

# **ARKANSAS-BOSTON MOUNTAINS CHAPTER**

**NATIONAL RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

Chapter No. 188 founded in 1987



## **2007 DIRECTORY OF OFFICERS**

<b>President</b>	<b>Gary McCullah</b>
<b>Vice President</b>	<b>Mitch Marmel</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Clare McCullah</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Katherine Mindoro</b>
<b>Editor</b>	<b>Bill Merrifield</b>
<b>National Director</b>	<b>Chuck Girard</b>
<b>Board Director</b>	<b>Mike Sypult</b>

**NRHS Chapter Meets 7:00 PM Thursday, July 19, 2007 at the Shiloh Museum's General Store.**

**The July Program will be presented by Dallas Hale, a former station agent**

**ARKANSAS-BOSTON MOUNTAINS CHAPTER  
NATIONAL RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
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# The Scrambler

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July 2007

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

## CHAPTER MINUTES June 21, 2007

The regular scheduled meeting of the Arkansas-Boston Mountain Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society was called to order at 7:00 p.m. on June 21, 2007 by President Gary McCullah, at the Shiloh Museum General Store in Springdale, AR. There were 20 members and 2 visitors, Paul Newhouse of Greenwood, AR and Lee Sharp of Prairie Grove, AR were present.

Secretary, Clare McCullah's minutes from the May 2007 meeting were approved as stated in the *Scrambler* dated June 2007.

National Director, Chuck Girard, was not present. President McCullah stated that our Chapter would not participate in the national conference call to lay the ground work for this years meeting. Tom Duggan stated they were going to be discussing the process of outsourcing billing and record keeping at the National Conference. The thrust of the meeting is to increase dues by \$11.00 per year to cover the \$7.00 per year cost of outsourcing and getting things running on time. The other \$4 is to go toward the outstanding balance of money in the National Organization. Some of the funds will be used to make the transitions to the outsourcing companies and to make the NRHS National Bulletins Gary stated some statistics showing the NRHS Organization itself has been unable to solve some of the problems. It seems impossible for the National Organization to get things accomplished by relying solely on volunteers. Other problems concern dues which haven't kept up with inflation and that the National Organization has continued to lose members since 1977. It was pointed out by Steve Tharp that you can be a local member without belonging to the National. David Denman and Chuck Gerald are going to the National meeting in Chattanooga, TN with ability to vote.

*Scrambler* Editor, Bill Merrifield, stated the Chapter owes an ongoing debt of thanks to Tom Duggan for all of his years as editor of the *Scrambler* and his continued contributions. Mr. Merrifield stated he reminded everyone that it wasn't too late to pay for a ride on the train and go on the weekend to the Quad Chapter's meet.

Treasurer, Katherine Mindoro, was absent due to health problems. The report was approved as read by President McCullah and approved.

Membership Chairman, Chuck Girard, was absent and not report was given.

Special Events Chairman, Al Kaepfel, stated Feather Fest was a success. Clare McCullah presented pictures of the various Chapter members working at Feather Fest. Mr. Kaepfel stated Frisco Fest is on Saturday, August 25, 2007. He encouraged everyone to attend and come to have a good time. Gary and Clare McCullah will be on the Old Frisco Caboose on 1<sup>st</sup> and Walnut for the children to enjoy.

Clare McCullah asked the membership to provide pictures of last 20 years of the Chapter to present at the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary party of Chapter members participating in various activities. The party will be held, Saturday, November 10, 2007 from 5:30 to 9:30 at the Clarion Inn in Fayetteville, AR. The party is separate from regular November meeting. We will have a social hour from 5:30 to 6:30, then eat, and have a program. The Chapter will pay for the cost of the members' meal and his/her spouse or significant other. Cards will be sent out to the Chapter members requested an RSVP so plans can be made for the amount of food, etc.

It was reported that Bob Oswald is recovering very slowly. He is getting better, but is still at North Hills. The doctors think this was a toxic reaction to some medicine that has to gradually work out of his system.

Programs and Activities Chairman, Mitch Marmel, was absent due to illness. He has had serious heart problems. This last week he underwent an angiogram and some stints were placed in his heart. He is not going to be able to attend the Quad Chapter's Meet. Al Kaepfel was given possession of the digital projector to be used for presentations at the meet.

Archivist, Al Kaepfel, has received the Secretary's notes from past Secretary Ron Allen. The notes were donated along with Ray Tolar's book to the NRHS archive.

Map Committee Chairman, Travis Walls, stated he didn't have any new news. He stated no donations for maps were given at Feather Fest. He was hoping for donations at Frisco Fest in August.

Sign Committee Chairman, Chuck Girard, was absent.

Old Business: Tom Duggan stated he has 50 paid attendees for the Quad Chapter's meet. He has 7 booked on the caboose and 34 in the parlor car for June 24, 2007. Gary and Clare McCullah presented some pictures of the newly painted caboose that were taken to-night.

New Business: Ray Tolar stated that past NRHS member, Chris Load, moved to New York and is a paid employee at Cooper's Town and North Valley Railroad. Mr. Tolar corresponds with him. Mr. Load sent Mr. Tolar some pictures of the Railroad in New York that were shared with the membership. Mr. Tolar stated on September 7, 8, and 9, 2007 is the Tired Iron of the Ozarks Meet. They thought they had the sawmill running, but hope to have it fixed completely by September. They are building a blacksmith's shop and an old log cabin that are coming along slowly. Admission is free to meet. He encouraged everyone to come out and enjoy the festivities. He stated the grounds have become so popular that the cook wants to double the area of the kitchen. Mr. Tolar stated they are lucky to have the property paid for and the road paved.

Guest, Lee Sharp, offered to present the program for November 2007 on the Army Railroad system.

The meeting was adjourned by President McCullah. President McCullah reminded the membership to donate to the coffee kitty.

The presentation for the evening was from: Steve Tharp on rail operations through Gary, Indiana.

Clare McCullah  
Secretary of the Arkansas-Boston Mountain Chapter  
National Railway Historical Society

### **FROM THE HEAD END**

From the Pres,

Well, the Quad Chapters meet for 2007 is in the book. I hope all who attended enjoyed themselves. Other than a couple of minor glitches, it was an excellent get-together. I didn't hear any complaints, but if you heard any, let someone know. I believe it is important to the success, if that's the word, of our chapter to be active in this kind of activity. The fact that we have had nationwide exposure for the activities is a plus. If you have ideas for our next turn at hosting the meet, please present them for consideration.

I want to thank Tom Duggan, Al Kaepfel, Chuck Girard, and Bob and Rose Hofer for their efforts in the planning and/or execution of the meet. Everybody pitched in, but these folks did most of the work in making the meet a success.

I would like to see some occasional input from the model railroaders in our group, either as a presentation or as a Scrambler article (or both). I know that this could be a distraction, but if you have a model of a historic locomotive or car that would be of interest to the group, please consider sharing it. One that I can think of is a Schnabel car used for carrying the large generators produced by GE and Westinghouse. How about the heavy duty flatcars in the last Scrambler? The list is endless. The main thought is this; a model of a piece of rolling stock that either no longer exists or exists in a much deteriorated condition may make an excellent picture article for the Scrambler or a historical presentation at a meeting. Please consider it. Gary



WANTED:  
BY OCTOBER 31, 2007

PICTURES ON PHOTOGRAPHS,  
SLIDES, PRINTS, DIGITAL  
OF MEMBERS PARTICIPATING IN NRHS ACTIVITIES FOR THE LAST 20 YEARS

On an envelope, put your name, who's in the picture, and an approximate date,  
with the picture inside the envelope.

All photos will be scanned and  
Will be returned to you unharmed

Clare McCullah, NRHS Secretary  
479-267-4603 (home) or 479-466-8346 (cell)

### **LOCALLY ON THE BEAM**

#### **Quad Chapter Event**

Your Chapter sponsored the Quad Chapter event in Fort Smith on June 23-24. Fifty-five people, including 20 Chapter members, attended the event. Missouri provided 14 attendees from the St. Louis and Kansas City areas. The remainder came from other eight states with one guest from the United Kingdom. Everyone enjoyed the Saturday evening buffet supper at the Howard Johnson Motel in Fort Smith. The evening featured three Arkansas-oriented programs followed by a night photo shoot at the Fort Smith Trolley Museum. Several attendees commented positively about the night photo shoot led by Chapter member J.P. Bell. The night ride on the trolley car was so evocative of a time past as we enjoyed the breeze in the humid evening.

The highlight of the trip was the Sunday Fort Smith-Winslow round trip-run of eighty miles. We made photo stops at the former Frisco North Yard in Fort Smith, Winslow, the Winslow Tunnel and the Lancaster trestle. The engine crew selected an interesting mix of freight cars for the train. A highlight of the trip was the first revenue run of the A & M's new fire engine red caboos. The weather was great and we had two chances to cross the swollen Arkansas River. The Show Conductors did an outstanding job in making the trip enjoyable.

The entire event would not have been a great success without the ongoing cooperation of Chapter members and the Arkansas & Missouri Railroad. Brenda Brown, Passenger Train Manager, did an excellent job in working with the Chapter event coordinators. Brenda was so helpful in dealing with the special needs of rail fans. The attendees, most of whom were rail fans, were impressed with high quality of maintenance and comfort on the passenger equipment. Many Chapter members helped with the event including Chuck Girard (Fort Smith supply manager and caboos conductor) and Bob and Rose Ann Hofer (registration). The event was a lot of fun, much work and a financial success thanks to the efforts of Chapter members.

We have prepared an analysis of this event for the benefit of the managers of the 2011 Quad Chapter Event and placed it in the Chapter Archives.

Thanks again for all the help, Al Kaepfel and Tom Duggan

### Photos from the Quad Chapter Meet



Marilyn Cain caught the essence of the night photo shoot of the trolley and period automobile in Ft. Smith during our Quad Chapter event in June. A surprising number of fans made excellent use of the opportunity to try various techniques with both digital and film cameras. We even attracted some unattached towns people.



The food was sumptuous and tasty and served as just the right mixer for all railfans.



The programs were well crafted and held the attention of the viewers.



It was obvious that we enjoyed the trip and the opportunity to share our railroad experiences with fans from the four state area and beyond. The members of the crew were exceptionally helpful in our making the most out of the trip.



Having the refurbished caboose added a real element of excitement and experience for those who decided to take a more rustic if not humid and hot excursion.



Opportunities for photography of the mixed train abounded. The Alco had switched ends of our train at the site of the old Winslow depot.

### **Special Events: Feather Fest**

On a recent Saturday, June 9, our group gathered for Springdale's Feather Fest on the grounds of Shiloh Museum. We were joined there by the museum's regular annual visit by a sizeable children's petting zoo. This attracted a lot of kids and they came over to run our trains also.

We had our usual G gauge trains up and running for the children to operate. We operated a very nice 2-6-0 Mogal from Ray Getty's donated LGB collection. It is a better size for our rather small loop of track and ran very well and smoothly. We intend to keep it and use it regularly, instead of selling it.

Mitch Marmel brought his O gauge trolleys: to say they were popular is an understatement. Al Kaepfel's N gauge also made its appearance and was much enjoyed by the children.

Interest was excellent as proven by the youngsters receiving 115 Model Railroad Engineer Certificates. A few of our members claimed to have boys and girls tell them that they liked the trains better than the animals (an outstanding example of unbiased reporting).

The museum managers were very pleased with our activities, and thanked us several times. We were invited back for next year.

### **Special Event: Frisco Fest**

Our chapter will attend the Frisco Fest as we have been doing for many years. The festival will take place on Saturday, August 25. Keep yourself available. It is always an active, popular, and interesting event.

### **Special Event: Twentieth Anniversary**

This year ABMT will be celebrating the Twentieth Anniversary of the founding of our chapter. We will be honoring nine present members who were founding members. We owe them a lot. These founding members are: Ron Allen, Bob Besom, Kenneth George, Robert Lundeen, David McDonald, Robert Oswald, Martin Post III, Raymond Toler, and Bill Ussery.

The Chapter was awarded its charter by the National Railway Historical Society on November 8, 1987. We will have a supper on Saturday evening, November 10, to enjoy one another's company, have a nice dinner, and present custom prepared awards to each founder. The dinner will be at the Clarion Hotel at highways 540 and 62 in Fayetteville. There will be no cost to members and the spouses or friends. Reserve this date and be sure to attend. Invitations and reply cards will be sent to every member.

Special Events Chairman, Al Kaepfel

## **SO YOU THINK YOU KNOW SOMETHING ABOUT RAILROADING?**

QUESTION: What is the connection between Steamtown USA and Steamtown National Historic Site in Scranton, PA?

ANSWER: In 1967 F. Nelson Blount, the Christian businessman and driving force behind Steamtown USA, was killed in a private plane crash. This effectively cut off funding for the site in Bellows Falls, Vermont. In 1984, the collection was moved to Scranton, Pennsylvania. An act of Congress, October 30, 1986, established the Steamtown National Historical Site with Blount's collection as the core of the operations and exhibits. The Site was open to the public in 1995.

## TRAINS THROUGH MEMORY



The above picture showed up on Frisco.org recently. The poster suggested it might have been taken by Charles Winters, the now deceased Fort Smith native and rail photographer. It appears to be winter morning scene . The southbound train appears to have a lot of head end business. The Ozark Limited (Train 3 in a 1929 passenger timetable) was carded as stopping at 9:30 AM for a twenty minute Fayetteville meal stop. The Frisco discontinued day time passenger train service through Northwest Arkansas effective March 13, 1933. The engine, a 4-6-2 1912 Schenectady product, was in the 1400 class used for Central Division passenger service in the 1930s.

My guess is that the picture dates to the 1926 -1933 time frame. The Fayetteville depot reconstruction was completed in 1926. The depot, then painted white, appears pristine in the photo. Perhaps the automobile can provide a dating clue.

### **End of an Era**

For many years Neosho had a yard that was home to helper engines for the portion between Watts ,OK and Neosho, MO. With the advent of higher HP equipment power the yard has become redundant. The photo below from URL Link contains a photo taken by Terry Cantrell on June 17, 2007 that shows the yard being removed.

Our thanks to Tom Duggan for The above articles.

