

MINNESOTA STREETCAR MUSEUM



Streetcar CURRENTS



October 2016

Minneapolis & Excelsior, Minnesota



Bill the Motorman Says:

- We're changing the format for our Halloween ghost trolley at both ESL and CHSL. Can you help us with the work? Call or e-mail Bruce Gustafson or Todd Bender if you're willing and want to help.
- Tell your friends & neighbors to come and ride on our ghost trolleys at ESL and CHSL.

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 2 for details on the schedule.

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Masthead. This photo shows Duluth No. 265 in the foreground and TCRT No. 1300 behind No. 265. The photo was taken at CHSL in early October, 2016 when some work needed to be done in the back of the CHSL ready barn. No. 1300 was able to be moved because of the great temporary repairs done by our shop force. No. 1300 will remain out of service until it's trucks and motors can be overhauled and rebuilt. (Jim Vaitkunas photo)

Next Year's Plans

Bruce Gustafson—General Supt.

As you have hopefully seen in some other communications, we had a very strong summer for regular riders. While there was a lot of rain, we were fortunate that it fell on relatively few days. In fact, shifts cancelled due to rain this year were down slightly from 2015. The result was that through August regular ridership was up almost 10% year-over-year. July was the second busiest over the last 13 years. The Museum's ability to be this successful is due to your hard work in filling shifts, cleaning cars, and performing countless hours of maintenance work.

Thank you!

Recently, a portion of the Operating Committee (Bill Arends, Rod Eaton, Bill Graham, Dave Higgins, Pat Kriske, Dick Zawacki) met with me to discuss lessons learned from the current season and to gather some initial thoughts on changes for next year. Some of the topics discussed included:

Training. Overall the revised training program was very successful in executing more standardized training across the Museum's two demonstration railways and in graduating an enthusiastic and very productive class of operating volunteers. Enhancements for next year will include clearer communication of the end date for enrollment in our training program and expectations on when training should end.

Schedule Changes. During the season we had two shifts which routinely proved hard to fill with a full crew—Wednesday evening with PCC No. 322 as the designated operating car and the second shift on Sunday. For 2017, we plan to try an altered schedule that may include different PCC shifts and changing other shift times. We'll talk more in the off-season and communicate any changes to you next year.

Building Maintenance. Our Buildings & Grounds Foreman, Pat Kriske has identified some improvements that will be made this year or early next year including needed external repairs and painting the CHSL Linden Hills station, and adding a cement floor to part of the ESL car barn. Pat also volunteered to lead the effort in finding a contractor to mow the Museum's grounds.

Open Positions. We are in need of filling a couple of leadership positions as well as increasing the number of operating Foremen. If you are interested in any of these positions, please contact me.

Lastly, as the 2016 season enters its final phase with Halloween special operations, operating at night requires special emphasis on operating procedures. With safety being paramount, we will now require operating personnel who are scheduled to operate in the dark to attend a special Night Operator training session. This will be a very short session, but is required. Here are the details on this training.

CHSL: Wednesday, October 12: 8:30p. If you have any question or concerns please contact Rod Eaton 763-576-0608 repeaton@comcast.net

ESL: Please contact Todd Bender 952-334-4065 tmbender@gmail.com

Thank you for all you do for our Museum. ☺



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—2016

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, 2016.

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

Lots going on around the museum in the last month. Here's a quick summary.

T**CRT 1300's trucks.** On September 22d, I was at the Minnesota Historical Society to give brief testimony to the review committee on behalf of our \$115,800 Legacy Grant application to rebuild No. 1300's trucks. In early November we'll learn if we get the money. Be aware, however, that the truck rebuild will go forward whether we get the Legacy Grant or not. We don't have a choice—No. 1300's trucks need overhauling. In the meantime I'm pleased to report that we've been awarded a \$40,000 challenge grant by the 20th Century Electric Railway Foundation. This will cover the local share of the Legacy Grant. If we don't get the Legacy Grant, we'll have to raise another \$40,000 to match it. While we're waiting to hear from MHS, we need to select a vendor. We also have to hire a trucking company to deliver the trucks to the shop that will overhaul the trucks and four 50-hp motors.

L**inden Hills Depot.** The fascia boards and soffits of the Linden Hills station have been replaced (*see photos on page 3*). The carpenters discovered some rotted timbers behind the fascia, including a carpenter ant nest and replaced that wood as well. Thanks to **Pat Kriske** for coordinating the work. Next step—repainting the depot.

R**yder Cup Special Operations.** It's not everyday that a huge event like the Ryder Cup golf tournament takes place nearby. It seemed likely that some of the visitors would find their way to Excelsior and might want to take a trolley ride. With that in mind our Excelsior volunteers decided to run a special operation from Tuesday, September 27th through Saturday, October 1st. Nothing ventured, nothing gained, but we only carried a total ridership of 79 over the five days. Thanks to **Todd Bender, Jim** and **Karen Kertzman** and the Excelsior crew for an interesting experiment.

S**olar power at CHSL.** Member **Ross Hammond** is a licensed energy consultant. He has been reviewing the energy efficiency of our carbarns. For some time I've wondered if solar power was an option. The idea of powering streetcars from the sun is attractive but doesn't make economic sense to install solar on the carbarn roof. The upfront cost is too high. What does make sense is enrolling MSM in community solar, where we buy electricity from solar farms located elsewhere. There will be no upfront cost to the museum and the annual savings are estimated to be \$400-\$600.

T**rack to the speeder shed.** The last piece of the Isaacs Carbarn expansion left to complete is the track into the speeder shed. **Dennis Stephens** and **Scott Heiderich** have been working on the design, seen on the bottom of the next page. The switch will be custom-made by a company in Vancouver, British Columbia and will be delivered as an entire unit. We hope the switch will be delivered in time to be installed before the ground freezes. ☺



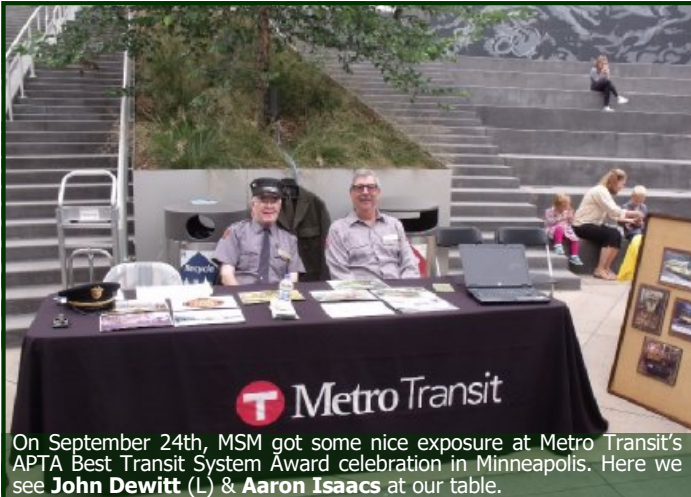
Streetcar **CURRENTS** Winter Publication Schedule

With this issue of the **Streetcar CURRENTS**, we revert to our winter publication schedule. After this [October 2016] issue, you'll be receiving the **Streetcar CURRENTS** every other month until May 2017. 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

Goings-on at MSM

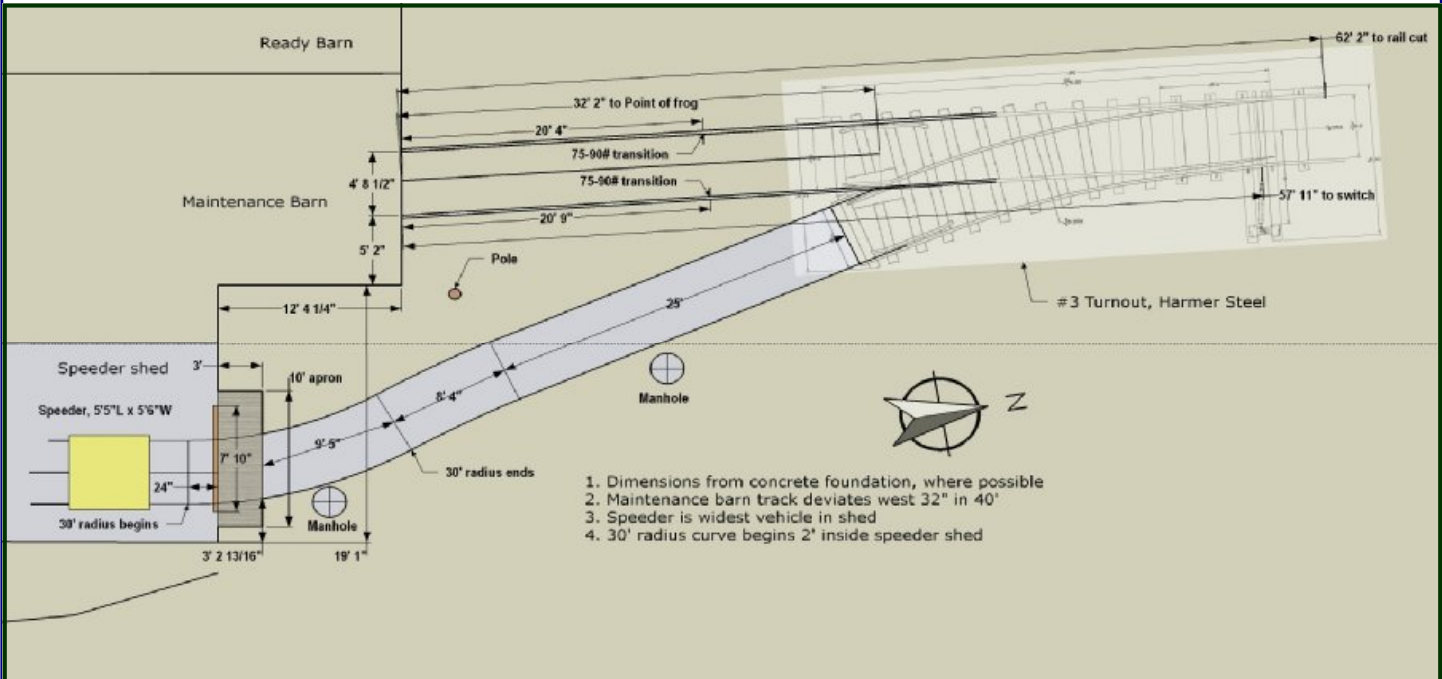


The above two photos shows in-progress work on the repairs to the Linden Hills station. (Aaron Isaacs photos)



On September 24th, MSM got some nice exposure at Metro Transit's APTA Best Transit System Award celebration in Minneapolis. Here we see John Dewitt (L) & Aaron Isaacs at our table.

John & Aaron are greeting some visitors to the MSM table. The area is adjacent to the Metro Transit Target Field light rail station shown in the upper right in this photo. (Photos by Jim Vaitkunas)



What's Happening?

October 15 & 16 Farmer Ken's & Jan's Pumpkin Patch trolley at CHSL
 October 25 Last day of regular scheduled service at ESL (October Tuesday afternoons)
 October 28 & 29 CHSL HALLOWEEN GHOST TROLLEY—6:30 PM to 9:30 PM
 October 28 & 29 ESL Halloween Trolley—6 PM to 9 PM
 October 29 CHSL's TRANSYLVANIA TROLLEY—12:30 PM to 4:30 PM
 October 30 ESL & CHSL's Trick 'R Trolley—CHSL 1:30 PM, 2:30 PM & 3:30 PM—ESL 1:30 PM & 2:30 PM
 October 30 CHSL's Ghost Trolley LATE SHOW AN INTERRUPTED JOURNEY at 8:00 & 9:00 PM—for adults only!
 Oct 29 & 30 Last weekend of regular scheduled service at CHSL
 Nov 25, 26 & 27 ESL's Santa Trolley in conjunction with Excelsior's **Christkindlsmarkt**—daily times are:
 11/25—10 AM to 7 PM 11/26—10 AM to 7 PM 11/27—11 AM to 4 PM
 Nov 26 & 27—Dec 3 & 4 CHSL's **Holly Trolley** featuring **SANTA CLAUS**—12:30 PM to 3:30 PM
 December 3 **VINTERNÄTT** trolley at CHSL—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*

Welcome to **MSM's newest member**. We're pleased to welcome Phillip O' Keefe who joined our MSM family since the last issue of the *Streetcar Currents*.

Donations to the **Annual fund**. We give a hearty thanks to the following members and friends who have donated to MSM since the last issue of the *Streetcar Currents*: Dr. & Mrs. Peter Bingham, Ron Wasem, and the Gilbertson Family Fund of the Minneapolis Foundation. We truly appreciate these generous donations. Thanks! 🍷

Excelsior Streetcar Line and the Ryder Cup Golf Tournament

By Karen Kertzman

While the Town of Excelsior's Ryder Cup Block Party drew large crowds and was a huge success, the Excelsior Streetcar Line didn't experience the same enthusiasm from attendees. We gave it our best shot, decorating TCRT No. 1239 and the Ticket Booth in the red, white and blue colors of the Ryder Cup.

We were rained out one shift and over the next 4 days we had 79 "Ryders." We did sell some merchandise and received \$25 in donations. People had a good time once they rode with us, but we had hoped for more "Ryders."

A special thanks to **Bruce Kobs, Larry Kappel, Gary Phleger, Tim Crain, Tom Dulebohn, David McCollum, Steven Fredrickson & Brian Krysinski** for their Ryder Cup special operations participation. Great job done by all!



(Above Left & Right) TCRT No. 1239 and the ticket booth at the Water Street platform in Excelsior were decorated for ESL's special streetcar operations scheduled in conjunction with the Ryder Cup golf tournament, held in the near-by town of Chaska, Minnesota. While the rider count didn't match our anticipations, our involvement did send a message that we are a part of the community and are willing to participate in these kinds of events. (Photos by Jim & Karen Kertzman)

(Left) While not a part of the Ryder Cup festivities, ESL was visited recently by this great looking "woody" station wagon—looks like a 1941 Plymouth. The woody and No. 1239 do make a fine looking couple, eh? (Photo by Bruce Kobs)