

STREETCAR

CURRENTS

June 2019



MINNESOTA STREETCAR MUSEUM

Bruce Gustafson—General Supt.

Volunteering

I would like to thank the operators who have already operated, or plan to operate, this year. There are only 504 shifts left to be filled this operating season.

Please remember that there is more to making our Museum successful than operating our streetcars, and I ask that each of you volunteer for one or more non-operating activities. Most of these activities cannot be done by just one or two people. Periodically I distribute a note on behalf of one of these activities' leaders asking for your time and effort. Please, please, please make an effort to help make the Museum run effectively. If you are interested in some of the non-operating volunteer efforts (some of which are listed below) please contact **Pat Cosgrove** (Volunteer Coordinator) or me.



- Streetcar maintenance — Dick Zawacki
- Overhead maintenance — Chris Heck
- Streetcar cleaning at ESL — Tom Dulebohn
- Streetcar cleaning at CHSL — Jerry Peterson
- Special event planning and construction — me
- Gardening — Ben & Mary Porter
- Brush cutting — Steve McCulloch

Many thanks to **Steve McCulloch**, **Bruce Allen**, **Barb Gacek**, **Linda Ridlehuber**, **Gary Sparr**, **Mike Malinoff**, **Ben Porter**, and **Mary Porter** for their ongoing work in brush cutting and general maintenance of Como-Harriet's right-of-way. **Ben** and **Mary Porter** along with several of their friends and colleagues have done an outstanding job in working their green thumbs in expanding the depot garden. I would also like to recognize **Gordy Moore** who has volunteered to take over as coordinator for the monthly Owl Service events this summer.

As many of you know, after many years **Rod Eaton** is stepping back from some of his creative leadership of the Museum's special events. As a result I am looking for an individual or individuals who are willing to lead and organize a variety of our special events, primarily around Halloween and Thanksgiving/Christmas. Rod has developed instructions and is willing to help coach new leaders.

Car cleaning, which occurs the first Saturday of the month, is led by **Jerry Peterson** at CHSL and **Tom Dulebohn** at ESL. Our Museum has a well-deserved reputation for keeping our streetcars clean. In May, Jerry unfortunately was the only volunteer who attended the cleaning event! The car cleaning crews at ESL and CHSL require about 4 to 6 people for about two hours. The result of the work is well worth your time. I also want to emphasize that not just Operators can clean our cars. Family and friends are very welcome to help us maintain our cars in a good state of cleanliness. It's just good PR.

Memorial Day's weather was not kind to the Museum. The rain, which did not want to quit, created a situation where only 16 guests braved the elements to ride the PCC to and from Lakewood Cemetery. **Andy Jacob**, **Russ Isbrandt**, and **Phil Epstein** operated until 12:30 as they had dropped a few riders at Lakewood and wanted to make sure we offered return service. According to Andy two rides that stood out was a couple who were visiting from Tennessee and wanted to make sure they visited the Museum as they were told it was one of the best tourist attractions in the area. The other was a couple from Minnetonka who wanted to go on a trolley ride at Excelsior but when they saw they were closed, they drove all the way out here to go for a ride. So, although ridership was low, we made those who did ride very happy. This was good customer service.

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Thank you all. Be safe and have fun!!! 



From the Front Platform—Thoughts on Our Museum

Aaron Isaacs — MSM Board Chair

CHSL grounds get TLC. The grounds around the Como-Harriet Line have received a lot of attention lately. Buildings and Grounds Foreman **Steve McCulloch** negotiated a very favorable deal with contractor Iron Horse Landscaping to do these jobs.

1. Rebuild the deteriorated steps and retaining walls leading to the Linden Hills station basement. This should also solve a drainage problem.
2. Remove the deteriorated railroad tie planters next to the Lakewood Cemetery stop. They date from 1977 and had not been maintained.
3. Regrade and fill in the swale between the Lakewood platform and the cemetery fence.

Ben and **Mary Porter** have finished planting the entire Linden Hills depot garden. You may recall that last year we hired a contractor to remove the ballast rock and fabric that had impeded further planting.

Routine maintenance has included repainting the yellow safety zone line on the Linden Hills station platform and walking the right of way to pick up litter.

The Building and Grounds crew also included **Bruce Allyn**, **Barb Gacek**, **Mike Malinoff**, **Linda Ridlehuber** and **Gary Sparr**.

A new informational sign holder has been installed at the Lakewood stop, thanks to **John Dillery** and **Keith Anderson**. Keith also installed better steps leading to the platform.

The Isaacs carbarn crew, assisted by the library crew and **Steve McCulloch**, did a spring cleanout of the carbarn, especially the area between the shop and the garage. We disposed of a lot of junk, including scrap metal.

T**CRT No. 1239 truck repair fund update.** Confronted by the need to raise money to cover the unexpected cost of two motor failures, our members stepped up big time. They donated \$13,651, which more than matched the \$10,000 challenge grant from the 20th Century Electric Railway Foundation. In addition, we were able to secure a \$1000 grant from the Tom E. Dailey Foundation, which supports railway preservation. To date we've raised a total of \$24,651.

Many thanks to those who donated, including:

Bruce Allyn	Richard Darling	John Hallberg Jones	Ben Porter
Keith Anderson	Rod & Pat Eaton	Michael P. Joynt	Robert Powell
Roger Anderson	Phil Epstein	Stanley Kasal	Linda Ridlehuber
Chic Anding	Dennis Fischer	John Knox	Barbara Risken
Bill and Rose Arends	Roger Forman	Rick Krenske	Peter Schierloh
Douglas Beedon	H. Dutton Foster	Darel Leipold	Andrew Selden
Ray Bensen Jr.	Steve Glischinski	David McCollum	Steve Simon
Glen Bottoms	Scott & Kathy Heiderich *	Mtka Power Squadron	Dennis & Ruth Stephens
Mike Brenner	Dave Hogan	Steve Mitchell	James Strain
Peter Cahill	Russ Isbrandt	John & Joanne Nordale	Tom Traxler
Steven Collin	Clark Johnson	Jerry & Muriel Olsen	Jincy & Jim Vaitkunas
Mary Ann Corbey	Robert R. Johnson	Kyle & Ayssa Olson	Dave VenHuizen

* In memory of Charlie McCarthy, Bob Dumas and Ken Snyder

ESL recreates streetcar/steamboat transfer. ESL is partnering with the Excelsior/Lake Minnetonka Historical Society and the Museum of Lake Minnetonka to recreate the historic street to boat transfer of passengers. In this case necessity was the mother of invention. The Historical Society has chartered the steamboat *Minnehaha* (TCRT 31st Street Shops, 1906) for three history talks while sailing. The boat leaves from its home dock behind

(Continued on bottom of next page)



Museum Photo Ops



The Linden Hills station garden's appearance has been dramatically improved as a result of **Ben and Mary Porter** and their local crew. Here we see (Left to right) **Elaine Phillips, Ben Porter, Linda Ridlehuber & Mary Porter**. The garden contains over 180 plants and at least thirty varieties of Minnesota native flowers and Cultivars that require less supplemental irrigation. *(Ben Porter photo)*



As reported by Aaron Isaacs on page two, we had a contractor come and re-do the step well and steps to the Linden Hills station's basement entrance. They did a great job in improving both the appearance and access to the basement, and gave us a very favorable price for the work. *(Aaron Isaacs Photo)*



The north platform at CHSL sure looks a lot better now that the old planter is gone. **Steve McCulloch** is in charge of grounds work and he coordinated the work on the north platform and the work at the Linden Hills station basement doorway. *(Jim Vaitkunas photo)*




Over at ESL, we have arrived in the 21st Century, at least as far as our business practices are concerned. We now have full wi-fi in the car barn and ticket booth and now we accept credit card sales for fares and merchandise. It seems that nowadays no one carries cash but pays for everything with credit cards. Here we see **Craig Levang** displaying the POS tablet that we use in the ESL ticket booth at the Water Street platform. *(Todd Bender photo)*

Cashiers Needed for CHSL

We are down to three cashiers at CHSL but having four or five is ideal so no one needs to do it more than once a month. Each person is assigned various weeks during the season. A week runs from Saturday through Friday. There are 8 cash bags, one for each day of the week plus one for Wednesday afternoon. A cashier needs to make sure each bag has the correct seed money denominations of currency in the bag and have it available before it's needed for that shift. The amount in the bag after the seed money has been removed is deposited at a TCF Bank and a report made that goes to Tim Crain our museum's bookkeeper. If you are interested and available, please contact CHSL's Head Cashier **Bill Arends**: motormanbill@gmail.com or 612-922-2208.

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Maynard's Restaurant, where there is limited parking. However, the dock is just a short walk from the Old Excelsior Boulevard end of the ESL tracks. Attendees will park behind the public library at Water Street and the streetcar ride is part of the event. They'll return by streetcar following the boat ride. The first event is the evening of June 10. For details, go to <https://www.elmhs.org/cruises.html>. 

What's Happening?

- June 5----- Wednesday afternoon service begins at CHSL. Operating time is 1 PM to 4 PM.
- June 8----- Owl service at CHSL. Owl car operates from 9 PM to 12-midnight.
- June 13----- Story Time Trolley at ESL. Runs at 5 PM and 6 PM.
- June 20----- PJ Party Trolley at CHSL. Runs at 6 PM and 7 PM.
- June 23----- Grandma's Day at ESL. Grandma's and Grandpa's ride free all day.
- July 4----- Independence Day service. CHSL runs 12:30 PM to 8:30 PM. ESL runs from 10 AM to 4 PM



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

Jim Vaitkunas — *MSM Corporate Secretary & Assistant Ops Chief*

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Each quarter the AmazonSmile Foundation makes donations to eligible charitable and non-profit organizations.

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
June—2019**

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 June 30, 2019.

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

The Minnesota Streetcar Museum is one of the non-profits signed up with AmazonSmile. Last year we received over \$80 in donations, even though there are just a few members using AmazonSmile and directing the donations to MSM.

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U *niform Items available.* We have several uniform items that are for sale from a former volunteer and from our Museum.

- Michael Loscheider, a former operator, has an almost new motorman hat and shirt with tie he would like to sell. The hat is size 7-3/8 and the shirt is a large. He said they are like new. He's asking \$60 for the hat and \$15 for the shirt and tie or best offer. The cost of the hats in 2018 was \$76. Contact Mike Loscheider at 612-384-3701 or email: margay@msn.com
- We also have several long and short sleeve uniform shirts that are available. Since the shirts were donated to our Museum, a reasonable donation to MSM is the price for them. The shirts are in the rear of the Russell Olson library in the CHSL car barn. Contact Bill Arends about getting these shirts.

M *any thanks from Rose Arends.* Thanks to all 82 station agents, operators and foremen who completed the POS Training! Please don't hesitate to call me if you have any questions during your shifts. ☺

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

We strongly ask that when you receive your membership renewal notice in the mail that you take a few moments to write your check, put it in the addressed envelope we give you and **mail it to the Museum**. Or you can renew on-line at our website. We recently had a volunteer give their renewal to the Linden Hills station agent. The renewal was then unknowingly recorded as a new membership on the POS machine. This resulted in an accounting mess-up and more work for the Cashier, our Membership Services staff and our accountant Tim Crain. So please—no membership renewals delivered to the CHSL depot or ESL ticket booth and no renewals put into the Cashier's bag.

We can't emphasize this enough.