



Streetcar CURRENTS



May 2004

Traction Division – MTM

CHSL & ESL Season Highlights

- CHSL will start operations on May 1st
- ESL will start it's season on May 27th
- Newly restored TCRT No. 1239 will provide base service at ESL
- We will continue to offer carbarn tours at CHSL
- We will hold a special commemoration of the end of TCRT streetcar service on June 19th
- We will start a new educational program at CHSL called Classroom on Wheels

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Masthead photo: DSR No. 78 crosses Morse Avenue with John Prestholdt at the controller.
Photo by Wendy Dunham

EXCELSIOR STREETCAR LINE SEASON BEGINS

As announced in the last issue of the Currents, the Traction Division now has the responsibility for managing and operating the Excelsior Streetcar Line (ESL). This resulted from a MTM Board of Directors motion passed in late 2003. Since the first of the year, the Traction Division's leadership has been planning and working towards the start of ESL's 2004 operating season. So, in these pages of the **Streetcar CURRENTS** you will now be seeing more news, information reminders, etc. regarding ESL. Even though right now you might not operate at ESL we hope that this information will be useful to you. And if you don't now operate at ESL, please join us. Now that restored TCRT gate car No. 1239 will be in revenue service it will be fun to operate at ESL. So, here is the "straight skinny" on ESL.

ESL 2004 Schedule of Operations.

will be the same as 2003.
 Thursday—3:00 PM to 6:00 PM
 Saturday—10:00 AM to 4:00 PM
 Sunday and holidays—1:00 PM to 4:00 PM
 The ESL monthly schedule of Operations will be sent to each person who is an ESL certified Foreman or Operator approximately one week prior to the start of the scheduled month. This will be done either by US mail for those who don't have e-mail or by e-mail for those who do.

The 2004 ESL operating season will start on Thursday, May 27th. It will then follow the above schedule until Sunday, October 10th, which will be the last day of ESL service for the 2004 season.

ESL Crew Calling. Crew calling for ESL will be done in the same manner

as previous years. **Marv Krafve** (763-478-2767) has agreed to be our ESL crew caller this year. **Thanks Marv!** He will start making his calls to fill the May-June schedule around May 1st. For Marv's and your convenience we strongly suggest that you call him rather than wait for him to call you. Getting scheduled at ESL in that fashion saves a lot of time and playing phone-tag—plus those who call first get their pick of the shift dates and times.

Foreman's Instructions and Responsibilities. Some start-up and shut-down procedures at ESL will be changed from past years so the checklist for ESL Foremen has been revised. Foremen will get their copy when they recertify at ESL. A copy will also be e-mailed to everyone who has that capability when it is finalized.

ESL General Procedures Memo. This will be issued starting this year. This will be virtually identical in format to the one that is issued annually for the Como-Harriet Streetcar Line, with some content changed to reflect local unique ESL conditions and procedures. Be on the lookout for this when you recertify at ESL. If you don't get a copy then you will get one via e-mail once the final version is approved.

Streetcar Cleaning. Bob Johnson (952-937-9378) has agreed to be the ESL streetcar cleaning Foreman. If he calls you and asks that you help with this most important public relations task, please say yes. It's a fairly easy job that goes a lot quicker when there is a good, friendly bunch of people working on a common project and goal. Plus it's a good way to meet with your fellow volunteers and learn what's going on at ESL or at Lake Harriet. You will be getting more info on the first streetcar cleaning date in

(Continued on bottom of page 3)

THE RULES OF THE ROAD FOR PCC NO. 322

Now that we have a sufficient number of qualified operators for PCC No. 322 we've come upon another slight problem—How to schedule operations of No. 322 so everyone has a chance to operate this classic, art deco streetcar. To allow as many people the chance to operate No. 322, here is the policy for operation of No. 322 for the 2004 operating season.

- We will continue to schedule No. 322 to operate first shift each Sunday and holiday throughout the year. Crew callers will continue to fill these shift slots when they call to fill the monthly schedule.
- No. 322 can operate on any weekend shift as an additional (second) car, including second shifts, if a Lead Foreman and Operator qualified to operate No. 322 can make the necessary arrangements among themselves. If two people make these arrangements one

should inform the regular Foreman for that shift as soon as the agreement is made.

- No. 322 can be substituted for a standard car on any shift during the weekday provided that all shift operators are qualified to operate No. 322.

PCC Shaft Brake Release Alert. A reminder about operating No. 322. Last year we had several instances when the shaft brakes on No. 322 failed to fully release even when you could hear the audible “thunk” under the car. Operators should pay particular attention to the brake indicator light on the right side of the control panel to **make sure this light is OFF** (not lit) before the car is moved **in either direction**. If the light does not go off refer to the immediate action card for the steps you must take to restore the car to normal operation.

Review the Traction Division Incident Report Form

On your next shift, take a few moments to familiarize (or re-familiarize) yourself with the Traction Division incident report form. Blank forms are located on the clipboard holding the daily inspection sheet at the rear of each streetcar.

SAFETY AND SECURITY REMINDERS

As we go thru recertification training each year we are reminded of the important operational and safety rules we need to follow whenever we operate our cars in revenue or non-revenue service. Our Transportation Department also issues special bulletins regarding safety or operational rules that are posted on the ESL and CHSL car barn bulletin boards that we are required to read every time we come on duty. Here is a summary of the current operational safety and security rules and procedures that all operating personnel need to follow.

- Be especially watchful when approaching switches. Each time you approach a facing point switch look at the switch points and make sure that the switch stand handle is completely down and locked. If it looks like a switch point is not firmly against the running rail stop the car and make sure it is. Speed limit while going through all switches in any direction is 5 miles per hour. **Be sure rather than sorry!**
- At CHSL, when you approach the W. 42d Street crossing and the Linden Hills Station platform area, slow the streetcar down so that you are going no faster than 5 miles per hour.
- Turn off the controller when you are traveling over all switches to eliminate trolley wheel arcing.
- Be watchful for pedestrians, joggers, bikers, dogs, etc., especially in the area between the car barn and W. 42d Street and in the “glen” area at CHSL and

along the entire line at ESL. Warn people and dogs with the foot gong. Slow the car down if you even have a hint that they don't notice the streetcar is coming up to them.

- Follow the overhead targets. They were put there for safety reasons and to remind you of our sequence of operations.

Another area that needs our close attention again this year at CHSL is proper operation of our ADT security system in the Linden Hills Station and in the car barn. **PLEASE** make sure that all doors are **securely** closed before you activate the alarm system. Make sure the upper latches of the car barn doors are **completely** latched. Please make sure that the wooden wedge is put in the handles of the car barn doors. Remember that an inadvertent activation of our ADT security system costs us money. Please take the time to make sure that all doors and latches are securely closed before you activate the alarm system and leave the station or car barn.

All of these rules and procedures are designed to provide a safe and secure environment for our passengers, our historic streetcars and for you, our volunteers. Please refresh your memory regarding our rules and procedures, check the operations bulletin board in the car barn each time you are there, and most important of all—**Work Safely!**

CHSL 2004 SEASON ADMINISTRATIVE NOTES AND REMINDERS

General Procedures Memo. We will be distributing this year's General Procedures for Regularly Scheduled Streetcar Operations memorandum in two ways this year. Some will get it as an attachment sent via e-mail. The remainder of you will get it when you recertify at Lake Harriet. This memo is updated and re-issued each year and has a wealth of information concerning general passenger operational procedures for all operating personnel to include Station Agents. While much of our basic passenger operations policy and procedure contained in this memo remains the same year after year, there are some changes in this year's edition! Please read the memo carefully. Once you've read it, most of your basic operational questions should be answered. Please pay particular attention to section III, sub-section B which has a complete description of the entire line of special passes and other discount fare tickets we offer to our passengers.

Station Agent's Binder. Your one-stop source for virtually all the information you'll need regarding CHSL's passenger operations is located between the covers of the Linden Hills Station Agent's binder. This well-marked binder is located in the Linden Hills station and its contents includes monthly operations schedules, telephone rosters, the annual General Services Memorandum and bulletins, current operations bulletins and other important information. Please take a moment the next time you operate to review and become familiar with this important reference binder.

With the introduction of the new 10 and 25-Ride tickets that must be punched or marked after each use, crewmembers are requested to bring a pen. Foremen are especially requested to make sure

that crew members have working pens. There are a limited number of pens available on the clip boards at the rear of the streetcar and in the station.

Volunteers who have punches (they must be punches with closed compartments for the holes to avoid punch holes on the floor) should feel free to use, donate, or loan them to the Museum. All punches donated or loaned will be attached to the car with a light chain.

To donate a punch please contact **Louis Hoffman** at 612-729-0442 or hamhoff@msn.com.

CHSL Crew Telephone Number Roster for 2004 is enclosed with this issue of the **Streetcar CURRENTS**. Please check this roster to make sure we have your correct telephone number. Also, if you are willing to be called on relatively short notice to either fill a last minute vacancy or to substitute for someone who is forced to cancel their shift, please call Jim Vaitkunas. Those who had marked the short notice block on the 2004 volunteer survey are already indicated on the phone list with a small "s." A revised roster will be sent to you sometime in June or July.

End of Line Talk. It would be helpful if end of line talks would include a brief mention of our charter availability for birthday parties, weddings, and other special events. Also, a word about Museum membership and all the wonderful things that entails -- like operating our streetcars -- would be nice. And don't forget to encourage our passengers to go out for a pleasant day in Excelsior and ride the Excelsior Streetcar Line. Make a big "to do" about our recent restoration project, TCRT gate car No. 1239. This fine car should be going into service this Memorial Day weekend.

ESL SEASON INFORMATION *Continued from page 1)*

the coming weeks. Come join us!

ESL Keys. All the locks have been changed at ESL, including the overhead power switch padlock and all the switch locks. Foremen will get a new key when they recertify. Please turn in your old Excelsior carbarn key at the same time you get your new key. **Don't throw away the old key—it can be reused.** Key Albrecht (507-625-8428) is the key control person for ESL so refer any questions regarding ESL keys to him.

Traction Division cookout will be held sometime in July at the Excelsior carbarn to celebrate the completion of the restoration of TCRT gate car No. 1239. Come on out to operate venerable No. 78 and the striking No. 1239, munch on some brats and burgers and take a look at start of the restoration of Winona No. 10. More details on this event in the next issue of the **Streetcar CURRENTS**.



Campaign for Como-Harriet Special Celebration

You are invited to join us to help celebrate the successful results of our Campaign for Como-Harriet at the Linden Hills station and carbarn.

**Day & Date: Sunday, May 23rd
Time: 2:00 PM**

If you have donated to the Campaign, or not, please come and join us. We will also be giving an update on the actual progress of the track rebuilding project and the restoration of the two streetcar stations.

Streetcar *CURRENTS*
May 2004

Streetcar *CURRENTS* IS A PERIODIC NEWSLETTER FOR THE VOLUNTEERS AND FRIENDS OF THE TRACTION-STREETCAR DIVISION OF THE MINNESOTA TRANSPORTATION MUSEUM.

DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE **Streetcar *CURRENTS*** IS MAY 20, 2004. PLEASE SEND ITEMS TO JIM VAITKUNAS AT THE FOLLOWING ADDRESS:

155 CHAPARRAL DR.,
 APPLE VALLEY, MN 55124-9774
 YOU CAN SEND INPUT OR INQUIRIES BY
 E-MAIL TO: jvaitkunas@msn.com



**MINNESOTA
 TRANSPORTATION
 MUSEUM**

COMO-HARRIET STREETCAR LINE
EXCELSIOR STREETCAR LINE

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

May 1	Streetcar Cleaning—8:30 AM to 11:00 AM (Linden Hills carbarn)
May 1	Start of CHSL weekend streetcar operations for 2004
May 14	Start of CHSL daily streetcar operations
May 22-23	Linden Hills Festival weekend
May 23	Linden Hills carbarn tours—12:30 PM to 4:30 PM
May 27	EXCELSIOR STREETCAR LINE season opens
May 30	<i>Princess Depot</i> season starts
May 31	Memorial Day special shuttle service to Lakewood Cemetery starts at 9:00 AM
June 5	Streetcar Cleaning—8:30 AM to 11:00 AM (Linden Hills carbarn)
June 19	Special Commemoration of the last TCRT streetcar runs on June 18 & 19, 1954—1:00 PM
June ??	Hiawatha Light rail line opening celebration—date TBA

Remember — You cannot operate in CHSL or ESL revenue service unless you are recertified each year and your MTM membership dues are paid-up

MAY 2004 SCHEDULE OF OPERATIONS

Included with this mailing is the May 2004 Schedule of Operations. If you see a vacancy that needs filling, please contact either Jim Vaitkunas or the Foreman for that shift. Please consider filling a vacancy.

If you would still like to volunteer to operate on a shift even though there is a full crew shown on the schedule of operations, please call the Foreman and talk with him/her about it. We can especially use you on

those busy weekend shifts. We feel sure that no Foreman would deny you the chance to help out on a shift, especially a weekend shift. So call and sign-up!

Remember that you must inform your Foreman of all substitutions or if you are forced to cancel your shift and **please** inform **both Foremen** if you swap shifts with someone.

HIAWATHA LINE GRAND OPENING FESTIVITIES

The buses are now running! That means that in a few days, perhaps about the time you are reading this issue of the Currents, the date will be announced for the grand opening festivities for the new Hiawatha light rail line.

The Minnesota Transportation Museum, and the volunteers of the Traction Division (i.e., the Como-Harriet Streetcar Line and the Excelsior Streetcar Line), will be heavily involved in the festivities if current coordination with Metro Transit bears fruit. What are we talking about? Here is a summary of the probable MTM involvement with the Hiawatha light rail line's grand opening festivities.

- Our Classic buses will be prominent throughout the festivities.
- Historic streetcar No. 1300 will be on display near the Downtown East-Metrodome station.
- MTM will have space available in a tent at the Downtown East-Metrodome station where we will be able to set up historical displays and distribute our Museum's and CHSL/ESL brochures.
- We will help Metro Transit with platform safety and provide general information to passengers and visitors on opening day by providing them with Museum volunteers at each of the 12 Hiawatha line station stops.

These requirements will require a maximum number of volunteers. When the final opening date is announced on the TV news and in the newspapers please reserve that date and mark it on your calendars. We will be needing as many volunteers as possible to staff the displays and the platforms. You'll get more specific information both by e-mail and by regular mail. Please help us! This will be a golden opportunity for MTM to shine and to reach out to thousands of potential passengers and visitors to our operating and exhibit sites.



Photo by Phil Settergren