



March Meeting

The March meeting of the Heart of the Heartlands was held on March 13, 2024 in the Webb Center at Carona, KS. There were 14 members present. Minutes of the meeting can be found at the end of this newsletter. Members in attendance were: John Chambers, Jack Evans, Kathy & Larry Spahn, Ethan Lawrence, Denzil & Ivan Voorhees, Jim McKeel, Darrell Cave, Paul Morgan, Ed Brinkmeyer, Connie & Mike Payton and Rob McKnight.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be April 13, 2024 at the Webb Center in Carona. This will be a member appreciation day. We will gather at 11:00, have lunch at 12:00 and the meeting at 1:00 pm. Each member is asked to bring a side dish to go with catered chicken provided by the club.

Heartlands - YouTube

Check out our YouTube channel:
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMIkqWyCxftDif_ezgw3UyQ

Train Shows

Heartland member, Rob McKnight has put together a very nice display to advertise the Heart of the Heartlands. Rob recently was at the train show in Bentonville, AR. It is through this endeavor that we hope to increase awareness of our organization, provide information, answer questions and perhaps attract some new members. At the Arkansas show, a family joined as well as an individual. In addition, Rob sold

\$66 of souvenirs. The display that Rob has created is eye catching and represents the group well. He also held discussions with Brenda from the A&M railroad about having reciprocal visits between our two organizations. Rob will be attending shows on April 6 in Kellyville, OK and May 18 in Dewey, OK. We will also have a table at the Joplin show date to be determined.



- Photos courtesy of Rob McKnight

Moody and Poors Railroad Manuals

Jennifer Booth, the daughter of Russel Tedders has recently donated her father's large collection of Moody & Poors reference books to the Heartlands railroad library, which we are extremely grateful in receiving. Each volume details the history, ownership, equipment, and finances of railroads in the United States, including maps of the largest railroad systems at that point in time. These books span many years and are a wealth of information. Our thanks to Heartland member, Mike Sypult for picking the books up and delivering them to Carona. These books will make a great addition to our reference library

From our Past

We will be featuring photos from our past for awhile.

These pictures were taken in 2011 of Little Balkans Days. The first photo shows getting ready for Saturday ride. L/R Kathy, Ron, Larry and John Spahn on locomotive. The second photo is the Sunday Chicken Dinner ride arriving at Carona with the Cherryvale Charger locomotive in the lead.

- Photos courtesy of John Chambers



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 February

There were 74 visitors to the museum in February. Visitors came from Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Indiana and Florida. During the month, one of the visitors was a former Santa Fe track foreman who worked on the Cherryvale to Tulsa line and retired in 2004. One of our younger visitors, an eleven year old from Collinsville, brought a color drawing of the SEK 1000. It is now hanging on the wall near the main entrance. Mike Sypult delivered the nine boxes of books from Jennifer Booth from her father's collection. - *The information in this report was pulled from the Museum Directors' biweekly reports.*

Sunflower Summer Program

The Sunflower Summer 2024 Program is a program sponsored by the state of Kansas. It is designed to give affordable access to tourism attractions across the state and to support the Kansas tourism economy. Eligible Kansas families download the Sunflower Summer App to claim tickets to participating venues that meet a set of criteria. The Heartlands applied to be a venue in this program and we are pleased to announce that we were accepted! What does that mean for us? Even though we do not charge admission, for each person that comes to our museum during the summer season, we are to receive \$5 per person that uses the app at our museum. The summer season runs from Saturday, May 25 through Sunday, August 11, 2024. The app can be used once per person at one location. It does not work for repeat visits. There are some additional training components that we will have to fulfill prior to the start of the program at the end of May. We are excited about this opportunity!

Items to Note

- As of this publication, electrical power has been restored to the east side of the tracks. The Carona Depot now has electricity again. Having power restored to the east side will help facilitate future projects.
- We are currently working on getting the signal lights on the east side of the track working as a display piece.
- The Polar Bear Camping Club stopped by Carona on March 9 with over 40 visitors present from their group.
- Work continues on our long range plans as we gather cost estimates.

March 13, 2024 - Heart of the Heartlands - Minutes

The March 13, 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, that was provided 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:

Heartland Train Show Display:

Rob McKnight discussed the table at the train show in Bentonville, AR. Over 1500 people attended and Rob sold \$66 in merchandise, one family membership and one three year renewal. He exchanged rack cards with Brenda from the A&M railroad and they discussed reciprocal visits. Rob discussed the need for a sign with the membership information to put on the table in the future. There was also a discussion of printing some replica tickets with the membership information that could be punched with a conductors punch for the kids at the shows. Rob will be attending shows on April 6 in Kellyville, OK and May 18 in Dewey, OK. We will also have a table at the Joplin show date to be determined.

John Chambers noted that two families came to the museum and mentioned they had talked to Rob at the show.

Model Train Layout:

The Green Country Model Railroad Club of Tulsa, OK has officially donated to the Heartlands their HO gauge traveling layout. Heartland member, Jay Hastings, has volunteered to bring the display to Carona. This will allow us to have something different for the kids to enjoy. Many thanks to the Green Country Model Railroad Club for their donation and to Jay Hastings for bringing it to Carona.

Moody and Poors Railroad Manuals:

Jennifer Boothe, the daughter of Russel Tedders has recently donated her father's large collection of Moody & Poors reference books to the Heartlands railroad library. These books span many years. Thank you to Heartland member, Mike Sypult for picking the books up and delivering them to Carona. These books will make a great addition to our reference library

Slide Show:

There will be a slide show at the Heartlands Railroad Museum on Saturday, March 30, starting at 11:00pm. Members that are attending may want to bring a light snack or sandwich as the show may last a while.

Monthly Museum and Visitors Report :

John Chambers gave his museum and visitors report.

Long Range Plan:

It was discussed that the long range plan did not have the projected cost listed with each item. Larry is checking with Helt about the cost of painting the rolling stock and also meeting with the carpenter that worked on the Old Parita about the cost of repairing the motorcar sheds and painting the depots and sheds as required.

Electrical Power on East Side of Tracks:

Darrell Cave brought up the need to restore power to the east side of the tracks for the signal collection and depots. It would also provide power for any carpenter and painting projects in the future. Darrell moved and John seconded to have Liberty reinstall the meter. Motion carried. Larry will contact Liberty to have the meter reinstalled and power restored.

Signal Display:

There was discussion of whether removing the trees made the signals more noticeable. John noted that if the power was restored and the signals were operating they would be an attraction to cross to the east side. Jim McKeel offered that putting up a sign on the west side pointing out the signals might also help.

New Business:**Polar Bear Camping Club:**

The Polar Bear Camping Club met at Big Brutus with over 40 people participating. The Museum was the final stop of a poker run and many people stopped. Thanks to Larry and Kathy Spahn for helping John during the rush.

Sunflower Summer Program:

Brian submitted an application to the Kansas Department of Education Sunflower Summer Program and it was approved. The program runs from Memorial Day to mid-August and provides students and parents of K-12 Kansas students free admission to many attractions throughout the state. The attractions are then reimbursed for the waived entrance fee or in our case with no admission, we would get \$5 per person. More information and training for staff will be provided by the program before it begins in May.

April Meeting:

Jim McKeel made a motion to move the April meeting to Saturday, April 13th at 11 a.m. with the club providing chicken and the members providing pot luck for the sides and deserts. It was noted that a separate email to the members would be helpful to get the information disseminated. Motion seconded by Jack and passed by membership.

Communications:

- The only club train ride of the year was proposed for Bartlesville, OK on June 1st and 2nd. The Bartlesville group has agreed to promote and sell tickets. Final approval from the railroad is being sought at this time.
- Jack Evans reported that Brutus Fest and the Miners Day festival will also be on June 1st.

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