

# STREETCAR

## CURRENTS

May — 2019



MINNESOTA STREETCAR MUSEUM

### Season Opener — 2019

Bruce Gustafson—General Supt.

As we begin our 48<sup>th</sup> operating season in 2019, I would like to thank all our Operators who have recertified so far, our new Operator trainees for their enthusiasm and commitment to learn and operate, and for those countless volunteers who tackle the critical behind the scenes activities of streetcar and overhead maintenance, brush cutting, and training, just to mention a few. Your dedication is about to pay off as we close in on our Museum's two-millionth guest this year.

**R**eturning Operators. It is hard to believe, but as I write this note, the 2019 operating season begins in a couple of days. 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](mailto:bruce.gustafson@optum.com)) as soon as possible as there are only 650 open shifts remaining to be filled. **Bill Arends, Dave Higgins, Chris Heck, Todd Bender, Karen Kertzman**, and I have completed the scheduled portion of recertification training. If you have not recertified please contact me for CHSL and Todd for ESL and we will work with you to schedule time.



**Rose Arends** is again leading the POS training at CHSL. It is required that all operators and station agents are well versed in the new system. If you have not completed POS training, please contact Rose.

**P**CC Operators. We have 16 PCC operators and are always looking for more. I would like to thank **Chris Heck**, who continues as lead PCC trainer. 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](mailto:chris.heck@trolleyride.org)) to arrange a time.

**N**ew Operator Training. I would like to also thank **Pat Cosgrove**, MSM's Volunteer Coordinator, and **Dave Higgins**, MSM's Lead Trainer, who recruited and started the initial training of a class of 16 Operator candidates. Once their initial training is completed, trainees will be handed off for hands-on training on car- and railway-specific procedures.

**I**mproved Customer Experience and Safety. Our Museum has installed a new bulletin board at the north end of CHSL. This will eliminate the need to use the sandwich board. I would like to call-out **John Dillery** for his ongoing efforts to provide better customer service and improve safety through the evolution from the heavy, wood sandwich boards, to the lighter-weight plastic sandwich boards, and the new bulletin board.

**F**or those operating at CHSL it is critical to know that we will begin the season with Operations and Safety Bulletin No. 19C-1 which continues the slow order for cars moving under the William Berry Parkway Bridge. At ESL we will begin the season with an Operations and Safety Bulletin (no. 19E-1), which covers the movement of cars in the yard.

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**F**or all our MSM Members not currently involved in Museum activities, please consider volunteering for some of the non-operating activities such as car cleaning, gardening, brush cutting, and/or car maintenance. Work in these areas is critical and generally is done by a very small contingent of volunteers. We sure can use YOU!

**Thank you!** Be safe and have fun!!! 🍀



## From the Front Platform—Thoughts on Our Museum

Aaron Isaacs — MSM Board Chair

**W**e're part of something much bigger. **Jim Vaitkunas** and I just returned from the HeritageRail Alliance Spring conference, hosted by the California State Railroad Museum in Sacramento. These events always recharge my batteries. We get to visit other railroad museums and tourist railroads, and network with the folks who run them. Some are paid professionals, but most are volunteers like us. We share information, best practices and war stories. It's kind of a big support group, especially among the trolley museums.

Did you know we're part of a pretty large industry? About 250 organizations across North America operate some kind of historic train for the public. There are over 30 trolley museums. Together all these places carry 9 million annual passengers, own 2500 miles of track and put at least two billion dollars into the economy each year.

Want to learn more about the industry and mingle with your peers? Consider attending the next HeritageRail conference, September 18-21 at Heritage Rail Park in Squamish, British Columbia. For more info go to [heritagerail.org](http://heritagerail.org). While you're there, check out their online magazine on railway preservation, which I edit.

**C**areer paths for MSM volunteers. We have about 130 active volunteers out of a membership of 310. That's an amazingly high percentage and a real testament to this organization. We also have turnover every year, losing volunteers to old age, loss of interest or personal life changes. The obvious turnover is in streetcar Operators, but we also lose people who volunteer in supervisory and administrative positions.

Our museum is a business that needs a management and staff hierarchy to function. Like any business, as turnover happens, it creates opportunities for people to be promoted. The best Operators become Foremen, the supervisors that make our operations possible. But there are other jobs that I'll bet you weren't expecting. Take a look at our org chart, posted on our website. Go to <https://trolleyride.org/member-resources/operations-documents/> and click on MSM Org Chart and Phone List.

If you're currently a supervisor or staff member, have you thought about grooming a successor? If you're not a supervisor or staff member, have you considered becoming one by learning from the person already in the job? The people holding those jobs won't be there forever. Remember we have to fill these positions from a rather small population, and many of these jobs require specialized knowledge.

Here are two big examples of concern right now.

1. Our Bookkeeper **Tim Crain** is looking to step down from that demanding position in the next year. I would like to find another volunteer soon, so that person can transition into the job.
2. **Rod Eaton** has supervised all the CHSL special events for years. He has told us he wants to hand some of that work off to others. Are you interested in planning and coordinating one of our regular events? Please contact Rod at [rpeaton@comcast.net](mailto:rpeaton@comcast.net).

If any of this sounds interesting to you, please reach me at [aaronmona@aol.com](mailto:aaronmona@aol.com) or Volunteer Coordinator **Pat Cosgrove** at [pkcosgrove@charter.net](mailto:pkcosgrove@charter.net).

**M**atching the truck repair grant. The unexpected failure of motors on No. 1300 and Winona No. 10 has given us a \$30,000 hole to fill. We have received a \$10,000 grant from the 20th Century Electric Railway Foundation, but it has to be matched by new dollars. Thankfully our members are stepping forward, contributing a total of \$4,326 so far. Thanks to Bruce Allyn, Keith Anderson, Douglas Beedon, Glen D. Bottoms, Mary Ann Corbey, Richard B Darling, John Halberg Jones, Dave Hogan, Russ Isbrandt, Robert R. Johnson, Stanley Kasal, John Knox, John and Joanne Nordale, Jerry and Muriel Olsen, Linda Riddlehuber, Andrew Selden. 



**Photos on page 4.** The photos on page 4 are a sample of the activities conferees enjoy while attending a Heritage Rail Alliance conference. The top photo shows a run-by of Sierra Railroad No. 3 (TV's *Petticoat Junction* locomotive) and Sierra Railroad 2-8-2 No. 28, operated by California's Railtown 1897 state park. The bottom photo shows a wonderful three-car interurban train at the Western Railway Museum, consisting of (from right to left) motor car Sacramento Northern RR No. 1005, Oakland, Antioch & Eastern RR No. 1020 and Salt Lake & Utah No. 751 (the last two cars unpowered). No. 751 is a rare parlor car with an open rear observation platform.

2019 Season Opener



On May 4, 2019 No. 1300 is shown crossing W. 42nd Street ready for the first run of the day. (All CHSL Photos by Jim Vaitkunas)



The first run of the season at CHSL crew (Left to right): **Russ Isbrandt, Brian Long, Crew Foreman Pat Cosgrove, Bruce Allyn & Jim Otto.**



In the Linden Hill station, **Russ Isbrandt** is selling tokens to two passengers while Foreman **Pat Cosgrove** looks on.



Here we see Duluth No. 265 at ESL's Water St. platform. No. 265 had the first day honors. (All ESL photos by Todd Bender)



First day of operations crew at ESL consisted of (L to R) **Ron Neitzel, Karen Kertzman & Jim Kertzman. Todd Bender** as also on the crew.



No. 265 is under the Excelsior "flyover" hiway bridge. This bridge replaced the original Twin City Rapid Transit bridge which carried the high-speed cars over the Minneapolis & St. Louis RR right-of-way.

May 21----- ESL begins Tuesday afternoon service, 2 PM to 5 PM through September 24<sup>th</sup>  
 May 24----- CHSL begins weeknight evening service, 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM thru Labor Day  
 May 26----- ESL begins Sunday afternoon service, 12:30 PM to 3 PM through September 1<sup>st</sup>  
 May 27----- Special Memorial Day service at CHSL—"early-bird" service begins at 9:30 AM



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

Jim Vaitkunas — MSM Corporate Secretary & Assistant Ops Chief

**W**elcome New Members. We give a hearty welcome to the MSM family to three new members: Bill Gin-gerich, Jeremy Stromberg, Joshua Kirk, Ken Blake, Richard Hadley, Daniel Laurent, Ellis Beck, Alvin Ha-las, Daniel Grobani, Leah Harp, Nick Fuqua, Matthew & Valerie Holden and Isaac Trockman.

**A**nnual fund and Special Donations In the last issue of the *Streetcar Currents* we reported only those annual appeal donations that we received in the mail. We also have received quite a few donations via our website. We'd like to give a big thanks to those who donated that way:

**General Fund.** Gretchen Stoddard, Joe Plante & Eric Neumann, Muriel & Jerry Olsen, John Stewart, Russ Isbrandt, Martin VavHorn, Rose & Bill Ar-ends, Jean Bradway, Jill Maczka and the ECC-S Preschool Team.

**TCRT 1239 Truck Fund.** Keith Anderson, Peter Cahill, Gordy Moore, Jincy & Jim Vaitkunas, and Nancy Settergren Raimoundos. ☺

### 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](http://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 — 2019

Jim Vaitkunas—Editor  
 Bill Graham—Distribution

**Streetcar CURRENTS** is a newsletter published for the members and friends of the Minnesota Streetcar Museum.

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