



January Meeting

The January meeting of the Heart of the Heartlands was held on January 13, 2020 in the Webb Center at Carona, KS. There were 12 members present.

Minutes of the meeting can be found at the end of this newsletter. Members in attendance were: Ivan & Denzil Vorhees, Jack Evans, Jim McKeel, John Chambers, Kathy & Larry Spahn, Darrell Cave, Jim Carlson, Joe Carlson, Jimmie Lovell and Brian Carlson.

Heart of the Heartlands

The monthly newsletter is constructed by Secretary-Treasurer Brian Carlson. If you have any questions, comments, suggestions you may reach him at: bcarlson@ckt.net 620-820-9665

Heartlands Members

As many of our members have been renewing their membership, we wanted to take a moment to tell each and every one of our members thank you for your support. Our members are from Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma and Texas We hope you will continue your membership, especially in these difficult times. Without you, the things we do to preserve railroad history in the area would be nearly impossible to accomplish. Below is a list of our current active members. If you do not see your name on the list, we have not received your membership renewal for 2021. Please, stay with us. We appreciate your support.

Daniel Archer	Jack Evans	Jim McKeel
Bill B Bailey	Brenda & Guy Ferguson	Frank Osborn
Don Bailey	Janet & Ed Fowler	Frank Parise
Jane & Bob Ballard	Janice & Larry Gaither	Mike & Connie Payton
Krista & Mark Beck	Steven Gardner	James Pearson
Charles Bennett	Bob Gatton	Steve Powell
Ed Brinkmeyer	Bill Gillfillan	John Randall
David Calwell	Thomas Harrington	Dick Rauniker
Bob Capps	William Reed Hartford	Drake Rice
Paige Capps	Jay Hastings	Dale Rush
Dawn & Brian Carlson	W.H. Houser	Michael Sheward
Lois & Jim Carlson	James Hurt	John & Linda Shomin
Pat & Joe Carlson	Tom Johnston, Jr.	Larry & Kathy Spahn
W.D. Carter	Sonya & Darrell Keeney	Mark & Deby Springer
Darrel Cave	Lyn & Brent Linder	Rex Stevens
Betty & Ron Chamberlain	Kevin Love	Leland & Frankie Stewart
John Chambers	James Lovell	Bob & Suzy Still
Alan & Alexandria Chilton	Guy Lynn	Mike Sypult
James Conrad	Robert & Mary Marsh	James VanBecelaere
Tony Cook	Kelly Martin	Ivan & Denzil Voorhees
Jeff Cooney	Fred & Ruth Maxwell	Kaye Lynne Webb
William H. Downes	Dustin McCoy	Rick Webb
	Connie & Greg McDowell	J. Scott Wilson

What is it?

This is an item that is currently located at the Carona museum. What is it?



Answer next month

Photo courtesy of Brian Carlson

The November newsletter "What is it?", was a bay window caboose built in April 1964 for the Southern Pacific railroad then purchased in 1990 by several individuals and painted for the South East Kansas railroad. It is on long term loan and usually open for tours.

Announcements

- The next meeting of the Heart of the Heartlands will be February 10, 2021 at the Webb Center starting at 7:00 pm.

Donations

- Joe Carlson donated 100 gallons of propane for the museum building.
Thanks Joe!

2021 Train Rides

It appears that at this time with the Covid 19 virus raging across the country/world, we probably will have to consider any interaction with the public on a very limited, case by case situation. Train rides and regular museum hours are something that we probably will not be able to do until it is safe to do so without the possibility of contacting and spreading the Covid 19 virus. Possibly in the fall we can have some trips. This would include, if allowed at the time, Little Balkans' Days, Artist Alley and Dewey Western Days. We will wait and see how things pan out.

Book Writer Inquiry

Brad Blodget, author of several books and magazine articles on Budd RDC cars called and asked if we might have any current information concerning the RDC cars that we have. Larry told him that the coaches belong to Watco and are stored at our museum siding. Mr. Blodget is currently gathering information about another book. He said that out of the 109 Budd RDC cars manufactured there were only 65 remaining. As Larry was bringing him up to date on our passenger cars Mr. Blodget mentioned an RDC that had "disappeared" some time ago, the Boston & Maine, RDC #6922. Larry told him about the RDC that Watco has at Minden Mines and he became very interested and asked if there were any information about the coach and its current condition. Larry told him that not much was known about it other than it was being used as a meeting site in a rustic setting. After discussion about possible pictures of the RDC, Larry told him he would try and find out more about the coach and might be able to take some pictures for him. Kevin Anselmi, a long time employee of Watco was asked if Larry could possibly take some pictures. Arrangements were made for Larry to take some pictures. The pictures Larry of the coach were then sent to Mr. Blodget. Needless to say, he was very excited and asked if he could use the pictures in his new book. He said that he would send a signed copy of the book to Larry. Larry thanked him and the book will be added to our Carona library.

Spark Grant

The Heart of the Heartlands was awarded a \$2500 Spark grant from Cherokee County at the end of December. The grant was for non profit organizations to receive funds to help offset loss of revenue due to the Covid-19 pandemic. We applied for the grant and were awarded \$2500. Our thanks to Cherokee County for awarding us this grant.

January 13, 2020 - Heart of the Heartlands - Minutes

The January 13, 2020 meeting of the Heart of the Heartlands, the annual meeting of the Heart of the Heartlands, was brought to order by President Larry Spahn at 7:00 p.m.

Minutes of previous meeting: Jim McKeel moved to accept the minutes as mailed. Jack Evans seconded the motion, the motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: After the presentation of the treasurer's report by treasurer Brian Carlson, Jack Evans moved, Jim McKeel seconded a motion to accept the treasurer's report. The motion was passed by the membership in attendance.

Old Business:

Due to the continuing spread of Covid 19 not much has occurred at the museum or grounds. Visitation is still down and the weather has discouraged much work around the museum. Visitation to the museum has been reduced considerably by the recent resurgence of the Covid 19 virus in our area. Visitors do occasionally stop by to visit our outdoor displays.

New Business:

Tall Grass: The Tall Grass business car has returned to Carona and is parked at the north end of our display track. John Chambers has reset the dining table in the business car using Bob Still's china which makes a very nice display.

Upcoming Visit: Mr. Scott Lane, Scout master of Boy Scout Troop 299 of the Kansas City area called me on January 5, 2021 to arrange a visit to our museum on January 23rd, 2021. His group of five scouts and their parents are planning on visiting Big Brutus and would like to include us in their visit. Scott said that he had visited our museum about ten years ago and was really impressed and he feels that the troop will enjoy a visit. Scott asked if there were any places to camp in the area, I told him that he and his group would be welcome to camp at our museum. He said that would be great and asked if there were any tasks that the scouts could do for us while they are here. I told him that due to the uncertain weather we have at this time of year it would be difficult to schedule anything but would look around in case the weather was cooperative.

Information Request: Brad Blodget, author of several books and magazine articles on Budd RDC cars called and asked if we might have any current information concerning the RDC cars that we have. I told him that the coaches belong to Watco and are stored at our museum siding. He is currently gathering information about another book. He said that out of the 109 Budd RDC cars manufactured there were only 65 remaining. As I was bringing him up to date on our passenger cars he mentioned an RDC that had "disappeared" some time ago, the Boston & Maine, RDC #6922. I told him about the RDC that Watco has at Minden Mines and he became very interested and asked if I had any information about the coach and

its current condition. I told him that I did not know much about it other than it was being used as a meeting site in a rustic setting. He asked if I had any pictures of it. I told him that I would try and find out more about the coach and might be able to take some pictures for him. I contacted Kevin Anselmi, a long time employee of Watco and asked if I could possibly take some pictures and he said that I could pick up the keys from him which I did. I took several pictures of the coach and sent them to Mr. Blodget. Needless to say, he was very excited and asked if he could use the pictures in his new book. He said that he would send a signed copy of the book to me. I thanked him and that I would have it added to our Carona library.

Motor Car Insurance: Discussion was held in regards to paying the NARCOA insurance for the 2021 year. Last year, we were able to have one ride in January before the restrictions from Covid. After a brief discussion, John Chambers moved to pay the NARCOA dues and insurance for 2021, Darrell Cave seconded the motion and the motion was passed by the membership present.

Train Rides and other activities for 2021: It appears that at this time with the Covid 19 virus raging across the country/world, we probably will have to consider any interaction with the public on a very limited, case by case situation. Train rides and museum visits are something that we probably will not be able to do until it is safe to do so without the possibility of contacting and spreading the Covid 19 virus.

Dues for 2021: Secretary/Treasurer, Brian Carlson reports that membership dues are now being accepted and has been sending out membership cards along with a note and receipt. Please stay with us; we still have lots of plans for the future and we will need your help.

Membership: Discussion was held in regards to membership and how to increase membership. After some ideas were presented, it was decided that a committee of John Chambers, Jim McKeel and Brian Carlson look into membership type's and report back to the club.

Donations:

- Heartlands member, Joe Carlson called recently and said that he wanted to help out the club in this time of uncertainty and lack of train ride income by donating one hundred gallons of propane to the Heartlands. While building the Morgan Center, Joe also donated two large loads of crushed rock for the driveway to the new Morgan addition. Not only did Joe pay for the rock, he delivered it and he brought his tractor and front loader to spread the rock out, he has brought his four wheeler out and sprayed weeds a couple of times. A "Big Heartland Thank You" to Joe for his continuing generosity. It is greatly appreciated in these trying times.
- Kenneth Helms of Wichita donated four ten year Frisco service bars in memorial to his great grandfather Edward Helms of Fort Scot a former Frisco train service employee. Thank you to Jim McKeel for picking up the items and bringing them down to Carona.
- Ed Brinkmeyer donated the new book by Robert Walz entitled "Santa Fe Depots the Eastern Lines"
- David Seidel of Omaha contacted the Heartlands through our website asking if we were interested in a donation of approximately 1,000 slides of the ATSF dated from the 1960's through the 1990's. Mr. Seidel is in charge of the estate of Joel Boucher of Omaha who had been the editor for over 50 years of the Camerail Club of Omaha. We agreed to accept the donation and they were mailed to us. Jay

Hastings and Ed Brinkmeyer spent Saturday, January 9, at Carona sorting the slides and they are now ready to scan and catalogue. Jay has already found several that he can use on a research project on the Santa Fe in our area.

Correspondence:

- Brian announced to the group that the Heartlands was awarded a \$2500 Spark grant from Cherokee County. The grant was for non profit organizations to receive funds to help offset lost revenue due to the Covid-19 pandemic. We applied for the grant and were awarded \$2500. Our thanks to Cherokee County for awarding us this grant.
- Levi White contacted us through the website he is a banjo player with a YouTube channel and would like to record a video at Carona.
- John Chambers signed the Heartlands up on Google Maps for our entries. They send a monthly report on how much activity is in our accounts and there were 2,701 hits in December and the pictures on google maps have now had 50,000 hits.
- Nicole Alexander King and her family of three contacted John and toured the museum the week of Christmas.
- John Chambers finished cataloging the Herb Shawver collection and it contains 82 book and several hundred periodicals and files.
- Brock Kerchiner, a board member of the Conrail Historical Society, contacted John Chambers as he is writing a book on the Conrail Executive train. The Tallgrass is a former Conrail car. Jay Hastings had taken some current pictures of the car and we will be sending them to Brock to use in the book. The book is supposed to be out later this year and we are to receive a copy for our library.
- Jim McKeel discussed the current status of the David Calwell collection.

Jack Evans moved to adjourn the meeting. Ivan Vorhees seconded the motion and it passed by the membership present.