

ARKANSAS-BOSTON MOUNTAINS CHAPTER

NATIONAL RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Chapter No. 188 founded in 1987



2007 DIRECTORY OF OFFICERS

President	Gary McCullah
Vice President	Mitch Marmel
Secretary	Clare McCullah
Treasurer	Tom Duggan
Editor	Bill Merrifield
National Director	Chuck Girard
Board Director	Mike Sypult

NRHS Chapter Meets 7:00 PM Thursday, April 17, 2008 at the Shiloh Museum's General Store.

This month's program will be presented by Travis Walls

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

Volume 21, No. 7

April 2008

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

CHAPTER MINUTES March 20, 2008

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 March 20, 2008 by President Gary McCullah, at the Shiloh Museum General Store in Springdale, AR. There were 17 members present.

Secretary, Clare McCullah's minutes from the January 2008 meeting were approved as stated in the *Scrambler* February 2008. There weren't minutes to approve for February 2008 since no meeting was held in January 2008 due to icy weather.

National Director, Chuck Girard, stated he wouldn't be able to attend the National Meeting in June. Tom Duggan stated he is going to attend the meeting in Ft. Worth, June 6-13, 2008.

Scrambler Editor, Bill Merrifield, distributed the March 2008 issue of the *Scrambler* the members attending tonight's meeting and the rest of the issues will be mailed. Mr. Merrifield requested information about Tom Scott, his interest in railroading and his family life. Mr. Scott was a long time member of the Chapter and passed away this month. We will all miss him. Mr. Merrifield requested some articles to print from the Chapter members to print in the *Scrambler*. He requested articles on personal accounts having to do with railroading. Please send them in the Bill Merrifield. He stated you can e-mail pictures and articles to him as follows: wmerrif@sbcglobal.net or give them to him in person. Mr. Merrifield is looking for trolley articles as well.

The resignation of Katherine Mindoro was discussed with the Chapter. It was decided to turn all of the books over to Tom Duggan. Tom has agreed to be the temporary treasure until such time a full time treasure can be nominated. Mr. Duggan and President McCullah stated they were meeting on Monday to change the names on the bank accounts. President McCullah will communicate with other members to see if someone is interested in assuming the position on the full time basis. President McCullah stated we made money at the train show. If someone is entitled to a refund from their expenses from the train show they need to see Tom Duggan or Gary McCullah. No treasurer's report was read only a summary of the current financial situation of given by President McCullah. The summary was approved by the Chapter members.

Membership Chairman, Chuck Girard, reported he has nine outstanding membership renewals that haven't been paid. The funds need to be to him as soon as possible. He has to have them by the 23rd of each month to process them.

Special Events Chairman, Al Kaepfel, reminded us of the coming Frisco Fest in August 2008. The Sugar Creek had more than 50% attendance and a third more tables that were sold. Our Chapter did very well. The Chapter distributed 350 certificates and ran out of certificates. We could have given out another 100 or so if they had been available. Many Chapter members donated items and most everything sold. We sold that last copy of the Frisco timetable put together a couple of years ago. The Chapter netted \$398 from the show. Mr. Kaepfel wanted to thank everyone for all of their donations and assistance with the show. President McCullah also thanked everyone for all of their hard work. Mr. Kaepfel stated many of the small items donated by Ray Getty were sold as well as the magazines donated by Fred Lewis and the videotapes donated by Bob Oswald.

Programs and Activities Chairman, David McDonald, stated Gary and Clare McCullah were giving the program for tonight. Last month's program was to be given by Mitch Marmel and it has been postponed to later in the year. Mr. McDonald stated we have programs from the present time to September 2008 as follows:

April 2008 is to be presented by Travis Walls.

May 2008 is to be presented by Bob Stark and David McDonald at the Stark residence.

June 2008 is to be presented by Mike Sypult who will include a demonstration on how to use photos in a power points presentation.

July 2008 is to be presented by Roseanne Hofer.

August 2008 is to be presented by Chuck Girard.

September 2008 is to be presented by Mitch Marmel.

October 2008 – presentation needed

November 2008 – presentation needed

December 2008 – no presentation needed due to the Christmas party.

Mr. McDonald suggested the Chapter could have a show and tell meeting where items of railroading interest were brought and discussed by the membership. It was also suggested the Chapter could have a guest speaker.

Archivist, Al Kaepfel, has been researching information on how to properly archive information. He wanted to organize the information that has been collected. He started with the most recent information he had about the donations from Ray Getty and followed with organizing Quad Chapter's information. As the materials get older, the process is more complex and requires more time to categorize. He stated that Chapter has several books that have been donated to the archive but we don't have a place to store them. The Chapter discussed if this kind of information should be kept. It was also discussed as to if the NRHS bulletins and the old issues of the *Scrambler* should be kept and how to properly store and display it. At the present time, the Chapter has approximately 4 liner feet of materials that is being stored in a fire proof, climate controlled environment. The idea is to save the information for future historians and making the information available to them when it is needed. The Chapter discussed giving the materials to the university library. The problem is that the university library also has limited space. President McCullah suggested the Chapter think about possible ideas of what to do with this material to preserve it for future generations and satisfy the economic restraints of the Chapter.

Map Committee Chairman, Travis Walls, informed us that several maps were sold at the Sugar Creek train show. He will need to make additional copies of the maps and he wanted to know where to locate the CD with the copies. Suggestions on the location of the CD were given.

Sign Committee Chairman, Chuck Girard, stated weather getting just right to put up the remaining signs. He stated it was a 2 man job for a nice Saturday afternoon.

Old Business: Barbara Gavron inquired as to when the e-mail listings of the membership would be available to alert members of the cancellation of meeting and other important information. Mitch Marmel stated he just needed a list of members and their e-mail addresses. Chuck Girard stated he would get that information to Mr. Marmel. Mr. Marmel stated it would be set up on a Yahoo group with security passwords. A test e-mail would be sent out to make sure everyone is receiving it properly and everyone will receive an e-mail telling them they have been enrolled.

New Business: Steve Tharp stated his friend from London, England, Nick Solocombe, was in Arkansas and photographed the Alcos of the A&M. His photos can be seen at: trainsofthewesternworld.fotopic.net

Tom Duggan gave a report on Bob Oswald's prognosis (see IN THE YEARS below). He also passed around a historical book and some post cards on Monett, Missouri to share with other Chapter members.

Ray Toler stated he had several items for the Chapter members. In the Shiloh Museum annual report the local NRHS Chapter is mentioned as a partner. On April 5, 2008, is the meeting of the Cotton Belt Railway Historical Society. Mr. Toler stated the Tired Iron of the Ozarks Spring Crank Up will be April 18, 19, and 20, 2008. He stated a few weeks ago a tornado damaged the supply building on the Tired Iron grounds. Repairs were completed by 14 of its members. Mr. Toler stated he hoped the A&M may run their troop train on Memorial Day for Veterans this year. He really enjoyed it the last 2 years.

Mitch Marmel displayed an old LP record of a tourist run for the Strasburg Railroad Museum and Strasburg, Pennsylvania.

Mike Sypult stated he works with the special programs at University of Arkansas. Lately he has been providing railroad programs with Elder Hostel group. This group is for persons 50 years and older. They have been providing railroading programs such as the A&M run from Springdale to Van Buren, and Van Buren to Ft. Smith. Coming soon will be the run at Eu-

reka Springs and some runs in Hot Springs. For further details, you can contact Elder Hostel or reach Mike by e-mail at: msypult@uark.edu

President McCullah distributed flyers on the Quad Chapter's meet on May 17, 2008 in Wichita, Kansas. The registration fee is \$51.00 per person if paid by April 21, 2008. After April 21, the fee is \$55.00 per person. The fee includes a ride on the Kansas and Oklahoma Railroad from Wichita to Yoder, Kansas. Lunch will be at the Carriage Crossing restaurant in Yoder. The Great Plains transportation museum will be open for attendees and the admission is included with the fee. Your reservation can be mailed to: J. Harvey Koehn, National Director, 237 N Lakeside Dr., Andover, Kansas 67002. Please make checks payable to: Wichita Chapter NRHS. If you have questions you can call 1-316-733-2085 or e-mail at info@gptm.us Please put Quad Chapter on the subject line.

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: Gary and Clare McCullah on French Lick Railway Museum, in French Lick, Indiana. Clare McCullah, Secretary of the Arkansas-Boston Mountain Chapter, NRHS.

FROM THE HEAD END

I want to thank all of you for your participation at the March meeting. It was a good crowd. If I have not done so, I would like to express my thanks to Steve Tharp for donation a DVD player. It is stored at my house so, if it is needed for a presentation let Clare or me know, so we can bring it to the meeting.

In the week prior to the meeting, there were two deaths reported in connection with Amtrak in two days. The first was a track inspector in the Northeast Corridor. The second was an unidentified person struck near Claremont, NH. In a third incident, a woman was injured and her dog killed near Stonington, CT. I believe there was one other incident on the Hudson River line. One was a professional railroader and the others 'civilians'. What do they have in common? Apparently, all took for granted that they were not in danger. Every video I have ever seen on railroad safety stresses "Stop, Look, and Listen". Here locally, we've had several killed or injured because they didn't heed that simple warning. As rail fans and members of the community, we must do our part to remind folks that trains cannot stop on a dime and that doing stupid things around the tracks can get you hurt or killed.

I am trying to self off some of my magazine collection. I have for sale (or trade or giveaway) CTC Board and (Pacific) Railnews for roughly 1992 – 2002 and Extra 2200 South for 1972 – 2002. If you, or someone you know, is interested let me know. Also, I have an HO scale Atlas RS-1 custom painted and lettered for A&M 22 for sale. I mention this to bring up another point. Somewhere along the line we, or our families, will have to dispose of our collected "junk". Whether we are moving to smaller quarters or as the result of our passing, it will all have to go. Taking steps now to reduce the collection to what we really are interested in will save time and effort later. I may be preaching to the choir on this, but it never hurts to mention it as Clare does to me on a regular basis.

I want to remind you to get your reservations in for the Quad Chapter event in Wichita. Clare and I are unable to attend due to our work schedule. It should be a good trip. At least the lunch will be very good as those who attended the last meet there can attest.

Gary

QUAD CHAPTER 2008

Hosted by the Wichita Chapter National Railway Historical Society

Saturday, May 17, 2008

Ride the rails from Wichita to Yoder and back on former Missouri Pacific trackage, now owned by Watco Companies, Inc., and operated by the Kansas and Oklahoma Railroad.

Train departs 11:00 a.m. from Wichita. Arrival in Yoder is scheduled for 1:30. Lunch will be at the Carriage Crossing at 2:30. The return trip departs Yoder at 4:00; Wichita arrival is at 6:30 p.m.



The Great Plains Transportation Museum will be open for attendees. Admission to the museum is included in the fare.

Early registration fare is \$51 per person; must be postmarked by April 21. Fare is \$55 per person if mailed after April 21. All reservations must be received by May 10.

As lunch will be late please make appropriate arrangements in your morning eating schedule. No snacks or beverages will be provided on the train. Bottled water will be available.

Mail reservations to

J. Harvey Koehn, Nat'l Director
237 N. Lakeside Dr.
Andover, KS 67002

Make check payable to Wichita Chapter NRHS.

If you have questions call 316.733.2085 or send an e-mail to info@gptm.us. Please put "Quad Chapter" in the subject line.

Quad Chapter 2008
Reservations

Enclosed is payment for _____ reservations. Total amount enclosed is _____.

Name(s) _____

Chapter: _____

Phone number: (H) _____ (C) _____

e-mail: _____

LOCALLY ON THE BEAM

The following photographs were taken by Tom Duggan while on an outing near Winslow, Arkansas. Tom was trying to locate the remnants of the shoofly over which workers on the Frisco used to travel to work on the Winslow tunnel while Trestle No. 1 (pictured below) was still being erected in the very early 1900s. Despite the risk of life and limb, Tom did not find the remnants but did come across workers replacing the ties on Trestle No. 1. He even managed to slip or slide down to the base of the first bent to take some remarkable photos.



Workers use a rail-mounted truck with boom hoist to re-tie the 101 year-old Frisco Trestle.



Using a truck-mounted derrick, workers slid in each tie under the rails one at a time. The trestle is 780 feet long and 117 feet high. Not the safest job in the world!

**THIRD ANNUAL MEMORIAL DAY A&M RAILROAD TROOP TRAIN TO HONOR ALL
MILITARY MEMBERS, MILITARY RETIREES AND VETERANS**

!!FREE!! May 26, 2008 !!Free!!

Train will depart Springdale, Arkansas at 8:00 AM and return around 4:00 PM.

Enjoy a BAR-B-Q Chicken dinner provided by TYSON'S FOODS

For reservations and more details call 1-800-687-8600

IN THE YARDS

Tom Duggan spoke with Bob Oswald and his wife, Annie, after the February train show. Mr. Oswald's condition is unchanged. His arms have improved but legs are not doing well. Bob's mind is sharp despite the illness that has been going on for almost 2 years now. We share his concern for the toll this has had on Annie's health. Bob just had eye surgery and it doing very well. He can use his wheelchair now with improved his mobility.

BRASS POUNDING DOWN THE LINE

The Fort Smith Trolley Museum will have its annual open-house coming Sunday, May 4th, 2008 from 1-4:30 PM at 100 South 4th Street. Free trolley rides and refreshments will be available.

On display will be Car #50, a 1904 double-truck Hot Springs streetcar that has been undergoing restoration. Many other items will be on display including a demonstration by the Fort Smith Amateur Radio Club.



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One of the best if not the best source for railroad preservation news can be found at the following web site: www.rypn.org These dedicated volunteers maintain this web site to gather news information about railway preservation from sources across the United States, Canada, and the rest of the world. It's an exciting web site for NRHS chapters like ours. Editor *

*As of January 1st, 2004, **RyPN** is officially a 501(c)(3) corporation, incorporated in the state of Texas, and registered with the IRS.

TRAINS THROUGH MEMORY



This is an actual size picture of a brass L & N baggage check. It was found in St Paul, Arkansas at a home built in 1913. Prior to the introduction of multi-part paper baggage checks, most railroad baggage used a two- part system with one being given to the customer and the other being affixed to the baggage by a leather strap. At the destination the customer would present his baggage check and receive the baggage. This particular check covered baggage checked to Louisville, Kentucky. I am not sure how it ended up in St. Paul.
Tom Duggan

SCALE RAILROADING

For any modeler who has ever had a model locomotive jump the track and hit the floor



SO YOU THINK YOU KNOW SOMETHING ABOUT RAILROADING?

Question: What the heck is a shoofly?