

MINNESOTA STREETCAR MUSEUM



Streetcar CURRENTS



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 CURRENTS** 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 HeritageRail Alliance's annual conference. Any one of those events would be a capstone accomplishment for a museum of our size, but to successfully complete all three is a tribute to the dedication and capabilities of you. I would like to start by recognizing those individuals who worked endless hours to plan, prepare, and finish the following major projects:

Winona No. 10: These tireless workers include **Art Abrahams, Ken Albrecht, Mark Brothen, Carl Floren, Bill Graham, Scott Heiderich, Scott Ingram, Mike Kimitch, Marv Kravfe, Steve Mages, Dave McCollum, Tom McGruder, Howie Melco, Michael "Electric" Miller, Art Ruder** and **Dick Zawacki**. Given the length of time for the restoration I have not included a full list, rather listing the more recent volunteers.

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**.

HeritageRail 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 Kiske, 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.

There 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 earned

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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 CURRENTS** 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 e-mail to: jvaitkunas@msn.com


From the Front Platform—Thoughts on Our Museum

Aaron Isaacs — MSM Board Chair

Conference 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 Friday 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.

We visited ESL on Friday. All three streetcars were running, including the first revenue passenger trips on 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-**

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2017 HeritageRail Alliance Conference Photos



Pre-conference trip behind Duluth & Northeastern No. 28.
(Aaron Isaacs photo)



All three ESL streetcars greeted the conference group upon their arrival.
(Jeff Terry photo)



Representing our Museum, **Dick Zawacki** accepted HRA's significant achievement award from **Aaron Isaacs** for the Winona No. 10 project.
(Tim Crain photo)



Group photo taken during the field trip to CHSL. (Steve Heister photo)



TCRT 1300's truck rebuilding project was very popular with the conferees during their visit to CHSL. (Dennis Stephens photo)



Conference registration was ably accomplished by (L to R) **Rose Arends**, **Steve McCullough**, **Dave French**, and **Linda Ridlehuber** and **Bill Arends** (not shown). (Tim Crain photo)

(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**.

With 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—*Seance 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*

New 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!



Winona No. 10 gets a new trolley pole. (Dick Zawacki photo)



CHSL pumpkin patch crew (L to R): Pat Kriske, Dave Higgins (mostly hidden), John Prestholdt, Ben Porter, Michael Doyle, Jerry Peterson, Bill Arends, Linda Ridlehuber, Jim Talley, Rick Krenske, Jill Seinola, and Monika Kopet (Rose Arends photo)



Mary and Ben Porter have done a terrific job tending the garden at the Linden Hills station. (Rod Eaton photo)



What else can be said? Pumpkin patch at CHSL. (Rose Arends photo)

(Thank You! Continued from page 1)

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.

Thank you for all you do. ☺

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