

STREETCAR

CURRENTS

May 2024



MINNESOTA STREETCAR MUSEUM

Bruce Gustafson—General Supt.

Getting Ready

I would like to thank the operators who have completed the recertification process and are ready to operate this season. I would also like to encourage those of you who have not completed necessary steps for recertification to do so as soon as possible. At this point, many of the scheduled recertification activities are past and while some new group events will be planned, I am providing contact information below for you to reach out for specific needs.

- Check-ride (CHSL) – contact **Bruce Gustafson**
- POS training (CHSL) – contact **Rose Arends**
- Operators recertification meeting (CHSL)—new dates will be coming in early May
- ESL recertification – **Karen Kertzman**



As I have mentioned in previous issues of the *Currents* and in the museum's Operation Newsletter, **Rod Eaton** has stepped down from leading our special events activities, which account for a significant portion of our operating income. **Pat Cosgrove** has stepped up to be the Special Events Coordinator and is responsible for the recruitment of event leaders, operational and marketing planning, and communication of new ideas. As part of the special events activities the Museum, through its "All Aboard" program led by **Leah Harp**, **Steve Simon** and **Anja Curiskis** and American Sign Language (led by **Anja**) initiative continues to extend the enjoyment of streetcars to a broad and diverse population.

I would also like to remind everyone that there is more to making our museum successful than moving a streetcar and ask that each of you consider volunteering for one or more of the non-operating activities. These activities cannot be done by one or two people. If you are interested in helping with the non-operating volunteer efforts contact the person listed below. If you are not able to connect directly with the activity leader, please contact Volunteer Coordinator **Pat Cosgrove** or me.

- Streetcar maintenance—**Dick Zawacki**
- Track maintenance—**Keith Anderson**
- CHSL ground maintenance—**Jerry Betz**
- ESL ground maintenance—**Jerry Draeger**
- CHSL Car cleaning—**Louis Hoffman**

Many of the activities do not require a lot of time or an ongoing commitment. CHSL car cleaning, for example, which occurs the first Saturday of the month, requires less than 2 hours (assuming a 3 to 4 person crew) to clean the cars and sweep out the depot. The result of the work is well worth your time. This is also the time of year where we are fortunate to have new volunteers joining the volunteer ranks and existing members expand their skills. **Bill Pekarna**, Superintendent of Training, and his team (**Linda Ridlehuber**, **Marion Garcia**, **Katie Barron**, **Andy Jacob**, **Jerry Betz** and **Tony Lebda**)

currently are training 23 new Operators. **Fred Beamish**, assisted by **John Dillery** and **Katie Barron**, will kick-off PCC training in May. I would also like to recognize **Katie Barron** and **Jerry Betz** for their promotion to Foreman.

Finally and most importantly, I would like to thank all new and returning volunteers in advance for their time and effort. I hope you enjoy your experience with the Museum this year. Be safe. 🍀

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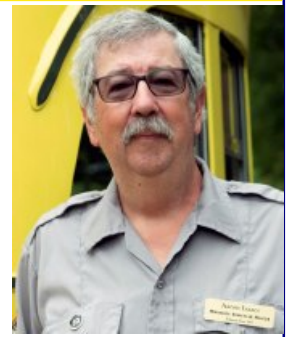


From the Front Platform—Thoughts on Our Museum

Aaron Isaacs — MSM Board Chair

Spring is here. As this is written the museum is gearing up for the start of operations on May 4. On a recent Saturday **Rose Arends** was doing POS training in the Linden Hills depot, while operator recertification was underway outside. Meanwhile in the Isaacs Car barn the PCC was being tested while the class of new operator candidates were being trained.

There has been a big push to replace the deteriorated old wood Linden Hills depot platform which was removed last December. To make the experience more historically accurate, we're going to use the original 1912 concrete platform. Unfortunately, the 2005 track rebuild raised the track well above the platform level, which is why the old wood platform was built over it. The platform project has several stages.



- A 20 x 5 foot concrete extension has been added at the north end to provide sufficient platform length. In the concrete are embedded three vintage manhole covers that came from the Snelling Shops. They are TCRT, St. Paul City Railway and St. Anthony Water Power Company (where TCRT had a hydro power plant).
- The 1912 retaining wall around the east and north sides of the platform was badly spalled, with one railing post hanging in mid-air. It has been repaired.
- Four 6-foot step boxes have been built to access the streetcars, paired to create continuous 12-foot platforms at the front and back doors. Each pair of boxes will have three handrails and non-skid treads. They'll be painted as time permits. An additional step-box will be added for the PCC middle door.

We have to decide whether to re-use the old wood benches or replace them with something new. Sometime this year we're hoping to replicate a portion of the original platform canopy. More on that in future issues.

Thanks to **Keith Anderson, Miles Anderson, Pat Cosgrove, Dennis Stephens, Tom Schramm, Nick Mainguy, Jerry Betz, Bill Arends, Joe Metzler, Glen Sandness** and **Aaron Isaacs** for their work on the platform project.

Elsewhere, PCC No. 322 is getting close to returning to service, thanks to **Mark Digre, Jim Willmore, Dennis Stephens, Tom Schramm** and **Russ Isbrandt**.

Michael E Miller has rebuilt the Linden Hills depot sign over the winter.

Meanwhile at Excelsior, tremendous progress has been made on rebuilding the rear end of Duluth No. 265. Credit goes to **Howie Melco, Jerry Draeger, Carl Floren, Chris Hawver, Dave Buckman, David McCollum, Dick Zawacki, Jack Bingham, Mike Kimitch, Scott Wardrope, Steve Mages** and **Tom Heimer**.

New summer intern. Our first internship over the winter was successful, so we're adding an intern for the summer. **Elizabeth Gray** is a St. Olaf junior studying history. She'll assist me in the library on Saturday mornings and research streetcar history in online newspapers on her own schedule. On Fridays and Saturday first shifts she'll be the CHSL station agent. She'll be here May 29-August 31.

New boarding procedure for **TCRT No. 1300 at CHSL**. We're changing boarding procedure for TCRT No. 1300 to be more historically accurate. When there was a conductor, TCRT streetcars boarded passengers through the rear door and used the rear farebox. We run with conductors, so we're going to do the same thing. When it's time to leave the depot, the conductor will give two dings of the signal bell and the motorman will start the car without an answering bell. Why? Because that's how they really did it. When reversing direction at each end of the line, bell signals will be the same as we've always done. ☺

Photo Updates



Mike Kimitch and Tom Heimer plugging the original screw holes with wood dowels in preparation for reattaching the metal bumper strip to No. 265. (Photo and caption by Karen Kertzman)



These three photos shows the progress made on the repairs to Duluth No. 265. The Excelsior shop crew has been doing great work getting No. 265 ready to run. (Photo by Karen Kertzman)



One of the new step boxes on the Linden Hills station platform. (Photo by Aaron Isaacs)



Concrete retaining wall repairs to the Linden Hills station's platform (Photo by Aaron Isaacs)



Hennepin Avenue in South Minneapolis is being rebuilt and look what they found. Como-Harriet cars once ran on these rails. (Photo by Nick Mainguy)

- May 4----- Streetcar Cleaning at CHSL starting at 9:00 AM
- May 4-----Beginning of CHSL & ESL weekend operations
- May 18 & 19-----Doors Open Minneapolis event at CHSL: 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM
- May 24-----Weeknight (except Monday & Tuesday) service begins at CHSL and runs thru Labor Day
- May 27-----Memorial Day operations at CHSL & ESL. Early-bird ops at CHSL begins at 9:30 AM.
- May 29-----Wednesday afternoon (1 PM to 4 PM) service begins at CHSL and runs thru Labor Day
- May 31-----Friday afternoon (1 PM to 4 PM) service begins at CHSL and runs thru Labor Day



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

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

Rest in Peace. I regret to pass-on the news that faithful volunteer **Tom Dulebohn** has passed away at a relatively young 71 years old on April 6, 2024. Tom was a friendly and faithful volunteer at ESL. He was an operating Foreman for several years and was always willing to help out in filling the operating schedule. He also loved to get into the spirit of the moment and put on a show for our passengers. Tom understood the importance of keeping our historic streetcars clean and led the car cleaning crew at ESL for many years. Tom will be missed. 🕊️

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 is-
 P.O. Box 16509
 Minneapolis, MN 55416-0509

Streetcar CURRENTS
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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, 2024.

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

jim.vaitkunas@trolleyride.org



This is how we'll remember Tom. Besides being a good operating person, he loved to "ham it up" especially during the holidays. (Karen Kertzman photo)

STREETCAR CLEANERS NEEDED

9:00 AM TO 12:00-NOON ON SATURDAY, MAY 4th

One of the first impressions our passengers have of the Museum is the cleanliness of the streetcars. After a winter indoors, you might be surprised how dirty they get. Since it's cooler in May, we may have the windows closed on No. 1300. And, believe me, they really need a very good cleaning! Here's the plan: clean the outside, clean all of the windows thoroughly inside and out, polish all of the wood, wipe down all surfaces, and sweep and mop the floor. If we're inundated with volunteers, we can clean PCC No. 322, which I hear won't be in service until after the next cleaning on Saturday, May 25.

For our non-volunteer members, here's your chance to help your museum! Streetcar cleaning is not restricted to our active volunteers. Anyone who loves what MSM does to preserve Minnesota's transportation history can pitch in. This can also be a family event, so bring your kids or other relatives. It'll be fun and you'll be helping your museum a lot. For more information, call streetcar cleaning Foreman **Louis Hoffman** at 612-618-7206.