



MSM Operations Newsletter

Issue No. 18-5
September - 2018



Photo Credit: Jeff Terry

THANK YOU!

As the regular season is winding down, I wanted to thank all of you who have volunteered your time and efforts in making another strong performance. I also would like to encourage you to help plan, prepare, and/or operate some of our seasonal special events. These events are a very important part of the Museum's revenues. All of the events whether Halloween or Christmas themed are a lot of fun. Please give it a try.

Once the operations shuts down the Museum does not stop working. During the offseason the larger, preventative maintenance of our street cars picks up. I would also like to take this opportunity to encourage you to help with the mechanical work either at Como-Harriet or Excelsior.

OPERATIONS SUMMARY

CHSL (thru Labor Day)

Year over year regular ridership is down about 18% - about 4,200 riders. As noted in previous newsletters the trend of lower weekend volumes continues. As shown in the first table below the big impact is on the Friday thru Sunday traffic is down 20% - 30%. Interestingly, the average weekday volumes are comparable year over year.

Table 1: CHSL Regular Ridership

	Monday	Tuesday	Wed Aftn	Wed Eve	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	YTD Total
Total - 2018	697	735	1,761	747	875	1,121	5,965	7,561	19,462
Daily Average	63	57	147	57	67	86	314	378	
Total - 2017	636	691	1,597	666	736	1,570	8,273	9,542	23,711
Daily Average	58	58	145	56	61	105	345	398	
2018 vs 2017	110%	106%	110%	112%	119%	71%	72%	79%	82%

Table 2: CHSL Special Events

Charters continue to be strong – up 29% over 2017.

		Variance 2018-17	Year over Year
PJ Trolley	2018	11	4%
	2017		
Charters CHSL	2018	281	29%
	2017		
Labor Day	2018	(55)	-18%
	2017		

ESL (thru August)

Year-over-year is down 581 riders compared to this time last year.

Table 3: ESL Regular Ridership

	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Total
2018	304	763	1234	961				
2017	586	768	1513	976	1071	670	1857	7441
2016	493	781	1216	909	887	1151	1656	7093
2015	632	715	976	841	795	1095	1407	6461
2014	421	481	1100	767	799	1641	1186	6395
2013	434	654	1152	1012	553	1471	1266	6542

OPERATIONAL REMINDERS

GENERAL

1. 42nd Street Stop.

As noted previously, the purpose of the stop is to improve safety. While making the crossing the street we do not want to unnecessarily delay traffic. To do this effectively all crew members must be ready to perform their part of the choreographed movement.

- When the car arrives at 42nd Street and makes a complete stop the crossing guard should enter the street. The crossing guard should not enter the street until the car has made a complete stop.
- The operator should signal the other crew member for permission to move as soon as he/she has brought the car to a complete stop and is ready to move. The car cannot move across the street until signaled by the crossing guard, but the car can be ready to move regardless of the positioning of the crossing guard.
- As soon as the crossing guard signals the operator that it is safe to move across the street, the operator can move forward.

2. Darkness.

- As the days become shorter, please remember to turn the rear lights on the car as soon as it becomes appropriate.

MECHANICAL DEPARTMENT UPDATE – DICK ZAWACKI

▪ TCRT 1300

Labor Day weekend of 2018 marked a milestone in TCRT 1300's history when it was returned to regular revenue service with 2 newly overhauled trucks. After making final adjustments, installing a temperature monitoring system for the motor bearings, and completing a number of other upgrades, the maintenance crew monitored bearing temperatures, noise sources, ride "feel", and other parameters during limited service in August to insure the car's safety and suitability for service. TCRT 1300 is now being used for all regular revenue service, charters, and special events at CHSL. There is no doubt that the car performs and sounds somewhat differently than it did before the overhaul. The maintenance crew continues to monitor the car's performance and make any needed adjustments. During the winter, the crew plans to check alignment between the truck's motors and gears and make other needed adjustments following this initial operation.

▪ **Winona 10**

In mid-September we received the replacement contactor that we need for the car's redesigned power circuit. After inspecting the contactor, the restoration crew is confident our circuit design and the contactor are more than sufficient to fix the problem. The crew is now working to retrofit the contactor into the existing electrical box. Once the contactor is in place, the restoration crew will start testing in preparation to place the car in regular service.

▪ **TCRT 1239**

We are currently planning our next major project which will be the overhaul of TCRT 1239's trucks. The experience our crew gained during the overhaul of 1300's trucks will be invaluable in this project. Additionally, as part of this overhaul, we will be moving cars between CHSL and ESL. The overhaul plus moving the cars will require everyone to make compromises and adjust expectations during the project. Every effort will be made to minimize these inconveniences, but they will be necessary to make the project go as smoothly as possible.

TRAINING – DAVE HIGGINS

For CHSL operators who would like to get some additional practice before the season ends, Dave Higgins is offering refresher sessions for CHSL operators this fall. This is a chance to polish up your Sequence of Operations, braking, rolling brake test and 42nd St. Crossing procedure skills in a private, one-on-one session. If you are interested please call or email Dave at 612-812-0434 or takeefx@aol.com

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS – PAT KRISKE/ KAREN KERTZMAN

BUILDINGS / STRUCTURES

CHSL

- North-end Platform. Work, led by Dennis Stephens, continues on the platform. Once complete we will be able to operate both doors to expedite loading/ unloading during special events.
- Linden Hills Depot.
 - Drainage at depot basement. Pat Kriske and Keith Anderson have developed a plan to remove the existing brick and approximately 16” of soil. The new drain will be built with plastic 4”x4” around the perimeter, which will be filled with large rock aggregate, and covered with a new bar grate. The brick will be repositioned. Pat expects the work to be complete by mid-October using the crew of Steve McCulloch, Ben Porter, Steve Simon and Pat Kriske.
 - A portion of the station railing has been replaced and the yellow safety line has been repainted.

ESL

- Car Barn. As shown in the last issue of the “Currents” the store area and history wall in the ESL car barn are complete.
- Three Rivers Park District began work on the split rail fence between the ESL tracks and the fitness center. With almost two thirds of it complete the remaining work will be completed in the next couple of weeks.

GROUNDS

CHSL

- Steve McCulloch is leading a dedicate group including Ben Porter, Steve Simon, and Scott Heiderich that have done a remarkable job in spraying for weeds along the track and cutting back the weeds and brush along the right-of-way.
- Linden Hills Depot Garden. Ben and Mary Porter continue to work to keep the garden in shape during the warming summer months.

ESL

- The Tuesday Crew, led by Scott Heiderich and Howie Melco, took advantage of the September sunshine to significantly trim trees, cut shrubs and clean up the car yard as well as additional growth along the tracks

DEPOT TOPICS – BILL ARENDS / KAREN KIRTZMAN

1. CHSL - POS YTD Summary.

YTD, in unaudited numbers, we have gross revenue of \$44,056. Of this, \$28,011 is fares and passes accounting for 63% of gross revenue. The major categories making up the other 37% are taxable merchandise \$6,510, charters \$3,335 and special events \$4,730.

2. CHSL - Selling Display Items.

Display items do not have barcodes. If anyone wants to purchase an item and picks up one of the display items and brings it to the counter and there is not a barcode get one of the items that is in a box which is barcoded. Everything either has a barcode or there is button on the POS system.

3. ESL – YTD Sales.

Sales through August have already exceeded last year's total, over \$2,200 with another month+ to go. We are especially proud of the sales figure with ridership numbers dropping due to bad weather this season.

SPECIAL EVENTS – ROD EATON/ KAREN KERTZMAN

CHSL

October is a VERY important month for us. There's at least one special event just about every weekend.

- **"Farmer Ken and Jan's Pumpkin Patch"** Saturday and Sunday, October 13 and 14. Ken Albrecht is a long-time museum member. He was very instrumental in the restoration of 1239 and Winona 10. For many years he and his wife Jan grew the pumpkins for our event (we now purchase from a commercial grower).

We typically operate two streetcars hauling passengers to our north end "pumpkin patch" where we fence in an area and fill it with several hundred pumpkins. Kids choose a pumpkin and board the next car back to the station.

We need volunteers to help build the fence and unload pumpkins. And of course the weekend requires two crews plus a few additional "pumpkin wranglers."

- **"Transylvania Trolley"** Saturday, October 20. Many of you have met and crewed with Karl Jones. But I wonder how many of you have met Count Karl the Vampire Motorman? The Count stalks the platform throughout the afternoon. Kids come in their Halloween costumes, ride, and receive a nice treat.
- **"Totally Treat Trail"**. This year we are adding a new event centered on a short walk allowing kids to Trick 'r Treat early. Under the pedestrian walkway they will encounter the Troll, where they will need to solve a riddle in order to pass.

We plan to use some of our Halloween props for the Treat Trail and will need help setting up and tearing down. Plus we'll need some additional crossing guards during the event. And there's an opportunity for you to dress up a bit and hand out treats.

- **"Trick 'r Trolley"** operates Sunday, October 21. It's sort of the Son of PJ Party and we do it in partnership with Wild Rumpus Books. Because we operate during regular service it makes for a busy afternoon.
- **"Ghost Trolley"**. This is our signature event and is held Friday and Saturday, October 26 and 27. This is an evening event aimed at older children and their parents. It's a bit scary. We plan to use props along the line (but far fewer than last year). We need two full crews plus an additional person here and there. And — we can always use volunteers on the Boo Crew to provide the scares. Big fun!

- **“The Late Show”**. Capping the season on Sunday evening, October 28 is the Late Show. We have three shows at 7, 8 and 9 PM. This event operates with a small crew and everyone has a part to play. Watch for details.

So that’s Halloween at Como-Harriet. Look at the Events section of our website, TrolleyRide.org for more information. *Please consider volunteering — Halloween’s not just for kids.*

ESL

September Events

- Excelsior Apple Day was a success for ESL. The sun was out and so were the people with 300 riders, lots of merchandise sales and donations. While TCRT 1239 transported riders to the carbarn for tours Duluth 78 sat stationary at Water Street where folks could board and hear the history of Streetcars while they waited to ride.
- The annual Excelsior Elementary School 2nd grade charter was September 24th and 25th, we hosted 145 riders over the 2 days. It was a great time for the 2nd grade classes. They visited the Excelsior Lake Minnetonka Historical Society before riding on the Streetcar and ended their outing with a tour of the Minnehaha

Upcoming Events

- **“Ghost Trolley”** will be October 26th and 27th. Once again we will be transporting costumed riders from Water Street to the carbarn for an evening of fun and games. We're hoping the weather is great so both nights will be a success. Volunteers are needed, look for an upcoming email from the Ghost Trolley committee.
- **“Trick 'r Trolley”**, in partnership with Excelsior Bay Books, provides a fun Halloween experience for our youngest riders. The event is on October 28th with rides at 1:30 and 2:30, tickets are required and may be purchased on trolleyride.org. The costumed riders enjoy a treat, ride the Trolley and listen to Halloween stories.
- **“North Pole Trolley”** will be part of the Excelsior Christkindlsmarkt event held November 23-25. Children visit with Santa as they ride the festively decorated Trolley.

OPERATIONS BULLETINS IN EFFECT

CHSL

- **18C-1 - Operation of Cars under the William Berry Street Bridge.**

Due to loose wire under the William Berry Street Bridge, until further notice all cars operating in either direction are REQUIRED to proceed at a slow walk speed when moving under the bridge. The wire has not been repaired and “normal” speeds under the bridge may cause damage.

All operations shall be done at 5mph or less (slow walking speed) for:

- *Northbound cars from the span wire just south of the bridge (Cottage City Platform) to the span wire just north of the bridge, identified with the red and white flyers.*
- *Southbound from the span wire just north of the bridge identified with red and white flyers, until the rear of the car passes the span wire south of the bridge with the green target attached.*

ESL

- **18E-1 - Operation of All Streetcars in the Excelsior Car barn Yard.**

The Foreman is the only crewmember authorized to operate a streetcar within the ESL car barn yard. The ESL car barn yard is defined as all track leading from the mainline switch into the yard lead with two left-hand switches, and all three yard tracks including the tracks inside the ESL car barn. Track #1 is defined as the track nearest the ESL mainline with the other two tracks numbered 2 and 3 in a southward direction.

While operating a streetcar within the ESL car barn yard, Foremen must observe the position of the switch points to ensure that the switch is correctly set for the track onto which the streetcar should go. After determining that the switch is set correctly, the streetcar can then proceed.

- **18E-2 - Operation of Winona 10.**

Winona no. 10 is removed from operational service to allow for the completion of restoration and safety related work. The car can only be used for testing by authorized personnel

- **18E-3 - Operation of Car No. 1239.**

When operating car No. 1239 use extreme caution when moving around the front Motorman's compartment and the battery box on the floor. Given the proximity of the upper switch box, it is possible to hit your head on the switch box. When making movements around the battery box pay attention to the location of the switch box at all times.