

MINNESOTA STREETCAR MUSEUM



Streetcar CURRENTS



July — 2017

Minneapolis & Excelsior, Minnesota



Bruce the Motorman Says:

- **Volunteers are the lifeblood of our Museum. Thank YOU for volunteering with MSM!**
- **If you have skills that could be useful to your Museum, please contact Pat Cosgrove, our Volunteer Coordinator: 952-953-6559.**
- **You don't need a specific skill to volunteer with MSM.**
- **There are many jobs and projects that need doing at both ESL and CHSL.**
- **Some jobs require physical activity while other tasks can be done at your home.**

Inside This Issue

From the Front Platform	2
Photo Ops at MSM	3
Coming Events	4
MSM News & Views	4
No. 1300's Truck work	4

Masthead. On June 27, 2017 a charter using Twin City Lines PCC No. 322 operated. Here are No. 322 and Duluth No. 265 in front of the George Isaacs car-barn with No. 322 just starting on its run back down the hill to the Linden Hills station.
(Jim Vaitkunas photo)

Volunteerism

Bruce Gustafson—General Superintendent

Our Museum's success is a direct result of **YOU**, our volunteers. MSM's leadership, our passengers/guests, our neighbors, and the cities of Minneapolis, St. Paul and Excelsior appreciate all of the things you do to operate or maintain our historic electric railway equipment and physical plant. The results of your dedication and hard work are good ridership and healthy financial performance.

Discussions of volunteerism identify benefits to those who volunteer as well as to those who receive the output of the volunteer activity. Everyone has options on how they want to spend their limited free time. By volunteering at the Museum, you have found something that motivates you. If you have the time and are willing to share your thoughts, I am interested in knowing what motivates you to volunteer and what inhibits your willingness to volunteer more. Please send me your thoughts to bruce.gustafson@optum.com. If I get enough input, I will summarize the information in a future column.

Our Museum cannot exist without its members volunteering their skills to support a wide variety of functions throughout the year. While a list of over 100 MSM volunteers is too long to include (it's all of you), here's a partial list of the critical activities required to support our Museum.

- Streetcar maintenance
- Overhead trolley wire and other electrical maintenance
- Streetcar cleaning
- Building maintenance and painting
- Grounds maintenance
- Special event planning and construction
- Project management
- Gardening
- Grant writing and fund raising
- Brush cutting and tree trimming
- Information Technology and website management
- Financial management – accounting, payment processing, etc.
- Training
- Merchandising and station/ticket booth management
- Track maintenance
- Operations planning & management and crew scheduling

If you see something in this list that interests you and would like to learn more about the opportunity, please contact me: bruce.gustafson@optum.com

Finally, I personally would like to thank each of you for your on-going enthusiasm for and support of our Museum. Note to our operating personnel: if you can volunteer at least twice a month, all of our daily shifts would be filled. Equally important, please consider helping with some of the non-operating activities as well.

Thank you! ☺

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
 July 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 July 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

TCRT's 1300's truck work project is progressing

I would estimate the overhaul of No. 1300's trucks is 60 percent complete. The following list gives the status of component work as of June 18. It comes from **Rob Mangels**, our contractor.

- Truck frame: 90% done
- 4 motors: 80%
- Wheel profiling: 40%
- Change out/ replace axle bearings: 60%
- Brake rigging components: 90%
- Spring replacement: 90%
- Rebuild spring seats: 75%
- Middle frame components repaired: 90%
- Bolster reclaim: 25 %
- Pedestal rebuild/repair: 70%
- New swing hangers finished: 50%
- New bolts: 20%
- Swing hanger bracket reclaim: 50%
- New swing hanger crossbars: 25%
- Reassemble components: 10%
- New equalizers: 80%
- New brake crossbars: 80%
- Testing: 0%



Look in the carbarn speeder shed and you'll see all sorts of parts that have been repaired and repainted. We're waiting for the re-profiled wheels and the repaired motors to be returned. Then reassembly can begin. I can't yet give you a completion date, but be assured that things are moving.

Finishing the speeder shed. **Dennis Stephens** and the CHSL shop crew have completed the track to the entrance of the speeder shed and are now working inside the building. When it's complete, all the speeders except the tower car will be relocated to the new track. The tower car is too tall to fit inside. We knew that long ago. The Park Board would only permit a building addition with a lower roofline than the rest of the carbarn, in order the not increase the massing of the building when viewed from Lake Harriet Parkway. Whenever Winona No. 10 moves to Lake Harriet, probably in 2018, we'll have to either replace the tower car or modify it so it can fit through the door.

ESL electrical service upgraded. The Excelsior carbarn just received a major electrical upgrade. The project included bringing the existing cold barn wiring up to code, adding drop stations between the car tracks, adding fourplex receptacles (outlets) in six areas of the cold barn and overhead circuits for lighting for the gift shop area. It also included more outdoor lighting to the northeast and northwest corners of the building. Two lockable duplex receptacles were added below the exterior lighting. Thanks to **Pat Kriske** for coordinating the work. ☺

MSM has a New Website

Back last fall the Board agreed that our website needed to be updated and approved the funds to do that. The work is now mostly finished and the website went live several days ago. Over the winter our Museum's IT Manager, **Ben Franske** worked with the web developer and the results look really nice. Go to TrolleyRide.org and check it out.

Work on the Track into the Speeder Shed Progressing



Jack Bacon looks happy using the rail bender. We used steel ties to support the rails (25 pounds-per-linear-yard) and maintain the correct track gauge, rather than the usual wood ties.



The Tuesday and Saturday crews have been involved with the speeder track work. Left to Right: **Walt Strobel, Dennis Stephens, Jim Willmore, Jack Bacon** and **Pete Connors** behind Jim and Jack. *(Jim Vaitkunas photo)*



(Left) Ben Franske, John Prestholdt and Jim Willmore testing the new track with a work flatcar.
(Above) The track into the shed isn't regular T-rail, but steel shapes, with the work cars rolling on their flanges. *(Jim V photo)*



(Left & Above) Still some more work needs to be done on the track in the shed, but it's looking good.

All photos by Dennis Stephens unless otherwise noted.

What's Happening?

- July 4-----Independence Day operations at CHSL & ESL follows regular Sunday schedule.
- July 14, 15 & 16-----Murder Mystery on the streetcar at CHSL—"Murder in G Minor" Shows start at 9 PM
21, 22 & 23
- July 13-----Story Time trolley at ESL. Scheduled runs at 5 PM and 6 PM.
- July 20-----PJ Trolley at CHSL. Scheduled runs at 6 PM and 7 PM
- July 20 to 23-----Excelsior's **CRAZY DAYS** festival. ESL Operates on an expanded schedule each day.
- August 5-----Owl service at CHSL. Special Streetcar operations from 9 PM to 12-midnight.



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

Jim Vaitkunas — *MSM Corporate Secretary & Assistant Ops Chief*

Annual fund. We gratefully acknowledge the generous donations from the following members and friends: Stanley Kasal, Byron & Alis Olson and Donna Wagner in memory of her husband, and former MSM volunteer, Hilmar Olaf Wagner. ☺

Truck work for TCRT No. 1300 is in its final stages

Here are a few photos of the work being done to rebuild the trucks under TCRT No. 1300. Much of the meticulous and hard-to-do work has been done, particularly the refurbishing of the four 50-hp traction motors, and soon our shop forces will begin reassembling the trucks. Barring unforeseen problems, we hope to have No. 1300 under power for testing in early August.



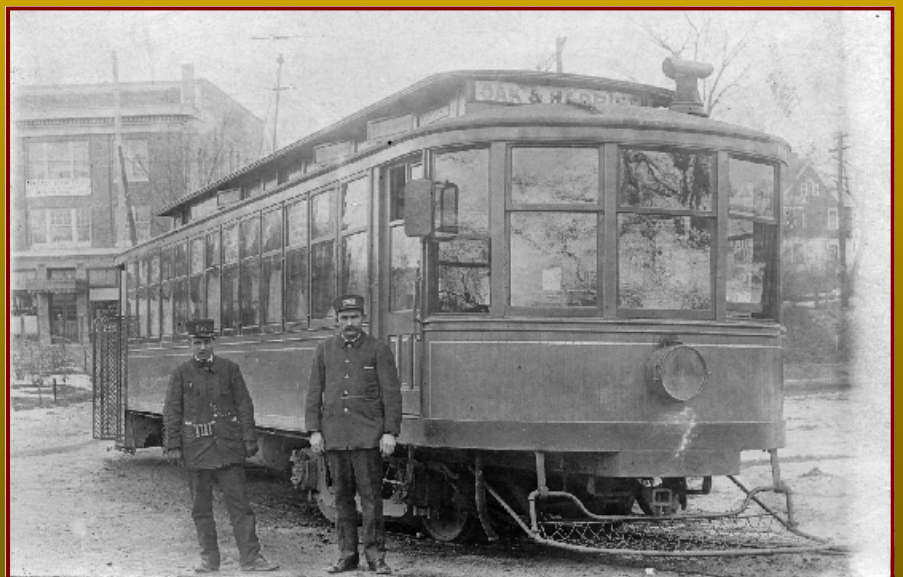
This the end of the motor armature shaft where the pinion goes.



Russ Isbrandt is painting some of the truck's components.



Newly machined wheel.



This photo is obviously not related to No. 1300's truck work. Here's a photo of a TCRT standard car on the Harriet loop in the early 1900s. The building behind the car is where Wild Rumpus books is located today on W. 43rd Street, so that'll give you an idea where the loop was located. Some of us think that the Motorman on the right looks very much like our Merchandise Manager, Bill Arends.