

# 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 **6:30** PM Thursday, May 15, 2008 at the Bob Stark residence in Fayetteville.

This month's program will be our annual cookout fellowship at the Bob Stark residence.  
Details and location are inside.

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NATIONAL RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
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# The Scrambler

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May 2008

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

## CHAPTER MINUTES

April 17, 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 April 17, 2008 by President Gary McCullah, at the Shiloh Museum General Store in Springdale, AR. There were 23 members present.

Secretary, Clare McCullah's minutes from the March 2008 meeting were approved as stated in the *Scrambler* dated April 2008.

National Director, Chuck Girard, stated he will not be able to attend the national convention in Ft. Worth. Tom Duggan will be attending in Mr. Girard's absence. A letter was request from President McCullah given permission for Mr. Duggan to attend the convention and vote on behalf of the local Chapter.

Membership Chairman, Chuck Girard, stated he has 7 members who have unpaid memberships. Mr. Girard stated that the National Headquarters is sending notices out to the members to drop their memberships if they don't pay.

*Scrambler* Editor, Bill Merrifield, distributed the *Scrambler* to the member attending tonight's meeting. Chuck Girard was asked to send Mr. Merrifield a copy of the list of those members who haven't paid their yearly dues so they can be dropped from the *Scrambler* mailing list

Treasurer's Report: For the time being, Tom Duggan will be acting Treasurer for the Chapter. Tonight, he gave the financial report to the Chapter members. The report was approved as read. He discussed the tax issues facing the Chapter. He explained that the Chapter had to pay Arkansas state sales taxes but the Chapter has tax-exempt status on income taxes. President McCullah asked the membership if anyone is interested in becoming the new Treasurer for the Chapter.

Special Events Chairman, Al Kaepfel, stated on Saturday, June 7, 2008, the Shiloh Museum is hosting a petting zoo and our Chapter in an event the museum is calling Rails and Tails that will run from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. This is a child-focused event with parents involved. They have requested items of interest to children on display. The Ft. Smith Trolley Museum will host an open house on May 4, 2008

Programs and Activities Chairman, David McDonald, stated he needs programs for October and November 2008. It was decided that the November meeting will be a show and tell. Each member is to bring an item of interest to share with the other members. Each presentation is to only be about 5 minutes long.

Archivist, Al Kaepfel: no new activity.

Map Committee Chairman, Travis Walls: no new activity.

Sign Committee Chairman, Chuck Girard, stated the weather would soon be nice enough to put up the remaining signs.

Old Business: Ray Tolar discussed activities of the Tired Iron Club. They are located 5 miles north of Siloam Springs on north Mt. Olive Rd. The grounds are one mile due north of the smoke stack. The fall crackup is scheduled for September 4, 5, 6, and 7, 2008.

**New Business:** Tom Duggan stated Amtrak is celebrating the joining of the rails on May 10, 2008 by giving special fare rates for that day only.

Mike Sypult distributed brochures on University of Arkansas's continuing education programs and the Elderhostel program. They are providing several programs that are railroad related for persons over 50.

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

The presentation was from Travis Walls on President Abraham Lincoln and his influence on railroading.

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

### **FROM THE HEAD END**

The railroad industry has always had its ups and downs, its critics and fans. A perusal of the business and sections of any newspaper will bear this out. The major shippers are alleging that the railroads conspired to fix the fuel surcharges added to shipments the last time the price of oil jumped. Possibly, but I think eventually it will all fall back on either or both of two entities, the oil companies and the Federal government.

I hope you are thinking about who you want to lead the chapter in the future, not just for 2009, but further into the future. We are all guilty of not recruiting new (read that young) members.

Speaking of chapter elections, I am about 99 per cent sure that I will not run for any office for 2009. If you are interested in the job, let our nomination committee know when the time comes.

I want to remind you again to get your reservations in for the Quad Chapter event in Wichita.

I want to express my thanks in advance to all of you who will be at the Shiloh Museum in June for the "Rails and Tails". Clare and I will be on the road and unable to make it.

To follow up on that, we may have to replace or modify the plywood base for the 'G' scale trains. If anyone has an idea to counteract the warping without making the sections too heavy, too awkward, or too big to be hauled in a pickup truck, speak up at the next meeting. It isn't real bad yet, but "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure". Gary

### **LOCALLY ON THE BEAM**

**May's Chapter Meeting** will be held at Bob Starks home this coming Thursday, May 15, at **6:30 PM.** This is a cookout fellowship with Bob furnishing the meat and drinks. Other members have signed up to furnish the rest of the food and desserts. Directions are as follows; Starting at Crossover Road (Highway 265) in Fayetteville, travel 3 miles east on East Mission Blvd (Highway 45). Bob's house number is 6209 on the south side of the road. Location will be marked with signs or balloons.

**Quad Chapter 2008** will be hosted by the Wichita Chapter National Railway Historical Society this coming Saturday, May 17, 2008.

**NRHS Convention** meets in Fort Worth June 16-22. May 16 is the last day for the \$35 registration fee. After that the fee is \$50.

**THIRD ANNUAL MEMORIAL DAY A&M RAILROAD TROOP TRAIN TO HONOR ALL MILITARY MEMBERS, MILITARY RETIREES AND VETERANS May 26, 2008.**

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.

**On Saturday, June 7, 2008,** the Shiloh Museum is hosting a petting zoo and our Chapter in an event the museum is calling **Rails and Tails** that will run from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. This is a children focused event. They have requested items of interest to children on display. Members, we need your voluntary services!

**TRAINS THROUGH MEMORY**

**DO YOU LOVE A MYSTERY?** The following photographs were taken by a local photographer and businessman, Bruce Vaughn. The photographs are of a wreckage scene here in south Springdale in 1965. Other than that, no other information came with the photos. Since your editor, a true and tried Texan, was not living here at the time, we thought it would make good conversation at our May Chapter cookout when local members could fill in the details. Your editor will pass on these details in the June Scrambler to those not in attendance.



## **BRASS POUNDING DOWN THE LINE**

### **An Elderhostel program that combines education, trains and adventure will be held July 8-14.**

Railroad enthusiasts and Western history buffs can immerse themselves in a bygone era with classes and field trips through southern and central Montana. Photo courtesy of Lewistown Chamber of Commerce.

"Where the Rails Meet the Mountains," developed by Montana State University's Extended University and Elderhostel, a non-profit educational organization, originates in Bozeman with an overnight trip to central Montana. The custom-designed educational program will appeal to railroad enthusiasts and Western history buffs.

Classes, field trips and a dinner train ride will bring railway history to life, particularly that of Montana's railroads and the Milwaukee Road, one of the West's most appealing and controversial railways. The arrival and technological innovation of the Milwaukee Road's transcontinental line in the Northwest, along with its eventual failure and dismantling, made it a much-lamented operation in transportation history. Field trips include visits to a former Milwaukee operations base, historic downtown district, substations, a former depot, a museum and more.

The program is designed for adults 55 and over. Lodging, meals, transportation and field trips are included. Some moderate walking is required. This trip is ideal for Montanans who want to learn more about the state's past, as well as out-of-state visitors interested in railroad history. A commuter discount is available for Bozeman-area residents who do not need accommodations.

For more information, call Marilyn Jarvis, the MSU Elderhostel coordinator, at (406) 994-4820 or toll-free (866) 540-5660 or e-mail [mjarvis@montana.edu](mailto:mjarvis@montana.edu).

## **HISTORICAL OPERATIONS**

**Western Railway Museum** completed its largest-ever expansion. On Saturday May 3, 2008, the Western Railway Museum invited the community to celebrate the grand opening of its newest display building, the Loring C. Jensen Memorial Car House.

The 37,000 sq. ft. facility helps the Western Railway Museum permanently preserve its priceless collection of electric railway artifacts and interpret these artifacts for the public. The Loring C. Jensen Memorial Car House is now complete after four years of construction and ten years of fundraising. Costing \$2.5 million, this was the largest and most expensive project in the organization's sixty-year history. The community contributed over \$2.15 million to the project, with the remaining \$350,000 being funded by the Bay Area Electric Railroad Association.

Tours include the new building and the 38 historic trains on display inside, and train rides throughout the day. Visitors can also tour the Exhibit Hall, picnic in the Museum's spacious park, and shop in the museum store. Parking is free. Admission is just \$10 for adults, \$9 for seniors 65 years and older, and \$7 for children 2 - 14.

The building is another major investment in the infrastructure of Solano County's most popular museum. It provides appropriate preservation of the core collection of electric railway equipment, and increased public accessibility to the collection.

Each artifact housed in the Jensen Memorial Car House tells a story: a story of our past, and a story of our future. By focusing on the tremendous and often overlooked influence electric trains had on how land was used for development, how our cities in California grew as a result of mass transit, and how our American notions of travel, place, work, and recreation changed. We can connect people to current-day issues such as energy consumption, sustainability, transportation, and land use.

The Western Railway Museum is located on California State Highway 12 in rural Solano County, midway between Interstate 80 and Rio Vista. For more information, call 707-7-374-2978 or visit [www.wrm.org](http://www.wrm.org)

### **John Bull Locomotive Dedication Ceremony at Hicksville, NY, May 17**

Ties and rails have been laid and the track spiked down for the John Bull replica locomotive at Kennedy Memorial Park.

The John Bull locomotive replica project is progressing on schedule and it is on its way to its permanent home at Kennedy Memorial Park. Most recently, the ties and rails have been laid and the track spiked down in front of the gazebo. Also, the locomotive's boiler assembly has been painted and placed upon the frame/wheel assembly.

The full-sized, non-operating replica, which has taken Hicksville Chamber of Commerce President James Pavone slightly over two years to build, is based on the 1831 "John Bull" locomotive, which was imported from Britain and run on the Camden and Amboy Railroads. It served as inspiration for Matthias W. Baldwin to build locomotives in this country, including the Long Island Rail Road's first locomotive, the Ariel, which serves as the image seen on Hicksville welcome signs and banners.

A public ceremony celebrating the 360th anniversary of Hicksville and the dedication of the John Bull locomotive replica will take place at 10 a.m. Saturday, May 17 at Kennedy Memorial Park.

**Lancaster, PA. Streetcar:** It may be years away- if ever- before streetcars again rumble through the streets of Lancaster City, but a group organized to establish a streetcar system has already made its first purchase. This streetcar, now in Brooklyn, N.Y., was purchased at auction by the Lancaster Streetcar Company.

The non-profit Lancaster Streetcar Company has bought a 52-year-old streetcar with the intention of rebuilding it for eventual operation here. The streetcar, a PCC model built in 1946, is a former Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Agency car that has been rusting in a lot in Brooklyn, N.Y.

The Lancaster group competed against salvage dealers when they bought the streetcar for \$1,500 at auction in December. Plans call for shipping it to a restoration company in Warren. It will likely cost \$300,000 to \$400,000 to completely rebuild the car. The cost includes a new electronic and mechanical system, a wheelchair lift, air conditioning and bodywork. Once rebuilt, the streetcar should be serviceable for 20 years, he said.

The Lancaster Streetcar Company's plan calls for two streetcars (three at peak times) to travel a 2.6-mile loop between the Amtrak Station at the northern edge of the city and Southern Market Center and the Lancaster County Convention Center at South Queen and Vine streets. The streetcars would be powered by a single overhead electric line and run on tracks in the street.

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



Head for the roundhouse, Nelly, he can't corner you there!

These ladies were the wives of railroading men and members of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad Ladies Auxiliary in Hannibal, Missouri.

Question: What was the last year that the ladies of the above CB&Q Auxiliary operated under that name?  
(This should give somewhat a date to the photograph.)

Question: What would have been their new operational name?

April's *Scrambler* question: What the heck is a shoofly?

Answer: A shoofly is railroad jargon for a temporary detour siding built around a construction or restoration site on the railroad roadbed. It was the 90+ year-old remains of such that Tom Duggan was looking for around trestle No. 1 on the Frisco (now A&M) Railroad line as reported in last month's edition of the *Scrambler*.

## SCALE RAILROADING

The following photograph of grain silos in Portland, Oregon was taken and submitted by our Chapter president, Gary McCullah.



I have heard it said that, in model railroading, there is a prototype for everything. The track nearest the silos in the foreground does indeed go all around to form a balloon track. To accomplish this, there is a short section of trestle at left. So, if someone asks, yes there is a prototype for having grain storage silos inside a tight radius balloon track. Gary

May 15-18-MID-CONTINENT NMRA REGIONAL CONVENTION is being held in Branson, MO at the Stone Castle Inn (Formerly Settle Inn) 3050 Green Mountain Rd. Featured will be clinics, model photo contests, display layout, swap tables, railroad groups, tours, and train excursion.

## VIEW FROM THE ANGEL'S SEAT

Enjoy your summer railroad outings, take lots of pictures and notes, bring back the brochures, plan how to present all of the above, **and don't forget that we still meet every third Thursday of the summer months.**  
Editor