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May 2005

Monthly Newsletter of the
Arkansas-Boston Mountains Chapter, National Railway Historical Society

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Minutes of the Arkansas-Boston Mountain Chapter -NRHS
Meeting of April 21, 2005

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Arkansas-Boston Mountain Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society was called to order at 7:00 p.m. on April 21, 2005 by Chapter President Bob Stark, at the Shiloh Museum General Store in Springdale, AR. There were 18 members present. Minutes from the March 17, 2005 meeting were approved as stated in the *Scrambler* dated April 2005.

National Director, Tom Duggan, discussed his trip to Cumberland, Maryland to the NRHS National Director's meeting. Several items were discussed in Maryland that would directly affect our Chapter. One topic of discussion was raising the membership fees at the national level. Other discussions included the fact that National is behind in publishing the Railway Bulletins. They hope to catch up soon. Some discussion was held in Maryland about subcontracting the National Railway Bulletin Annual Activities issue to a private contractor.

Scrambler Editor, Tom Duggan, stated after May 31, 2005 he won't be able to print the *Scrambler* at the Jones Center. The Chapter will have to go with the market price, which is much higher than the rates at the Jones Center. Rick Heber suggested the Chapter purchase a printer/scanner. The idea is for the Chapter to print the *Scrambler* rather than use a more expensive outside source. Chapter President Bob Stark asked Mike Sypult and Tom Duggan to check into the matter and report to the membership during the next business meeting.

Treasurer, Katherine Mindoro, read the financial report to the members. The report was approved as read. Ms. Mindoro was very pleased with the donations given to the Chapter at the Train Show on April 9, 2005.

Programs and Activities Chairman, Al Kaepfel, thanked all of the Chapter members who gave their time and talents to assist with the April 9th Train Show. He stated the membership gave out 215 model railroad engineer certificates to children who visited the booth and played with the N gauge and G gauge layouts. The Chapter still has all of the timetable books for donation. Chuck Girard suggested distributing some of them to the Ft. Smith organizations and libraries. The membership agreed. Mr. Kaepfel gave a special thanks to Gary McCullah for his work on the maps of Arkansas, Texas, and Oklahoma. Donations were collected for 11 of those maps. Secretary Clare McCullah, thanked Rick Heber for his donation of over 100 railroad videos. The Chapter received several donations from the videos. Several members stated they enjoyed the workshops during the Train Show. Mr. Kaepfel stated the Train Show was larger than last year in booths and displays, but about the same number of people attended the show as last year according to the ticket sales by The Sugar Creek Model Railroad Club. After the Train Show on April 9, Chuck Girard gave a presentation to visitors from California on Railroads of Northwest AR. The group rode on the Arkansas & Missouri Railroad and had a wonderful time.

Feather Fest to be held on Saturday, June 11, 2005 in Springdale, AR is the next event for the Chapter. Mr. Kaepfel stating he would need assistance with the booth and would be requesting volunteers.

Mr. Kaepfel stated the Chapter had received an invitation from Brenda Brown, of the Arkansas and Missouri Railroad, to include the Chapter on their web page. Chapter President Bob Stark asked Mike Sypult, Chuck Girard, Tom Duggan, and Al Kaepfel to form a committee to look into the matter. The membership agreed.

Chuck Girard stated the Parlor Car is really quite nice and rides very well.

Some discussion was made about the Chapter having a booth at Frontier Days in Van Buren at the depot.

Mr. Kaepfel stated he needs programs for the next few months. The May 2005 meeting will be held at the Stark Residence at 6:30 by invitation. The Stark family will provide the brisket and the membership is asked to bring a covered dish for a potluck dinner. Tom Stark asked that everyone respond to the RSVP by the requested dates so he could have enough food and tables for everyone.

The June 2005 program is to be presented by Tom Duggan on Trinidad, Colorado and Las Vegas, New Mexico plus extras. Presentations are needed for July, August, and September 2005.

Map Committee Chairman, Gary McCullah, stated he was pleased with the donations for the maps during the Train Show. The Chapter still has several maps available for future donations.

Sign Committee Chairman, Chuck Girard, stated the Street Dept. of the City of Ft. Smith donated the posts needed to place the

signs on the right of ways. Some of the posts need to be welded and repaired. Mr. Girard was going to find someone to assist him with the necessary repairs. Several members suggested possible candidates. Membership Chairman, Chuck Girard, requested the closure of any membership dues. Several members would be dropped from the membership for lack of payment. The general membership agreed.

New Business: Bill Ussery displayed a newspaper article of someone wanting information on Settler Cars. He requested anyone with information to contact him.

Tom Duggan stated he was looking for artifacts and maps on Arkansas Historical events to go on display in the Arkansas State Capitol Building in Little Rock. He stated he would provide additional information in the *Scrambler*.

Mike Sypult informed the membership of 2 programs being given by Continuing Education. One program included a train ride from Chicago to St. Louis to Kansas City to Baldwin, Kansas for 7 full days with an inclusive price of \$1200.00. Historical presentations will be given at each stop including travel logs along the way. The trip will begin in September of 2005 and end in October of 2005. Mr. Sypult stated he would provide some brochures as soon as they are published.

Rick Hebar stated he has located a website that was very good called the Fallen Flags at www.rr-fallenflags.org.

Steve Tharp gave an excellent presentation on railroad signaling and the process of welding rail.

Clare McCullah
Secretary of the Arkansas-Boston Mountain Chapter

Arkansas State Capitol Event

by Tom Duggan

David Ware, Capitol Historian with the Arkansas Secretary of State's Office, recently contacted the former Chapter Secretary Ron Allen about providing materials to be used in a display of Arkansas Railroad History in the Capitol in Little Rock. Ware, a railfan with knowledge of Wyoming and Montana railroading, explained that he is looking for artifacts to be placed in guarded, well lit glass display and wall cases located in the public display area of the Capitol. He has a total of four cases (length between 7 feet and 8 feet) available. Ware has contacted the Little Rock and Pine Bluff chapters of NRHS.

Ware said that he was looking for items with relatively high visibility that would attract the viewer's eye. From this comment I deduced that he is probably not looking for small items such as passes, tickets or train orders but rather items such as wrenches, lamps, locks, lanterns and larger paper items such as a children's menu or large photos.. I believe that our Chapter members have more than enough memorabilia to provide materials for a nice Frisco oriented display.

Ware has recently obtained a State van and will be happy to come up to Northwest Arkansas to pick up and later return the items after their display from late September 2005 to the end of November 2005. As an added bonus the Capitol Historian will be able to call upon the graphics capability of the Secretary of State's office for the display. Once the display is ended the Chapter will retain the professional-level graphics.

I have told Ware that the Chapter enthusiastically supports the display idea. As details become more firm we can identify who is lending what and establish places for pickup in Northwest Arkansas and the River Valley.

Programs and Events

By Al Kaepfel

Programs

19 May 2005. Bob and Tom Stark will again host their delightful annual pot luck supper at their home in Fayetteville. Come one, come all for the pleasure of talking about guess what-- railroads, and the good food.

16 Jun 2005. Tom Duggan will venture away from Northwest Arkansas and out to the far country. Tom will present a program covering Trinidad to Las Vegas, plus some additional entertainments.

21 Jul 2005 and after. There will be no more programs. Unless! and Until! some of you who have these wonderful stories to tell come forward and share them with all of us. Please do this, so that we can continue to receive these interesting presentations.

Programs and Events-Continued

Special Events

This is a brief report on the Train Show of 9 April. Our club was the guest of the Sugar Creek Model RR Club at their second annual Train Show. The show was well attended, slightly more than the first year, and featured many fine model railroad layouts, and a large number of vendors.

We had two tables showing maps and the timetable books. We had our portable N gauge and G gauge layouts for operation by the children. A unique feature was another table offering railroad videotapes donated by Rick Hebar.

Our results were excellent; in summary, as follows, including the amounts donated by pleased visitors;

0 Timetable books were taken	\$ 0.00
11 Maps were taken	140.00
205 RR videos were received and carried away	205.00
	<hr/>
Total donations for our treasury	\$345.00

215 Model RR Engineer Certificates were given out to the 215 girls and boys who drove our trains. They were delightful!

And, Al's special thanks to the 14 members who assisted and participated. They made our work pretty easy.

11 Jun 2005. We will be in full attendance at the Feather Fest in Springdale, at our usual location next to the A & M depot. Reserve this date so that you can volunteer to come and help us. It is always fun.

27 Aug 2005. Keep this date in mind for the Frisco Fest in Rogers; always a great day for us.

October 2005. Frontier Days in Fort Smith. This will be our second year. They were so pleased with us last year, that they have offered us and promised us more space in the Frisco Station this year.

December 2005. There is a charity party benefiting kids on the A & M property sponsored by Hunt and Tyson. Since a large number of children attend, our chapter our chapter has been especially invited to attend with our trains for the kids to operate.

Unless we decide to add another event, this will be our schedule for 2005. Your support is appreciated.

National Directors Meeting

By Tom Duggan

The business portion of the National Directors Meeting, hosted by the Cumberland Chapter, took place in Cumberland, MD on April 9 and 10th. Approximately 125 attended excluding 11 chapters represented by proxy ballots that later turned out to be pivotal.

Mike Bettiol, the volunteer responsible for NRHS membership records, has been working 80 to 110 hours per week at his regular job. He has been unable to produce updated membership reports or send out Associate membership cards. The NRHS officers have only recently become aware of the magnitude of the membership records problem. They have been devoting a lot of time in the past few weeks on this critical problem.

The officers have reviewed the system and the problem is one of producing output on a timely basis. They are leaning towards a file server approach in which users create the reports they need. The re-design will cost time and money that is not in the current budget. The most urgent need is to generate the second 2005 dues notice. The officers may have to use an outside vendor to produce the needed second dues notice.

Some thought has been given to contracting out the Annual Activities volume of the *National Railway Bulletin*. Editor Jeff Smith and his team are catching up as seen in the two 2004 issues of the *Bulletin* recently received by members. Smith said that preparation of the Annual Activities issue is extremely time consuming. Its structured format would permit Annual Activities work to be done by an outside contractor in 2006 and beyond assuming, a budget allocation existed for the outsourcing. Smith also reported that conversion of the *National Rail-*

way Bulletin to the 8½" by 11" format with the first 2005 issue is on track.

Because of the membership records problem and the desire to outsource the Annual Activities issue, President Mulloy suggested that the membership consider a dues increase for 2006. The amount of the proposed NRHS dues increase would be \$2.00. An altogether too long period was spent, in my opinion, as to whether the increase would be one increase of \$2.00 or divided into two \$1.00 increases in 2006 and 2007 respectively. It should be noted that only one railroad history organization has lower annual National dues than NRHS according to a recent global survey conducted by NRHS. The Brazilian railroad history organization charges \$19.00 per annum compared to NRHS' \$20.00. I had some uncertainty as to whether or not anyone had a firm grasp on the costs of curing the membership records problem and outsourcing the activities annual. It should be noted that NRHS has more than 17,000 members and *one* full time employee based in Philadelphia. Certainly, there can be no allegations that NRHS is throwing money around especially since more than 50% of NRHS revenues go to the production and distribution of the *National Railway Bulletin*.

The primary issue discussed over two days was the proposed new NRHS Bylaws. Some of the Director comments at the two-hour special Bylaws meeting on Saturday bordered on the hysterical. A small group of Directors did not seem to want any type of change to equip NRHS with a legal framework suitable for the 21st century. Others were upset with the proposal to change Chapter voting power from one vote per chapter, regardless of size, to a new system

that bases voting power on the amount of dues remitted to NRHS with all Chapters having a minimum of one vote. Under the current system the five person Texas Eagle Chapter has the same voting power as the 461-member Philadelphia Chapter. The proposed Bylaws would base voting power on the amount of dues remitted by a Chapter to National. For example, Philadelphia would have four votes while our Chapter would have one vote. With only a few more members our Chapter could be in the two-vote category. The Regional Vice Presidents and NRHS officers would no longer have any votes, a change from the current system, unless they were National Directors. The idea is have National Directors represent members.

The biggest discussion point related to how to represent the more than 2,400 NRHS members who belong to NRHS only. These At Large members account for at least 14% of total membership. Under the current Bylaws they have no National Directors to represent them. President Mulloy said that NRHS only members, to be called At Large members in the new Bylaws, tend to be younger and are the type of individuals who eventually could participate in Chapter activities. Mulloy also mentioned that some five percent of the At Large members responded to the Bylaw comments, more than that received from Chapter members. Reasons for not joining local Chapters according to Mulloy included "live too far away", or "do not want to be in a Chapter". I had a feeling that NRHS officers and Directors had relatively little insight into the nature of At Large membership body. The proposed bylaws would initially allocate ten new appointed National Directors represent the At Large members. There was a lot of discussion and two amendments-both defeated-were offered that would have gutted the proposed Bylaws in respect of the proposed proportional voting system. One amendment would have passed had not eleven

Chapters sent in proxy ballots in favor of the proposed Bylaws.

I voted in favor of the proposed Bylaws, including the proportional voting for Chapters and the inclusion of NRHS At Large member voting rights, as I believe NRHS needs a modern set of Bylaws that reflect the 21st century. I was also concerned by a verbal comment of NRHS legal counsel that the existing bylaws likely conflict with Maryland (the state of NRHS incorporation) laws mandating equal member voting power.

I voted in favor of a dues increase as it is obvious that the model of a large, volunteer run organization such as NRHS is very likely faced with the prospect of having to use paid third parties to fix serious problems in the membership records area. It also seemed logical that the Editor and staff spend maximum time in preparing the Bulletins that contain historical material rather than spending a lot of time-diverted from regular Bulletins- on the Annual Activities issue.

Chapter members should be aware that the final decision on the proposed Bylaws and dues increase will be made by the members, including members who vote by proxy ballot, at the 2005 Convention in Portland, OR.

The officers of NRHS have a difficult job in reconciling the often-conflicting issues within the organization particularly since NRHS is the average age of members is high. In addition, NRHS has had relatively stagnant membership in recent years which suggests that many Chapters are not that effective at marketing. I believe the NRHS officers they should receive the support requested. If they cannot manage the organization to the satisfaction of most members, they can suffer the penalty of not being re-elected. As a practical matter, I think the members in an entity such as NRHS will tend to follow the recommendations of the NRHS officers.

n.e.c. (Not Elsewhere Classified)

If you are planning to attend the Quad Chapter Convention in Abilene, KS on Sunday, May 15 (see last month's *Scrambler* for details), you might consider going via Cherryvale, KS. On Saturday, May 14, 2005 the South Kansas & Oklahoma will operate trains from Cherryvale as part of the Cherry Blossom Festival. There are three one-hour trips at 10:00 AM, noon and 2:00 PM. The fares are \$8.00 for coach and \$15.00 for the limited capacity caboose rides. You can call 620-396-8594 or send an email to noffenbacker@gbonline.com. (Thanks to Chapter member Jim Plumlee of Bentonville for the information.)

The Boone County Historical and Railroad Society, PO Box 1094, Harrison, AR 72602-1094 is distributing Tim Kubat's 106-page (8½" by 11") soft bound photo book entitled Locomotives and Motor Cars Missouri and

North Arkansas. The book, which includes one A & O color photo, includes both roster and action images. The book costs \$ 16.50 including postage and is the type of book any Northwest Arkansas railfan should consider. Kubat is a well-known M & NA historian and I would imagine the quality of the book, including the motive power roster, is high.

The Arkansas & Missouri plan to place lounge car 107 in service on June 1. The car is receiving a thorough check of the upgraded diesel power unit and new air conditioning prior to entering service. The windows of the Pullman-Standard built car are sealed so reliability of HVAC is extremely important. The railroad also plans to operate a Fort Smith based dinner train on the second and fourth Saturdays of each month



Left – Can you identify the location of this photo taken in 1958 ? Is it on the Frisco or in the area of Kansas City or Springfield, Missouri .

Hint-It was active until 1946.

ARKANSAS-BOSTON MOUNTAINS CHAPTER NATIONAL RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P8

Chapter No. 188 founded November 1987

2005 DIRECTORY OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

President	BOB STARK
Vice President	CHUCK GIRARD
Secretary	CLARE MCCULLAH
Treasurer	KATHARINE MINDORO
National Director	TOM DUGGAN
Membership Chm.	CHUCK GIRARD
Programs & Special Events	
Director & Archivist	AL KAEPPPEL
Director	FRED LEWIS (05)
Director	STEVE THARP(07)
Director	BILL USSERY (06)
Editor	TOM DUGGAN

The Chapter meets the third Thursday of each month (except December dinner meeting) at 7:00 PM Meetings are held at the Shiloh Museum's General Store, 118 West Johnson, Springdale, Arkansas. Visitors are welcome at all meetings. Annual dues for 2005 are \$35.00 for individuals and \$38.00 for a family. Dues include membership in the National Railway Historical Society. Please call 479-750-8165 for directions to the Shiloh Museum General Store.

ARKANSAS-BOSTON MOUNTAINS CHAPTER
NATIONAL RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 1303
SPRINGDALE, AR 72765-1303
Address Service Requested

**Our Thursday , May 19
Meeting is the annual
potluck at the Stark home in
Fayetteville. Tom Stark will
contact members by mail.**