



MSM CLOSSES OUT 2008 SEASON WITH SPECIAL CHRISTMAS TROLLEYS

The 2008 operating season for both our demonstration railways closed out in fine fashion. Both demonstration railways operated special Christmas trolleys after Thanksgiving and these events turned out to be very successful at both sites.

The *Excelsior Streetcar Line* operated the North Pole trolley during the three days following Thanksgiving in conjunction with Excelsior's Christkindmarkt located adjacent to ESL's Water Street terminus. During these three days ESL carried over 1,150 happy passengers all of whom enjoyed their visit with Santa Claus as you can see from the photos.

The *Como-Harriet Streetcar Line* operated the Holly Trolley for three days after Thanksgiving and the first weekend in December. CHSL's Holly Trolley carried an impressive 859 riders. Many thanks to "Santa" **Bud Lutz** for volunteering with us. It was really fun to see children's faces light up when they spied Santa on the platform or returning on the streetcar. Thanks Bud! The decorations were great, thanks again in large part to **Mary Ann Higgins**. The lights inside the streetcar (No. 1300) added a lot—well worth the cost of the inverter. The Christmas carol singers from Minneapolis' Southwest High School were outstanding and were appreciated by everyone. And the fire pit was a big hit as well.

EXCELSIOR STREETCAR LINE'S NORTH POLE TROLLEY



(Above) TCRT gate car No. 1239 was decorated in fine fashion with the help of **Teresa Babler** (behind the camera) and left to right **Todd Bender**, **Marsh Ginthner** and **Denn Evans**. Not shown are **Bob** and **Darlene Johnson** who also helped out. (Theresa Babler photo)



(Above) Here's **Scott Heiderich** waving to **Denn Evans**, the photographer. Scott is sitting in the old Excelsior town dock ticket booth selling tokens for the North Pole Trolley. Note the outside lights on No. 1239 in the background, behind the ticket booth. (Denn Evans photo)



(Above) Here's No. 1239 taken on 11/30/08 after the overnight snow fall. This was a very cold Sunday and not many ventured out to see Santa. Note the penguin on the "people catcher." (Denn Evans photo)



(Above) This is what it's all about—Santa and some happy Children. (Denn Evans photo)



(Above left) Santa waves goodbye to some happy kids (and parents). Crewmembers on this chilly day are **Marv Krafve** (left), **Marsh Ginthner** (on No. 1239's rear platform) and **Bob Johnson** (on Santa's right).

(Above right) Here's a smiling **Marsh Ginthner** looking out of No. 1239's Motorman's compartment. It may have been chilly when this photo was taken but it's obvious that didn't dampen Marsh's spirits. (Both photos by *Denn Evans*)



(Above left) It looks like Santa is getting the "who's naughty and who's nice" report from Conductor, **Marv Krafve**.

(Above right) Santa is working his magic on this young lady. I think he just told her she was getting that pony she asked for. I wonder what the response from her parents was? (Both photos by *Denn Evans*)

COMO-HARRIET STREETCAR LINE'S HOLLY TROLLEY



(Above left) No. 1300 loads passengers at the Linden Hills station. (*Greg Taylor photo*)

(Above right) TCRT No. 1300, 100 years young in 2008, in the glen section of Como-Harriet. The decorations, both inside and outside No. 1300 and on the Linden Hills station, were great. No. 1300's electric heat sure came in handy during this year's Holly Trolley. (*Jim Vaitkunas photo*)



(Above left) We must have the best-dressed volunteers of any Museum, anywhere! Holly trolley crossing guard Bill Arends (alias Ebenezer Scrooge) just flagged a southbound No. 1300 as it crossed West 42nd Street. (Jim Vaitkunas photo)
 (Above right) The Linden Hills depot was very festively decorated. To the left of the station door you can see the Southwest High School carolers serenading the waiting passengers. (Rod Eaton photo)



(Above left) Santa is handing out candy canes to our passengers with the Southwest High carolers in the background. The carolers were a real hit with the passengers and many passengers chimed-in and sang along with the carolers. This turned out to be a great idea.
 (Above right) Santa (Bud Lutz) listens attentively to Lina Taylor, granddaughter of member Greg Taylor, seen on the left. Lina, who loves trains and trolleys, was asking Santa for a “real” Thomas the Tank Engine. Let’s see if she gets it. (Both photos by Linda and Greg Taylor)



(Above left) Having your photo taken with Santa--what more could a little one ask for, eh? If smiles were a gauge of success, we hit a home run!
 (Above right) This year’s Holly Trolley featured a fire pit set up by Howie Melco and Gen’l Supt Rod Eaton (center), who tended the fire each day. Given the cold temps, that fire was a hit with our passengers and crewmembers. Louis Hoffman (right) was this day’s operations Foreman.