

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 76 Years



BNSF Intermodal train on one of the many bridges at Santa Fe Junction in Kansas City. June 2025 Aerial Photo by Keith Schmidt

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Wisconsin Chapter Meeting Schedule

Upcoming chapter events

Friday February 6 2026 Chapter Annual Meeting and Elections

Friday March 6 2026 To Be Announced

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.nrhwis.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@nrhwis.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@nrhwis.org.

Meeting Summary January 2 2026

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.nrhwis.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@nrhwis.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@nrhwis.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.

President Keith Schmidt was at a family event tonight. Mike Yuhas presided over the agenda remotely via Zoom. Dave Nelson took charge of the equipment and the 19 in-person attendees in the first-floor Friendship Lounge at the North Shore Congregational Church in Fox Point. The meeting, and the recording of it, started at 7:30 pm. There were then 54 devices connected to Zoom.

Mike asked all of those who have not yet paid their dues for 2026 to do so now. The amount is still \$20.00. There are three options to renew (or join) Chapter membership. The first way is to pay by cash or check in person. The second way is on-line payment via our website at nrhwis.org. That second option includes an extra \$1.00 fee for credit card processing costs. The third way is to send a \$20.00 check to Wisconsin Chapter NRHS, P. O. Box 070758, Milwaukee, WI 53207. Members and subscribers will receive 10 issues of our monthly newsletter *Sparks and Cinders*, plus admission to members-only events, and member discounts on other events and merchandise. If you see value in what we are doing here, please renew now, or consider joining us as a Wisconsin Chapter member. Dues payments support Chapter meetings like this one, other activities and publications. Your support is much appreciated.

Our next meeting, on Friday, February 6, 2026, will be the annual formal business meeting. It will be at the North Shore Congregational Church in Fox Point. It will feature the annual elections, and maybe proposals for new initiatives in 2026. Only those who are paid-up members of both NRHS National and our local Wisconsin Chapter are legally Wisconsin Chapter members. Legal membership is required to discuss Chapter business, vote, or run for office. We have one Director vacancy on our Chapter Board. All other incumbent Directors, and all Chapter Officers, are running for re-election. All members in good standing are eligible to run for any office. Anyone interested in running to become a 2026 officer or director can talk to any current officer or director. Nominations will also be accepted from the floor.

Keith Schmidt will be giving our presentation on Friday, February 6. The topic was not announced.

Mike Yuhas thanked the incumbent officers and directors for volunteering to continue on into 2026. He also thanked Dave Nelson for supervising the in-person meeting at the church.

Presentation

Mike Yuhas introduced our presenters Clark Johnson and Nona Hill at 7:36 pm. Their presentation was titled "850,000 Miles by Private Rail Car (Caritas)."

The car name is pronounced "CARE-it-tahss." It is the Greek work for charity. They operated the car under the name High Iron Travel from 1984 until 2019.

Clark Johnson started by saying that he was not from a railroad family. He grew up near the Minneapolis & St. Louis Cedar Lake Yard, west of Minneapolis, where he watched the proceedings with a great deal of interest. He shared an early photo of himself with M & St L President Lucien J. Sprague's business car. He traced his fascination with private cars to an early tour of that car. He and a group of friends bought 1903 Soo Line five-bedroom business car #48 for \$3500.00 in 1963, moved it to the Twin Cities, and traveled around in that until the group broke up in 1966. The Caritas is a much more modern car. It started its life as a St. Louis-San Francisco (Frisco) sleeper with four bedrooms and 14 roomettes. Clark bought it for \$10,000.00 in 1982, when the Canadian National sold a large number of former Frisco and Katy (Missouri-Kansas-Texas) cars.

It spent two years in the Milwaukee Road main shop in the Menomonee Valley of Milwaukee being converted to private car service. The four bedrooms became five. A kitchen, dining room/ lounge, and open back platform with chrome railings were added. They largely copied the floor plan of Soo Line #48. They upgraded to much more modern equipment. The car was finished and ready for service on November 11, 1984. The Caritas operated over many long rare-mileage trips, reaching the far extremities of the North American rail network at:

- Fort Nelson, British Columbia, at the far northern end of the British Columbia Railway.
- Hay River and Pine Point, in the Northwest Territories of Canada, at the north end of the Great Slave Lake Railway.
- The far southern end of Mexico, and a short distance into Guatemala, up to the point where the rails switch to narrow gauge.

Nona Hill joined in the operation during 1991-1992. She is the current National Treasurer and a board member of the Center for Railroad Photography & Art. They sold the Caritas to the Twin-Cities-based Friends of (Milwaukee Road 4-8-4) #261 Group in 2019. It still operates today, now painted in historic 1940s Milwaukee Road colors, or that group's trips. The main presentation ended at 8:27 pm. There were then 62 devices connected to Zoom. A question and answer session followed.

Conclusion

There were a total of 65 devices connected to Zoom during the meeting. One of those was in the church, serving two of the 19 members there. Removing that duplication yielded a total attendance of 83. Recording stopped at 8:42 pm. There was an informal on-line discussion group. The Zoom meeting room closed at 8:55 pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Thomas W. Marcussen

Wisconsin Chapter Secretary

From the President

Sorry I was not able to attend the January 2 meeting of the chapter. I was attending a local sporting event with my family. The Milwaukee Bucks did win by 1 point on a last second dunk. It was a great game. I plan on watching the recording of the presentation on the chapter's You Tube page. Keep an eye on the You Tube page for more past presentations being posted. Brian Hechel who is running for the vacant board position has offered to help edit and post the past presentations. Thanks Brian

It's the 76th year of the Wisconsin Chapter and the 250th anniversary of the United States. It's the Semiquincentennial. I am hoping the chapter can do some events involving railroad history and the semiquincentennial. Hopefully some details will get worked out before too long.

The February meeting is the annual business meeting of the chapter. Elections will be held and financial and membership reports will be given. In order to vote at the annual meeting you must be a member in good standing of the chapter and the national NRHS. If you are not a member of the national or just a guest you are more than welcome to listen and watch the business meeting. After the meeting is completed I will be doing a presentation - "Birds Eye View of Railroads". Hopefully the weather will cooperate for the meeting. On Page 4 of this issue there will be an agenda for the business meeting.

KJ

Madison Train Show 2026 - Volunteers Needed

The Mad City Model Railroad Show is right around the corner!

Do you enjoy talking trains with people? If so, the Chapter is looking for you. The Chapter will be hosting a table at the Mad City Model Railroad Show the weekend of February 21-22 at the Alliant Energy Center in Madison. The show's hours are from 9am to 5pm Saturday and 9am to 4pm on Sunday. We need volunteers to help us staff the table during the show. There are no specific shifts or minimum time required - you're welcome at any time. If you are interested in helping out please contact Ward Wells at wwardw@hotmail.com.



Let's Talk!

**Friday February 6 2026
Chapter Annual Meeting
“Birds Eye View of Railroads”**

Join in Friday February 6 for the Annual Meeting of the Wisconsin Chapter NRHS. This is the yearly business meeting where members receive an update on what happened with the Chapter in the previous year and what is coming up in 2026. Elections will also be held. Every officer and board position is up for election. Nominations will be presented and also taken from the floor. You must a member in good standing with the Chapter and National NRHS in order to take part and vote in the meeting. Please make sure dues are paid.

After the business meeting current Chapter President Keith Schmidt will give a presentation. “Birds Eye View of Railroads”. Check out some Milwaukee area views from the drone that show some interesting architecture, railyards and other sights. Coaling towers having recently been taken down. Recording them from the air is fun but what about flying through them too. Railroad yards can also be great from above. You will see the sprawling yard at Alliance NE and others including Larry's Truck and Electric in Ohio.

The meeting takes place at the North Shore Congregational Church, 7330 North Santa Monica Boulevard, Fox Point, Wisconsin. Arrive early to socialize with your fellow members Doors open at 7pm on Friday, November 7 2025. Announcements and the presentation at 7:30 pm CST. The presentation will be available remotely on Zoom. For those participating remotely: This event requires advance registration. To register please contact membership@nrhswis.org to receive the meeting link. www.nrhswis.org



BNSF bridge at Sibley MO June 2025



UP Local on WSOR bridge over the Fox River Janesville WI

**Annual Chapter Business Meeting
February 6 2026**

The Friday February 6 meeting of the chapter will begin with the annual business meeting. The agenda for the business meeting is listed below. In order to nominate, be nominated, bring a motion or be elected you need to be a member in good standing with the Wisconsin Chapter and the National NRHS. If you are not a member of both you can watch the proceedings. After the meeting the presentation will begin.

**Meeting Agenda
Friday February 9 2026**

Welcome

Establish a quorum – 5% of members present that are members of the Chapter and National.

Introduction of Chapter Board Members

Approval of minutes of the Feb 7 2025 meeting (Available on Chapter website)

Treasurer Report

Reports

Membership

Grant Committee

Election

Need to fill a vacancy on the board of directors

New Business

75th Anniversary Wrap Up

2026 Plans

Member Questions

Anything else for the good of the chapter

Local Switching with a “Heritage Unit”

On January 7 2026 I caught the UP #1158 switching the industrial area on Water street in Milwaukee. The #1158 is still sporting Southern Pacific Cotton Belt Paint. The train was working the asphalt plant which includes a little bit of street running



Wisconsin Chapter NRHS Board Member Biographies

Keith Schmidt President Candidate Incumbent

Milwaukee, WI

Amateur Radio KC9LHK

Occupation Deputy Sheriff – Retired

Currently – William K Walther's Repair Technician

FAA 107 Certified Drone Operator

Born and raised in the Milwaukee/St Francis area I grew up with the CNW just a few blocks away. I would spend hours watching the semaphores and trains moving around the St Francis interlocking. My Grandfather also worked for the Milwaukee Road in Wisconsin from 1919 to 1952.

My main interest is rail photography and has been since I was about 18 years old. I have now incorporated the use of a drone to broaden my photography. I have been a N Scale model railroader since I was 12 years old. I have a home N scale layout based on the Midwest and my previous experiences.

I have been a member of the Wisconsin Chapter for over 27 years and hope to continue as the President of the Chapter

Additional railroad related memberships

Milwaukee N Southeastern Model Railroad Club

Nevada Northern Railroad Museum

Center for Railroad Photography and Art

N Scale Enthusiasts

Ward Wells Vice President Candidate Incumbent

Madison WI

Amateur Radio: W6WRW

Occupation: Retired

Growing up in Cincinnati, I first spent time by the rails in the early 1970's on B&O's line through the suburb of Madeira. After brief stops in Peoria, IL and Las Vegas, NV, I spent my entire career in the Los Angeles area – very close to Cajon Pass. Retirement in early 2024 brought me to Madison to be closer to my daughter.

My main interest is rail and transportation infrastructure history. Books, maps and historic aerial photography are my favorite resources. I'm excited to be in Wisconsin and to immerse myself in the state and surrounding area's rich rail history.

I've been a member of the Wisconsin Chapter since 2020. Along with memberships in a number of rail societies, I'm also the assistant treasurer for the NRHS.

I look forward to supporting our Chapter as we celebrate our membership's rail extensive knowledge, experience and resources.

Mike Yuhas Candidate for board (Incumbent)

Trempealeau, Wisc.

Mike, a native of Long Island, first joined NRHS in the mid 1970s, rejoined in 1985, and has been a proud member ever since. For 30 years, Mike was the chief ad sales guy for Trains and Classic Trains magazines until retirement in 2020. He was elected to the Wisconsin Chapter board in the early 2010s, and was chapter president 2019-2022. He is a member of six NRHS chapters. In addition to being a director for the national NRHS organization, he is an active volunteer on the NRHS membership committee, and chair of the convention committee.

Mike has photographed trains for over 50 years. He's frequently trackside almost anywhere in Wisconsin and elsewhere. A gallery of nearly 8,000 of Mike's railroad and marine images resides at www.mikeyuhas.org. He remains uncomfortable writing about himself in the third person.

Thomas W. Marcussen

Big Bend, Wisconsin

Wisconsin Chapter Secretary Candidate Incumbent

I grew up in South Milwaukee, from the late 1950s through the early 1970s, the son of a Chicago & North Western brakemen and then conductor. My father worked on the local freight that served Cudahy, South Milwaukee and Carrollville / Oak Creek. My mother's father had worked section for the C&NW, and then on the Pere Marquette railroad car ferries based in Ludington, Michigan, serving Milwaukee, Manitowoc and Kewaunee, when he was young.

I am retired from an electrical / engineering / project management career working on power plants in Chicago (1975-1984), and then with the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District (1984-2014). I have been a Wisconsin Chapter member since December 1990. I have been serving on and off (more on than off) as Wisconsin Chapter Secretary since January 2005. I would like to continue serving.

My only other rail membership is with the Center for Railroad Photography and Art. I joined in 2020 when I saw the quality and value of the images they were saving.

I have been collecting information for many years on where almost all of the railroads in Wisconsin, Upper Michigan, and NE Illinois went. I am still working on getting my maps organized enough to publish, and trying to clear enough space out at our farm to set up an HO scale layout depicting NE Wisconsin and Upper Michigan.

Tara Grudzielanek

St Francis

Chapter Treasurer Candidate

I have attended chapter meetings with my husband Dan. I enjoy supporting Dan's interests in trains and have loved the opportunity to travel on Amtrak and accompany him trackside as a rail fan. We both enjoy travel and exploring historical sights together.

I worked for 21 years as an accounting assistant for customs brokers which arrange for the transport of products into the country by various means including railroads. In 2025 I began working for the St Francis Police Department as a clerk. I have been the chapter Treasurer since January 2020.

Neal Wegner Board Member Candidate

Brookfield WI

My name is Neal Wegner and I'm running for election of one of the board of directors positions.

My interest in railroading goes back many years and has provided my wife Cathy and I with many enjoyable hours, riding rail excursions, attending many National NRHS Conventions and photographing historical rail locations around the U.S. and Europe.

I've been a member of the Wisconsin Chapter and National for 40 years with the last 6 years being on the Wi. Chapter board.

Dan Grudzielanek Board Member Candidate
St. Francis, WI
Occupation: Firefighter

My interest in railroads can be traced back to when, while growing up, my father worked for Kalmbach and would bring home copies of Trains and Model Railroader magazines each month. That exposure to the world of trains and railroading combined with living a short distance from the then C&NW, now UP, lines in St. Francis began what has become a life-long passion for railroad history, modern-day operations and railroad photography. In addition to growing up in St. Francis, I continue to live and work there. I have been employed by the St. Francis Fire Dept. since 2001. I began as a Paid-On-Call firefighter and have been employed there full-time for the past 18 years. My wife, Tara, and I have been married for 17 years. We enjoy traveling and visiting museums and historic sites (and, of course, seeing some trains along the way). Tara also serves as the NRHS Wisconsin Chapter Treasurer. I have been a member of the Wisconsin Chapter since 2000 and a board member since 2019. I am looking forward to continuing to serve on the board and supporting the Chapter's mission of preserving and sharing railroad history.

Ralph McClure Board Member Candidate
Clinical Social Worker - Retired

I had a number of assignments as a clinical social worker. My last assignment was with a Community Support Program as Director. Prior to that I worked in child welfare, public assistance, and did a ten year stint as a nursing home administrator. Most of my 40 year career was in child welfare and mental health services.

My interest in railroading goes back to my childhood as both grandfathers were railroaders. One spent over 40 years with the Santa Fe and the other was a station agent with the MKT in Wichita Falls, Texas. Hence I grew up with many railroad experiences and stories.

My wife Marlene and I enjoy traveling on Amtrak and have visited many places including Glacier Park MT many times. So you know why I like trains.

Brian Hechel Board Member Candidate
Systems Engineer State of Wisconsin
Amateur Radio K5GBW

I have had an interest in trains as long as I can remember. The Green Bay & Western mainline was across the street from my childhood home between Black Creek and Seymour, WI where I would watch trains #1 & #2 just about every evening. I was one of the founding members of the Seymour Model Railroad Club. I moved to Mount Pleasant, WI at the beginning of my Freshman year of High School when a photography class encouraged me to go trackside with a camera in hand and started a lifelong hobby of photographing trains. I did work for the Wisconsin & Southern for a couple of years before deciding on a career in information and technology. I now share my photography on Flickr and upload videos to YouTube. For the past eight years I have served as the Treasurer of the Green Bay & Western Historical Society. I am currently a member of NAPM (North American Prototype Modelers), S.S. City of Milwaukee, and Lake States Railway Historical Association. Outside of my railroad interests I am a member of MASA (Milwaukee Area Skywarn Association). I also regularly shoot in a pistol league and work as a Safety Officer during matches.

Milwaukee County Zoo Trains

While putting together this issue of Sparks and Cinders I noticed a paragraph in the "From the Archives" February 1956, 70 Years Ago. *"The Milwaukee Journal has donated \$35,000 to build a miniature railroad at the new zoo now being built. The railroad will be about two miles long. Equipment will consist of six coaches and a locomotive. What type of locomotive to be run has not been decided. There are two possible choices. First is a steam engine which would be an Atlantic 4-4-2, the other choice is a diesel, an EMD F-7"*

I decided lets take a look at the steam locomotives that were part of the Zoo trains. Those locomotives were recently purchased by the Riverside and Great Northern railroad in the Wisconsin Dells to join the other Sandley built steam locomotives.

The locomotives are 15 inch gauge and the Milwaukee Zoo had two of them. #1916 a 4-4-2 and #1924 4-6-2. Below are some photos of them. Currently the Zoo has only diesel locomotives for the Zoo Train. By Keith Schmidt



From the Archives

February 1956—70 Years Ago

Latest scrap news: Milwaukee Road: January 29 – 214, 1009, 1483, 221. February 5 – 264, 209, 229, 239, 213, 1027, 224, 227, 986....A fund has been established to put Milwaukee Road 265 in a city park. The goal is \$25,000. As of February 9 the total on hand is \$895.98....The Milwaukee Journal has donated \$35,000 to build a miniature railroad at the new zoo now being built. The railroad will be about two miles long. Equipment will consist of six coaches and a locomotive. What type of locomotive to be run has not been decided. There are two possible choices. First is a steam engine which would be an Atlantic 4-4-2, the other choice is a diesel, an EMD F-7

February 1961 - 65 Years Ago

CB&Q O-5b No. 5632 will power a Sunday trip at the 1961 NRHS National Convention in Chicago. (sponsored by Wisconsin Chapter)....The Wauwatosa depot is no more, a bank having purchased the property and torn the depot down. Cannonball passengers now use a small shelter somewhat to the east of the now departed depot.

February 1966 - 60 Years Ago

One of our more capable photographers has broken into the "big-time" as a formal travelog performer. Don Reck will present an expanded version of his D&RGW Silverton narrow gauge film (which was one of the better films ever presented at a Chapter meeting) as the Milwaukee Public Museum film of the evening for February 16. Don states, "The film can be classed as a documentary-travelog of the railfan nature. Since showing it to the Chapter, I have re-shot much in order to get better settings and light conditions. The film has some very beautiful scenes along the route of the Yampa Valley Mail as well as the narrow gauge. This is the first time a railfan film has been shown at the lecture series.

February 1971—55 Years Ago

Jim Scribbins has compiled a complete listing of all scheduled passenger rail service in Wisconsin. It includes 75 different schedules (not all daily), of long distance and suburban trains on four railroads....Jerry Hilton reports that currently Milwaukee Road Nos. 5 and 6, the Hiawatha's, may be photographed in daylight at Duplainville. He recommends getting all the photos you can since it is possible all passenger service in the area will be eliminated when Railpax (the planning name for Amtrak — ed.) takes over the nation's rail passenger service....It was reported that the Milwaukee Road is planning to close its Milwaukee Shops sometime in February. This will result in the layoff of 800-900 machinists, electricians, carmen, boilermakers, and blacksmiths.

February 1976—50 Years Ago

Mike Schafer will present a program on how to put together a program at the February Chapter meeting....The February issue of Sparks & Cinders included an up-to-date Milwaukee Road locomotive roster.

February 1981 - 45 Years Ago

Carl Wall, Chief Special Agent for the AT&SF will be the speaker at the February 6 meeting. His presentation will feature the coordination between railroads and railfans to combat vandalism to railroad property....The ICG ceased operations in Wisconsin on January 30 and the Chicago, Madison & Northern began operations on the line on February 2....The Circus World Museum in Baraboo announced that it would produce a circus parade in Chicago on May 24.

February 1986 - 40 Years Ago

Bob Baker is looking for information regarding good photo locations, equipment on display, and other rail facilities for inclusion in the new "Railfan's Guide to Wisconsin" being published by the Chapter....The C&NW KK River Bridge is frozen and out of service because of record high water levels in Lake Michigan. The C&NW Mitchell Yard to Marsh Yard job is detoured over the Milwaukee Road Milwaukee River bridge....The North Freedom Snow Train™ is scheduled to operate February 15 and 16.

February 1991 —35 Years Ago

Shades of "Silver Streak." On the afternoon of December 31 as a Metra train was being coupled up at the Western Ave. coach yard it sprang to life and headed out on the main line for Union Station, unmanned. It sped by Tower A-2 at Western Ave. pushing six cars. It derailed on the tight curve north of Union Station, completely blocking the north entranceAmerican European Express operated its first train from Chicago to White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia, on December 21.....Fifty years after its first run, a North Shore Line Electroliner, in its original green and red livery, will operate at the Illinois Railway Museum on February 9 and 10. Fare for the inaugural trip on February 9 is \$100.

February 1996 —30 Years Ago

The UP has made several changes to former C&NW operating subdivisions and radio frequencies. The Chicago to Milwaukee line has been remileposted....The ex-C&NW swing bridge across the Kinnickinnic River, built in 1894, was demolished by explosives on January 19.

February 2001— 25 Years Ago

The proxies were counted and former WC CEO Ed Burkhardt conceded defeat on January 13. Burkhardt had hoped to gain control of the railroad and replace the Board of Directors with his own slate because he felt the current officers were not operating the railroad in the best interests of shareholders....As of December 31, 2000, there were 64 ex-CNW units still active on the UP.

February 2006 — 20 Years Ago

A lengthy article by Dave Ingles highlighted recent service expansions in Metra service. Among the notable items was the extension of the UP West Service from Geneva to Elburn; the North Central Service increased train frequency from 10 to 22 trains daily; the South West Service increased train frequency from 16 to 30 trains daily plus an extension from Orland Park/179th Street to Manhattan; and several infrastructure improvements including a second main track on the CN Waukesha Sub. and extension of the third main track on the UP Geneva Sub. from Geneva to Elburn.

February 2011 — 15 Years Ago

Tom Hoffmann presented 30 years Ago—Where were you in 1981 slide presentation at the month meeting. This look back from Tom is an annual event every year. Union Pacific was conducting an online vote for stops for its Steam program. Unfortunately Milwaukee lost in the voting. Jerry Hilton was presented with a 50 Year Membership Pin. Greg Mross and Curt Richards were awarded 25 year membership pins.

February 2016 — 10 Years Ago

In January 2016 Jeff Plale resigned as the Railroad Commissioner in Wisconsin. Jeff Plale was appointed as Railroad Commissioner in August 2011. Jeff was the speaker at the Wisconsin Chapter NRHS banquet in May 2013. Governor Walker has appointed Yash Wadhwa as the new commissioner. Commissioner Wadhwa is from Glendale, WI. He is a retired civil engineer that worked with the MMSD Deep Tunnel project.

February 2021 — 5 Years Ago

Mike Raia presented two shows on February 5th. One featured the Soo #1003 on its recent trip to Chicago. The second featured the photos of his late Dad Bill Raia. Bill worked for the SOO line and is well known for his photos especially wreck photos.

With the COVID restrictions still in place the Chapter has begun Informal slide nights. These meetings are held via Zoom and feature 4-5 presentations from different presenters from all over the country and the world.

The Big Picture



CN #5852 former Grand Trunk Western GP38-2 backs into the transloading area just north of Weyer Road at Duplainville WI. January 8 2026 Photo by Glenn Schaefer