

# 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](http://www.arkrailfan.com)

NRHS Chapter meets at 7:00 PM, February 19, 2015 at the Shiloh Museum Store.

## The Scrambler

Volume 28, No. 6

February, 2015

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. January 15, 2015. Meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM by the President, Bob Stark. 19 members were present, and no guests. Minutes of the November meeting were approved. There were no December minutes because the December meeting was on the Christmas dinner train with no business meeting.

The President requested nominations for officers. If none are received, the officers for 2015 will be the present ones: Bob Stark, Pres.; Al Kaepfel, V-P; Tom Duggan, Treas.; Malcolm Cleaveland, Secy; Ken Eddy, National Rep; Chuck Girard, local membership; Gary McCullah and Steve Tharp, Nat. Directors. Tom Duggan, the Treasurer, was not present but sent a report: Our total assets are \$12,069.13. Checking acct starting balance 1,795.53; Deposits \$60(dinner train tickets); Expenses \$703.80(dinner train), flowers \$125(Bob Hofer), Total checking \$1,026.73; Investmt acct \$11,042.40 (incl \$1.41 interest). The Chapter excise & sales tax report has been filed with the Dept. of Revenue on Jan. 15.

Chuck Girard, local membership, reported that he has been collecting local chapter dues, \$12. He has also been trying to get current membership information from National without success, but he needs that to know who to bill.

Ken Eddy, the National Representative, attended the winter conference and reported that the mood was upbeat. The lawsuit from Rail Camp is settled and the NWA Convention netted \$16,500. The convention is in June in Rutland, VT. The 2016 Denver convention might be in July.

The latest *Scrambler* is on the website, Bill Merrifield reported. The latest version of Adobe Reader or Adobe Acrobat is recommended to view the *Scrambler*.

**Old Business:** Al Kaepfel, the V-P, said that the Xmas train attendance was good. The Great NWA Train Show will occur on Sat. Feb. 28, 9 AM - 4 PM at the Holiday Inn Convention Center in Springdale. The Sugar Creek Club has reserved a spot for us based on what we required last year. Setup begins at 12 noon on Friday Feb. 27. We passed around a signup sheet for Friday and Saturday. Admission \$8, \$1 off w/non-perishable food item, children 12 and under free (free to Chapter volunteers, of course).

**New Business:** Al Kaepfel received the outstanding member award for 2014. Discussion of membership and getting new members: Gary McCullah suggested that we need to post a flyer in the Shiloh Museum and make sure our meetings are in "Coming Events" in the newspaper. It was suggested that we actually do programs in the Shiloh Museum to add to the Museum's offerings. Members have presented programs in the past that would have general appeal, e.g., Railroads of Northwest Arkansas by Mike Sypult and Chuck Girard. We need to recruit at the Feb. train show.

Jill Morgan suggested that we have the presentations before the business meeting, especially when we have visitors who might consider becoming members, because the business stuff is relatively boring.

There was discussion of the requirement that people must be national members to belong to the chapter (Chuck Girard made it clear that this was a strict requirement by National). A motion was made that the chapter consider amending our by-laws so that the National membership requirement for chapter membership is deleted. Motion passed.

The officers will consider this. Frisco Depot in Ft. Smith: Chuck Girard reported that the NPS is now willing to undertake rehabilitation and interpretation of the building. They want our input, photos, displays, etc. and participation, e.g., in National Train Day.

Programs will be by Malcolm Cleaveland in February about the Orient Express exhibit in Paris; March-Mitch Marmel with some videos he has downloaded; April-Tom Duggan; May-Bob Stark and Steve Tharp tracing a bygone rail route.

**Train Talk:** *Classic Trains* magazine has an article by Mike Condren on the fallen flag Cotton Belt. Mitch Marmel: Bought Marx factory demo layout. Gary McCullah: BNSF business train in Tulsa had 17 cars. You can get copies of the *Rock Island Reporter*, sign up at <http://eepurl.com/Ut8UL>. If no e-mail: *Remember the Rock*, P. Weibler, Andover Jct. Pubs, PO Box 500, Mendota, IL 61342 [www.andoverjunction.com](http://www.andoverjunction.com) Two 80-page issues \$40.

Program was by Bob Stark on his visit to the Pennsylvania RR Museum in Strasburg, also home of the Strasburg RR.

Malcolm K. Cleaveland  
Secretary

## **LOCALLY ON THE BEAM**

The Great Northwest Arkansas Train Show will be held on Saturday, February 28, at the Holiday Inn Convention Center in Springdale.

Folks, Today Charlene and I made the presentation to Mayor Henley at the St. Joe Depot. There were two local newspapers there to report the event with pictures. Also on hand were three members of the Arkansas Railroad club. Apparently they worked on and gave money for the restoration of the depot. I will follow up with a few pictures tomorrow. Dispatcher Bob



The St Joe depot, recipient of a recent Chapter award and a check for \$100, was captured in an image taken by Barrett Cain, son of Chapter members Larry & Marilyn Cain. The depot was built in 1902 by the St Louis & North Arkansas that later became the Missouri & North Arkansas. Larry Cain said the only thing missing is a piece of railroad track.

Hands,

A few items of interest;

1. Al Kaepfel will be working on updating our chapter by-laws as discussed at last meeting.
2. Tom Duggan will be forming a group to update our web site.

The primary objective of these projects is to hopefully keep and add new members for our chapter.

3. Don't forget our winter weather policy is that if Springdale schools are closed there will be no meeting.  
Maybe we'll get this Thursday night meeting in before the weather starts.
4. Oh, a correction in our minutes about the May program. Al and I will be making that not Steve and I.
5. Malcolm will be presenting the Program for this month.
6. The sign up sheet for working the train show will again be passed to the group. We can use more help.

Let's have an exciting meeting Thursday!!

Dispatcher Bob

## HISTORICAL OPERATIONS

### **Durango Railroad Historical Society obtains state grant**

February 13, 2015

DURANGO, Colo. – The Durango Railroad Historical Society has received an \$84,799 grant from Colorado’s State Historical Fund to preserve several cars that will be displayed in Silverton. The grant will help buy and restore narrow gauge cars that once served the Denver & Rio Grande Western, the society said. The project will require the society to raise matching funds of \$28,266.

Among the cars the society will buy and preserve are:

- D&RGW bunk car No. 04432, used by the Water Service Department, which maintained water tanks and other water facilities along Rio Grande lines
- D&RGW No. 5627, a single-deck stock car
- Rio Grange flanger OT, used to clear snow and ice
- D&RGW No. 5564, a double-deck stock car for hauling sheep and hogs

The grant will enable the society to restore the double-deck stock car, bunk car, and the single-deck stock car to their 1930s appearance, and the flanger to its post-1943 appearance. The cars will be displayed in Silverton, each with its own interpretive sign, and be featured as a part of the exhibit Trails to Rails, which will detail the development of transportation in the region, the Durango Herald reports. The society has done several similar restorations. In 2007, it completed work to restore D&RGW 2-8-0 No. 315 to service, and has been operating it on the Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge and the Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad since then. In a joint project with the San Juan County Historical Society, the society began to restore the 1912 Silverton Northern engine house in Silverton to store locomotive No. 315 and support its maintenance and the restoration of rail-cars by both societies. The Durango group also reconstructed three blocks of Silverton Northern track for displaying restored cars. The State Historical Fund has supported all these projects.

The society is also restoring the full-size model locomotive Emma Sweeny, used in the 1950 movie “A Ticket to Tomahawk.” The movie, filmed in Durango and Silverton, is credited with helping to save the Silverton branch of the D&RGW by attracting more tourists to ride the train.



The recently restored No. 315 at Cumbres Pass in July 2008 on Cumbres & Toltec Scenic.