Many Thanks for a Successful Year

• Despite the uneven weather patterns, the 2010 season was most successful
• Many thanks to all our volunteers for your dedication
• Thanks to all our members for your loyal support by renewing your Museum membership each year

An Eventful Year

It’s been an interesting and eventful 2010 operating season. It began with two broken trolley poles, a snapped trolley wire support pole, erratic weather, and mediocre ridership. But our season has recovered nicely with an endless Fall, a new 42nd Street crossing, and very successful special events in October.

The last three weekends in October were dry with unseasonably mild temperatures—perfect conditions for our annual Halloween events. Our own Farmer Ken Albrecht enjoyed the fruits of his labors watching children choose their future Jack O’ Lanterns from the pumpkin patch. Pumpkin wranglers assisted Ken, while Angela Frerichs spent the weekend patiently applying temporary tattoos to children’s arms.

Then, on October 18th and 19th, CHSL’s track crossing West 42nd Street was ripped out and replaced. By the end of the week, the City of Minneapolis had laid new asphalt to complete the crossing. Many thanks to Keith Anderson and Scott Heiderich for managing this long overdue project.

CHSL carried 2,000 riders over the four nights of the Ghost Trolley. Kathy Helde managed our Alien Invaders, while Dave French, Mike Helde, and Mike’s friend, Travis Bay and his family, provided the theatrics. Many of our riders told me they attend Ghost Trolley every year to enjoy these talented people. A large group is required nightly to make the event run flawlessly and we had four terrific crews. Several people volunteered more than one night, and Karl Jones and Bill Arndts managed to do all four. ESL’s Halloween events were also very successful.

As it did last year, Trick ‘r Trolley sold out all three trips on Halloween Sunday. This Wild Rumpus Books sponsored event is a must-have ticket for the preschool set. All in all, October was a busy, fun, and profitable month. My thanks to all the volunteers who participated.

As I write these lines, we still have Holly Trolley ahead of us, weather permitting. After that, our 2010 operating season will come to a close. We can all look forward to a few months of rest and recuperation. Next spring I hope you will, again, help your Museum work towards another interesting and eventful year.
As I write this Thanksgiving is just five days away. All of us could spend hours listing all of the things we are thankful for in our country and our home. One big part of my life for which I am grateful is MSM. Are we the perfect museum? Not by a long shot, there are plenty of things we could improve, myself included. It is always easy to focus on the negatives of any organization. But if you take a step back and look at the big picture there are many more good things about MSM then bad.

We still attract many thousands of passengers every year and we are financially sound, despite a struggling economy. We have beautiful streetcars to maintain and operate and we have great people to work with. When you think back to your MSM experiences this year, whether as an active volunteer, or a member who supports the Museum, I bet there were at least a few moments that made you really happy. Maybe it was that great article and photos in our fine history publication, Twin City Lines. Maybe it was when you finally hit the platform just perfect at the end of ESL or CHSL. Maybe it was when you completed that small part of the restoration of Winona No. 10, or when you got the Museum's books to balance at the end of the month.

One of my favorite moments happened just today at CHSL. It was about 30 degrees with a brisk wind. I had considered canceling our shift figuring few people would be out today. But we had canceled operations last weekend due to the snowstorm and I decided we should run the car today. We sold 26 tokens and carried 41 passengers, about what you'd expect when the weather is like this. But we did sell quite a bit of merchandise and earned almost $200. We sometimes can get obsessed with numbers, and certainly 41 passengers in 3½ hours could be considered a poor performance. But I can tell you that while the numbers were small, we made 41 friends for the Museum today. I mean, what they lacked in numbers these people made up in happiness at being out and riding the streetcar. Right before our last trip, a group of three developmentally disabled adults and their care attendant arrived to take a ride. After I sold them their tokens and they were ready to board, one of these guys gave me a big smile, took my hand very gently and kissed it. Well gosh, that's something that doesn't happen every day! All I could do is give him a big smile back and a hug. So I am thankful for MSM and the joy it brings me and to many others and I hope all of you are as glad as I am to be involved with the trolleys.

Soon it will be 2011 and every month we will have members renewing their memberships. If you are an active volunteer, you might think it is easiest to simply pay for your membership on-site, or if you are working with a new volunteer, get their money and membership form right now, before they get away! In reality, that procedure doesn't work too well for your Museum. This year we again had a few memberships that were apparently paid for at the station or car barn, but money and membership forms did not get properly recorded. I will ask all of you to do us a favor and mail your renewal or ask a new member to mail their form and payment to our PO box. Here’s the way it works. I pick up the mail at least once a week. Membership payments go to our treasurer Scott Heiderich, who deposits the funds and communicates with Russ Olson who makes sure the payment is recorded on the monthly accounts. I send the membership forms to John DeWitt, who updates the master (Continued on bottom of next page)
Updates from the MSM photo collection. In the October Streetcar Currents, I noted that the MSM photo collection had 9,460 catalogued images. That number has now increased to 9,614. The reason? I finally entered the remaining 150 color slides into the computer. They had been in the collection for a long time, but I had never gotten around to entering them. This means that almost all the images currently in the collection have been catalogued, the end of a process that has taken many years. The next step will be to enter selected documents, plus any additional photos that happen to surface.

MSM's photo collection continues to be of educational use to the public. Here's a recent example. On page 248 of Twin Cities by Trolley is a photo of a Chicago Avenue car passing the Nokomis Theater just north of 38th Street. The building was converted to an auto repair shop in 1951. Now, it is being renovated as an arts center, and our photo is one of only two the new owners have found of the building in its theater days. So they called us up to request a copy for display in the lobby.

Twin Ports by Trolley in the works. John Diers and I are now well into writing the sequel to Twin Cities by Trolley. Titled Twin Ports by Trolley, this new book will cover the streetcar system of Duluth, Minnesota and Superior, Wisconsin. We've made three research trips to Duluth and discovered a wealth of photos and Duluth Street Railway corporate files at the University of Minnesota-Duluth's North East Minnesota History Center. We also found much more than we expected at the Douglas County Historical Society in Superior. We've also acquired the extensive research notes of MSM member Jim Kreuzberger, and of course, we are relying on Russ Olson's classic book, Electric Railways of Minnesota.

Even though the last Duluth streetcar quit in 1939, much earlier than in the Twin Cities, there is plenty of material to produce a very thorough and heavily illustrated history. Like Twin Cities by Trolley, the new book will be published by the University of Minnesota Press. Publication will probably occur in 2012.

Donations Received. Many thanks to the following Museum members who have sent in donations over the last few months: Pat Bjorklund, Scott Ingram, Charlie McCarthy & Flairen Ricketts, Davidson Ward, and Ron Wassem. Our Annual Appeal is now on as announced in the flyer you have received. Please consider giving generously to your Museum.

Welcome New Members. We offer a big WELCOME to the MSM family to the following new MSM members: Mark Brothen, Jesse Starbuck, Sam Van Tassel, Dave Larson, Dick Zawacki, Jim Peschong, Tom McGruder, Scott Ingram, Robert Taylor, and Darryl Streeter.

ESL's 2010 Halloween Events a Great Success. Ghosts and goblins haunted the Excelsior Streetcar Line’s tracks for two nights as our Museum’s ESL volunteers again partnered with the Excelsior Historical Museum for the annual Booseum festivities. A record 1700-plus tots, parents and grandparents rode our streetcars, toured the museum and took in the stage show at the Water street station. ESL operated No. 78 and No. 1239, running in tandem nonstop from 6 PM until 9 PM both evenings. The weatherman cooperated by providing crisp but clear conditions. In addition, our first annual Halloween Storytime Trolley passengers got their money’s worth thanks to outstanding performances by the Main Street Players from the Hopkins School of Performing Arts. Some 50 passengers enjoyed the event, co-sponsored by ESL and the Excelsior Bay book store. The Hopkins students dressed in costumes and recited a variety of Halloween stories—much to the delight of tots and their parents. Halloween-themed treats and juice were distributed at rides’ end.
What’s Happening?

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>November 26-28</td>
<td>North Pole Trolley featuring Santa Claus operates at ESL</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 26-28</td>
<td>Holly Trolley featuring Santa Claus operates at CHSL</td>
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<td>December 4 &amp; 5</td>
<td>Annual Holiday Party at the George K. Isaacs Carbarn, Minneapolis starts at 7 PM</td>
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<td>March 17</td>
<td>MSM Annual Member’s meeting, Firefighter’s Hall &amp; Museum, Minneapolis. 7 PM start-time.</td>
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<td>April</td>
<td>Operator recertification and new Operator training schedule will be announced in early April</td>
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The MSM shop crew has begun its yearly preventive maintenance program on our three streetcars at CHSL. We took PCC No. 322 out of service at the end of September and have been working on it since then. While there are still several electrical checks to do, we have moved No. 1300 into the warm barn for the remainder of the season to keep it warm for the Holly Trolley and to do some initial preventive maintenance.

A recent event of note is that we finally received the streetcar parts and other items we acquired as a result of the disposal of the Lake Shore Electric Museum items. This included the Dupont two-axle truck for Winona No. 10 and other items that we have moved to where we need them. We received a drill press that was moved from Excelsior to CHSL and our old drill press was sold to a member. We are in the process of cleaning and testing about 20 electric heaters most of which will be installed in No. 1239 at ESL next year. While we hoped to get those installed this year there is a lot of testing of the heater strips to be done. And then we’ll have to install the conduit and wires and fasten them under the seats (we need help with this project—interested?). We also have a milling machine formerly used at the University of St. Thomas that Dennis Stephens acquired.

We still have three special projects for the winter: paint the floor on No. 1300; paint and stain the windows on No. 265; and, begin to learn, again, how to “re-cane” several of our streetcar seats with new rattan. Yes, we have several seats available as replacements but we have had to replace some seats this year and our supply of good spare seat backs and bottoms is shrinking. We are always looking for more help for all these projects so everyone is welcome either Tuesday mornings or Saturday mornings to help with maintenance and other projects. You can check out our shop at the Holliday party to be held Tuesday evening December 14th.

CHSL 2010 Pumpkin Patch A Most Successful Event

Please mark Tuesday, December 14th on your calendar and plan to attend our Museum’s annual holiday party at the Isaacs carbarn, Linden Hills (Minneapolis). This fun evening starts at 7 PM—nothing formal planned, just some nice treats (provided by the attendees) and good fellowship. If you join your fellow members, we ask that you also bring some canned goods for the local food shelves—this has been a yearly tradition here at MSM.