

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, November 17, 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. October 20, 2016. Meeting was called to order at 7:06 PM by the Vice-President, Al Kaepfel. Seventeen members were present and one guest, Steve Tharp's wife. Minutes of the September meeting were approved.

Tom Duggan, the Treasurer, said that our total assets were \$11,378.42, checking acct 1036.12, Investment acct \$10,343.36.

Chuck Girard, local membership, handed out a revised roster of national members for corrections. He is working on a chapter-only member roster.

Bill Merrifield, *Scrambler* editor, said that the new printing arrangements are quite costly, about \$2.25 per copy at FedEx, on 11"x17" paper (copied double-sided and folded makes a 4 page newsletter). Total cost \$96 for color, \$86 B&W. A long discussion followed, the gist of it being, "Why are we still making paper copies when there is almost universal access to the internet?" Apparently we are also still sending paper copies to chapters that no longer reciprocate. Bill was instructed to e-mail all the chapters we correspond with and give them the address of our website where they can access all the *Scrambler* current and back issues at will. It was not clear if we will do one more printing then stop or stop immediately. The Secretary thinks we ought to stop immediately. Ken Eddy, the National Representative, was attending the NRHS Fall meeting in Portland.

Old Business: Al Kaepfel, Vice-president, announced that the Children's Christmas Train is Dec. 3, 8AM-4PM and we need more volunteers. A sign-up sheet was circulated. Our Christmas Dinner Train is Thursday, Dec. 15, at \$10 per person. You do not have a reservation until you pay him. Several paid immediately.

Mike Sypult reported that he had priced new electronics at a good discount store, Nino's Trading Company in Tontitown. A 60" flat screen TV runs about \$700 and a wall mount probably runs \$100-\$200. A new laptop will cost \$300 or less. Mike said we should also buy a wireless link called ChromeCast, about \$30, to communicate with the TV so we won't have to use any cables at all. We could also buy a sound bar and woofer that would give us theater-quality sound, probably pretty cheap. A motion was made to authorize Mike to spend up to \$1,200 to acquire our new system.

New Business: UP steam is on the move, check their website for time and stops (by the time this is out, it will probably be long gone). Programs: November: Show-and-Tell; December: Christmas Train; January: Mike Sypult TBA; February: Dick Hovey TBA.

Train Talk: Harrison celebrated M&A Days October 8, but it was very poorly publicized. Mitch Marmel had a short article about refurbishing Lionel bumpers published in *Classic Toy Trains*.

Program Tonight: Jim Gattis on the Missouri & N. Arkansas RR route and remnants from Neosho to Wayne (originally called Woodruff).

Malcolm K. Cleaveland, Secretary

IN THE YARDS

The passing of Ray Toler should remind us that we have lost quite a few remarkable people as chapter members in the past. If the chapter is to survive we need to concentrate on gaining new members as well as encouraging present members to remain active. Editor.

LOCALLY ON THE BEAM

Children's Christmas Train

Chapter Vice President, Al Kaepfel, has reminded us that the Children's Christmas Train is Dec. 3, 8AM-4PM is a very important activity for our chapter. Thousands of dollars are raised for the benefit of NWA children. We need more volunteers. Our sign-up sheet will be circulated again during the November meeting.

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.

Chapter Editor to Retire

Bill Merrifield has indicated that he wants to retire as editor of the Scrambler at the end of December. He has the post so long he has forgotten what year he started. He will be 86 yrs old on November 17th.

Chapter Officer Elections Coming up Soon

The chapter members are reminded that December is when we usually elect new officers. Gary McCullah is chairman of the nominating committee.

Our chapter's newsletter, the Scrambler, may change its distribution to e-mail only.

Due to rising costs of printing and mailing, our chapter is leaning to electronic distribution only. The decision will in all probability be made in our next meeting November 17th. Some hard copies may still have to be printed and mailed. Your input is important.

HISTORICAL OPERATIONS

Durango & Silverton sets record ridership for 2016

November 1, 2016

SILVERTON, Colo. — The narrow-gauge Durango & Silverton Railroad booked more passengers than ever this year with winter-season short hauls still to go, executive Alan Harper tells a dinner gathering in Silverton. "This is our third year in a row setting new records," Harper, president of American Heritage Railways, says. "We're up 3 percent over last year as of [Oct. 24]. "The railroad is healthy and thriving and we're doing all kinds of things. The 3-percent gain represents about 5,000 passengers".

The Silverton Standard & the Miner reports Harper drew applause for that news and for his investment in the future of the town by buying the Grand Imperial Hotel. The 133-year-old hotel with its restaurant and saloon reopened in May after a yearlong renovation.

"We absolutely love Silverton. We are committed to it," Harper says. "I hear some people say it's going to be 'Harperville.' I don't think so. Maybe on April Fool's Day."

The steam-power D&S completed its fall season of Durango-Silverton roundtrips on Oct. 29. The winter season of out-and-back turns from Durango to Cascade Canyon, Colo., begins on Nov. 23 and runs through May 5.

UP to open Wyoming steam shops starting in November

October 31, 2016

CHEYENNE, Wyo. — Union Pacific is giving the public a rare glimpse of its steam shop in Cheyenne, Wyo., this winter. In coordination with the Cheyenne Depot Museum, the railroad is giving tours of its shop every Friday in November, January, February, and March. There will be no tours in December. Tours are also being given on a few select Saturdays. The tour will give visitors a chance to see UP 4-8-4 No. 844, 4-6-6-4 No. 3985, and Big Boy 4-8-8-4 No. 4014, which is currently being restored to operation.

This is such a unique opportunity for train enthusiasts to see the working steam shop and to see the renovation of the Big Boy. Tickets are already starting to sell, including to people as far away as Montana and Ohio. The tours are \$20 per person and include admission to the depot museum.

Tours start at the depot and participants must wear closed-toe shoes. Hard hats will be provided. The tours start at 12:30 p.m. and last about two hours.

Traditionally, the steam shop has only been open during Cheyenne Depot Days in May.

TRAINS FROM MEMORY

Tom Duggan has submitted several photographs with information of interest to chapter members. The image at the right is of the Planters Peanut plant locomotive at Fort Smith. Track in foreground, now used by the Fort Smith Railroad, was part of MP line to Greenwood.



The two images below depict the piers of the former KCS line from Spiro, OK to Fort Smith. The river is the Poteau River at the inter-modal site of the Five Rivers Distribution Co. The Spiro branch was washed out in 1943 and not replaced. The KCS obtained trackage rights from the Frisco and thereafter entered Fort Smith via the Frisco main line.



Year 1901: Dead Man post but not dead man ~ fwd James L. Rueber

(OELWEIN DAILY REGISTER, Oelwein, Iowa, Oct 2, 1901)

About ten days ago there was a small wreck in the Great Western railway yards, and an engine and a few cars were dumped rather promiscuously. It was reported that there was a dead man in the deal. It was necessary to get a solid substance to hitch the tackle to by which the engine was to be righted. For this purpose a large post was sunk in the ground. This is sometimes known as a "dead man." An Oelwein citizen asked Agent Sayle where a certain party was, and that gentleman responded: "He is over there digging a hole for the dead man." The horrified citizen at once started the report: that a man had been killed in the wreck, and that they were burying him in the yard. Who the cigars are on, the reader may decide. (The end)

Brass Switchkey railnews #41, Oct 31, 2016 Posted by: Nick Jenkins Submitted by Gary McCullah