

# 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](http://www.arkrailfan)

NRHS Chapter meets at 7:00 PM, March, 2016 at the  
J. Reilly McCarren Transportation Museum at the A&M Depot.

## The Scrambler

Volume 29, No. 7

March 17, 2016

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

### CHAPTER MINUTES

February 18, 2016. Meeting of the Arkansas-Boston Mtn. Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society at the J. Reilly McCarren Transportation Museum, A&M Depot, Springdale, AR. Meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM by the President, Bob Stark. 18 members were present, and no guests. January minutes were approved with one correction: The timetable donated by Bob Oswald was for the Missouri and Arkansas RR, not the Frisco.

Tom Duggan, the Treasurer, reported: Our total assets are \$11,134.69. Checking acct balance \$899.30 after buying a new power pack for \$235.99 and depositing \$156 dues and \$30.22 from the sale of the M&A RR timetable; Investment account \$10,235.39 (including \$0.87 interest).

Chuck Girard, local membership, reported that he has collected local chapter dues, \$12, from 29 of the 45 members. The new Amilia membership payment website is a mess, it allowed at least one member to renew for a substantially wrong amount.

Ken Eddy, the National Representative, said the Spring Conference is scheduled for Cumberland, MD, with an excursion April 22-23. Heritage grant applications are due March 1. The convention this year in Denver will start July 19. Excursions include light rail, Leadville, CO, The Colorado RR Museum and a night photo session. The latest *Scrambler* is on the website and enjoys excellent print support by the bank for fine reproduction of photos,

Editor Bill Merrifield reported repairing the Bachmann 4-6-0 locomotive and is close on the LGB 2-6-0, so we should be good to go on the February 27.

**Old Business:** Members are reminded that the Great NWA Train Show will occur on Sat. Feb. 27, 9 AM - 4 PM at the Holiday Inn Convention Center in Springdale, with setup beginning at 12 noon the 26th. A signup sheet for Friday and Saturday was passed around. Admission \$8, \$1 off w/non-perishable food item, children 12 and under free (free to Chapter volunteers, of course).

National Train Day has been moved to Saturday, May 21 because the A&M was otherwise committed on May 14, but Chuck Girard says that Brenda has not committed support for the new date yet.

Tom Duggan reports that the setup for September may be in the St. Paul city hall.

**New Business:** The Morgan's are going to contact the Frisco Fest organizers and get us set up.

**Train Talk:** Chuck Girard said he's noticed that the insulators on an old telegraph line are disappearing, probably being sold on E-bay. Gary McCullah noticed that the A&M is getting ready to install a bunch of new ties this summer, inspiring Steve Tharp to relate some problems he encountered created by heat kinking of unsecured rails when replacing ties. Mitch Marmel passed around a nice trolley in Portland, OR colors that he had "unprototyped" with decals of -- what else, a UofA razorback. Malcolm Cleaveland passed around a beautifully detailed pack of four 64' Trinity reefers by AZL in Z scale (1:220, that 64' freight car fits in the palm of your hand with lots of room left over).

**Program:** Dick Hovey on RRs in SE Iowa: "GP20, Steel Rails in SE IA", with a very nice map handout.

**Future Programs:** March--Mitch Marmel with some more unusual videos; April Bob Oswald--nice model RR in Florida. Malcolm K. Cleaveland, Secretary

## **LOCALLY ON THE BEAM**

**The NRHS 2016 Convention** will be held in Denver, Colo., from July 19th to 24th. Proposed events include the Royal Gorge Scenic Railroad, the Georgetown Loop Railroad, the Colorado Railroad Museum, the Forney Museum and the Leadville, Colorado & Southern Railroad. Details to come in the NRHS News.

Registration materials are now available, as well as on-line registration and ticket ordering.

For more information, please go to the 'Conventions' page: <http://nrhs.com/content/2016-convention>

**NRHS DUES:** For those who have not yet paid their 2016 dues, we need your renewed help, and need that help soon. Beyond the obvious need for funds necessary to operate both our day-to-day operations, as well as those of our continuing programs like RailCamp and the Heritage Grants, we need you to provide accurate and clear information with your dues payments.

Each of you needs to return the paperwork with your dues payment so (1) we know who you are and (2) we can accurately post that information. What can you do to help?

1. Look over the data on your dues bill to see if it accurately describes you. Make sure your name is spelled correctly, that your chapter information is right, that your membership number is correct, that your address is current, and that you have included your phone number and email address.

2. If you need to update any information, please provide all the data that we need. Please write it clearly using your very best penmanship. We are having a terrible time trying to decipher some of your handwriting, so please write neatly and accurately. Better yet, go on line to the [Amilia data base link](#) and update your records directly.

3. Please make sure that you accurately show what money you are sending, and especially for the donations, please show how much you want allocated to what purpose, i.e. Rail Camp, Grants, Unrestricted.

4. Make sure that you tally your submission so that what you say you are sending matches what you show on the payment to Amilia, to PayPal, or on your paper check.

We had hoped to have accurate data for the chapters by now, but our volunteers have been delayed posting your payments because of the problems above. We hope to start the chapter status reports by the end of next week. Thank you, Joe Maloney, Vice President.

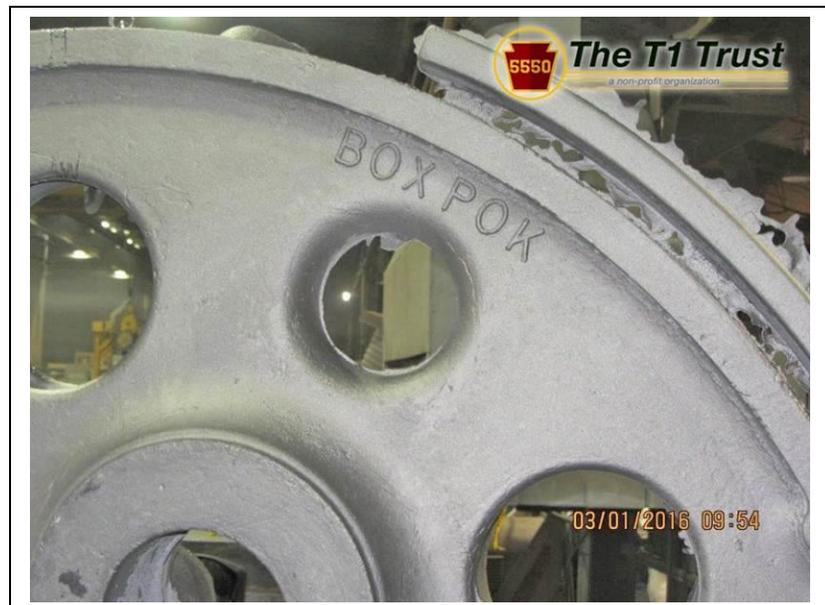
## **HISTORICAL OPERATIONS**

### **Pennsylvania T1 Trust casts new driving wheel**

**March 9, 2016**

HARRISBURG, Pa. — The Pennsylvania Railroad T1 Steam Locomotive Trust is passing a new milestone. The non-profit organization cast its first boxpok driver the country has seen in more than 70 years. According to an article published by the organization, the driver is unlike a typical driving wheel in that it is entirely hollow. The design has a high strength-to-weight ratio and allows the fine-tuning necessary for high-speed operations for the PRR T1 4-4-4-4 No. 5550, according to the article.

A cast Boxpok driver for a yet-to-be-built Pennsylvania T1 replica: No. 5550. The Pennsylvania Railroad T1 Steam Locomotive Trust says this is the first boxpok driving wheel cast in decades



The organization says the first step in the driver-casting process was to obtain the original drawings from the Pennsylvania State Archives in Harrisburg, Pa. Members of the non-profit group spent hours pulling old drawings and scanning them in to digital format, the article says before selecting a foundry to execute the complex task.

## **UP Steam Update March 26**

Crews have been busy this winter working on various components to get 4-8-4 #844 running this year. Austin Barker, Heritage Fleet general foreman, says his crew has started working on all the valves and piping. To machine many of the parts, the crew refurbished a 1940's horizontal mill that hadn't been used in decades. Crews are wrapping up work on the firebox and boiler and are looking toward moving into final large-scale reassembly, which will include renewing running boards and cab deck. Ed Dickens, Heritage Fleet senior manager, said he expects the 844 will return to operation in mid-2016. No time was given for Challenger #3895 and Big Boy #4014., but Dickens said additional parts are being made for them. Trains Newswire and RRTulsa Digest # 5137 Submitted by Gary McCullah

## **Texas State Railroad annual spring returns March 26 By Hayley Enoch**

**March 11**

PALESTINE, Texas – The The Texas State Railroad will operate its annual Dogwood Special brunch train on March 26. This marks the third consecutive year for the train.

While on board the restored coaches, passengers will enjoy a four-course meal that includes fresh fruit, eggs, cheese, and breakfast pastries, along with variety of mixed drinks and non-alcoholic beverages.

The highlight of the trip, though, is the scenery: Most of the Texas State Railroad's 25-mile route runs through undeveloped forest, and the trip is scheduled to coincide with the spring blooming of the prolific dogwood trees along side the tracks.

“The special sold out when we offered it in 2014 and 2015, so there is a strong interest in seeing the dogwood blooming in their native habitat,” says the railroad’s Janet Gregg. “The Dogwood Special gets you up close to dogwood growing in locations you wouldn’t be able to access otherwise. Most people, especially urban residents, only get to see them as part of landscaping in someone’s yard or from their vantage point on a highway. This train takes them into the forest to see them growing wild.”



The Dogwood Special will depart from Palestine at 10:00 a.m. and return around 1:00 p.m. Tickets are priced at \$80 per person. Reservations must be made by March 23. Information can be found at [www.texasstaterr.com](http://www.texasstaterr.com)

Our thanks to TRAINS Newswire for the historical news items. Editor