

STREETCAR

CURRENTS

January-February 2023



MINNESOTA STREETCAR MUSEUM

Bruce Gustafson—General Supt.

Preparing for the 2023 Season

With a very successful 2022 season behind us, the Operations Committee met recently to plan the upcoming 2023 operating season. To prepare for the season, the Operations Committee consisting of **Keith Anderson**, **Bill Arends**, **Todd Bender**, **Pat Cosgrove**, **John Dillery**, **Rod Eaton**, **Aaron Isaacs**, **Karen** and **Jim Kertzman**, **Bill Pekarna**, **Jim Vaitkunas**, **Dick Zawacki**, and me covered several key topics including the operating schedule, training, and other activities required to ensure a safe and timely start-up. The results are summarized below.



Schedule. The 2023 operating season will begin Saturday April 29. The only change to the 2022 regular schedule is the elimination of Tuesday service at ESL due to changes in the Farmers' Market event. While still evolving, we plan to bring back some events, including the Murder Mysteries, expand other events and create new special events like the Summer Santa. We are continuing our outreach to the Neurodiversity community with several events and are planning to participate in Open Door Minneapolis, which gives the public a peek behind the scenes (see Aaron's column on page 2 for details). I would like to give a special call out to **Rod Eaton**, the key driver for the Museum's special events for many years, who has decided to step down from this role.

Recruitment & Training. This year we'll hopefully have a bumper crop of newly qualified Operator volunteers. Through various recruiting efforts, Volunteer Coordinator **Pat Cosgrove** has a list of over 80 people who expressed an interest in trying their hand at operating a vintage streetcar. This is two to three times what we normally have seen. Orientation sessions are scheduled for the end of March. Formal Operator training will be lead by Training Superintendent **Bill Pekarna** and his crew of **Jerry Betz**, **Dave Higgins**, **Andy Jacob**, and **Linda Ridlehuber** at CHSL. **Karen Kertzman** will again lead the ESL training team which includes **Jim Kertzman** and **Greg Thomas**. As we have done the last few years, **Rose Arends** will conduct required POS training for all CHSL operators and station agents. We will also start Operator recertification training in early April—details to follow.

Other Start-up Activities. **Dick Zawacki**, and the Mechanical Department crews at CHSL and ESL report that TCRT No. 1300 and PCC No. 322 will be available at CHSL and DSR No. 78 and No. 265 at ESL will be ready for the start of training in April. Chief Engineer **Keith Anderson**, assisted by **Miles Anderson**, will inspect and service track, switches, and trolley overhead to prepare for the season's start. I am also excited to announce that we have Grounds Foremen at both Como-Harriet and Excelsior who will be responsible for the upkeep of the right-of-way to ensure the property looks good to our guests and is safe for operations—thank you to **Jerry Betz** at CHSL and **Jerry Draeger** at ESL.

On behalf of the Museum's leadership team, a big **THANK YOU** for your continued support of the Museum and your interest in making 2023 a great year. Thank you for all you do. ☺



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Here's a Saint Paul Southern interurban car in Hastings on a really snowy day. Kinda looks like a snowfall like we've recently had here in the Twin Cities, eh?

(MSM photo archives)



From the Front Platform—Thoughts on Our Museum

Aaron Isaacs — MSM Board Chair

Doors Open Minneapolis. On Saturday and Sunday May 13-14, we have a unique opportunity to increase our public visibility. After a hiatus caused by Covid, Doors Open Minneapolis is happening for only the second time. During the Doors Open event, the public can go behind the scenes at 48 businesses and institutions such as the Basilica of St. Mary's, the Dayton's Project and the Federal Reserve Bank. To see the venue list, go to <https://www.doorsopenminneapolis.org/venues-2023>.

In our case that means tours of the George Isaacs Carbarn. The tours will be held 10 AM to 5 PM both days. Since that's outside of our regular hours, we'll run an extra morning shift. Doors Open will provide publicity, on-site signage and a pair of on-site greeters, all at no cost to us. We'll provide the tour guides. The tours are free.

Although the formal planning hasn't happened yet, here's how I think it will work. Because the carbarn is hard to find, we'll direct folks to the Linden Hills depot. From there they can walk to the carbarn, drive to the carbarn, or purchase a streetcar ride and get off at the carbarn. Once there, I think the streetcars will all be pulled outside, along with the speeder and tower car.

We'll need at least two tour guides, and someone from the shop crew to describe our maintenance and restoration work in more detail. The Doors Open people tell me to expect hundreds of visitors. Look for the shifts to be posted on ShiftPlanning.

Another Org Chart box filled. Jerry Draeger has stepped up to be the Grounds Foreman for ESL. Thanks to Jerry for taking this on. We also welcome Jerry Betz as our Grounds Forman at CHSL.

In-kind donations. Each winter the Annual Appeal brings in thousands of dollars in cash donations that are very helpful to our Museum's bottom line. Not to be overlooked, however, are in-kind donations of useful items. Tom Schramm has taken on the job of MSM "official scrounger". Because of his background in the automotive industry, he has a lot of contacts and has approached them to request freebies and discounts. So far his efforts have brought in two large air compressors (\$2000 value), two tanks of welding oxygen acetylene and batteries for the new speeder. Let me emphasize that we want to target these requests. We don't want other people's junk, and we don't want items we can't use. But as Tom likes to say, there's no harm in asking.

Used train and streetcar book, magazines, photos for sale, cheap. If you like bargain-priced railroad and streetcar history books, try our Museum's online store at <https://trolleyride.org/product-category/books/>. There are currently 67 titles available and they're priced to move. Or visit the Linden Hills depot and look through the boxes under the bench by the rear wall. There you'll find general railroad history books priced at \$5 or less.

Want to own more history? Back issues of *Twin City Lines* magazine are available to MSM members for \$2 each. Also in the depot are 3-ring binders holding hundreds of surplus Minnesota streetcar photos for \$1 each. ☺

Our museum preserves all sizes of streetcars. In the Russell Olson Library located inside the George Isaacs Carbarn at Lake Harriet you'll find this display of O gauge and HO gauge streetcar models. All came from the collections of museum volunteers who have passed away. Together they represent almost every model of streetcar owned by Twin City Rapid Transit.

(Photo & caption by Aaron Isaacs)



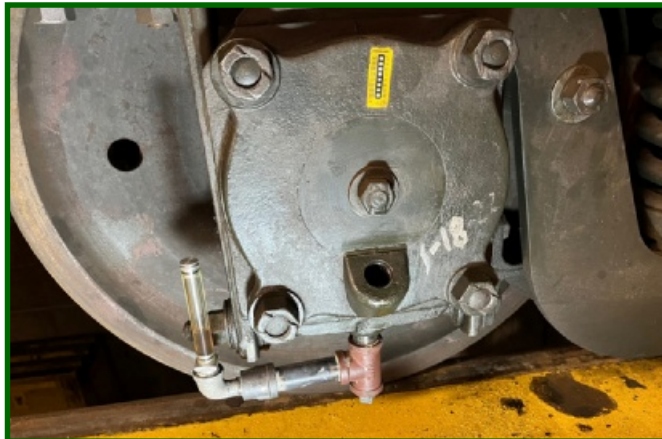
MSM Photo Ops



A pair of fixes to TCRT No. 1300's front doors are underway. The photo shows part of the linkage that opens the doors. Opening and closing the doors didn't feel right and here's the answer. The bushing that **Tom Schramm** is holding has worn its holes to a bigger diameter so it's loose. The fix is to replace the bushing with a bigger one that will fit the holes snugly.

Meanwhile back on No. 1300, **Karl Jones** is doing some rewiring that will make the split door switch operational again. What's that? The front entrance has double doors. The split-door switch allows the motorman to open only one of them, so less cold air enters the car in winter. The switch hasn't worked for many years, but it will again.

(Caption & photo by Aaron Isaacs)



The #2 axle, gate side journal box on TCRT No. 1300 has been losing oil during operation but not during storage. Como-Harriet shop volunteers have been unable to identify the source of the leak. On Tuesday the oil was drained and the journal box cover removed. Incidentally, this is the same cover repaired after the inner bearing race wore through in mid-July 2016. Time flies. No issue was discovered with the gasket or mating surfaces so the cover was reinstalled and the four nuts torqued to 60 ft-lbs. Before refilling, an Oil Rite sight gage was installed. The sight glass is transparent nylon – more durable than glass. It may be reconfigured or removed in the future. But right now we are in the data-gathering stage and this is more convenient and precise than sticking a finger in the fill hole. *(Caption & photo by Dennis Stephens)*



Right now, it isn't easy to reach the Linden Hills station on the Como-Harriet Streetcar Line. That doesn't matter a lot with streetcars snug in their barn for the winter. But just because the station is closed doesn't mean you can't browse and buy unique streetcar books and merchandise. Our online store is always open. Check it out at TrolleyRide.org/store. *(Caption & photo by Bill Arends)*



Mississippi Valley Public Service No. 10 was acquired in 1999 and moved to the Excelsior Streetcar Line carbarn. Over the next 17 years the Minnesota Streetcar Museum restoration crew brought MVPS No. 10 back to life as it was in 1914. In 2016 No. 10 ran under its own power for the first time in almost 80 years. However, an issue was discovered with one of the car's motors. Work to repair the problem is ongoing. Photographer **Robert Ball** captured the beauty of MVPS No. 10 as it sat in the carbarn. Hopefully 2023 will be the year Mississippi Valley Public Service No. 10 once again provide passenger service. *(Caption by Karen Kertzman; photo by Robert Ball)*



A meeting of the minds including **Aaron Isaacs** and the ESL shop crew. Couldn't have been too important, there aren't any donuts. In the photo: front to back: **Dick Zawacki, Scott Wardrope, Jerry Draeger, Steve Mages, Carl Floren, Scott Heiderich, Mike Kimitch, Howie Melco, Chris Hawver, Aaron Isaacs.**

(Caption and photo by Karen Kertzman)

March 23-----MSM Annual member's meeting, 7 PM Zoom Meeting
 March-April-----CHSL & ESL new operator recruiting and training
 April 29-----Beginning of CHSL's weekend operations



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

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

MSM's 2023 Annual Meeting. Our annual meeting of the Museum's members will be held on Thursday, March 23, 2023 starting at 7:00 PM. We will again convene our annual meeting using the Zoom tele-conference application because it's convenient and enhances the ability to reach out to all our members. A special e-mail will be sent out a few days prior to the annual meeting with instructions on how to download the Zoom app to your computer or smart phone. We'll also provide at that time the logon link so you can join the meeting on March 24th. We hope as many of you as possible will attend our 2023 annual meeting.

Annual Appeal. In November we sent out the annual appeal flyer to you and the response has been terrific! Many thanks to the following MSM members and friends who have donated so far.

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|------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Doug Anderson | Keith Anderson | Darlene Anderson |
| Miles Anderson | Darrell Arndt | Ray Bensen |
| Dr. Douglas Beedon | John Cartwright | Hon. Pete Cahill |
| Steve Collin | Robert Crosby | Richard Darling |
| Jerry Draeger | Rod & Pat Eaton | Jeffrey Eiffler |
| Dennis Fischer | Roger Foreman | Bill Gardner |
| Bill Graham | Luca Gunther & Kit Wilson | |
| Steve Glischinski | Louis Hoffman | Dave Hogan |
| Head Family Foundation | Nils Halker | Mona & Aaron Isaacs |
| Russ Isbrandt | Laurie Jacobi | Karl Jones |
| David Jones | John Halberg Jones | Robert Johnson |
| Michael Joynt | Stanley Kasal | Dr. John Knox |
| Elaine & Woody Love | Gordon Moore | Nick Modders |
| Denny & Pat Morrow | Eileen Oh | Dave Premak |
| Dan & Mary Jo Odegaard | John Prestholdt | Linda Ridlehuber |
| Ed Rapoport | Hon. James Rogers | Dennis & Ruth Stephens |
| Mark Sims | Andy Selden | Greg Taylor |
| Gregg Thomas | Weck Family Fund | Dick Zawacki |

It's not too late to donate. We don't inundate you with frequent donation solicitations. Our annual appeal is just that—one request each year. So if you are able, please help your museum continue its mission and goal to preserve Minnesota's electric railway history. **THANKS!**

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
 January-February—2023**

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 March 20, 2023.

Please send items to the editor **Jim Vaitkunas** at the following address:

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 Apple Valley, MN 55124-9481

E-mail: jvaitkunas@msn.com

Streetcar CURRENTS Winter Publication Schedule

The **Streetcar CURRENTS**, is now in its winter publication schedule. You've been receiving the **Streetcar CURRENTS** every other month since December 2023. Publication date for the next issue will be on or about April 1st. If you don't receive your issue on or shortly after that date please contact me at: jvaitkunas@msn.com