

STREETCAR

CURRENTS

May 2018



MINNESOTA STREETCAR MUSEUM

Season Opener

Bruce Gustafson—General Supt.

As we prepare for another season I want to thank all of you for your continued hard work and dedication. Whether you maintain or rebuild the equipment, help train the new or returning operators, or are an operator ready to volunteer the museum could not operate without you.

Returning Operators. It is hard to believe that the 2018 operating season starts this coming weekend on Saturday, May 5th. For those of you who have completed the recertification test and, where necessary, completed the check ride you have been activated in Humanity/Shift Planning and can sign up for shifts. If you cannot remember your user name or password, please contact me (bruce.gustafson@optum.com) as soon as possible as there are only 691 open shifts remaining to be filled. **Jim Vaitkunas** can also help you out with issues/problems related to Humanity/ShiftPlanning (jvaitkunas@msn.com). **Bill Arends, Dave Higgins, Todd Bender, Karen Kertzman**, and I have completed the scheduled portion of recertification training. If you have not recertified please contact me of CHSL and Todd for ESL and we will work with you to schedule time.



Rose Arends is again leading the training on the Point of Sale (POS) machine (a/k/a the cash register) in the Linden Hills station at CHSL. It is important that all CHSL Operators and Station Agents become totally familiar with the POS system. If you have not yet had your POS refresher training please contact Rose.

PCC Operators. We are always looking for PCC operators. I would like to thank **Chris Heck**, who has volunteered to lead the PCC training this year. If you want to learn how to operate the PCC or would like to get a quick refresher, please contact Chris (chris.heck@trolleyride.org) to arrange a time.

New Operator Training. I would like to thank **Pat Cosgrove**, MSM's Volunteer Coordinator and **Dave Higgins, MSM's** Lead Trainer who have recruited and started the initial training for a class of 22 Operator Candidates. Once the initial Phases 1 and 2 training are completed, the trainees will be handed-off to be trained for streetcar and railway specific training on the Sequence of Operations (SoO).

Operating and Safety Rules. **Jim Vaitkunas** again led a very thorough review of the operating rules and along with **John Dillery** updated our safety rules and procedures. While there are no major changes, I would ask that all operating member refresh their knowledge of the rules and operating procedures to prepare for your first shift of the season.

For those operating at CHSL it is critical to know that we will begin the season with an Operations and Safety Bulletin (no. 18C-1) in effect continuing the slow order for movements under the William Berry Parkway Bridge.

Thanks and see you out on the line!

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A visit to MSM's Como-Harriet Streetcar Line on 4/28/2018 revealed much activity in the shop as usual. But there was also activity out on the line with our new Operator training in high gear. Here we see **Dave Higgins** working with one of the trainees. Our Linden Hills neighbors know spring is here when the yellow streetcars end their hibernation and venture out and on the line. (Jim Vaitkunas photo)





From the Front Platform—Thoughts on Our Museum

Aaron Isaacs — MSM Board Chair

Lake Calhoun or Bde Mka Ska? Many of you have probably heard that Lake Calhoun has been renamed Bde Mka Ska (pronounced Behday Mehkah Skah). The name change creates a bit of a dilemma for our CHSL operating personnel, because we interpret a period in history when the lake was named Calhoun. What do we do now, and how do we handle this without unintentionally being political or controversial?

Your museum officers have been discussing this and a consensus has emerged. When approaching the Lake Calhoun stop, the conductor should announce "Lakewood Cemetery." That's the historically correct name for the stop. I'm pretty sure there was never a stop called "Lake Calhoun", because that could also have applied to the stops at 32nd Street, 33rd Street, 34th Street and 36th Street.

There's nothing wrong with discussing the name change with our passengers if they bring it up, but please, make NO political statements or judgements about the renaming. We're a history organization and we stay far away from politics. Please think before you speak.

More improvements on the way. There's always room for improvement and several good ones will happen this year at the Museum. Here are the highlights of what we'll be doing this year.


The new Lakewood Cemetery platform should start construction in June.

New fencing has been added along the lake side of the Isaacs Car barn to prevent graffiti. Thanks to **Pat Kriske** for managing the fence project.

The Linden Hills depot garden will get a major boost. For the last couple of years **Ben and Mary Porter** have been gradually re-planting the garden from south to north. It has been difficult because previous volunteers laid down fabric and gravel to deter weeds, and that's tough to dig up. To solve this, the Board authorized hiring professionals to remove the rock and fabric, and to repair the broken sprinkler system.

The Excelsior car barn store and display area will receive a major makeover this year. **Jim and Karen Kertzman** are leading the effort. Improvements will include:

- Raising of the storage area steps in the cold barn to expand available space.
- The 48 ft of wall space that will now be available will have a 4 foot strip of framed cork to display the history wall of pictures. The pictures will be grouped by the Duluth cars (No. 78 & No. 265), Winona No. 10, Mesaba No. 10, and the TCRT cars in use on the Lake Minnetonka Line.
- There will be pictures highlighting the steamboats and old time Excelsior.
- There will also be a section for ESL special events and one for CHSL special events.
- A video display screen will be added, similar to the one at CHSL.
- There will be another display case, increasing the merchandise area to 16ft.

Winona 10 dedication. The dedication of Winona No. 10 will be held on Sunday, June 17 at 11:30 AM at the Excelsior car barn. See the box below for details. 



Winona No. 10 Dedication — June 17th



2004

As announced above, our Museum will celebrate the completion of the restoration of streetcar Winona No. 10 on Sunday, June 17th. Start time for the ceremony is 11:30 AM. Parking is available behind the Hennepin County Library and the Excelsior Elementary School on Water Street in downtown Excelsior. Starting at 11:00 AM, anyone wishing to attend the dedication can board a streetcar at Water Street next to the library and ride to the car barn, where the ceremony will take place. The streetcar shuttle will make several trips.



2018

MSM's 2018 Operating Season Began on May 5th



At ESL, the first fares of the season were sold by **Gregg Thomas** in the ticket booth. Shift Foreman **Ron Neitzel** is walking past to get TCRT No. 1239 ready for departure. *(Jim Vaitkunas photo)*



Ready to start ESL's first run of the season are (L to R) **Gregg Thomas, Tim Gephart** and **Ron Neitzel**. *(Jim Vaitkunas photo)*

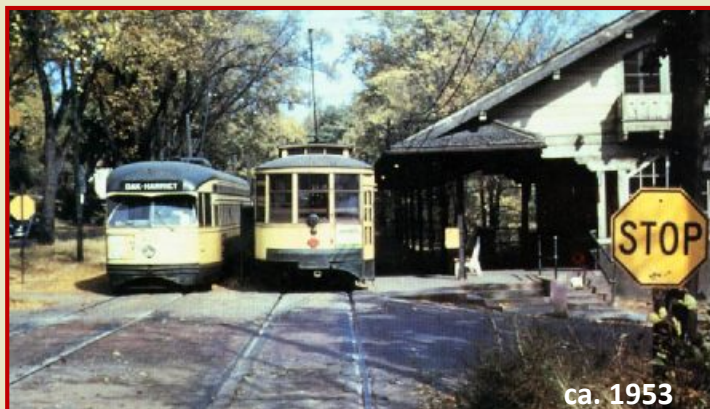


Over at CHSL good loads of passengers visited on the first day of the season, until the rain and thunder cut short the day's operation at 6 PM. *(Jim Vaitkunas Photo)*



TCRT No. 1300 has been making test runs at CHSL but is not yet ready to enter regular service. *(Jim Vaitkunas photo)*

THEN & NOW



ca. 1953



2018 (Aaron Isaacs photo)

With the installation of the new stop signs at CHSL's 42nd Street crossing, we are replicating what once was.

May 5 -----Beginning of ESL's & CHSL's weekend operations
 May 22 -----Tuesday afternoon operations begin at ESL (2 PM to 5 PM)
 May 25 -----Weeknight operations begin at CHSL (6:30 PM to 8:30 PM)
 May 28 -----Memorial Day operations at both lines. CHSL early bird ops begins at 9:30 AM.



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

Jim Vaitkunas — MSM Corporate Secretary & Assistant Ops Chief

New Members. We would like to welcome the following new members, most of whom are training to become Operators on both of our railways—Seamus Burke, Barbara Lunde, Harvey Moore, Gordon Wiersgalla, Mary Elizabeth Amsden, Mark Glocke, Kathleen Graber, Carol Frey, Luca Gunther, James Dockendorf, Samuel Pingree, Timothy Fleming, Jay Patel, Rita Martinez, Vito Bongiorno, Barbara Gacek, Kyle Olson, Daniel Raustad, Trevor Schwarze and Robert Crosby. Welcome folks, and we'll see you out on the line running a streetcar, hopefully soon.

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** May—2018

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 May 20, 2018.

Please send items to the editor **Jim Vaitkunas** at the following address:
 13326 Huntington Lane
 Apple Valley, MN 55124-9481
 E-mail: jvaitkunas@msn.com

Annual fund. We receive the bulk of our annual fund donations in the first two months of the year but we really appreciate donations during the entire year. So, we're pleased to report the following members' and friends' donations received in the last couple of months—Chuck Anding, Tony Bauman, Bill Baxter, Mike Brenner, Elaine Peterson-Bruce and Richard Bruce in memory of Gary Neunsinger, Ted Colburn, Mary Ann Corbey, Tom Dulebohn, Clark Hoffman, Robert R. Johnson, Darlene Johnson in memory of Bob Johnson, Ron Linebarger, Michael J. Miller, Jerry Peterson, John Stewart, Gregg Thomas, John Thompson, Eric Tratner, and Sue & Jim Willmore. ☺

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS CAN NOW BE DONE ON-LINE!

As a result of the expertise and hard work of our Museum's IT Manager **Ben Franske**, our members can now renew their membership on-line at the Museum's website. Here is the link to our website: <https://trolleyride.org/about/become-a-member/>

For the last six months or so, new members were able to join our Museum by going to our website. Now, current members like you can renew by using a credit card, which is very convenient to our members as well as our Membership Services Manager, **John DeWitt** and our Museum's financial team.

As reported in the last issue of this newsletter, Ben is working on a new member information database and management program which will streamline and simplify the whole member management process. After the new database and system is activated, you will then receive your renewal notices by e-mail, thus saving the Museum precious dollars in postage, envelopes, printing, etc., and also saving time for the Membership Services manager.



Taken probably sometime in early 1953 this photo shows our No. 1239 awaiting its fate along with at least 100 other cars in the Snelling Station's yard. In a few weeks or months, No. 1239 will be sold for use as a cabin on a lake in Long Lake, Minnesota. Note that the car looks like No. 1300. When our Museum restored the car in 2000-2004, it was restored to it's 1907 configuration with the wire gates in the rear and the motorman's door in the front.