

ARKANSAS-BOSTON MOUNTAINS CHAPTER

NATIONAL RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Chapter No. 188 founded in 1987



2013 DIRECTORY OF OFFICERS

President	Bob Stark
Vice President	Al Kaepfel
Secretary	Malcolm Cleaveland
Treasurer	Tom Duggan
Program Director	open
National Director	Ken Eddy
Board Director	Larry Cain
Editor	Bill Merrifield



Our website address is www.arkrailfan.com

NRHS Chapter meets at 7:00 PM, March 20, 2014 at the Shiloh Museum Store.

The Scrambler

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

CHAPTER MINUTES

Meeting of the Arkansas-Boston Mtn. Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society at the Shiloh Museum, Springdale, AR. February 20, 2014. Meeting was called to order at 7:01 PM by the President, Bob Stark. 23 members were present and two guests, Henson and Reba Title. Minutes of the November meeting were approved.

Chuck Girard, local membership, reported that there were only a few people that had not paid dues and they would be getting a reminder from National. The deadline for renewals is fast approaching, so those missing the cutoff date will be enrolled as new members and lose seniority.

Chapter member, Al Green, died in January.

Tom Duggan, the Treasurer, reported our total assets as \$12,261.16, with \$11,527.08 in the investment account (interest earned \$1.47) and \$1,004.08, having paid out \$321 to the NRHS, \$12 refunds of chapter dues, and \$138.65 to buy 24 T-shirts with the Frisco logo, assorted sizes. He said March 31 was the deadline for requesting a refund of the \$12 chapter dues. Some members are passing up the refund so the chapter can keep the money.

Bill Merrifield, the *Scrambler* editor, said some of the problems he was having was because he has a 2007 version of Microsoft Word and Yahoo requires the 2010 version. He expressed appreciation for the printing services supplied by Chuck Girard's firm, The First National Bank of Fort Smith.

Old Business: The Great NWA Train Show will occur on this Sat. Feb. 22, 9 AM - 4 PM at the Holiday Inn Convention Center in Springdale. Chapter setup will begin at 2:00 on Friday. The Secretary (who will have Z scale and T-gauge layouts there) passed around a signup sheet for Friday and Saturday again because signatures on the first sheet were unreadable.

Tom Duggan reported that there are already several hundred registered for the 2014 NRHS convention in NWA this summer and there will be many opportunities to volunteer for service, and again passed around a multi-day signup sheet starting Monday, June 9. Also, the A&M would like volunteers to help with their store. There will be opportunities to ride the various excursions as volunteers, which will require training in safety and other subjects to assist passengers (these volunteers must be registered and pay the \$59 registration fee which will be reimbursed by the Chapter.

At the NWA Train Show on Saturday we will raffle off an Alco cab ride Springdale to Van Buren. In addition, we will try to sell more model items of deceased Chapter member Fred Lewis' for his widow. Program will be by Bob Stark in March on tracing the Ozark & Cherokee Central RR right-of-way. Bob reminded us that we need new programs.

New Business: Ray Toler said Tired Iron will occur on April 19 at the show grounds N of Siloam Springs.

A motion was made to discontinue refreshments unless someone volunteers. Motion passed

Train Talk:Editor, Bill Merrifield, showed a new book by Daniel Toomey, *The War Came by Train: The B&O Railroad During the Civil War*, published by the B&O RR Museum with graphics design by his daughter, Cynthia and her company, **Merrifield Graphics** of Baltimore, MD.

Mike Condren will give a talk to the Sebastian County Historical Society on March 17 at 7:00 PM.

Tom Duggan said the A&M is getting another passenger car. Steve Tharp said there are more runs of the Eastern Flyer run, Tulsa to Oklahoma City, but again all sold out. Al Kaepfel reported on a book by Ida Tarbell, a 1900s "muckraker" on the monopolistic corruption of Rockefeller and Standard Oil, when oil was moved by unit train to refineries to produce kerosene, the most common type of lighting at the time.

Adjourned 7:28 PM for refreshments, followed by a program by Mike Sypult, The Diesel that Did It, Frisco GP7 Story.

Malcolm K. Cleaveland
Secretary

LOCALLY ON THE BEAM

***Railway Age* magazine has named Coos Bay Rail Link the 2014 Short Line Railroad of the Year, and Arkansas & Missouri Railroad Co. its 2014 Regional Railroad of the Year. The awards will be presented at the American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association's annual meeting in San Diego, Calif., Friday, April 25, 2014.**

Written by Douglas John Bowen

“Short line and regional railroads are not just benefiting from the slow economic recovery; they’re helping to drive that recovery, ” says *Railway Age* Publisher Jonathan Chalon. “The business opportunities and obstacles, be they in terms of reach or of geography or product movement, may differ. But the entrepreneurial spirit of the two winners affects and assists customers large or small, making efficient business, and business growth, possible with the most efficient surface transport mode: rail.”

Headquartered in its namesake town on the Oregon coast, Coos Bay Rail Link has rebounded from a moribund property, shut down in late 2007 and idle for four years, to a resurgent short line moving 4,845 revenue carloads in 2013, up 95% from 2012.

"Backed by new owner Oregon International Port of Coos Bay, Coos Bay Rail Link has overcome negative media coverage and a sceptical public to show it means business – literally," says *Railway Age* Managing Editor Douglas John Bowen. "A range of stakeholders, including customers old and new and communities along the line, voiced their support for freight rail operations to continue – and, it turns out, to grow substantially as well." **Springdale, Ark.-based Arkansas & Missouri Railroad Co. has upgraded its 140-mile main line trackage and clearances to allow for higher speeds and double-stack container trains, while modernizing its locomotive fleet and locomotive shop, and adding local traffic moves to its existing feeder/distributor market role.**

"Under Reilly McCarren's leadership, the Arkansas & Missouri has grown into a diverse rail transportation company offering transmodal services, freight car leasing and repair, warehousing, industrial land and port services, and passenger excursions, in addition to excellent freight rail that interchanges with no fewer than three Class I's", says *Railway Age* Editor-in-Chief William C. Vantuono.

Both Coos Bay Rail Link, the 2014 Short Line Railroad of the Year, and **the Arkansas & Missouri Railroad, the 2014 Regional Railroad of the Year**, will be featured in *Railway Age's* April 2014 issue.

Railway Age is the transportation industry's oldest trade magazine, and celebrated its 150th anniversary in 2006. The monthly magazine is circulated at the management levels of North American freight and passenger railroads. Emphasis is placed on technology, operations, strategic planning, marketing, and other issues such as legislative and labor/management developments of interest to railway management, railway suppliers, and consultants. Submitted by Mitch Marmel.

Greenwood Historical Program: Chapter member Mike Condren and John Dill presented a program on railroads and coal mining in South Sebastian County Monday evening, March 17, 2014 in the Farmers Bank in downtown Greenwood, Arkansas. The area has a rich coal and railroading history. Although the last rails were removed in 1983, the Corner Mining Company still extracts the black diamonds. Tom Duggan.

From our Chapter President-Dispatcher Bob Stark
March-AL & Bob: GPSing the O&CC RR, A work in progress.
April- Big Steve: Tentative.
May- Show & Tell
June- National NRHS Convention in Springdale!
We need programs for the rest of year. You all must have something of interest for the Chapter.
Dispatcher Bob

This is a copy of the logo used in the T-shirts we recently ordered.
Thomas Duggan



**Our Local
Near Rail
Disaster!**

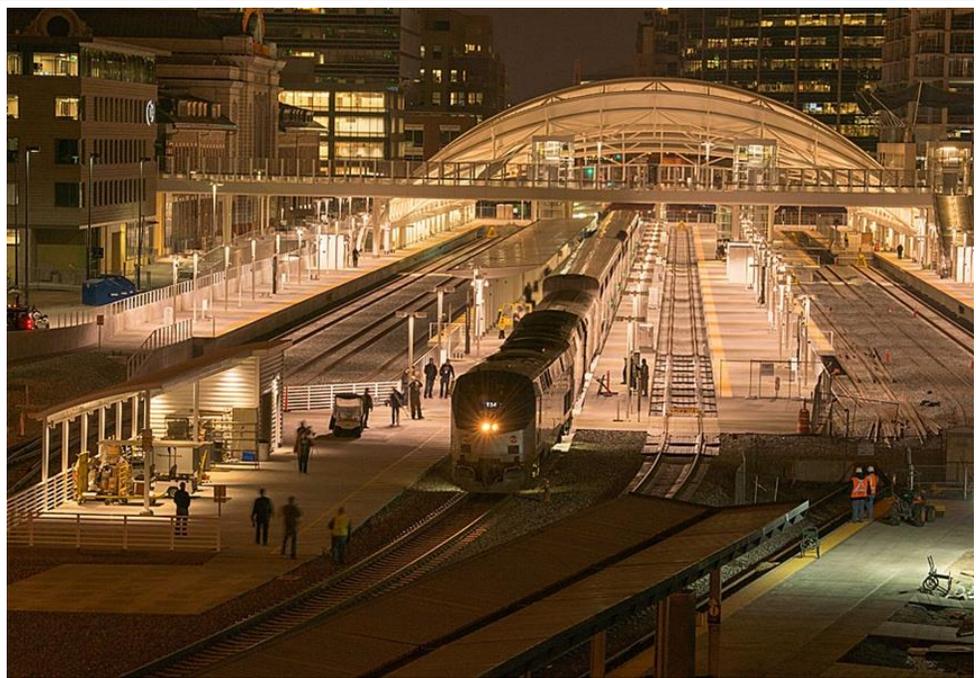


On the evening of January 20, 2014 **two** cables on the bridge failed leading to a mess with neither A&M trains nor Arkansas River barge traffic able to operate. Photo by Chapter member Chuck Girard.

Train No. 6, the eastbound California Zephyr, received the honor of first train to use the newly redeveloped station after it backed in to the facility on Feb. 28. As a four year-old boy I walked with my father and mother on the old platform on the left and hurried passed the “new” streamlined, stainless steel Zephyr locomotive to marvel at a steam locomotive nearby!
Editor

TRAINS FROM MEMORY

Denver Union Station



Denver Union Station opened in 1894 and saw renovation in 1914. During its heyday it served 80 trains daily, but is served today only by the California Zephyr. **TRAINS Newswire**