

# ARKANSAS-BOSTON MOUNTAINS CHAPTER

## NATIONAL RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Chapter No. 188 founded in 1987



### 2013 DIRECTORY OF OFFICERS

President	Bob Stark
Vice President	Al Kaoppel
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, October 20, 2016 at the  
J. Reilly McCarren Transportation Museum at the A&M Depot.

## 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 Reilly McCarren Transportation Museum, A&M Depot, Springdale, AR. September 15, 2016. Meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM by the **President, Bob Stark**. Sixteen members were present and no guests. Minutes of the August meeting were approved. **Tom Duggan**, the Treasurer, was not present but sent word that our total assets were \$11,761.87. **Mitch Marmel** managed to sell all the N scale stuff that we were given for \$100, check presented to the President. **Chuck Girard**, local membership, said that he is working to reduce a bloated and unwieldy National spreadsheet to something much more useful and will distribute the roster when he finishes. Chuck also said that he no longer has access to the printing and mailing that he has been using for print copies of the *Scrambler*. **Bill Merrifield**, *Scrambler* editor, had nothing to report beyond the fact that we'll have to make other printing and mailing arrangements. **Ken Eddy**, the National Representative, will miss the next meeting because he will be attending the NRHS Fall meeting in Portland. All present expressed their sympathy for his plight.

**Old Business:** V-P, **Al Kaoppel**: Frisco Fest attendance was down, but we gave out 210 certificates this year, compared to ~225 in 2015 (when attendance was also off), in pleasant weather. The 125th anniversary celebration of St. Paul was last Saturday and was a well-attended event, with a leisurely set up indoors and pleasant people. The lock/key game was popular with the kids and 37 Engineer's Certificates were given out. **Mike Syput** was not here, so acquisition of a 60" flat screen TV and a new laptop that Mike was investigating was tabled.

**New Business:** **Al Kaoppel** said that the Children's Christmas Train is Saturday, Dec. 5, 8AM-4PM and a signup sheet was passed around. Last excursion leaves about 3PM. The Children's Train generates about \$30,000 for charity and our participation for at least 10 years has been a pleasure. The chapter Christmas party will be in the A&M dining car (no charge by A&M) Thursday, Dec. 15. Cost \$10/per person (\$10 chapter subsidy), no reservation until paid to Al. A sheet was passed around to gauge the degree of interest.

**Dick Hovey** said that funds are limited for the Museum, so Brenda suggests we hold some sort of fundraiser. Also we want to find volunteers to be docents for the museum for about 18 hours/week, mostly in concert with excursion trains on the weekends.

**Train Talk:** Someone observed that there seems to be plenty of grain coming in for feed at George's, several covered hoppers at a time. A&M is purchasing brand new freight cars while the Class I RRs are seeing a downturn in car loadings. One reason that there are so many coal gondolas sitting on sidings is, for example, the OG&E power plant on the N bank of the Arkansas River opposite Muscogee has changed over to natural gas from coal. **Dick Hovey** talked about a friend, Gus Stratton, who is an expert on RRs in NWA and a model RRer. **Mitch Marmel** brought--what else, a trolley. Programs: October **Jim Gattis** on the Missouri & N. Arkansas RR, November Show-and-Tell.

**Program Tonight:** **Bill Merrifield** on the 2003 collapse of half the roof at the B&O Railroad Museum roundhouse. The Museum used some of the insurance money to build a shop and tackled the restoration with volunteers. Results are spectacular and the museum is better than ever. **Malcolm K. Cleveland** , Secretary

## LOCALLY ON THE BEAM

### **Long time active chapter member, Ray Toler, passed away October 8**

Raymond Walter "Ray" Toler, Jr., 94, of Springdale, Arkansas died Saturday, October 8, 2016 in Springdale. He was born May 19, 1922 in Searcy, Arkansas to Dr. Raymond W., Sr. and Mary Lyle Harris Toler

Ray was an Army Signal Corps officer and veteran of World War II, serving in the Philippines. He was a graduate of Searcy high school and of the University of Arkansas and worked 40 years as an electrical engineer for Arkansas Power and Light Company, now Entergy Arkansas. During his lifetime he was an active volunteer for many area historical societies and museums such as the Arkansas-Boston Mountains Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society, the Shiloh Museum, the White County Historical Society, the Cotton Belt Rail Society, the Boone County Historical Society, the Tired Iron Museum of Northwest Arkansas, the Masonic Lodge, and the First United Methodist Church in Springdale.

Ray was preceded in death by his wife of 63 years, Juanita Edwards Toler. Both Ray and his wife, Jaunita, were active long time members of Our Chapter and were always strong supporters of our railroad history activities and the preservation of historic rail equipment. Ray was always interesting to talk to and his wealth of information about Arkansas railroad history will be greatly missed. Goodbye dear friend.

Memorials may be made to the First United Methodist Church in Springdale, 206 West Johnson Ave., Springdale, AR 72764.

### **Christmas dinner train:**

Our annual chapter Christmas party will happen on the regular third Thursday meeting night on December 15 at 6:30 PM. Our party will take place on the A&M's streamlined dining car with his new and handsome interior. The party will feature a tasty supper followed by the traditional selection and involuntary swapping of presence.

This year, again, we are able to provide a price reduction of one half to \$10 per person. You are most welcome to bring a friend. We hope every member will show up and enjoy the friendship!

To make a reservation you must make payment to Al Kappel at either the October or November meetings or by mail to 3831 Tara St., Springdale, AR 72762 let's have some fun together. Al Kappel.

## St Paul Pioneer Days September 10, 2016

By Tom Duggan

The last time our Chapter visited Madison County, Arkansas was in 1988 when member Bob Oswald led a well organized tour in searches of traces of the defunct since 1937 St. Paul branch of the Frisco.

This was a special year as St Paul celebrated the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its founding in May 1887. Because the Chapter was already booked for the May National Train Day event at the Frisco Fort Smith depot, the organizers very kindly shifted the date to accommodate the Chapter.

This was a different kind of event. For one we were new participants in an event that in the 1980s drew crowds of 6-8,000 including hundreds of people who had migrated to Southern California in search of a better future. That generation is largely gone and so attendance is a lot lower.

The people we dealt with were extremely pleasant bearing in mind that St Paul has a population of 850 and like many rural areas has been unable to create growth. Larry Cain, one of the five Chapter attendees, commented that the townspeople were very hospitable. It was a very pleasant experience.



Al Kaepfel and Bob Stark enjoy a quiet moment in the 1940 WPA built gymnasium. It had numerous electrical outlets that were added after the arrival of electricity. The gymnasium was emptied after a fire alarm sounded.



Larry Cain (in grey) and an orange blizzard speak with a local couple about Larry's restored Frisco Fairmont Model 9 track inspector's car. Not shown is chapter member George Alison's key and lock challenge that attracted interest. Photos by Ken Eddy

## **HISTORICAL OPERATIONS**

### **Milwaukee Road No. 261 steamed up for Twin Cities & Western excursions**

By Steve Glischinski | October 7, 2016

On Oct. 8, the excursion train departed from the Friends shop in Minneapolis and headed west toward Glencoe on what was the route of Milwaukee Road's famed *Olympian Hiawatha* streamliner that traveled from Chicago and the Twin Cities to Seattle/Tacoma. This line has not seen regularly scheduled passenger train service since 1969.



Photo by  
Steve  
Glischinski

Rare mileage was in vogue Oct. 9 as No. 261 traveled former Minneapolis & St. Louis trackage. Passenger service ended on the M&StL route between Minneapolis and Watertown, S.D., on July 20, 1960, but excursion train passengers were able to ride a portion of the line from the junction with the TC&W mainline at Norwood to Winthrop, Minn. on track now operated by TC&W subsidiary Minnesota Prairie Line. This track, once good for only five or 10 mph operation, has been extensively upgraded by the railroad. The trip operated to Winthrop, Minn., where a lunch was served at the local fire station before the excursion headed east to Minneapolis.

Steam on the Minneapolis & St. Louis ended in 1951, and No. 261 was the first steam engine on this portion of the Minneapolis & St. Louis in at least 65 years.

### **UP 844 has a date with Memphis on Oct. 22**

#### **Locomotive will cross the Mississippi River four times this month**

October 3, 2016

The Class I railroad released a full October schedule for its famed Northern-type locomotive which shows the engine departing its Cheyenne, Wyo., base at 8 a.m. Oct. 13, and passing through North Platte, Neb., Oct. 14; Fairbury, Neb., Oct 15; and taking a day for display in Kansas City, Mo., on Oct. 16; before heading to Illinois. The locomotive and crew will cross the Mississippi River for brief visits to Chester, Gorham, and Wolf Lake, Ill., on Oct. 19, before returning to Missouri and heading through Arkansas on the way to Memphis.

On Oct. 22, UP says the locomotive will start and end the day in Marion, Ark., but be available on display in Memphis between 9:45 and 11:30 a.m. Central time. The engine will then return to Cheyenne on Halloween, Oct. 31, by way of North Little Rock, Van Buren, Ark.; Coffeyville, Kan.; Kansas City; and North Platte.