

NRHS

WISCONSIN CHAPTER

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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.

Preserving Wisconsin Railroad History for 73 Years

Visit the Chapter Webpage www.nrhwis.org



On Friday April 14 2023 the Kansas City Southern and Canadian Pacific will become fallen flags. That day will be the start of the new railroad Canadian Pacific Kansas City CPKC. Some might shed a tear like the rain falling in the photo. Hopefully the merger will result in more trains and better service. KCS #3938 leads a westbound train at Duplainville on Sept 3 2018. Photo by Keith Schmidt

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Wisconsin Chapter Meeting Schedule

Upcoming chapter events

Friday April 14, 2023 (NOTE DATE CHANGE) Railroads of Hagerstown MD by Kenny Wright
Friday May 5, 2023 Coal and Fallen Flags Out West by Dan Grudzielanek and Keith Schmidt
June 2, 2023 TBA

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. For more up to date information on meetings and speakers, and also any weather cancellations, check the chapter's webpage at www.nrhswis.org.

Doors open by 7:00 pm, so arrive early to socialize. Meetings start at 7:30pm sharp. Please bring a friend!
Our meetings are live-streamed on the Zoom platform. Connection details are shared with chapter members and other interested persons via email the day of the meeting, or before. To ensure you are made aware of this info, we must have a working email address on file - send yours to president@nrhswis.org.

If you have a program idea please contact Program Chair Dave Nelson at engine1385@aol.com

The Big Picture is your page!

We've changed the format of the Sparks & Cinders back page, giving us room to run a large photo. Member submissions are solicited. Please send one or two of your outstanding pictures to Keith Schmidt, editor@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 June, 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.nrhswis.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 Mike Yuhas president@nrhswis.org (or via USPS at PO Box 070758 Milwaukee, WI 53207).

Wisconsin Chapter officers are: President (currently vacant) Keith Schmidt, Vice-President; Tom Marcussen, Secretary; Tara Grudzielanek, Treasurer. Directors: Dan Grudzielanek, Mike Yuhas, Andrew Roach, Ward Wells and Neal Wegner.

Contributions to Sparks & Cinders should be sent to Editor Keith Schmidt at editor@nrhswis.org (or USPS at PO Box 070758 Milwaukee, WI 53207) by the 15th of the month to be considered for the following month's publication.

All original material published in Sparks & Cinders may be reprinted in other railfan publications provided credit is given to "Sparks & Cinders, Wisconsin Chapter, NRHS." If an author is indicated for the item or article, credit must also be given to the author. The views, opinions, and comments published in Sparks & Cinders are those of the authors and do not reflect the policies of the Wisconsin Chapter or the National Railway Historical Society. Copyright ©2022, Wisconsin Chapter, Inc., NRHS.

Meeting March 3 2023

Introduction & Announcements

Recording on Zoom started at 7:30 pm. Keith Schmidt introduced himself as our current Chapter Vice President at 7:31 pm. He was presiding from our in-person meeting site at the North Shore Congregational Church in Fox Point. The office of Chapter President has been vacant since the 2023 election at the annual business meeting on Friday, February 3, 2023.

Keith said that we really need a Chapter President to preside at our meetings and provide leadership. There is only one hard rule that limits eligibility to serve. Officers and directors have to be dues-paying members of both the Wisconsin Chapter and NRHS National. The President does not have to be perfect / know everything. He does not have to do everything by himself. There are other members ready to help with Zoom and other technology support—and with other tasks as well.

We are looking for volunteers for the new set-up committee for the church meeting room before the meetings. They will also clean up and close up afterwards. Having a committee will avoid one person having to commit to working every month. We are looking for someone to take over the snack and beverage table at the back of the room.

Anyone interested in volunteering for any of the above opportunities should contact Keith Schmidt at president@nrhswis.org. Keith has temporarily taken over that address.

There will be another on-line Zoom-only railroad Gab Fest on Friday, March 10. An e-mail notice will be sent out to members shortly. Our next meeting will be on Friday, April 14, 2023. That is a change from our normal first-Friday schedule. It is the second Friday in April. April 7 is Good Friday. The church will be holding worship services on April 7. We are looking for a presenter for April 14.

Keith reminded us that all of our meetings, presentations, slide shows, other events, and internet / web presence are supported by our membership. If you see value in any of that, please join us. Annual Wisconsin Chapter dues remain at \$20.00 per person. There has been no increase with the recent bout of inflation. There are three ways to join (or renew). The

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first is cash payment while attending a Chapter meeting in person. The second is on-line payment via our website at nrhswis.org. It includes a \$1.00 fee for PayPal processing costs. The third is to send a check to Wisconsin Chapter NRHS, P. O. Box 070758, Milwaukee, WI 53207. Dues payments support Chapter activities and publications. Your support is much appreciated.

Keith counted 10 people in the physical meeting room at the church. There were then 35 devices connected to the Zoom meeting room.

Keith turned the podium over to membership committee chair Mike Yuhas. Mike re-iterated the above suggestion that those finding value in our meetings, events, and content should consider joining. Our e-mail provider may soon start limiting the number of announcements that we can broadcast. Members will have priority. Non-members risk not receiving timely notice of Chapter meetings, slide shows and other events. We still have a few members who have not yet renewed for 2023. He will not mention any names. They know who they are. They risk being excluded from our e-mail list. Presentation

Mike Yuhas introduced our presenter Richard Koenig at 7:39 pm. Mr. Koenig grew up in Bloomington, Indiana. He started taking train pictures there as a teen ager. He studied photography at the Pratt Institute. He worked as a professional photographer in New York City. He returned to Indiana University at Bloomington for graduate studies. He is currently a Professor of Art at Kalamazoo College in Kalamazoo, Michigan. He recently returned to railroad photography with a focus on the first transcontinental railroad—prior to its 2019 sesquicentennial. Some of those photos have been published in the NRHS Bulletin and Railroad Heritage.

The time focus of tonight's presentation was from about 1975 until Mr. Koenig left Bloomington in 1981. Most of that time was before the Staggers deregulation act that led to major changes. The number of Class I railroads in the United States dropped from 33 in 1975 to 7 in 2023. We started with the two railroads that cross at Bloomington and then moved outward. Part One consisted of 30 images of the NE-SW Illinois Central secondary line from Effingham, Illinois, to Indianapolis, Indiana. The Indianapolis Southern built that line in 1906. They sold it to the Illinois Central in 1911. It was known as the "High-Dry Line" for its superior engineering, with a number of high fills and bridges. The Illinois Central became the Illinois Central Gulf (following its merger with the Gulf, Mobile & Ohio) in 1972 (before our time frame started). The subject Indianapolis line became the main line of the Indiana Railroad in 1986. Part Two consisted of 49 images of the north-south former Monon line. The New Albany & Salem built the first track in 1853. It became part of the Louisville, New Albany & Chicago in 1859. That company changed its name to the Chicago, Indianapolis, & Louisville (informally known as the Monon) in 1897. The Louisville & Nashville took over the Monon in 1971. The subject line was part of L&N during the time frame of our presentation. L&N became part of Seaboard System in 1982. They became part of CSX in 1986. Most of the line around Bloomington was abandoned in 1993. The Indiana Railroad used the Monon yard until 2006.

Part Three went further outward. We first went south to the former Chicago, Terre Haute & South Eastern (then part of the Milwaukee Road), former Ohio & Mississippi (then part of Baltimore & Ohio), and the Southern line across southern Indiana from Louisville, Kentucky to St. Louis, Missouri. Then we went north to the former New York Central and Pennsylvania (and other) lines around Indianapolis. We went west into Illinois. We finished with some images from the Chicago area and Wisconsin. The Wisconsin shots got as far north as the Green Bay & Western.

From the Editor

There's a new title here. Instead of a message from the President of Chapter this will be where the editor of Sparks and Cinders makes some comments and has some insights. So here we go.

As Editor of Sparks and Cinders I try and put information together that is interesting and helpful to those member of the Chapter.

There has been a big announcement in the railroading world. The merger of the Canadian Pacific and Kansas City Southern has been approved. The target date is April 14 2023 for the new Canadian Pacific Kansas City to begin operations. There is more information inside the issue.

There is also talk that there could be an additional Chicago to Twin Cities Amtrak train running before the end of the year. 2023 is turning out to be an interesting railroad year so far.

The Chapter needs a President. A group without a leader doesn't always have a good direction. As Vice President of the Chapter I am currently the acting President. Please consider running the President. If you have interest let me know at president@nrhswis.org. Think about it.

I just want to say THANK YOU !! again to Mike Yuhas. Mike was President of the chapter during the COVID pandemic. It was about 3 years ago that things were shut down and stay at home orders were in place. The Chapter quickly adapted and switched to an online presence with Zoom. We are currently still using a hybrid format for meetings with in person attendance at the church in Fox Point and often times a world wide audience on Zoom.

This month we are proud to feature the next generation of railroad photographer and the future of preservation of railroading. Kenny Wright a 15 year old will be our presenter. Please come down to the church or be a part of the Zoom audience and support Kenny. We are looking forward to his presentation. There is more information about his show in the pages of Sparks and Cinders.

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Zoom attendance peaked at 50 devices during the presentation. We had two more people arrive at the church basement for a total in-person attendance of 12. Two devices were at the church. Total peak attendance was therefore 60. The main part of the presentation ended at about 9:00 pm. There was a short question and answer session. Closing Announcements & Discussion Vice President Keith Schmidt repeated the above announcements. Jim Rindt reported that he had handed out about 50 membership brochures from his table at the Mad City Railroad Show in Madison the weekend of February 18-19. Recording was stopped at 9:05 pm. An online discussion group / chat room, focusing on railroading in Wisconsin, Illinois, and Indiana, continued until about 10:50 pm.

Respectfully Submitted
Thomas W. Marcussen
Wisconsin Chapter Secretary

Friday April 14 2023 Railroads of Hagerstown Maryland by Kenny Wright

Join the Wisconsin Chapter NRHS in welcoming a new presenter and the next generation of railroad photographer. Kenny Wright will be presenting the "Railroads of Hagerstown Maryland" on Friday April 14, 2023. Kenny who is 15 years old represents the next generation of railroad enthusiasts and someone that will be continuing the tradition of photographing trains and recording history. Let's have Kenny introduce himself. "I am a 15 year old from Hanover, PA. From a very early age trains took my life by storm and so did the production of different types of media. Over the past 2 years I have been learning photography and in the year of 2022 I really focused in on my local railroading. I made frequent walks down to the CSX line through Hanover to take photos of trains. At the same time I had been doing research on that line and surrounding lines for years leading up to this. I eventually expanded out and documented lines branching out of Hagerstown, Maryland. The presentation will cover these sections of railroad on the Winchester and Western, CSX, and Norfolk Southern. Hagerstown has a large railroad history which we will discuss briefly along with the many modern day operations in the Hagerstown area."



Let's welcome Kenny with a nice turnout on Friday April 14th. Kenny will be presenting remotely from his home in Hanover PA. We will be meeting in the church basement in Fox Point and remotely via Zoom.

Chapter President Needed !!

As of Friday February 3, 2023 the Wisconsin Chapter NRHS is without a President. This office really needs to be filled. The President runs the chapter meetings on the first Friday of the month. The President also runs several board meetings throughout the year. The President is also the host of the annual banquet. Please consider running for this position. A special election can be held at anytime. There will be help in running the monthly meetings to help eliminate any fears of what is involved with that. Please consider this.

Chapter Meeting Setup Committee

Would you like to get more involved in the chapter without being on the board. If you are willing to get to the chapter meetings at least 30 minutes early and stay a few minutes after you might be a good candidate for the Meeting Setup Committee. I am looking for a pool of people that are willing to help with setting up and tear down for the chapter meetings at the church in Fox Point.

Before the meeting would include setting up the speakers and video projector. Also preparing the setup for the computers for the Zoom portion.

I would like see another group within the committee that would be willing to learn and help with the sound system and Zoom connections. I can tell you right now I am not very proficient with Zoom and will need some help. Training would be scheduled to get everyone up to date on what needs to be done.

With a group of volunteers I would like to setup a schedule of who is available for meeting dates. That way we can make sure that there are enough people with the proper skills to run the meeting.

Lastly I was wondering if someone would be interested in taking over the refreshments. It was nice to have some refreshments at the meeting. If you are interested in being the treat person let me know at president@nrhswis.org

Let's keep things going strong. Thanks Keith Schmidt

The Architecture of Agriculture by David Plowden

The Grohmann Museum once again showcases the photography of David Plowden in honor of the artist's 90th birthday. But instead of Plowden's trademark work featuring railroads, bridges, and heavy industry, this exhibition looks at feed mills, grain elevators, barns, and the human impact on the landscape of the Midwest and Great Plains.

Over fifty years of photography is distilled in this collection of vanishing views of America's past. As with much of Plowden's work, many of the scenes captured are no more, existing only on film, in memory, or in scattered remains across the rural countryside.

Friday April 21 will be Gallery Night at the Grohmann Museum and the unveiling of the David Plowden Exhibit with a Gallery Talk with David Plowden at 6:30pm. For more information visit www.msos.edu/grohmann-museum

Minirama - Wisconsin Dells

Did your family visit the Wisconsin Dells in the 1960's. Did you happen to stop and see the Minirama. The Minirama was a O scale model railroad on display in Downtown Wisconsin Dells. Jeff Haertlein from North Freedom has preserved some of the items from Minirama. He is looking for more items if anyone has anything available. Jeff told me that the Wisconsin Chapter NRHS made a trip out to the Dells in the 1960's and stopped at Minirama. If anyone has an old Sparks and Cinders from back then there might be information inside .

Jeff is looking for anyone that might have photos, slides or movies that were taken at the Minirama. Jeff is also looking for any black and white postcards from Minirama. If you have those items and would be willing to share them let Jeff know at gnx582@centurytel.net. If you don't have email or prefer a different method get in touch with Jeff at 608-522-3326 or Jeff Haertlein
PO Box 328
North Freedom WI 53951-0328
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New Railroad Begins April 14th

Federal regulators today March 15 2023, gave the green light to the historic merger of Canadian Pacific and Kansas City Southern.

Their \$31.6 billion deal — thought to be the last merger between two Class I railroads — redraws the North American rail map by creating the first railroad linking Canada, the U.S., and Mexico.

The Surface Transportation Board, in its 212-page decision approving CP's acquisition of KCS, said the merger will increase railroad competition and help take trucks off the highway. The board's decision, reached on Monday, was not unanimous: Four members backed the merger, while board member Robert Primus voted against the combination.

The merger will become effective on April 14, although there was no word on when CP and KCS will begin to mesh their operations. CP said it is reviewing the board's decision and will announce its plans for the creation of Canadian Pacific Kansas City in the coming days.

CPKC will have its headquarters in Calgary, Alberta, and its U.S. headquarters in Kansas City, Mo.

"This decision clearly recognizes the many benefits of this historic combination," CP CEO Keith Creel said in a statement. "As the STB found, it will stimulate new competition, create jobs, lead to new investment in our rail network, and drive economic growth. These benefits are unparalleled for our employees, rail customers, communities and the North American economy at a time when the supply chains of these three great nations have never needed it more."

Courtesy TRAINS Newswire Kalmbach Media



Caboose Restoration Help Needed

The Brodhead Historical Society is looking to restore the Milwaukee Road rib side caboose sitting at the Milwaukee Road depot in Brodhead WI. They are looking for information regarding the sliding window in the caboose. They have someone that will craft a replica if they have the information. They are also looking for information about the roof. The historical society was told to check with the Milwaukee Road Historical Association. However information that chapter members might have would be of great value. If you have information or just want more information about the restoration of the caboose contact Brodhead Historical Society President Jaine Winters at jaine.winters@gmail.com. Also on display at the Brodhead Depot is a Milwaukee Road H10-44 locomotive.

Do You Know by Dave Nelson

L.B. Foster, an established name in railroad contracting, purchased the CXT Company, a major manufacturer of precast concrete products, in 1999. CXT was in the process of erecting a huge new plant in Grand Island, Nebraska, entirely devoted to supplying pre-stressed concrete ties to one customer: the Union Pacific. What made CXT such an attractive acquisition for Foster (although CXT's non-rail product line was and remains very profitable) is that the UP was poised to spend enormous sums in the early 2000s on their most important lines to replace wood ties with pre-stressed concrete ties.

Little could the Foster company have anticipated the financial disaster they were buying into.



One such tie replacement project was the former C&NW east/west double track main line across Illinois and Iowa to Council Bluffs, a crucial traffic artery. One track of the two was worked on first. Almost immediately, those new ties began to crack, split, crumble, and disintegrate. The UP abruptly became a single track

railroad on one of its most strategic routes. In 2011 the UP demanded that CXT make good on a warranty claim for all ties made in Grand Island up to 2010. At the same time the UP terminated the purchase of any more ties made at the Grand Island plant, a plant which CXT didn't just close but abruptly dismantled, with a loss of 70 or more jobs. The warranty claim was financially significant enough to require public disclosure by Foster to the Securities and Exchange Commission. CXT resist-

ed the UP's claim, questioning how UP crews had installed those ties (concrete ties are not a drop-in replacement, and need different roadbed and track-laying practices than for wood ties). UP sued in 2015 and the litigation was settled in 2019 with millions of dollars in damages paid to the UP, but with UP's assurances that L.B. Foster/CXT would remain a supplier of concrete ties for the railroad.

I took these amazing photos in Rochelle, Dixon, and Nelson, IL showing just how badly the CXT ties failed. In some cases nothing was holding the rail in place for yard after yard of track.



From the Archives

April 1958 - 65 Years Ago

The Milwaukee Road terminated passenger trains 30 and 35 between Milwaukee and Berlin, both trains made their last runs on Saturday, March 22. In recent years they had been affectionately dubbed the "Berlin Bullet" by railroaders, patrons, and fans. Motor car No. 5900 is presently on trains 12 and 23, the Cannonball, between Milwaukee and Watertown....The Chapter roster lists twenty members for 1958.

April 1963 - 60 Years Ago

Jim Scribbins reports that the Soo Line is taking delivery of its new Geeps, be on the lookout for them....The Milwaukee Road is repainting cabooses, with the number above the bay window and a herald below.

April 1968 - 55 Years Ago

The Milwaukee Road will operate a bi-level passenger extra on Saturday May 4 from Wisconsin Rapids to Wauwatosa and return. The 1200 passengers will visit the Milwaukee County Zoo....Ex-GTW No. 5629 will operate to South Bend and return on May 5....The two privately owned North Shore cars stored at Jones Island are scheduled to be moved to the WERHS storage site in Menomonee Falls soon.

April 1973 - 50 Years Ago

Famed designer Brooks Stevens, who designed the Hiawatha Skytop Lounge Observation cars, will be the speaker at the annual Chapter banquet on May 18....ICG's 1926-vintage electric suburban cars will be retired soon when 15 new double-deckers are delivered.

April 1978 - 45 Years Ago

The Royal Hudson No. 2860 is scheduled to be on display at Waukesha on Friday and Saturday, April 21 and 22....BN is studying whether to move the corporate headquarters from St. Paul to another state. BN employs more than 3,000 people in its St. Paul headquarters.

April 1983 - 40 Years Ago

Butler Railroad/Frontier Days will feature train rides on the C&NW powered by ex-C&NW steam locomotive No. 1385. The event, scheduled for June 4 and 5 is co-sponsored by the Butler Lions Club, the Butler Area Chamber of Commerce, Wisconsin Chapter-NRHS, and the C&NW. Chapter member Jerry Hilton is serving as general chairman of Railroad Days.

April 1988 - 35 Years Ago

The Wisconsin Chapter annual banquet on May 6 will feature Ed Burkhardt, president of the new Wisconsin Central, as speaker.

April 1993 - 30 Years Ago

Plans are progressing for the 53rd Annual NRHS Convention in Chicago July 21 through 25. Four mainline steam engines are expected to be in attendance, N&W 611, UP 3985, ex-NKP 765 and 587....The first regular service double stack train on the Soo Line (ex-Milwaukee Road - now CP) was observed on March 6.

April 1998 - 25 Years Ago

Milwaukee-Watertown commuter rail service is set to begin on April 13 running via the CP. The trains will be extensions of the Chicago-Milwaukee Hiawatha service. The service will operate for 90 days during the reconstruction of I-94....WSOR announced a number of summer and fall passenger excursions utilizing their E-units and passenger cars....Ex-Milwaukee Road No. 261 will power steam excursions out of Green Bay on July 4 and 5

April 2003 - 15 Years Ago

Wisconsin Chapter has a booth at MSOE TrainTime for the second year on March 8 and 9....The National Railroad Museum in Green Bay acquired an SD24 donated by CN. It began life on the CB&Q and later toiled on the FV&W....UP was ordered by Illinois regulators to repair and monitor a 70-year-old wooden bridge over US 14 at Deval Jct.

April 2008 - 15 Years Ago

It was announced the Milwaukee Road #261 will be visiting Milwaukee from June 18th to June 24th. Friday Evening June 20th a Dinner Train will run from Milwaukee to Sturtevant. Sat and Sun June 21st and 22nd trips from Milwaukee to New Lisbon, WI will run. #261 will head back to Minneapolis, MN on Tuesday June 24th. Amtrak will celebrate what is being called National Train Day on May 10th in four cities including Chicago and Los Angeles. This will be the culmination of six weeks of events.

April 2013 - 10 Years Ago

It was announced the long time chapter member Bob Bullerman has passed away on Feb 23, 2013. Jeff Plale Wisconsin Railroad Commissioner is the speaker for the annual chapter banquet. It was announced that money was being raised to have N&W #611 be restored to operating condition. This was a big announcement. (Note - #611 was restored and is running excursions).

April 2018 - 5 Years Ago

The Friday April 6 2018 Chapter meeting featured Kalmbach's "Classic Trains" editor Rob McGonigal. Rob showed shots from the Reading Railroad in the 1970's and more. The Chapter's annual banquet will feature David Leider as the speaker. David is a Master Model Railroader with the NMRA. David is also a member of the Soo Line Historical Society and the current President. David will be presenting a history of the stockyards in Chicago and the importance of the railroads. The banquet will be held at Meyers Family Restaurant.



Icons of Railroading

Soo Line #1003 in the photo to the left is an Icon of Railroading. The 2-8-2 Mikado is turning 120 years old this year. The locomotive is currently stored in Hartford, WI at the Auto Museum. The #1003 usually comes out in November for the Hartford Christmas Parade.

Do you have a favorite Icon of Railroading. It just might make you some money. Enter your photo an Icon of Railroading. It could be a depot, signal, steam locomotive, diesel locomotive or whatever. Enter the TRAINS 2023 Photo Contest—Icons of Railroading. The contest is co sponsored by National Railway Historical Society. Cash prizes will be awarded to the three winning entrants. Plus other prizes award. For more information check out www.trains.com

Photo by Keith Schmidt
#1003 in October 2010 at Red Cedar Road Burnett WI

The Big Picture



KCS #4017 SD70ACe leads a westbound train on the Canadian Pacific at Canal Street just west of the Amtrak station in Milwaukee. On April 14 2023 the Kansas City Southern and Canadian Pacific will merge into the Canadian Pacific Kansas City CPKS. vGet your shots now. Photo taken on December 13 2021 by Keith Schmidt