



August Meeting

The August meeting of the Heart of the Heartlands was held on August 9, 2023 in the Webb Center at Carona, KS. There were 13 members and 2 guests present.

Minutes of the meeting can be found at the end of this newsletter. Members in attendance were: Jack Evans, Darrell Cave, Rob McKnight, Paul Morgan, Denzil & Ivan Voorhees, Connie & Mike Payton, Dawn & Brian Carlson, Kathy & Larry Spahn and Ed Brinkmeyer. Guests were Karlana Spahn and David Tompkins.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be September 13, 2023 at 7:00 pm at the Webb Center in Carona.

Heartlands - YouTube

Check out our YouTube channel:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMIkqWyCxftDif_ezgw3UyQ

Little Balkans Day Rides

The Little Balkans day rides are coming up fast. The rides will be on Saturday, September 2. There will be two rides with the first ride departing at 9:00 am and the second ride departing at 11:00 am. Both rides will board and depart from the intersection of Elm and Monroe Streets in Pittsburg, KS. If you plan on helping with the rides, please plan on arriving at the loading site by 8:15 am.

Cameron Lundy and a mechanic from the Coffeyville shop came to Carona on August 8th to check the cars for any issues. Two CDL refrigeration technicians were also in attendance to check the operation of the air conditioning system on the cars. Some adjustments were made and the units ran for a few hours. Although the air conditioning system had not operated for several months, no Freon leaks were found. The cars should be ready for the rides in September.

Museum Director Report for July

Visitors

- A total of 206 people visited the museum during the month of July. Besides the four state region we had people from the states of Texas, Illinois, New Jersey, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Nebraska, Washington, Massachusetts, Florida and the country of Norway tour the grounds.
- We had a number of parents and grandparents who were taking their kids on outings before the school year starts back up.
- Our neighbor John Parsons came by with some grandkids to show around the museum. John is the owner of the Gay Parita and Mid America Pipe and has helped us with several projects.
- Had an older couple from Goessel Kansas which is north of Newton travel down here just to visit the museum after seeing it in a Kansas brochure.
- Another group was made up of retired Santa Fe railroaders from Marceline, Missouri who volunteer at their museum which is located

From our Past

We will be featuring photos from our past for awhile.

These are photos of the Empire Engine after it arrived at Carona. The first picture was in preparation for the initial sandblasting. The second picture is of the engine after sandblasting, application of primer and painting the locomotive had been completed. Note that the finishing touches of adding the Empire logo had not been completed yet. The first photo was taken on October 7, 2016. The second photo was on October 18, 2016; just 11 days later. Photo is from the Larry Spahn collection.



Announcements

- Museum hours are 10:00 am to 4:00 pm Wednesday through Sunday.

Heart of the Heartlands

Any questions, comments or suggestions, contact:

Brian Carlson

bcarlson@ckt.net

620-820-9665 (leave message)

Museum Director Report for July

in the former depot. The consensus remarks that I received were how great the museum was and how surprised they were to see us out here in the middle of nowhere.

- We had a couple leave very nice five star reviews on our Google maps listing.
- The weather was mixed but mainly hot which seems to have cut down on visitors.

Members

- Member Dora Firman came over and inventoried the T-shirts in the gift shop and Rob McKnight spent a couple of days rebuilding the steps to the freight dock on the Carona depot.
- Paul Morgan came out almost every Saturday afternoon and helped staff the place. This helped several times when we had some large crowds.

Notable Events

- July 15th was the Joplin Train Show and we had several people stop by after attending it. This included Terry Lynch, a KCS book author from Kansas City with two friends, Dan Hall and friend from Arkansas. Dan is on the board of the Fort Smith Trolley Museum.
- July 15th was a busy one with 26 people.
- On July 19th the tree guys were here and cut down two trees and trimmed a couple of others. Unfortunately the pecan tree in front of the museum died so we no longer have any shade in front of the building.
- On July 29th, a large motorhome pulling a boat pulled into our parking area, turned around and parked. A family of 10 from Texas emerged and spent an hour touring the museum.

Director

- Besides greeting and talking to visitors I also went through former member Ron Morgan's photo prints that we received from his estate. Ron was one of our founders and for many years was the conductor on the train rides. He also could be found out at the museum most weekends doing many projects around the grounds. Ron is missed by all of us who knew him. His photos go back to the beginning of Watco and the Heartlands and record many interesting events.

- John Chambers

August 9, 2023 - Heart of the Heartlands - Minutes

The August 9, 2023 meeting of the Heart of the Heartlands was brought to order by President Larry Spahn at 7:00 p.m.

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

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

Old Business:

PSU Visit:

Larry Spahn reported that there were nine students that came out to Carona on August 1st. They were from PSU auto group at the University.

New Business:

Passenger Cars:

Cameron Lundy called and informed Larry Spahn that he and a mechanic from Coffeyville would be coming out to check out the passenger cars. They arrived on August 8, and checked the wheel sets, brake pads, and rotors on the passenger cars. Cameron asked if Larry could be there to start the generator and air conditioning units as two CDL refrigeration technicians would be there as well to check the operation of the system on the three passenger cars. The technicians checked the suction and discharge pressures and air temperatures. After inspecting the operating units, they made some adjustments on the expansion valves on the three units. The units ran for a few hours and were cooling with air temperatures of 65 degrees. Also, no Freon leaks were found. Cameron requested to have Larry on site the next day as he and more mechanics would come out to do some more checking on the generator.

Train Rides:

It was announced that we need volunteers to assist as car attendant for the two one hour rides in Pittsburg on September 2, 2023. These rides are in conjunction with the Little Balkans Days celebration held annually. Ride times are at 9:00 am and 11:00 am with boarding and departure from the intersection of Elm and Monroe Streets in Pittsburg, KS.

We will also need volunteers to assist with the Artis Alley Rides in Chanute, KS on Saturday, September 30, 2023. Departure times will be determined at a later date.

Museum Report:

John Chambers was not at the meeting to give his monthly report. He did provide a summary for the month of July that is in the August newsletter.

Communications, Announcement, Additional Items:

- Larry Spahn informed the club that he talked to Cameron and Jerry Waun about possibly having some rides out of Carona. The railroad will look into it.
- Larry also talked to the track man from the SKOL about the crossing in front of the Carona Depot. It was damaged slightly with the recent rail work that was performed. He said that he will try to fix the crossing as well as the lead tracks into the motor car sheds.
- Larry read a letter from the Miners Hall museum in Franklin, KS. The letter was in reference to a donation to the Heartlands that was recently made by the Miners Hall. The donation consisted of two agreements between the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad and the Association of Maintenance of Way and Miscellaneous Foremen.
- After Larry informed the club that two of our CD's would be coming due soon. The bank informed him that they could be renewed if we wanted to at 5.25% instead of the 0.80%. Ivan Voorhees moved to renew the CD's at 5.25%, Darrell Cave seconded the motion and the motion was passed by the membership present.

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