



NRHS

WISCONSIN CHAPTER



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SPARKS AND CINDERS

Our purpose as members of Wisconsin Chapter—National Railway Historical Society is to gather, preserve and disseminate information, both historic and current, pertaining to railroading in Wisconsin and the Upper Midwest.

Preserving Wisconsin Railroad History for 75 Years

Visit the Chapter Webpage www.nrhwis.org



What Year is This ? Actually it's 2025. July 19 2025 to be exact. The chapter sponsored a Chapter Day at the museum as part of the celebration of its 75th anniversary. Here North Shore Car #228 is getting into position to be loaded with local freight and milk. The truck was provided by Travis a resident of East Troy. It's a 1941 Chevy cab on a more modern chassis with a diesel engine. Photo by Dan Grudzielanek

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Wisconsin Chapter Meeting Schedule

Upcoming chapter events

Sept 5 2025 Annual "Favorite Photo Night"

Oct 4 2025 75th Anniversary Banquet Polish Community Center Franklin WI

Monthly meetings are held in the lower level of the North Shore Congregational Church at 7330 N Santa Monica Dr. in Fox Point. The church is handicap accessible. For more up to date information on meetings and speakers, and also any weather cancellations, check the chapter's webpage at www.nrhswis.org.

Doors open by 7:00 pm, so arrive early to socialize. Meetings start at 7:30pm sharp. Please bring a friend!

Our meetings are live-streamed on the Zoom platform. Connection details are shared with chapter members and other interested persons via email the day of the meeting, or before. To ensure you are made aware of this info, we must have a working email address on file - send yours to president@nrhswis.org.

If you have a program idea please contact Program Chair Dave Nelson at engine1385@aol.com

The Big Picture is your page!

We've changed the format of the Sparks & Cinders back page, giving us room to run a large photo. Member submissions are solicited. Please send one or two of your outstanding pictures to Keith Schmidt, editor@nrhswis.org.

Sparks & Cinders is published by and for the members of the Wisconsin Chapter, Inc., National Railway Historical Society monthly except for July and August. The Chapter meets at the North Shore Congregational Church, 7330 N Santa Monica Blvd, Fox Point, Wisconsin, on the first Friday of each month, except June, July and August, at 7:30 p.m. The Wisconsin Chapter is a not-for-profit corporation, affiliated with the National Railway Historical Society and the Wisconsin Historical Society, organized to preserve the history of railroading in Wisconsin and the surrounding area. Additional information is available on the chapter's website, www.nrhswis.org.

Membership in the Chapter is open to anyone having an interest in any aspect of railroading who is also a member of the NRHS. Paying \$20 annually to the Chapter will entitle you receive Sparks & Cinders. Paying the National dues of \$50 to the NRHS will entitle you to membership and subscriptions to the NRHS Bulletin and NRHS News. Full NRHS membership is required to participate in chapter business discussions and to vote in annual chapter elections. All address changes should be sent to Mike Yuhas membership@nrhswis.org (or via USPS at PO Box 070758 Milwaukee, WI 53207).

Wisconsin Chapter officers are: Keith Schmidt President Ward Wells Vice President, Tom Marcussen, Secretary; Tara Grudzielanek, Treasurer. Directors: Dan Grudzielanek, Mike Yuhas, Ralph McClure and Neal Wegner. One Vacancy

Contributions to Sparks & Cinders should be sent to Editor Keith Schmidt at editor@nrhswis.org (or USPS at PO Box 070758 Milwaukee, WI 53207) by the 15th of the month to be considered for the following month's publication.

All original material published in Sparks & Cinders may be reprinted in other railfan publications provided credit is given to "Sparks & Cinders, Wisconsin Chapter, NRHS." If an author is indicated for the item or article, credit must also be given to the author. The views, opinions, and comments published in Sparks & Cinders are those of the authors and do not reflect the policies of the Wisconsin Chapter or the National Railway Historical Society. Copyright ©2025, Wisconsin Chapter, Inc., NRHS.

Meeting Summary for June 6 2025

President Keith Schmidt ran this meeting from our in-person meeting site in the basement of the North Shore Congregational Church in Fox Point. Recording started at 7:30 pm. Keith started the meeting at 7:32 pm. He welcomed all attendees to the final meeting of the 2024-2025 season. We are now halfway through our 75th anniversary year. Keith thanked all of those in attendance for a successful 2024-2025 meeting season. We had a number of meetings, other events, good presentations, and had staffed tables at two train shows. Keith also thanked the Chapter Board members for their hard work and support.

75th Anniversary Event Updates

We have a number of 75th anniversary events coming up. The first is at the Christopher Transportation Museum, north of Sheboygan, from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm tomorrow—Saturday, June 7. Over 30 members and guests signed up. The museum is open by invitation only. They feature a large collection of railroad, airline, and other historic (mostly transportation) china. They have expanded, and added new exhibits, since our last visits in 2021. The August 2021 National Convention in Milwaukee included a tour there. We went as a Chapter on Saturday, November 13, 2021. We will be there in the summer, and also have the opportunity to tour the gardens, this time. Members will be responsible for their own transportation to and from the museum. More details were published in the June issue of Sparks & Cinders. (A newel is a large ornate post, at the bottom end of the handrail on a formal open stairway, as would be featured in a 19th Century mansion. They have a collection of those.)

The East Troy Electric Railroad / Museum will hold a Wisconsin Chapter Day on Saturday, July 19. The museum will be open to the public, operating their regular summer Saturday schedule with Wisconsin equipment. Wisconsin Chapter members will enjoy unlimited rides at no cost. A coupon on Page 5 in the June issue of Sparks & Cinders will serve as proof of membership. They will offer us a special daylight photo session with their newly restored North Shore Line dispatch / merchandise car, and a local antique truck, probably around 2:30 to 3:00 pm. There will

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be no charge to Chapter members for that photo session. The Chapter will have a display table. We are looking for volunteers to staff that table. The day will end with a private evening excursion trip over the length of the line. There will be no charge to members, but advance sign-up will be required, for that evening trip.

We were not able to coordinate with any events at the Schlesinger Museum in Slinger to share the cost of steaming up Soo Line 1913 2-8-2 #1003. We are looking at a shared-cost event with the locomotive's owner. The most likely date is Saturday, August 23. That date is not yet 100 per cent firm. The trip might go as far north as Brandon. This would be a free event for Chapter members. It will not be a photo charter. We will not have any multiple run-by's or control over train movements. We will have to take photos or videos where we can get them.

We have proposed four different Friday visit dates to the Railroading Heritage of Midwest America (RRHMA) (former Rock Island) steam restoration shop in Silvis, Illinois (just east of Rock Island in the Quad Cities area). One is in July, one is in August, and two are in September. We have not gotten any response yet. The cost of the trip (still being developed) will include a charter bus, whether the attendee rides it or not. Our next regular monthly meeting will be held on Friday, September 5. It will be our traditional September Favorite Photo Night.

Our 75th anniversary banquet is set for Saturday, October 4, at the Polish Center of Wisconsin, at 6941 South 68th Street (north of Rawson) in Franklin. The menu and cost are still being worked out. We are working on lining up a speaker.

75th Anniversary Merchandise

Keith brought in a box of in-stock 75th anniversary merchandise (mostly clothing) for sale. Members can also order online, at the Wisconsin Chapter web site at nrhswis.org.

National Convention

Mike Yuhas took over to present the latest details on our upcoming National Convention, to be held at The Graduate by Hilton Hotel, in East Lansing, Michigan, over July 12-17, 2025. Events will begin with an opening reception on Saturday, July 12. Kevin Keefe will discuss the early preservation of Pere Marquette 2-8-4 #1225, now in the Steam Railroading Institute shop in Owosso, Michigan, for superheater work. Sunday, July 13, will offer a 71-mile Diesel-powered rare-mileage trip over the Great Lakes Central (former Ann Arbor main line) from Clare to Owosso. Monday, July 14 will go to Coldwater to ride behind Little River Railroad (Townsend, Tennessee) #110, believed to be the smallest standard-gauge 4-6-2 Pacific ever built, to Quincy. From there, Nickel Plate 2-8-4 #765 will take over to proceed further east to lunch at Hillsdale, and then south west to Ray, Indiana. All of Monday, July 14 trackage is on the Indiana North Eastern (former Lake Shore & Michigan Southern / New York Central). Tuesday, July 15, will feature three events in Elkhart, Indiana. The first is a tour of the Adams & Westlake (passenger car hardware) factory. The second is a self-guided tour of the National New York Central Museum. The third is a bus tour of the Norfolk Southern (ex-New York Central) yard. Wednesday, July 16, will start at the Greenfield Village Museum, for the giant-screen movie Train Time, followed by a 35-minute steam-powered ride around the museum grounds. A tour of the newly restored Michigan Central station in Detroit will follow. Thursday, July 17 will have the Advisory Council, Board of Directors, and Annual Meetings at the Graduate Hotel in East Lansing.

From the President

Greetings. The Summer of 75 is soon coming to an end. Typically Labor Day signifies the unofficial end of summer. What a summer it has been.

I called it the Summer of 75 since the chapter celebrated 75 years with several events this summer. I am writing this the day after the chapter sponsored Soo #1003 steam locomotive charter. What an awesome event it turned out to be. There will be much more coverage on that event in the next couple of issues of Sparks and Cinders.

On July 19th the chapter sponsored "Chapter Day at the East Troy Railroad". This event also went great. The day unfortunately started with some rain. By noon the rain had ended and the skies began to clear up. A few members took advantage of the free trolley rides throughout the day.

The photo opportunity with the North Shore merchandise car #228 worked out great. The #228 was spotted on the Trent siding by TMERL L8. Travis an East Troy resident provided his 1941 flatbed truck to add to the scene. The sun was out and the photos turned out great.

That evening about 20 members took advantage of the free charter. The museum ran North Shore Car #761 and Sheboygan Car #26 in tandem. It was a nice summer evening run. We had the surprise of flagging down a beautiful 1956 Chey to add to the scene during a photo runby at St Peters Road. BIG THANK YOU !! To everyone that helped with this. The East Troy Railroad do an awesome job for the chapter. They are a great partner to have.

The 75th annual banquet is coming together and it's coming up in a few weeks. See more information inside Sparks and Cinders. Get Busy Livin



Summary continued from Page 2

Presentation

Keith Schmidt introduced our presenter, Wisconsin & Southern engineer (and fellow model railroader) Mike Janke, who took over at 7:49 pm. Mike took us on a railroader's eye tour of former Milwaukee Road trackage on the north side of Milwaukee. He started with still images around North Milwaukee Junction, just north of Hampton, about 33rd -34th Street, including the former National Rail Car plant at 33rd and Villard, down to the former A. O. Smith complex south of Capitol Drive. We were treated to a full-motion-video cab ride from the A. O. Smith yards down to Grand Avenue Tower at the west end of the Menomonee Valley Yards. Then we got some more still shots of the Merrill Park Yard, Cutoff Tower, and other Yards in the Menomonee Valley. Those latter yards were then the property of the Canadian Pacific (now CPKC). The presentation lasted through about 9:00 pm. There was a short question and answer session until about 9:05 pm.

There were 26 in-person attendees in the church basement. Your secretary saw a peak of 30 devices connected to Zoom during the presentations. Subtracting the two devices in the church basement tonight yielded a total attendance of 54. There was no opportunity for an informal on-line discussion group following the meeting. The host device was in the church basement, which required the Zoom meeting room to close quickly, so that the devices could be put away, and the room vacated, quickly after the physical meeting ended. The Zoom meeting room closed at 9:08 pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Thomas W. Marcussen

Wisconsin Chapter Secretary

September 5 2025 Meeting Members Favorite Slide Night

Our Fall 2025 season gets underway with our end-of-summer meeting featuring railroad images by YOU! By longstanding tradition, our season of programs will begin with the annual Members Favorite Slide Night (MFSN) on Friday, September 5th. We'll be back at our in-person meeting place, the North Shore Congregational Church, 7330 North Santa Monica, Fox Point. For those unable to travel to Fox Point, the meeting will also be streamed, via the Zoom platform.

We are actively soliciting presenters! The subject matter is up to you. Maybe some shots from one of our 75th anniversary events. Or what you did on your summer vacation, a few shots of a unique or out-of-the-way railroad operation, steam action from back in the day, railroads in transition in the 1980s, recent pics of trains or photos from deep in your vault. This is your chance to shine! Because we don't have the technology to transmit slides to our online audience, this program will be digital-only.

To sign up to show your favorites remotely watch for more information in an email. Additional meeting details, with instructions on how to connect, will be sent via email before the meeting. If you wish to do a presentation please sign up in advance if possible. To sign up just send a brief email to president@nrhswis.org. We will still take presentations from people who show up on that Friday evening.

In-person presenters may bring digital images on a USB flash drive. You may use presentation software (such as PowerPoint or Keynote) or show loose pictures. If using presentation software, avoid transitions such as dissolves, etc. (there are no issues for the in-person audience, but they don't work well when streamed due to limited Zoom bandwidth). Digital only. If you have some old gems ("legacy media") and need assistance digitizing them, contact president@nrhswis.org. You may narrate in real-time or provide a soundtrack. The images you show should be predominately railroad related, any era. Please limit your presentation to approximately five minutes.

Check those photo books and slide trays

The chapter is looking for photos of Chapter events or meetings from the past. Please check your photos or slides to see what you might have. We do have the ability to scan and digitize the photo or slide so you don't have to give it up. It would be great to put something together for the Chapter 75th anniversary banquet in October. Let me know at president@nrhswis.org

Use of the basement of the North Shore Congregational Church.

This will serve a dual purpose. Recently the chapter received notice that the basement of the North Shore Congregational Church has been damaged in the recent record flooding in the Milwaukee area. As of this time the basement is not usable. The church has offered up another space in the church. We are waiting for more information. Please watch your email for updates regarding the September meeting.

There was also the question how did the chapter end up meeting at the church for all these years. Dave Nelson was looking through the collection of old Sparks and Cinders and in 1966 Larry Trovinger and Cliff Larson are thanked for the group being able to meet at the church. In the Dec 1966 issue it was mentioned that the church was upset with chapter members leaving cigarette butts on the floor after a meeting. Remember to pick up your butt after the meetings. *by Keith Schmidt*

CPKC Crude Oil train derails in Reeseville causing Amtrak Detours

Approximately 30 cars of a CPKC unit train of crude oil derailed today (Friday, Aug. 15, 2025) near the town of Lowell, with some oil believed to be leaking from the derailed tank cars, according to the Dodge County Sheriff's Office. The derailment has led to service disruptions for Amtrak's Empire Builder in both directions, as well as the eastbound Borealis.

The sheriff's office received a report of the derailment at 2:05 p.m. No injuries were reported. The sheriff's office also reports the incident poses no immediate danger to the public; and no evacuation will be required, as there is only one residence in the vicinity of the derailment with its occupants chosen to leave voluntarily.

The Clyman/Lowell/Reeseville Fire Department, sheriff's office, and CPKC have secured the scene and are beginning plans to clean up. The derailment is about a mile west of the town of Reeseville.

CPKC, in a statement to WISN-TV, said the "initial assessment indicates at least one car is leaking product. CPKC crews, including hazardous materials experts and environmental teams have responded to the site. Additional personnel, including senior operating officials, and equipment are responding to the scene to conduct a full assessment and begin a clean-up this evening."

According to Amtrak's website, the eastbound Empire Builder and Borealis due through the area this afternoon were to be combined at La Crosse, Wis., and rerouted, via BNSF Railway to Chicago. The westbound Builder will also be rerouted, according to an Amtrak spokesman. The company is seeking chartered buses to serve the missed stops between La Crosse and Chicago.

The derailment location is on CPKC's Watertown Subdivision, about 54 miles west of Milwaukee.

Courtesy TRAINS Newswire Firecrown Publications

Dear NRHS Wisconsin Chapter,

Thank you so much for sponsoring my RailCamp 2025 experience! As I already expressed to the NRHS President, Tony White, RailCamp was a truly unique experience.

For a variety of reasons, it was one of the greatest, most influential, and most educational experiences of my life. In addition to the intense and immersive itinerary I was enabled to explore, I made connections around the country with people I otherwise never would have met. The social networking opportunities and knowledge of railways and their interworking relationships allowed me a new understanding of this backbone industry of America. I am truly grateful for this once-in-a-lifetime chance graciously bestowed to me by your chapter.

Mike Yuhas was especially instrumental in the coordination of this adventure. In addition to contacting Justin Lambrecht, Director of Education at the National Railroad Museum, on my behalf to offer me this incredible opportunity, he went out of his way to negotiate with the National Chapter when my application was misplaced. Without the leadership of Mike, none of this would've happened.

In early September, I will be leaving for my first year of undergraduate studies at the University of Edinburgh in Scotland for a master's in History. I have no doubt in my mind that an experience like this will provide a valuable foundation of historic practices that I may encounter in my further education.

Once again, I am most grateful that I was awarded the chance to pursue such a wonderful life event, especially one centered around the very thing which first sparked my immense love for history and world culture. Railroading has always been a significant portion of my life and it always will be. If given another opportunity to attend, I wouldn't think twice about taking it.

Sincerely,
Dax Macklin

Editors Note—I had the pleasure of meeting Dax on Saturday August 23rd. He was there for the Soo #1003 excursion. I talked with him as did other chapter members. Dax is a great young man who said his Railcamp experience was great. He is leaving in a couple weeks for Edinburgh to continue his studies. It was a pleasure to meet and talk with him. Keith Schmidt

Chapter 75th Annual Banquet Saturday October 4 2025

Make plans to be a part of the 75th Anniversary banquet for the Wisconsin Chapter of the National Railroad Historical Society. The banquet is going to be something special to celebrate the anniversary. Our chapter will be joined by NRHS members attending a fall conference being held in Milwaukee that weekend. The chapter is sponsoring the fall conference. Come and meet fellow members from all over the country and enjoy some food and fellowship.

Our menu will be Mixed Greens Salad, Rolls and Butter, Roast Beef and Gravy, Southern Fried Chicken and Polish Sausage, Mashed Potatoes and Gravy, Italian Pasta Salad, Cheese and Potato stuffed Pierogi, Cookies and/or Brownies.

When Saturday October 4 2025 Social Hour from 5pm to 6pm

Dinner at 6pm Cash Bar will be available

Where Polish Community Center 6941 S 68th Street Franklin WI

Speaker Arlyn Colby Local Railroad Historian and Author

Cost for Chapter Members and spouses is \$45 per person.

Reservations and payment need to be made by Friday September 26 2025

Our guest speaker will be Arlyn Colby. Arlyn is a Wisconsin railroad historian and author. Arlyn has done a presentation at one of our regular chapter meetings. Arlyn's books focus on branchlines in Wisconsin. It should be a great evening.

We will also have the honor of having Tony White President of the National NRHS in attendance. He will be asked to say a few words. I am hoping to have some historic chapter items on display. There might be some other surprises too.

Make plans to attend. Payment can be made by cash or check at the September meeting or by sending a check (no cash) to Wisconsin Chapter NRHS PO Box 070758 Milwaukee, WI 53207. We will also be setting up an online payment option through the website www.nrhswis.org

Chapter Day at East Troy Railroad

Saturday July 19 2025

On Saturday July 19 2025 the Chapter sponsored a day at the East Troy Railroad Museum. The day started out rainy but by the late morning the rain had stopped. Due to the rain there were some equipment substitutions but by the afternoon equipment that had run in Wisconsin was featured. A few chapter members took advantage of the free trolley rides throughout the day.

The chapter had table setup in the depot with handouts and other items. We signed up a new member for the chapter and the national that day. It was nice to talk to the people coming to ride the trolleys.

Around 2pm we had the photo opportunity with the North Shore #228 merchandise car and a antique truck. This worked out great. The owner of the truck, Travis was from the area and a great help. His 1941 Chevy truck looked great with the #228.

Then in the evening about 20 members took part in the free charter. The museum ran both the North Shore #769 and Sheboygan Car #26 and members enjoyed a nice summer evening ride. THANK YOU !! To everyone that helped out and took part. It was a great day. HUGE THANK YOU !! to the museum staff that went over and above for us that day.



Story by Keith Schmidt Photos by Dan Grudzielanek, Dan Larkee and Keith Schmidt

From the Archives

September 1950—75 Years Ago

The newly formed Wisconsin Chapter of the NRHS was planning its first excursion on Speedrail. Jim Scribbins was the president of the chapter.

September 1955—70 Years Ago

The Milwaukee Road wants to abandon the line from Woodruff to Heafford Jct., 27 miles. Passenger service would be pulled back to Tomahawk, an additional six miles....DSS&A has discontinued their passenger train between Duluth and Marquette. Trains 1 and 2 (St. Ignace-Marquette) have been extended to Ish-peming. They will be replaced soon by an RDC....The Milwaukee-Pembine-Sault Ste. Marie sleeper has been cut from six-days-a-week to three-days-a-week; north on Sunday-Tuesday-Thursday and south on Monday-Wednesday-Friday.

September 1960 - 65 Years Ago

The trip – what trip? Our October 16 jaunt via the C&NW to Baraboo, natch. For railfans: 80 miles of freight-only line – baggage car with open doors – photo stops. For everyone: much good scenery – Baraboo Hills – Lake Wisconsin – Devil's Lake – Circus World Museum. Adult tick-ets \$7.75, children 5-11 \$3.90. Box lunch \$1.20.

September 1965 - 60 Years Ago

This summer, in one of the most unexpected developments, the L&N resumed steam operation. No, we don't mean the Louisville & Nashville, but we do mean our own Laona & Northern in northern Wisconsin. For many years, the L&N has had their 2-6-2 No. 4 stored in unserviceable condition, but this year they rebuilt it, got ICC approval, and started what is now the only common carrier steam operation in Wisconsin. 2-6-2 No. 4 was built by Vulcan in 1916. L&N bought her from Birmingham Rail & Locomotive Co. in 1926. A coach was purchased this year from the Soo Line. The Camp 8, a cupola style caboose was purchased from the DM&IR. Train time is 10:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m., and 3:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Fare from Laona to Laona Jct. and return is \$1.75 for adults, 75¢ for children.

June 1970—55 Years Ago

The past summer featured lots of interesting rail activity, including the Circus Train, the Flying Scotsman, and the 90-car train operated by Royal American Shows. The train contains 28 heavyweight passenger cars painted in red, white, blue, and silver. Royal American Shows operated the midway at the State Fair in August....The last Railway Post Office car will run on Milwaukee Road Train 57 on September 18th....SP has begun testing prototype EMD SD45X units out of Los Angeles

September 1975—50 Years Ago

The American Freedom Train, powered by ex-SP Daylight 4-8-4 No. 4449, made two appearances in the area on August 14 and 19....The C&O carferries are making two round trips a day to Ludington, Michigan. The fare is \$8 one way and \$11 round trip, with one meal included. The C&O has petitioned for abandonment of the carferry service.

September 1980 - 45 Years Ago

Five new shortline railroads are operating in Wisconsin. They are the Chicago, Madison & Northern, operating from Janesville to Mineral Point and from Sparta to Viroqua; the Wisconsin Central operating from Waukesha to Milton Jct.; the Wisconsin & Southern, operating from Milwaukee to Oshkosh; the Chippewa River operating from Durand to Eau Claire; and the Nicolet Badger Northern operating from Wabeno to Tipler....Independent Presidential candidate John Anderson campaigned via rail over the Labor Day weekend in Wisconsin. Stops were made in Beloit, Janesville, Madison, and Milwaukee. The train continued on to Chicago, Detroit, Cleveland, and Pittsburgh.

September 1985 - 40 Years Ago

Butler Railroad Day was a big success. The Chapter realized a profit of \$1,908 from five trips with ex-C&NW No. 1385. The Chapter also provided car crews for the NMRA convention fantrip to Kenosha on August 2....The last UP Centennial diesel revenue run was made with No. 6936 on May 6.

September 1990 —35 Years Ago

Trains magazine is celebrating its 50th Anniversary this year....The Wisconsin Central has named their SW-1 Shop switcher the Francis Wiener in honor of the late Chapter member who was the unofficial corporate photographer and possibly the railroad's number one fan

September 1995 —30 Years Ago

The ICC approved the merger of Burlington Northern and Santa Fe by a vote of 4-0 on July 20. The merger is expected to take effect on September 23....Union Pacific announced on August 3 that it will acquire Southern Pacific for \$5.4 billion in stock and cash....UP announced that it will contribute a 19-car train and locomotives to transport the Olympic flame for a 3,500-mile trip from Los Angeles to Atlanta for the 1996 Olympic Games.

September 2000— 25 Years Ago

Steam returned to WSOR with the ex-Soo Line No. 1003 powering trips from Waukesha to Stoughton on September 16 and 17....WSOR had a pleasant problem last summer – more business than it expected. The railroad leased three SD45s from WC to help out....WC changed directions on June 26 when timetable east and west was changed to timetable north and south to more accurately reflect actual operations.

September 2005 – 20 Years Ago

The Janesville roundhouse celebrated its 100th anniversary on July 9. Current owner WSOR hosted the celebration which was attended by over 1,000 persons....WSOR celebrated its 25th anniversary on July 23 in Madison. Free train rides from Madison to Waukeakee were provided. UP unveiled the first two "Heritage Series" locomotive paint schemes on July 30. The EMD SD70ACe units – UP No. 1982 honoring Missouri Pacific and UP No. 1983 honoring Western Pacific – will be joined later by units honoring M-K-T, C&NW, D&RGW, and SP....The Empire Builder received newly-refurbished equipment in August....Plans are underway for the State to acquire the abandoned CP Air Line right-of-way for an expansion of the Hank Aaron Bike Trail

September 2010 – 15 Years Ago

Mainline steam excursions could return to Norfolk Southern rails as early as this fall after NS said on June 30 it is negotiating with Tennessee Valley Railroad Museum to operate a limited schedule of steam locomotive appearances and public passenger excursions beginning later this year. The program would feature three venerable coal-powered steam locomotives: Southern 2-8-2 #4501, Southern 2-8-0 #630 and Southern 2-8-0 #610. "This is the right time for steam to ride the Norfolk Southern rails," said CEO Wick Moorman.

September 2015 – 10 Years Ago

On August 1 2015 38 members of the Chapter and guests took part in a pizza dinner, trolley car ride and ice cream. The warm evening started at Roma Italian Restaurant in East Troy with an all-u-care to eat pizza buffet. After that we proceeded to East Troy Railroad Museum for a chartered ride on Car #26 a beautifully restored Sheboygan street car. The staff and crew at East Troy were great. The trip included several photo run bys. After the trip ended it was time for ice cream sundaes at Lauber's Old Fashioned Ice Cream. It was a great evening to hopefully be repeated again.

September 2020 – 5 Years Ago

As the COVID-19 pandemic affected almost every aspect of life across the country, passenger railroads were forced to cut back the amount of service they provide due to drastic declines in ridership. Amtrak's operations between Milwaukee and Chicago were no exception. The Hiawatha Service operated its full schedule of seven daily roundtrips (six on Sunday) through March 18th. The following day service was cut back to just one daily round trip. It consisted of train No. 332 to Chicago in the morning and train No. 339 to Milwaukee in the evening. The Empire Builder trains, Nos. 7 and 8, added stops at the Milwaukee Airport and Sturtevant stations. Those stations are normally only served by the Hiawatha Service.

The Big Picture



A nice surprise happened during the evening charter on July 19th. During the photo runby a 1956 Chevy turn onto St Peters Road. We flagged him down and he became part of the scene. The owner actually owns the farm that the tracks run along. Photo by Dan Larkee