wisconsin Chapter members were looking forward to the Chapter excursion on Wisconsin Southern from North Milwaukee to Oshkosh and return on Saturday, September 25....Wisconsin Central founder, chairman, president, and CEO Ed Burkhardt resigned effective August 31 after a stockholder battle....Rochelle Railroad Park celebrated its first anniversary on August 31....Fort Wayne Railroad Historical Society received a \$348,000 historic preservation grant from the Transportation Equity Act for overhaul of ex-NKP 2-8-4 No. 765.

## September 2004 - 15 Years Ago

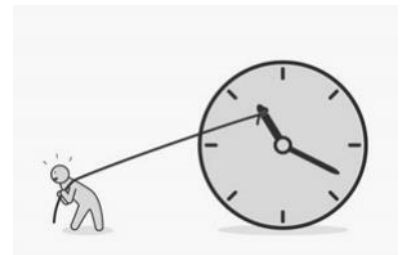
The first spades of earth were turned on June 28 at a groundbreaking ceremony signalling the start of construction work on the long-anticipated Amtrak passenger rail station near Mitchell International Airport....Passengers and crew members aboard Amtrak train No. 8, the eastbound *Empire Builder*, were evacuated for more than six hours July 6 in Portage after bomb threats were telephoned to Wisconsin authorities. No bomb was found. Eastman Kodak Co. announced the closing of its last company owned Kodachrome processing lab.

## September 2009 - 10 Years Ago

Kodak announced that on June 11 it would end production the iconic Kodachrome color slide film. The slide film was first produced in 1934. Sales of Kodachrome has slipped to less than 1% of Kodak's overall sales. The State of Wisconsin will buy two Talgo trainsets for use on the Chicago to Milwaukee Hiawatha corridor trains.

## September 2014 - 5 Years Ago

Several derailments happened in Jan a UP coal train derailed in Caledonia, WI due to extreme cold weather and its effect on the rails. In June several cars of a Union Pacific train derailed at Clement Ave on the southside of Milwaukee. The cars were rerailed and crossing repaired in several hours. In July a Canadian National train ran into a WSOR train in Slinger, WI. The WSOR train had backed up to pick up a crew member and underestimated train length and was on the CN mainline when the CN train approached. CN crew members were injured but not seriously. Norfolk Southern suspended its 21st Century Steam program for the fall of 2014. It was anticipated to be running again in 2015. 2015 should see the return of NW #611 to the rails.



Sparks & Cinders  
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**FIRST CLASS**

## The Final Frame



Special Drumhead on the Observation Car on the UP steam train headed back to Cheyenne, WY from Ogden, UT and the 150th Anniversary of the Golden Spike in May 2019 Photo by Keith Schmidt