MINNESOTA STREETCAR MUSEUM





October — 2017

Minneapolis & Excelsior, Minnesota



Bill the Motorman Says:

- At ESL and CHSL, come and take a ride on our special operations and events during the Halloween season. After Thanksgiving, bring the kids and/or grandkids to visit with Santa.
- Our operating season may be almost over but that doesn't mean that we hibernate. This is the time of the year when work in the shop picks up, and we can use your help.

Streetcar CURRENTS Winter Publication Schedule

With this issue of the Streetcar CURRENT 5 we'll revert to our winter publication schedule. See the notice on page 4 for details on the schedule.

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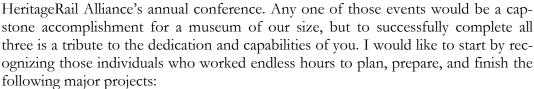
Masthead. All three of ESL's streetcars await the arrival of the 2017 HRA Heritage Rail Conference attendees, who will be arriving shortly by bus. Leading this group is Winona No. 10, which is still in restoration but was readied for this special event. (Tim Crain photo)

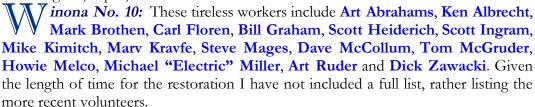
Thank You!

Bruce Gustafson—General Supt.

as I mentioned at the start of the season, our museum could not exist and would not be as successful as it is without you. In the paragraphs below I have called out a few individuals, but there are many others who deserve our recognition and thanks that aren't listed. In addition to those listed below I would like to thank you for your efforts and support this year and hope that we will see you return in 2018.

The year 2017 was amazing, with the completion of Winona No. 10, the rebuilding of No. 1300, and the hosting of the





CRT No. 1300: Thank you to: Dennis Stephens, Jack Bacon, Mark Digre, Ben Franske, Russ Isbrandt, Karl Jones, Mike "Non-Electric" Miller, John Prestholdt, Tom Schramm, Pete Connors, Rob Mangels and Jim Wilmore.

eritageRail Alliance Conference: Aaron Issacs, Bill and Rose Arends, Pat Cosgrove, Rod Eaton, Tim Crain, Ben Franske and Jim Vaitkunas.

I would also like to recognize those operating volunteers who have over 40 hours of scheduled operations this year and collectively represent 54% of the total 3,400 hours through October 16.

CHSL – Bill Arends, Rod Eaton, Gerry Petersen, Steve Simon, Aaron Isaacs, Pat Kriske, Rose Arends, Mike Buck, Steve McCulloch, Bruce Allyn, Linda Ridlehuber, Patrick Desbonnet, Bill Graham, Pat Cosgrove, Russ Isbrandt, Bill Way, Dave French, Ben Porter, Dick Zawacki, and John Dillery.

ESL – Karen Kertzman, Jim Kertzman, Larry Kappel, Greg Thomas, Rich Holz, and Tom Dulebohn.

here are several members who during the course of the year have volunteered to lead critical non-operating functions: **Ben** and **Mary Porter** – Station Garden Foremen; **Gerry Petersen** – Car Cleaning Foreman; **Pat Cosgrove** – Volunteer Coordinator.

Lastly, I would like to remind everyone that a significant part of our revenue earn-(Continued on page 4)



MINNESOTA STREETCAR MUSEUM



The Minnesota Streetcar Museum is a non-profit, all-volunteer organization with the mission to preserve and communicate to the public the experience of Minnesota's electric street and interurban railway history. To accomplish this mission the Museum operates historic streetcars at two demonstration railways.

COMO-HARRIET STREETCAR LINE Excelsior Streetcar Line

For more information on our Museum, our collection of historic streetcars and our demonstration railways, visit our website: www.TrolleyRide.org

The museum's business address and telephone number are:

P.O. Box 16509 Minneapolis, MN 55416-0509 952-922-1096

Streetcar CURRENTS October - 2017

Jim Vaitkunas—Editor Bill Graham—Distribution

Streetcar CURRENTS is a newsletter published for the members and friends of the Minnesota Streetcar Museum.

Deadline for submitting items for the next edition of the **Streetcar CURRENT 5** is November 20, 2017.

Please send items to the editor **Jim Vaitkunas** at the following address: 13326 Huntington Lane

Apple Valley, MN 55124-9481 You can send input or enquiries by email to: jvaitkunas@msn.com

From the Front Platform—Thoughts on Our Museum

Aaron Isaacs — MSM Board Chair

Onference a great success. The HeritageRail Alliance annual fall conference is over and it was a great success. Over a five day period, we hosted 180 attendees from all over North America (plus one from Japan). We put on 22 seminars, two breakfasts, two receptions with food, a cocktail hour, a banquet and late evening movie sessions. On two days we provided box lunches. Twenty-two vendors set up displays. We made six bus trips from our hotel to take specially arranged rides on two railroads, our two streetcar lines and the



steamboat *Minnehaha*. We printed a conference booklet, plus numerous signs and tickets. We also ran a 3-day set of tours for spouses and traveling companions, planned and hosted by **Jill Seinola**.

That's a big undertaking, especially for a rather small museum with no paid staff. Thankfully, we have a terrific group of volunteers and they stepped up big time, 48 of them in all.

The central planning group was Jim Vaitkunas, Rod Eaton, Tim Crain and me. Among other tasks, Jim handled all the printing. Rod arranged some of the seminars, determined the graphics and laid out the conference booklet. Tim arranged all the food.

Bill and Rose Arends spent many hours running the registration table, which doubled as a sales table for MSM merchandise. They were assisted by Linda Ridlehuber, Dave French and Steve McCulloch.

Phil Epstein coordinated the buses and drove a bus himself, along with Mike Buck, Fred Beamish and Gary Sparr. Every bus also had a bus guide, and they were Greg Taylor, John Dillery, Steve Glischinski, Bruce Allyn, Dave French, Russ Isbrandt, Linda Ridlehuber, Aaron Isaacs, Bill Graham and Keith Anderson.

We had four seminar rooms running concurrently on Thursday and Frioday morning. Each room had a seminar host: Keith Anderson, Rod Eaton, Dave French, John Prestholdt, Dave Christianson and Connie Kozlak. Ben Franske handled all the audio-visual coordination. Several of our members presented seminars, including Howie Melco and Dick Zawacki on Winona No. 10, Dennis Stephens on No. 1300's truck rebuilding, Rod Eaton on special events, Ben Franske on IT for museums, Pat

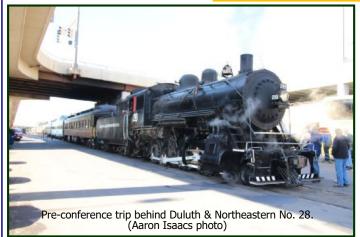
Cosgrove on volunteer coordination and Ross Hammond on energy conservation in buildings.

Winona No. 10. Todd Bender and Karen and Jim Kertzman coordinated a complicated operation, which included bus parking, three-car operation and coordinating with the steamboat *Minnehaha*. The ESL crew also included Mike Helde, Ron Neitzel, Tim Crain, Dave McCollom, Denny Morrow, Elaine Love, Keith Anderson, Jeff Ersbo, Brian Kryzinski, Howie Melco, Scott Heiderich and Tom Dulebon. A special thanks to Dick Zawacki, Howie Melco and Scott Heiderich for getting Winona No. 10 into operation.

A small pre-conference tour visited CHSL on Wednesday for guest operations by qualified motormen from other museums. All the attendees showed up on Saturday. **Bruce Gustafson** set up the operating plan for visits to CHSL. Despite every effort to make TCRT No. 1300 operational in time for the conference, we decided it was too late. Instead, one of the almost completed trucks was placed in front of the car, where contractor **Rob Man**-

(Continued on next page)

2017 HeritageRail Alliance Conference Photos













(**From the Front Platform** *Continued from page 2*)

gels was available to explain the repairs. It actually made a great exhibit and was well received by the attendees. While this was happening we hosted a rail bike from vendor Rail Adventures on the shop siding. The CHSL crew included Rod Eaton, Keith Anderson, Bruce Gustafson, Jim Vaitkunas, Art Abrahams, Mike Helde, Pat Cosgrove, Russ Isbrandt, Bill Arends, Rose Arends, Ben Porter, Aaron Isaacs, Dennis Stephens, John Prestholdt, Dick Zawacki and Dave French.

ith so many moving parts, all sorts of things can go wrong at a conference. Thanks to our volunteers, almost everything went right. We even turned a surplus, so there will be revenue for MSM. I've received nothing but positive feedback from attendees. As I said in an earlier email to the volunteers, you earned the respect of your peers across North America. Well done!

What's Happening?

October 27 & 28----- GHOST TROLLEY: WITCHES' MOON at CHSL—6:30 PM to 9:30 PM

October 27 & 28 -----FANTASTICALLY SPOOKY GHOST TROLLEY at ESL-6 PM to 9 PM

October 28 -----TRANSYLVANIA TROLLEY at CHSL-12:30 PM to 4:00 PM

October 29-----Trick R' Trolley at CHSL-1 PM, 2 PM & 3 PM

October 29-----The Late Show—Séance on the Streetcar at CHSL—8 PM and 9 PM

October 29-----Trick R' Trolley at ESL-1:30 PM and 2:30 PM

November 24, 25 & 26----- Christkindlsmarkt at ESL. See schedule on our MSM website for daily times.

November 25 & 26 ------ Holly Trolley with Santa at CHSL—12:30 PM to 3:30 PM

and December 2 & 3

December 2-----Vinternatt at CHSL. See the Luminaries along our right-of-way—6:00 PM to 8:30 PM.



MSM News & Views — News of our Museum's Administration and Membership

Jim Vaitkunas — MSM Corporate Secretary & Assistant Ops Chief

ew Members. We extend a hearty welcome to two of our new MSM members: Miles Anderson and Tom Alm. Welcome to the MSM family, folks.

Annual Appeal. The end of the year is in sight and we'd like to remind you to keep your Museum in mind when considering those year-end donations. We'll have the flyer to you by mid-November and it will have the details on the project we're going to focus on in 2017-2018. Remember, our Museum doesn't inundate you with constant appeals for donations. Our annual appeal is an annual effort, so please be generous when you receive the flyer. Thanks!

Goings-on in Our Museum!









(Thank You! Continued from page 1)

Thank you for all you do.

ing schedule remains – specifically the special holiday-themed special events. These are a lot of fun and I encourage everyone to help and, if they cannot do that, to attend the events.

Streetcar CURRENTS Winter Publication Schedule

With this issue of the **Streetcar CURRENTS**, we revert to our winter publication schedule. After this [October 2017] issue, you'll be receiving the **Streetcar CURRENTS** every other month until May, 2018. Publication dates for these issues will be on or about: December 1st; February 1st, and, April 1st. If you don't receive your issue on or shortly after those dates please contact me at: **jvaitkunas@msn.com**