



February Meeting

The February meeting of the Heart of the Heartlands was held on February 10, 2024 in the Webb Center at Carona, KS. There were 17 members present. Minutes of the meeting can be found at the end of this newsletter. Members in attendance were: John Chambers, Denzil & Ivan Voorhees, Jack Evans, Ethan Lawrence, Jim McKeel, Brian Carlson, Rob McKnight, Connie & Mike Payton, Ed Brinkmeyer, Darrell Cave, Paul Morgan, Kathy & Larry Spahn, and Brenda & Guy Ferguson.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be March 13, 2024 at 7:00 pm at the Webb Center in Carona.

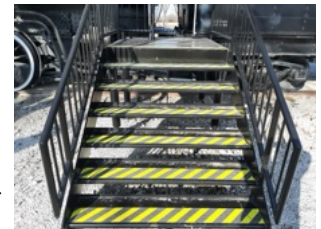
Heartlands - YouTube

Check out our YouTube channel:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMIkqWyCxfDlf_ezgw3UyQ

New Steps - 1023 and Empire Engine

On January 10, the new steps for the 1023 and the Empire Engine were set in place. These steps replaced the wooden ones that were falling apart and becoming a safety hazard. On February 1, John Parsons' crew came and placed the finishing touches on the steps that they had created for the Heartlands. Slip resistant treads were installed on the steps completing the project. Again, our appreciation and thanks goes out to John Parsons and his crew that have provided us with steps to last for years to come.



- Photos by John Chambers

Model Railroad Layout Donated

The Green Country Model Railroad Club in Tulsa recently voted to donate their model railroad layout to the Heartlands. At our February meeting it was approved to accept the donation. The layout is a portable layout that will come complete with structures, track, wire and the necessary connections to put the display together. It does not come with rolling stock but we have our own rolling stock that has been donated to us. Once the display is operational, it will provide an area for younger visitors.



- Photos courtesy of Rob McKnight

From our Past

We will be featuring photos from our past for awhile.

These photos were taken by Jeff Cooney in 1996, while work was being done on the Carona depot. As you can see in the photos, moving the depot was only the tip of the iceberg in restoring the structure.



Announcements

- The next slide show will be held on Saturday, March 30 from 11:00 am - 5:00 pm at the Webb Center. Anyone with railroad related material is invited to present. Please keep presentations to 30 to 45 minutes duration. Any questions call the museum at 620-448-1065.

Heart of the Heartlands

Any questions, comments or suggestions, contact:

Brian Carlson

bcarlson@ckt.net

620-820-9665 (leave message)

Museum Director Report for January

We only had 46 visitors in the month of January mainly due to the frigid weather. Including from the four state region we had people from Michigan, Florida and Illinois. We, along with Big Brutus, ended up closing for three days, January 12-14, due to the extreme cold weather. Some time was spent going through the 14 three ring binders of the old newsletters, minutes and news clippings. After 35 years of the club we have a very large collection of material on our own history. We have done many projects and activities over the years and it is very interesting looking through all of the old records. If anyone is interested in a project we could use someone to sort and organize all of these records. We have several projects and activities coming up in the next couple of months so keep watching for those. If you would like to help around the museum, please let me know and I'm sure we can find something to do.

The Heartlands - Phone Number

On February 14, the new phone system was completed and installed at the museum. No phone line was buried as this system uses our current internet connectivity to function. The system has several features available to us for future needs. Voicemail is setup and ready for use. People calling can leave a message now where it can be reviewed at a later time. The phone number for the Heartlands is:

620-448-1065

Missouri Pacific Emblem

Larry Spahn spoke with Kevin Anselmi about the current situation with the emblem that was removed from the Missouri Pacific offices in Coffeyville. The building the emblem came from was built as the freight house and the division office for the Missouri Pacific. It later became the first headquarters for Watco. There is much more history of this building that will be saved



- Photo by John Chambers

for a future newsletter. According to Kevin a plan for cleaning it and preserving the emblem had been made. The work on the emblem will be done in Pittsburg. We will need to build a display stand for the emblem, probably similar to the one that Dave Parker and Larry built for the Union Pacific emblem.



- Photo by Larry Spahn

Additional Announcements

- The new security upgrades have been completed. The museum main buildings are now monitored 24/7 for not only unauthorized entry but for fire as well.
- The SEK Museum Alliance passports are now available! We have our initial stock of 25 passports to provide to those interested visitors. The idea behind the passports is for an individual to pickup a passport at any of the participating museums in SE Kansas. They then take the passport to the various museums as they visit them and receive a stamp marking their visit.
- Reminder that the new rack cards advertising the Heart of the Heartlands are being distributed. If you know of a location that would be a good fit for our cards, let us know!

Heart of the Heartlands

6769 NW 20th St.
Scammon, KS 66773

Phone: 620-448-1065

Heartlands - Planning for the Future

At the February meeting, the plans for future Heartland projects was discussed. There are a couple of final touches to add but the capital project portion will be completed. There is a museum operations plan as well that has some final touches to be added before it is ready. Once everything is in place, some of the projects on the 1 year portion will be mentioned in the newsletter as we make determinations and priorities in reaching our goals. In the meantime, three of the items on our one year plan have been completed. Those are (completion dates in parenthesis):

- Improving and enhancing our building security (1-31-24)
- Add phone number and service to museum. (2-14-24)
- Removal of two dead oak trees near the 1716 caboose and MoPac engine (2-15-24)

As we move going forward, grants and other sources of funding will be important in reaching our goals. If you know of any grants or other funding sources that the Heartlands could possibly apply for or qualify for please let us know.

Train Shows

Heartlands Member Rob McKnight has signed up for some upcoming train shows. Rob is donating his time at the shows by setting up a table on behalf of the Heart of the Heartlands. The goal is to increase awareness of our organization, provide information, answer questions and perhaps attract some new members. Rob is also donating his time and talent by constructing a portable backdrop displaying some of the things we do. A table banner is in the works as well. Thanks to Rob for this endeavor. It is a great angle for the Heartlands to pursue.

Down Come the Trees

Two more trees have died on the museum grounds. The two oak trees that were by the SEK 1716 caboose and the MoPac - Plymouth engine had died in the past year. Recent storms and regular winds were now causing large limbs from the trees to fall to the ground. As this presented a danger to people visiting the museum as well as damage to the caboose and engine, the call was made to have them removed. On Thursday, February 15, a crew arrived to remove the trees. The area looks much different now.



- Photo by John Chambers

February 14, 2024 - Heart of the Heartlands - Minutes

The February 14, 2024 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, Darrell Cave moved, Jim McKeel seconded the motion to accept the treasurer's report. The motion was passed by the membership in attendance.

Old Business:

Long Range Plans:

Secretary-Treasurer Brian Carlson presented the 1-year, 3-year & 5-year capital project plans to the group. Also included in the presentation were the 1-year, 3-year & 5-year museum operation plans. Jim McKeel mentioned finding out what exhibits were setting on railroad leased property. He also suggested we look into an software inventory system to help with our cataloging needs. Also during the discussion, it was agreed that Darrell Cave would look into possibilities for solar panels for the museum. Ethan Lawrence mentioned that he might have a paint sprayer that the group could use for painting the motor car sheds when the time comes.

New Brochures :

Secretary-Treasurer Brian Carlson passed around some of the completed rack cards. Some have been given to Big Brutus and 150 given to the Crawford County Tourism office to distribute to the museums and motels in Crawford County. It was also reported that some had been taken to the Hampton Inn in Pittsburg as well as member David Calwell in Topeka.

Security System:

Brian Carlson met with a representative of Uplink on January 31 at Carona. Uplink, a security company located in Pittsburg, KS, came out to install a new security system in the museum buildings. It took most of the day as the installer from Uplink was alone due to his partner being ill. The modifications and changes to the new system will provide a wider area of protection of the museum and its contents.

Missouri Pacific Emblem:

Larry Spahn spoke with Kevin Anselmi about the current situation with the emblem that was removed from the Missouri Pacific offices in Coffeyville. Kevin said that the person responsible for the repair had come and determined the condition of the emblem and had made a plan for cleaning it and preserving it. The work on the emblem will be done in Pittsburg. We will need to build a display stand for the emblem, probably similar to the one that Dave Parker and Larry built for the Union Pacific emblem.

New Phone for Museum:

Brian Carlson informed the group that the new phone system had been purchased with setup and installation being completed on February 14, 2024. There is now a hand held, cordless phone for the museum. The number for the museum is: 620-448-1065.

Model Train Display:

Discussion was held in regards to a model railroad display offered to be donated to the Heartlands from the Green Country Model Railroad Club in Tulsa. Pictures of the layout, provided by member Rob McKnight, were presented to the group. Rob and John Chambers provided additional information to the group in regards to the layout. Darrell Cave moved and Jim McKeel seconded a motion to accept the model train display donation. The motion was passed by the membership present.

Upcoming Train Shows:

Member Rob McKnight informed the group of the upcoming train shows he is planning on attending. At each he is planning to have a table advertising the Heart of the Heartlands. His dates so far are:

- Bentonville, AR on February 24
- Kellyville, OK
- Joplin, MO

Rob informed the group that he was working on a Heart of the Heartlands banner to include in the table setup. This would go along with the backdrop that he has already created to donate to the Heartlands. Jim McKeel moved and Darrell Cave seconded the motion to reimburse Rob for his train show registrations and the banner purchase. The motion was passed by the membership present.

Monthly Museum and Visitors Report :

John Chambers gave his museum and visitors report.

- The steps for the 1023 & Empire Engine had the finishing touches put on them on February 1, 2024. The slip resistance tread was placed on all the steps.
- March 30th from 11:00 am to 5:00 pm will be a slide show at the museum.
- A Boy Scout troop from Wichita has been in contact with John in regards to coming during Labor Day weekend to work on their railroad merit badge. The group would camp out during the weekend working on completing the requirements for the badge. One of the requirements includes possible community service for us. More details are to come.
- John mentioned the Sunflower Summer Program. The information for application was given to secretary-treasurer Brian Carlson. He announced that he would work on completing the application which is due March 15, 2024.
- John also mentioned a painting that was created by a young railfan and given to the museum. The painting is his rendition of the SEK 1000 locomotive.

New Business:**SEK Museum Alliance Passports:**

Brian Carlson announced that we now had 25 of the SEK Museum Alliance Passports. The passports came with a small stamp to be used to stamp the Heartlands page in the passport when a holder of one of the passports visited the museum. The club purchased an initial set of 25 passports and can purchase more later if need be.

Removal of Dead Trees:

Two large oak trees located near the 1716 caboose and Mackie engine have died and large limbs have started breaking off. This creates a potential danger to museum guests as well as the possibility of damage to the caboose or engine. Larry Spahn met with Kevin Anselmi and was informed that Kevin would contact the contractor that took the large pecan tree down in front of the Webb Center. The contractor got in touch with Larry and they discussed the problem. The contractor said he would be out when the ground had dried out or was frozen enough to let him move the cut down trees to the burn area north of the Boston Depot.

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