

ARKANSAS-BOSTON MOUNTAINS CHAPTER

NATIONAL RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Chapter No. 188 founded in 1987



2009 DIRECTORY OF OFFICERS

President	Gary McCullah
Vice President	David McDonald
Secretary	Clare McCullah
Treasurer	Bill Longston
Program Director	David McDonald
Editor	Bill Merrifield
National Director	Chuck Girard
Board Director	Mike Sypult

NRHS Chapter Meets 7:00 PM, August 20, 2009 at the Shiloh Museum General Store.

The program on the Missouri and Arkansas RR will be presented by Mike Sypult and Chuck Girard

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

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August 2009

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

CHAPTER MINUTES July 16, 2009

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 July 16, 2009 by President Gary McCullah, at the Shiloh Museum General Store in Springdale, AR. There were 31 members present and no guests.

Secretary, Clare McCullah's minutes from the June 2009 meeting were approved as stated in the *Scrambler* dated July 2009. There was one correction: The excursion steam train was observed in Abilene, Kansas and it then traveled to Wichita, Kansas. The excursion was sponsored by the Wichita Chapter of NRHS.

Membership Chairman, Chuck Girard, stated provided copies of the Chapter membership roster to the members attending tonight's meeting. The information those who have not continued National membership is on the back page of the roster.

Scrambler Editor, Bill Merrifield, stated printed 75 copies and sent out 70 of the *Scrambler* this month. He will compare the mailing list to the Chapter roster from National and the people who have dropped the NRHS local and national memberships will be removed from the mailing list.

Treasurer, Bill Longston, read the financial report to the members. The report was approved as read.

Program Chairman, David McDonald, declared the following programs:

August 2009 – Mike Sypult and Chuck Girard on Missouri and AR RR.
September 2009 – David McDonald and Bob Stark (program to be announced).
October 2009 – Gary and Clare McCullah – Tours of the Western States.
November 2009 – Show 'N Tell by the entire Chapter.
December 2009 - Christmas Party and White Elephant.

Sign Committee Chairman, Chuck Girard stated activity will wait until the weather cools off.

President McCullah stated that Bill Longston was asked to contact the organizers of Frisco Fest to coordinate their activities with the Chapter display needs.

Old Business:

Tom Duggan stated Mike Sypult not able to attend the Chapter meeting tonight. He has been looking at other chapter's websites to obtain ideas for our Chapter's site. He hopes to have a sample of our site ready for the August, 2009 meeting.

Mitch Marmel stated the Open house at the Trolley Museum in Ft. Smith was a success. He had placed several photos on our Yahoo Groups site. He stated they had a really good turnout despite the triple digit temperatures in Ft. Smith that day.

Bill Merrifield displayed some new rail joiners for the G scale layout to be used the next time the layout is set up which will be at Frisco Fest. The new joiner will make the track assembly much easier and quicker. Bob Stark made a motion to reimburse Bill Merrifield for his costs for the joiners and Mitch Marmel seconded the motion. The motion was approved by the Chapter membership.

New Business:

Stan Kujawa provided a list of depots in the United States that are on the National Register of Historical places.

Ron Allen brought pictures of a depot in Shirley, AR. He stated they are restoring the old depot in St. Joe.

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-Circus Train of Chicago in 1985 and business trains in Illinois.

Clare McCullah

Secretary of the Arkansas-Boston Mountain Chapter

National Railway Historical Society

FROM THE HEAD END

Sometimes it is hard to write this little column and sometimes ideas just seem to come in bunches.

There are several web sites that have railroad videos. Most are less than 3 minutes in length, though once in a while there are longer ones. One Yahoo group that I subscribe to provided a **Youtube** link to a video of a Union Pacific train being blown off the tracks by a tornado. It was shot by the in-cab camera on the trailing unit. There is also footage of three Kyle RR engines pushing an ex-Rock Island snowplow through western Kansas and Eastern Colorado. The highlight was the plow derailing. Another good source of videos is **rail-videos.net**.

Use **Google** to search "railroad videos" and you should find several sites. A least one should provide you with some entertainment on those days when the weather is too hot or too wet for getting out of the house. If videos aren't your style or you are looking for a specific prototype, check out the various picture sites. **Flickr** is the best known, but there are several rail only sites that can supply just about anything from historic to current. If you have a favorite rail-related web site, pass it along and either myself, Bill Merrifield or Mitch Marmel will get it into the Scrambler or posted on the Yahoo group. Also, if you have a rail-related news item, get it to Bill for inclusion in the Scrambler. If it is copyrighted include that information so that we can correctly attribute the information.

A quick reminder as a follow up to a note that Mitch posted last week; Frisco Fest is August 28 and 29 per the Main Street Rogers web site. Hopefully, we will have good weather for it again this year.

Though it may seem a bit early to mention it now, the chapter will be holding elections in December. There are only four meetings between now and then. I will need a nominating committee first. I would prefer volunteers for this committee. If no volunteers, I will appoint three.

On an associated note, I will not be running for any office this year so, do not ask. I think it is time to step out of the spotlight and let someone else have their 15 minutes of fame.

Gary

IN THE YARDS

Lets keep our mind and prayers for Marion Duggan who faces a serious medical procedure in the near future and as well, continue to remember Bob Hofer and Bob Oswald!

BRASS POUNDING DOWN THE LINE

Frisco Fest on August 28-29 is one of our big PR events for the year. The sign-up sheet will be passed around at the August meeting. We need every member possible to participate!

The A & M Railroad and other downtown Springdale merchants are sponsoring a downtown **Treasure Hunt** on **September 26** and have asked us to participate with our G scale layout.

Remember the 1st Pittsburg Frisco Festival in Pittsburg, Kansas on Sept. 12th and 13th 2009 to celebrate the St. Louis - San Francisco Railway hosted by the Heart of the Heartland Corporation (a railroad historical society), Watco Companies, Inc., and the South Kansas & Oklahoma Railroad. Total cost for both days including the train ride and lunch is **\$20.00** per person for advanced registration or **\$25.00** at the door. Advanced registration deadline is Sept. 4, 2009.

HISTORICAL OPERATIONS

Mount Rainier Scenic steams up “Rayonier” geared engine



August 10, 2009

ELBE, Wash. - Mount Rainier Scenic Railroad put Willamette Iron & Steel Co. geared locomotive Rayonier No. 2 under steam Saturday for the first time since 1962. The 1929-built engine, which served on Washington state logging lines in its former life, operated for the public after two years of extensive restoration at Mount Rainier Scenic's shop in Mineral, Washington.

Willamette built No. 2, nicknamed "The Deuce," for the J. Neils Lumber Co. of Klickitat, Wash., in 1929, the last of 33 engines built by the competitor to Lima's popular Shay locomotive line. Rayonier bought it in 1949 for its Sekiu, Wash., logging operations on the Olympic Peninsula. After its retirement in 1962, Rayonier employee Jim Geurtz bought the engine and stored it for four decades in a shed on his Port Angeles, Wash., property.

Mount Rainier Scenic forces began restoring the 75-ton superheated locomotive early last year. Volunteers at the railroad rebuilt or refurbished every component of the engine in preparation for its return to service under the supervision of Chief Mechanical Officer Brian Wise. On Saturday, No. 2 steamed as part of a triple-header on public trips over the tourist line's main route, part of the municipally owned Tacoma Rail. - *Martin E. Hansen*

Restoration progresses on Southern steam locomotive

July 31, 2009

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn. - Workers at the Tennessee Valley Railroad Museum have moved a driving wheel beneath Southern 2-8-0 No. 630, the Chattanooga newspaper reports. The work represents progress in the effort to restore the engine to steam.

Museum spokesman Steve Freer said drivers 2, 3, and 4 should be installed before the end of the week. No. 630 was an early star in the Southern Railway excursion program between 1968 and 1978 before going to TVRM, where it is better suited for museum trains. The engine is expected to come on line for TVRM about the time Army 2-8-0 No. 610 goes in for its 1,472-day inspection.

Virginia & Truckee readies for reopening celebration

July 29, 2009

CARSON CITY, Nev. - Virginia & Truckee Railway officials plan to run the first train over rebuilt tracks between Carson City and Virginia City with a VIP special Aug. 14. The train will mark the first rail trip between the two cities since 1938, when the original V&T was abandoned. The following day, trains will begin running each weekend and continue running through Oct. 31.

The 12.8-mile line, built mostly on the abandoned grade of the old V&T, aims to draw tourists to an area of Nevada that doesn't see many. The first train will run after 17 years of lobbying and fundraising to make the rebuilt line a reality. The trips will take about an hour. The railroad plans another four miles of track, to be completed in two years, that will take passengers closer to the center of Carson City.

V&T was a mine-haul railroad and shipped silver ore prior to its shutdown. For tickets, call (800) 638-2321 or visit www.dynamicticketsolutions.com.

Rohr vehicle moves to museum for preservation

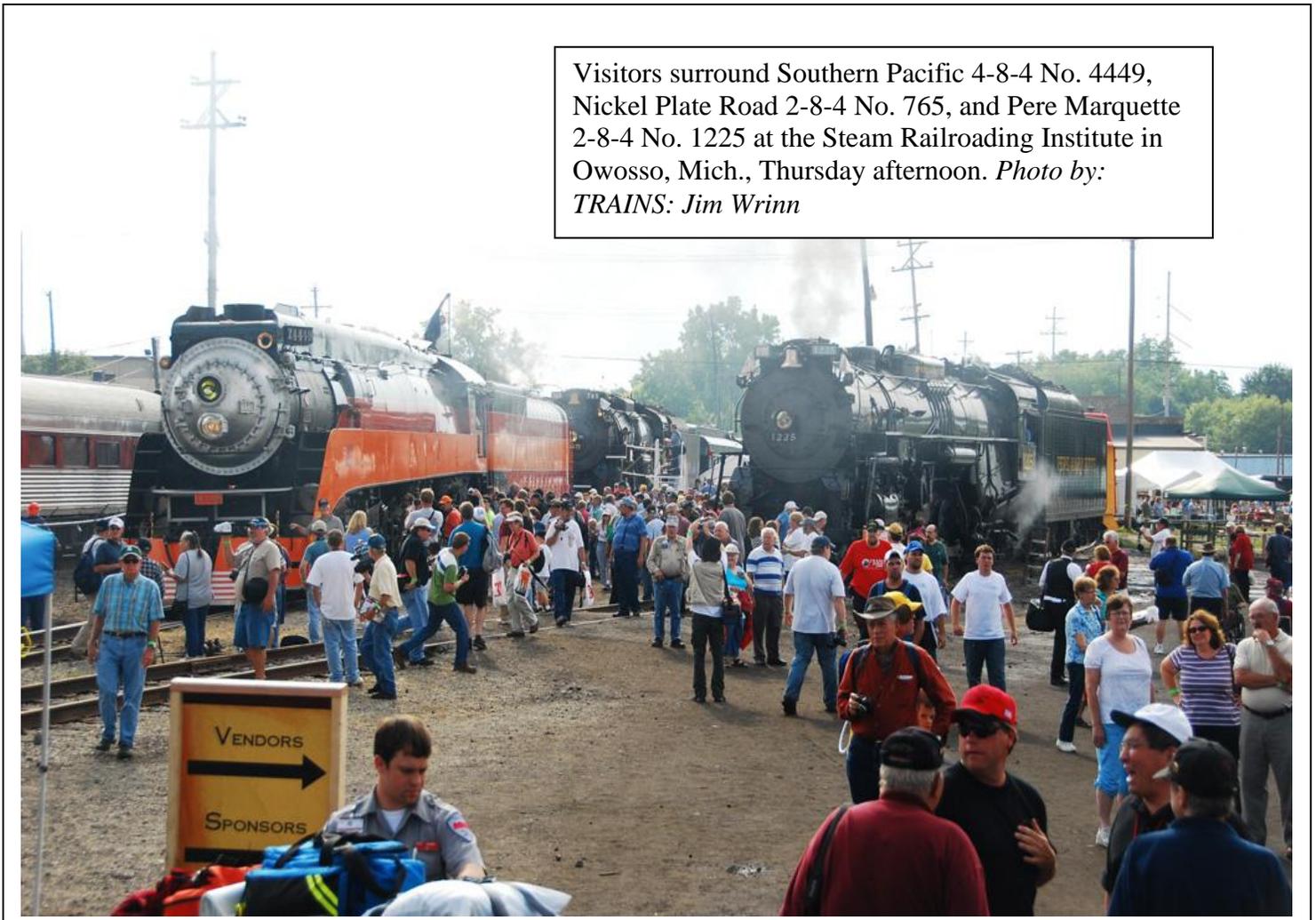
July 28, 2009

PUEBLO, Colo. - It was the train of the future, and now it's headed to a museum. The Rohr Tracked Air-Cushioned Vehicle has moved to permanent display at the Pueblo Railway Museum, the Pueblo Chieftan has reported.

The train arrived from the Transportation Technology Center, where it underwent testing in the 1970s. The center built a concrete guideway, over which the train tested riding on a cushion of air. It was able to reach 145 mph, and could have gone faster had the guideway been longer. The museum is located at 330 E. D Street in Pueblo.

July 27, 2009

OWOSSO, MICHIGAN TRAIN FESTIVAL DRAWS MORE THAN 36,000 FANS!



People from 50 states and 14 countries made the Steam Railroading Institute's Train Festival 2009 a success, organizers of the Owosso, Mich., railroad event said Monday. While accounting for the event won't wrap up until after Southern Pacific 4-8-4 No. 4449 completes its westbound trip home to Portland, Ore., in late October,

the feeling is that the event will end up in the black with a modest profit. All proceeds will go toward the 15-year inspection and rebuild of the institute's own Pere Marquette 2-8-4 No. 1225, says Executive Director T.J. Gaffney.

Exact figures will be known later, but Gaffney says the nonprofit group stands to make in the "low six figures," an amount that could cover or just be a down payment on expensive boiler work on such a large engine.

Underscoring the need for that rebuild, No. 1225 went down early Friday morning when a boiler tube snapped, sidelining it for its own party and causing the Fort Wayne Railroad Historical Society's Nickel Plate Road 2-8-4 No. 765 to pinch-hit on a July 25 excursion.

Rain hampered crowds on Thursday, limiting them to 6,000, but Friday, Saturday, and Sunday each saw upwards of 10,000 visitors. All-day trips to Alma, Mich., sold out, as did most one-hour trips with Little River Railroad 4-6-2 No. 110. The only significant problems were water on the grounds that left huge puddles. Eight steam locomotives, the largest gathering in 10 years, were the headliners. The replica 4-4-0 Leviathan from 1868 made its debut.

Will there be another such festival again soon? Gaffney says a smaller event could happen again next year with a much larger event possible after 1225's rebuild is complete to celebrate that milestone. "On some very real levels, I think it will be tough to top; 4449 is pretty special, and the debut of the Leviathan turned out to be bigger than any of us figured. In many ways, it stole the show," Gaffney says. - *Jim Wrinn*

Dave Kloke's replica of Central Pacific 4-4-0 Leviathan is displayed on the festival grounds.
Photo by: TRAINS: Jim Wrinn



SP 4449 charges southward with the Train Festival 2009 excursion outside Alma, Mich., on Thursday afternoon. Photo by *Trains: Jim Wrinn*



Our thanks to **Trains Newswire** for the above preservation news items and photographs.

SO YOU THINK YOU KNOW SOMETHING ABOUT RAILROADING?

Answers to last month's Questions:
The photo is of a narrow gauge New England railroad: The Boston and Maine. One of our members even guessed *correctly* the type of church architecture as Congregational. We were surprised by your response to this photo!

When I first saw this photograph I was intrigued by its obvious charm; and I began to sketch it out for a painting. I "removed" the ugly freight shed and filled in the depot with imagination. If I finish it, I'll bring it to one of our Show 'N Tell programs. Editor

