

The Depot Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 2

11 February 2017

Heart of the Heartlands Corporation

Welcome to the “New” Newsletter!

I thought I would try something new for the monthly newsletter. New look, new format, same great information! Any feedback is appreciated. Just send it to bbbourb@gmail.com. Please try to remember to put “Newsletter” in the subject line. I know

change can be a bit jarring but I think you will like what I’ve put together.

Now on to the news!

Attendees: Jack Evans, John Chambers, Dick Rauniker, Ivan and Denzil Voorhees, Brian Carlson, Darrell Cave, Gordon Garrett, Connie Payton, James Hogben, Shirley Ann Hogben, Larry Spahn, Russell Parsons, Michael Sheward, Don Richardson, Brad Bourbina

Heartlands Donates ALCo to Abilene & Smoky Valley

The ALCo S4 locomotive given to the Heartlands by Empire District Electric Company has been donated to the Abilene & Smoky Valley Railroad from Abilene, KS. Joe Minick with the A&SV contacted Larry Spahn and advised work on the trailer they will use to transport the engine is ahead of schedule. He will be down the week of 13 February to evaluate the locomotive and the site to determine what will need to be done to load the engine and move it to its new home. The

A&SV hopes to eventually restore the engine to operable status and use it as back-up power to their current roster.

John Chambers moved that the Heartlands issue a formal donation letter to the A&SV and add a provision requiring the engine be moved within six months of the letter’s signing by both parties. The motion passed unanimously.



Empire District Electric Company ALCo S4 at Opolis, KS.

Photo by John Chambers

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New Feature—Final Frame:

The last page of the newsletter will showcase the rail photography talents of our readers! Any recent or historical photos you wish to have showcased in Final Frame can be sent to Secretary Brad Bourbina at bbbourb@gmail.com. The photographer will maintain all rights to their submissions. We will also showcase selections from our vast database of scanned photographs. Feel free to share yours!

Coffeyville Resources Offers Switch Engine To Heartlands



GE 70-tonner at Coffeyville Resources Refinery, Coffeyville, KS
Photo by Sean White, CVR

On the suggestion of John Chambers, Brad Bourbina contacted Coffeyville Resources Refinery in Coffeyville, KS regarding a GE 70-ton switch engine that once plied the rails as the plant switcher. As it turns out, the switcher was still in the plant, and Sean White was more than happy to allow Larry Spahn, John, and Brad

into the plant to inspect the locomotive. Upon inspection, the group discovered the engine has friction bearings that appear to be in good condition and had been used as recently as 2010. Sean indicated the folks at CVR are more than happy to donate the engine to the Heartlands, and the group tentatively agreed provided it could

be moved. Rick Webb was e-mailed to determine the best way to have the engine moved to the Coffeyville shop for further evaluation. He had not responded as of this writing. At the February meeting, a motion was made to acquire the engine if possible and passed unanimously.

Passenger Train Ride Schedule for 2017 Taking Shape

“The Western Heritage Group in Dewey is excited to have the train this year.”

The 2017 passenger train schedule is coming together, although there looks to be fewer rides than in past years. Both Dewey and Bartlesville, OK expressed interest in rides, and the Western Heritage Group in Dewey is excited to have the train this year, predicting a sellout of all three

trains according to a conversation with Larry Spahn. The Stray Cats Car Show in May was also suggested as an option. The Clearwater Lions Club is also set for late-April or early May. John Chambers was going to see about coordinating a ride out of Wichita around the same time.

The usual rides remain on the schedule, including Artist’s Alley in Chanute and Little Balkans Day in Pittsburg. Freedomia is also possible in the Fall. A full ride calendar should be ready by next month’s meeting.

Composite Gondola in Chanute, KS



Composite gondola at Ash Grove Cement in Chanute, KS
Photo by Don Richardson

Don Richardson brought us the tale of the composite gondola seen at left. The gondola has been on the grounds of Ash Grove Cement in Chanute for many years after being severely damaged in an accident at the plant. Don spoke with a representative at Ash Grove

and they expressed a willingness to donate the car to the group. Don also made contact with an individual who is capable of moving the car, but as yet there had not been a price set for the move. The discussion was tabled until more information is acquired.



Composite gondola at Ash Grove Cement in Chanute, KS
Photo by Evan Werkema

Motor Car Ride Season is Coming

At January's meeting, the group discussed maintaining NARCOA membership and insurance in order to schedule rides for this year. Motorcar rides were once a staple of the group's Spring and Fall seasons, and our membership numbers have fallen off a bit due to a lack of rides over the past few years.

Jim McKeel is currently attempting to work up a ride schedule for the 2017 season. Coordination with WATCO's various operating departments is a must, since the WATCO railroads now operate six to seven days per week instead of the traditional Monday through Friday schedule they once used.

At last report, Jay Hastings will also be a ride coordinator for the 2017 season to help take some of the burden from Jim McKeel. Also, a railroad representative will need to be on-site. With John Chambers no longer at WATCO, and Brad Bourbina's limited travel ability, extra costs may be incurred.

Treasurer's Corner

As a reminder, Linda Shomin has passed her duties as Treasurer to Brian Carlson. In future editions of the newsletter, Brian will be writing short reports detailing his work with our finances. If you have the opportunity, please give Brian a warm welcome and thank him for taking on this task.

As for this month's report, it's safe to say revenues from memberships exceeded our expenses, however there will be additional expenses coming down the rails soon, including possible paint/decals on the locomotive from Coffeyville. With what looks to be a slightly diminished train

ride season, it is more important than ever that we attract new members as well as bring back those who have lapsed. If you have any ideas, please share them via email to bbboub@gmail.com!

If you haven't renewed your membership now is the time!

Quick Hits

Slide Show: A Slide Show is scheduled for 25 February from 10am to 5pm. Bob Plough will be the featured presenter with photos of Southeast Kansas and Southwest Missouri rail operations in the 1980s. Bring snacks!

Stove: The group voted to approve purchase of a gas range, not to exceed \$500, for the Webb Center.

Safety Meeting: The annual safety meeting will be on 1 April at 1pm at the Webb Center. All who wish to work train rides should plan to attend.

Museum Tour: Tom Johnson has scheduled a tour of the grounds by the Spit and Whittle Club on 2 March at 9:45am. Tom and Joe Murphey will conduct the tour.

Storage Container: A rock ramp has been built at the entrance to the storage container.

John Chambers donation: John Chambers donated small tables and desks for use at the museum.



Heart of the Heartlands Corporation

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Find us on the web!

[http://
www.heartlandstrainclub.com](http://www.heartlandstrainclub.com)

The Heart of the Heartlands is a 501c3 non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of railroad history in the Four States area of Southeast Kansas, Southwest Missouri, Northeast Oklahoma, and Northwest Arkansas. The Heart of the Heartlands Museum Complex is located in the former mining community of Carona, KS. Our complex includes the museum building (recently doubled in size); the restored Missouri Pacific Depot from Carona, KS; the restored Missouri Pacific Depot from Boston, MO; a collection of railroad locomotives and cars including the cosmetically restored KCS Steam Locomotive #1023; and a railroad signal display. The outdoor displays are open for viewing at any time.

The museum and depot buildings are open for visitors on the first and third full weekends (Saturday and Sunday) of June, July, and August, 1:00 PM until 5:00 PM, or by appointment.

Final Frame



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KCS Business Train #1 departs Pittsburg, KS under a beautiful partly-cloudy sky on 21 May 2016.
Photo by Brad Bourbina