



# 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.*

Visit the Chapter Webpage [www.nrhswis.org](http://www.nrhswis.org)



BN #2766 GP39E, rebuilt GP30 leads a piggyback train across the diamonds at Rochelle, IL. The photo was taken August 20, 1994. This would have been before the Union Pacific acquired the C&NW. It was also several years before the Rochelle Railfan Shelter was built. Photo by Dave Nelson

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## Upcoming Events January 2017

### TMER&THS (Traction and Bus Club)

[www.tmer.org](http://www.tmer.org)

Saturday January 21, 2017 - Chicago Interurbans - Mike Slater  
Chase Bank - Cudahy 7:30pm  
SE Corner Packard and Layton Use East Lot

### WISE Division NMRA

[www.wisedivision.org](http://www.wisedivision.org)

No Monthly Meeting information for January 2017

### Milwaukee Road Historical Association

[www.mrha.com](http://www.mrha.com)

2017 Convention  
June 22nd to 25th  
Ames, Iowa

### C&NW Historical Society

[www.cnwhs.org](http://www.cnwhs.org)

2017 Convention  
May 18th to May 21st  
Rockford, IL

### Soo Line Historical and Technical Society

[www.sooline.org](http://www.sooline.org)

2017 Annual Convention  
Check the website for more information

### NRHS National Convention 2017

[www.nrhs.com](http://www.nrhs.com)

June 20th to 24th 2017  
Nashville, TN

### To Contact the Wisconsin Chapter NRHS

President Dave Nelson  
Email at [engine1385@aol.com](mailto:engine1385@aol.com)

**Thank You** to all those that contributed to this issue of Sparks and Cinders. Member contributions make this newsletter YOUR newsletter. - Sparks and Cinders Editor

### Wisconsin Chapter Now on Facebook !!

Thanks to Keith Schmidt the Chapter now has a Facebook Page. It Can be accessed at <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Wisconsin-Chapter-NRHS/170129169765334> (Must enter the number string)



Sparks and Cinders is published by the Wisconsin Chapter, National Railway Historical Society. President: Dave Nelson 1506 E Fox Lane Fox Point, WI 53217. Send all address changes and dues to the treasurer, Tom Hoffmann, 1102 Aspen Dr., Waukesha, WI 53188. Send all material for publication to the interim editor, Keith Schmidt 3286 S Springfield Ave Milw, WI 53207 or at [sparksandcinders@gmail.com](mailto:sparksandcinders@gmail.com)

## Burlington Northern in Illinois by Dave Nelson presented on Jan 6, 2017

In Illinois, all BN trackage was former CB&Q. This presentation will focus on former CB&Q/BN operations in Illinois, from Cicero Yard west on the triple track main to Aurora, where the line branches off towards Galesburg to the southwest and to the Twin Cities to the north-west (going through Rochelle and eventually along the Mississippi). The hub in Galesburg branches off to Peoria; the Twin Cities; Burlington IA to Denver and Texas; and Quincy IL to Kansas City and beyond -- "Everywhere West" was the CB&Q's slogan.

The focus of this original 35mm slide presentation will be on Chicago commuter trains, Eola Yard east of Aurora, freight trains running through Rochelle, and the hub in Galesburg, including Galesburg Railroad Days in its prime, with some coverage of the lines leading out of Galesburg. This was an era of varied EMD and GE diesel consists and mixed freight trains with a wide variety of traffic.

Please invite a friend to come along for the presentation. Before the presentation there will be the annual business meeting and election of officers. The meeting room at the North Shore Congregation Church is handicap accessible. Please watch the Chapter webpage [www.nrhswi.org](http://www.nrhswi.org) for any weather cancellations.



## Wisconsin Chapter Meeting Schedule

Friday February 3, 2017 - Jerry Krug Presents - Soo Line

Friday March 3, 2017 - Northwest Ohio Railroads in the 1970's, 80's and 90's by Brian Schmidt

### MEETINGS NOW START AT 7:30PM !!!

*Programs Subject to Change*

If you would like to present a program at a Chapter Meeting

Contact Dave Nelson at [engine1385@aol.com](mailto:engine1385@aol.com) or Mike Yuhas at [mike@mikeyuhas.org](mailto:mike@mikeyuhas.org)

## December 2017 Meeting Summary

President Dave Nelson initially welcomed the attendees at 7:33 pm. Pretzels were available at each table. Other snacks and sodas were available in the back of the room. Dave gave members several minutes to pay their 2017 Chapter dues to Treasurer Tom Hoffmann.

Dave Nelson again welcomed the approximately 40 people in attendance at 7:39 pm. Four of those identified themselves as guests. Bob Porter (son of Russ) was present with his fiancée. Russ Porter's private office car is being restored at the Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania. Lloyd Steiner and Chris Hanson found out about us in the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel.

The new sound system is working. It is prone to (high-pitched whine) feedback. The old sound system had been breaking up / in and out / because of a broken antenna.

We got many visitors at our booth at Train Fest over November 12-13. We gave away lots of issues of Sparks & Cinders, and versions of an informational brochure that the NRHS National had circulated to Chapter presidents but never had printed.

Continued from Page 2

Canadian Pacific's Holiday Train will be moving through the Milwaukee area early next week. A full schedule is published in the latest December Sparks & Cinders, and in today's Milwaukee Journal Sentinel.

There will be an all-scale train show at the Mitchell Park Domes the weekend of February 11-12.

The Grohmann Museum of Art at Milwaukee School of Engineering will exhibit David Plowden's photos of the steel industry from January 20 into April 2017. These are likely to include a number of rail photos. Mr. Plowden is a well-known railroad photographer. He will be present, and admission will be free, on Gallery Night on Friday, January 20, 2017.

Don Goerke donated his copy of a Railway & Locomotive Historical Society CD of 1904 Chicago & Alton Railway passenger car diagrams. It was given to an interested attendee.

Activities Chair Ralph McClure expects to offer a behind-the-scenes tour of the Mid Continent Railroad Museum, with an overnight stay, in early May 2017. It will not be any earlier than in late April, as there is little activity there any earlier in the year. We may return to the East Troy Electric Railway in summer. We may visit the Illinois Railroad Museum in Union, Illinois, in the fall. He is looking for other ideas and suggestions.

The announcements and discussion above ended at approximately 7:50 pm.

Editor Jim Wrinn of Trains magazine took over the floor for the railroad trivia game that took the place of our usual slide presentation. Attendees divided into eight teams of approximately five people per team. All reference sources and materials, including smart phones, were banned. There were four series of five questions each. Questions 1, 2 and 3 of each series were worth 1 point per correct answer. Question 4 was worth 2 points. Question 5 was worth 3 points. A perfect score would have been 8 points per series, for a total of 32 points. We played at the Expert level. All of these questions were HARD. The first place team only scored 19 out of 32 possible points. There was a two-way tie for second place at 17 points. Some team scores were significantly lower.

Jim Wrinn's wife Cate assisted in tallying the scores. Each first-place team member took home a copy of the revised and updated Guide to North American Steam Locomotives, and a Trains DVD on the history of New York Central's Twentieth Century Limited, donated by TRAINS Magazine and Kalmbach Publishing. The Chapter was allowed to keep two surplus copies for door prizes at our Chapter banquet in May. The trivia game ended shortly after 9:00 pm.

The next meeting, on January 6, 2017, will be the annual formal business meeting. Dave Nelson will provide the presentation. It will cover the Burlington Northern (former Chicago, Burlington & Quincy) in Illinois.

Respectfully Submitted  
Thomas W. Marcussen  
Wisconsin Chapter Secretary



## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Well, that was fun! Thanks to Trains editor Jim Wrinn and his helpers (his wife Cate, and Mike Yuhus), the first ever "Trivia Night" at a Chapter meeting went off without a hitch. Some of those questions were darned difficult, weren't they? Congratulations to the table of winners, who scored some very nice prizes provided by Jim and Kalmbach Publishing. Jim was kind enough to let us keep the remaining prizes for use as banquet door prizes. By the way, the delicious home-made cookies were provided by the Wegners. I don't know about you but what with the sodas, the salty snacks, and the chocolate chip cookies, I was wide awake well into the night.

While it was a fair amount of work to get all the snacks and soft drinks set up, there was no real mess to deal with, I am happy to report, and clean-up after the meeting was made far easier thanks to several volunteers. It was enough effort that I am not tempted to suggest that there be drinks and snacks at every meeting, but it did seem fitting somehow that our December meeting was properly festive given that the church was so nicely decorated for its Christmas. Perhaps that element is something to repeat next December and beyond. I already have an idea for a trivia-like guessing game event for next December.

Those of you who were at the meeting heard Ralph McClure's report on his research into possible Chapter excursions and activities in 2017. If any of you (including those members who do not regularly attend our monthly meetings) have additional ideas by all means discuss them with Ralph or contact me. The more such ideas we have stockpiled the better off we'll be. There is a good variety of destinations of railroad interest within Wisconsin or an easy drive from our borders. And I do think a summer evening repeat of our East Troy event (with pizza meal before and ice cream afterwards) sounds particularly nice now that winter's snow and cold have finally descended upon us.

Speaking of which, a reminder yet again that our Chapter website should now be regarded as the primary way we would communicate a weather-related cancellation.

Just a reminder that our January meeting will begin with the annual business meeting, including election of the officers and board members for 2017. The current slate is prepared to serve again but if anyone else wishes to serve, make that be known to us before the meeting if at all possible.

Allow me to express to our Christian members a Merry Christmas, and to all of you a pleasant holiday season. Best wishes for the New Year as well.

*Dave*

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### Chapter Annual Meeting Friday January 6 2017

Annual Meeting to be Held January 6, 2017

The Annual Meeting of the Wisconsin Chapter NRHS will be held at 7:30 p.m. at the January meeting. The agenda will be to approve the Minutes at last year's Annual Meeting, and to elect Board officers and members for 2017. All current officers and members have indicated a willingness to serve another term so the current slate is:

- Dave Nelson for President
  - Keith Schmidt for Vice President
  - Tom Hoffmann for Treasurer
  - Tom Marcussen for Secretary
  - Bob Baker, Ralph McClure, Bob McLeod, Greg Mross,
- 3 Andrew Roach, Cathy Wegner, Neil Wegner and Mike Yuhus for the Board of Directors.
- Nominations will be taken from the floor if anyone else wishes to run for an officer position or Board position.

## Minutes of January 8, 2016 Annual Business Meeting

President Dave Nelson called the annual formal business meeting to order at 7:34 pm. A total of 28 people were present. All officers and directors who were present were seated at the double front table.

President Dave Nelson asked Secretary Tom Marcussen to read the minutes of the previous formal business meeting on January 2, 2015. Tom stated that they ran to 5 full typewritten pages, and had been published in the February 2015 edition of Sparks & Cinders. None of the members present had any interest in their being read aloud. Tom Hoffmann moved that the minutes of the above previous business meeting, as published in the February 2015 edition of Sparks & Cinders, be approved. Bob McLeod seconded the motion. It was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Treasurer Tom Hoffmann presented his financial report for 2015. The details are the same as shown in the minutes of the January 2, 2016 Board of Directors meeting minutes, except for the inclusion of our certificate of deposit, valued at \$27,558.29 on December 31, 2015, and our mutual fund, valued at \$47,402.21, as of September 30, 2015. These are the latest statements that Tom had received.

Board member Mike Yuhas and chapter member Jerry Krug will audit the financial records on Thursday, January 21, 2016.

President Dave Nelson explained that the certificate of deposit and mutual fund had not been part of the regular financial report up to now. This money had originally come from our participation in Butler Railroad Days in the early 1980's. It was used to finance publication of A Railfan's Guide to Wisconsin. The profits from it were rolled into first Wisconsin Rails I and then Wisconsin Rails II. Changes in the publishing industry make publishing of further books financially unattractive. Publication costs for the first Railfan's Guide in the late 1980's had been in excess of \$41,000. There may a partial update of the Railfan's Guide. It may be published on line to reduce costs. Nothing is ready to publish yet.

Bob Joyce moved that the Treasurer's report for 2015 be accepted, subject to audit as stated above. There was a second. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

President Dave Nelson presented a summary of the Board of Directors meeting on Saturday, January 2, 2016. (As the complete minutes of that meeting are being published with these minutes, the summary will not be shown here.) Ralph McClure is in charge of planning for 2016 events. He is actively looking for both event ideas and committee members.

The next order of business was the election of officers and directors for 2016. All of the incumbents had indicated their willingness to continue on. There are no longer any term limits to prevent their doing so. President Dave Nelson called twice for any other nominations from the floor. There were none. Therefore the existing Board of Directors meeting nominates:

- Dave Nelson for President
- Keith Schmidt for Vice President
- Tom Hoffmann for Treasurer
- Tom Marcussen for Secretary
- Bob Baker, Ralph McClure, Bob McLeod, Greg Mross, Andrew Roach, Cathy Wegner, Neil Wegner and Mike Yuhas for the Board of Directors.

Bob Joyce moved that the nominations be closed, and the above slate be declared elected. Jerry Krug seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

### *Minutes Continued*

President Dave Nelson called for any other business to be discussed. There was none.

There will be another Board of Directors meeting in a few weeks. The next formal business meeting will be on Friday, January 6, 2017 (unless there is a major issue that calls for another such meeting sooner).

Bob McLeod moved that the formal business meeting be adjourned. Kathy Wegner seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote. The formal business meeting was adjourned at 7:54 pm

Respectfully Submitted  
Tom Marcussen

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## Chapter's 1960 Excursion Consist Needed

Gary Rumler visited the Chapter table at Trainfest and asked for some assistance. He would like the consist -- the numbers and types of the passenger cars -- that made up the Wisconsin Chapter's October 16, 1960 excursion train to Baraboo, WI. The locomotive was C&NW SD9 number 1707. The train, beautifully photographed by Russ Porter at a photo run-by at Devil's Lake, is shown in his all-color book "Chicago & North Western - Milwaukee Road Pictorial." Russ did not give the consist in the photo caption but does say that the cars were "400" cars. Looking closely at the photo, there were perhaps five cars total. Anyone with information can contact Dave Nelson and he'll get it to Gary.

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## Chapter Member Jerry Krug Presents The Soo Line Plus More

Join Chapter member Jerry Krug on Friday February 5, 2017 as he presents "The Soo Line". Jerry's presentation will include the Soo Line purchase of the Milwaukee Road. There will also be some Wisconsin Central added for your enjoyment. Jerry is well known for his photography. It should be an enjoyable evening. Please make plans to attend. As always the meeting begins at 7:30pm with announcements. Please check the chapter website at [www.nrhswis.org](http://www.nrhswis.org) for any updates or weather cancellations.

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## UW Madison offering Railroad Operations and Engineering Classes.

The University of Wisconsin-Madison is offering a series of railroad engineering and operations courses and seminars in spring 2017 that will cover a variety of topics. University officials are encouraging people to enroll for the professional development courses before they fill up.

On Feb. 7 and 8, the school is offering a course on track construction and project management at Lake Buena Vista, Fla. Then on April 3 and 4, the school is offering a two-day course on the fundamentals of traction power systems and overhead contact systems at its Madison campus. And finally, on April 18 and 19, the school is offering another two-day course on the fundamentals of railway bridge engineering and management.

Courses start at \$1,195.

## The Last Ride ?? November 6 2016 Temperature 74

The Wegners take off for another “last” cycle ride of the season, as they have been doing for the past three weeks. Is this really late fall ? The proverbial question comes up, “Where to go?” Cycle rides usually involve rail fanning and a trackside lunch. Stopping at Subway to grab a sandwich to go. Back on the cycle we head for Vernon Marsh to watch Canadian National this Sunday. Crossing the tracks on Oakdale Road (Hwy XX) we see red signals; might be out of luck today. We set up in the parking lot at the end of Marsh Road and wait. In a short time another cycle pulls up. A father and son hoping to catch a train. They warn us that we could be stuck in the lot if a train pulls into the siding. We know. A short time later a car pulls into the and the driver gets out. First thing we notice was the camera and lens, this guy is a serious railfan. He informs us that three trains will be rolling past us; two south bound and one north bound. There’s something familiar about this fellow. Where had we seen him, at another rail spot ? No, we had just seen him the night before. He’s Drew Halverson and we had just watched the video, Drew’s Trackside Adventures the night before.

By now we were marooned in the parking lot by the northbound train letting the two south bounds clear. We spent the time trading stories of our rail adventures and favorite spots. At last the south bound trains cleared and the northbound got the green to go. With that we got on the cycle and headed home, thinking that November 6 it was a great day for the last ride of the season.

You never know who you might see railfanning; even the person behind Drew’s Trackside Adventures from Kalmbach Publishing and Model Railroader.

P.S. It wasn’t the last ride. On November 18, we rode out to Pewaukee and caught Amtrak #7 west bound.

*By Neal and Cathy Wegner*

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## Wig Wag Signals “wig-wagged” their last in Baraboo, WI

A pair of rare, former Chicago & North Western wigwag signals at Baraboo, Wis., wig-wagged their last in March. They were replaced by cross bucks at Vine St. on the line operated by the Wisconsin & Southern Railroad.

Railroad crews dismantled the signals and delivered them to the Mid-Continent Railway Historical Society, at nearby North Freedom, Wis.

There is no documentation, but observers believe that the Baraboo wigwags were built by Western Railway Supply Co. and installed in the 1920s. The wigwag, or automatic flag-man, was adopted as a standard crossing device by the American Railway Association in 1923. For years, the wigwag was the preferred type of grade-crossing protection in the Midwest and far West U.S. They have been replaced by flashing signals and crossing gates.

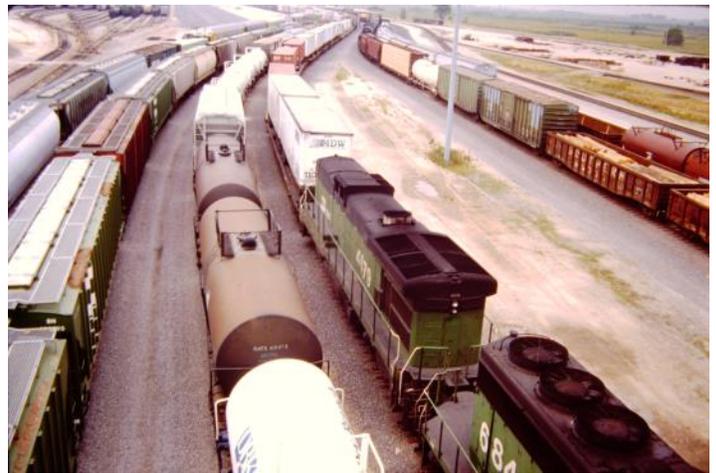
A website devoted to the once popular crossing signal says 41 of the signals were known to exist in the U.S. With the demise of the two in Baraboo, only 39 remain.

*TRAINS Newswire April 2016 by John Gruber*

## Sneak Peek at January 6th 2017 Presentation BN in Illinois



BN activity in the yard at Galesburg, IL in the early 1990’s.  
Photos by Dave Nelson



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## Gone But Not Forgotten - January 20, 1963



# TRAINS Trivia



???

How Many Ties ??

A Frog and a Horse got together one day

Piggyback service is really OLD.

TRAINS Trivia Night presented by TRAINS Magazine and Kalmbach Publishing was an enjoyable evening. Some creative team names were thought of including Ballast Burners, Boiler Wash, Chessie Cats, Yard Snakes and the winning team Super Stars. The questions were challenging. Some of the questions had helpful hints. Thank You to TRAINS Magazine and Kalmbach Publishing and Jim Wrinn for being a gracious host. Thanks to Cate Kratville-Wrinn and Mike Yuhas for being great assistants.

# From the Archives

## January 1957 - 60 Years Ago

The North Shore Line has leased a portion of its Milwaukee depot to Greyhound Bus Lines for use as a Greyhound Travel Bureau.

## January 1962 - 55 Years Ago

Walt Bubbert reported on a trip on the C&EI's Meadowlark, which runs for 360 miles from Chicago to West Vienna, Illinois. "You can take the 5:00 p.m. No. 9 from Dearborn Street Station, arriving Danville at 7:27 p.m. where you can skip out for a snack at the traveling restaurant which meets you at the coach. One coach is taken off, then it goes southwestward, meeting the St. Louis branch at Willow Grove. It's on this stem for 40 miles to Findley, then on the Salem branch for 195 miles through St. Peter, Shelbyville, Salem, Mt. Vernon, West Frankfort, Johnson City, and Marion to West Vienna at 1:10a.m. The depot is locked so if you get on good terms with the crew, you might ride the Meadowlark to the wye at Joffa Jct. The crew sleeps a bit at Cypress and pulls out from West Vienna at 3:15 a.m., arriving Chicago at 11:25 a.m."

## January 1967 - 50 Years Ago

National dues have increased to \$4.00, therefore dues for 1967 will be \$6.50.

## January 1972 - 45 Years Ago

The ICC has proposed stiff new rules for passenger train service. Among them: passenger trains may not be sidetracked for freight trains, trains must arrive within 15 minutes of the advertised for every 500 miles traveled, passengers are entitled to refunds up to 50% of the ticket price if accommodations for which they had reservations are not available or if the train is cancelled and the railroad did not get passengers to their destination within four hours of scheduled arrival....A bill to repeal Wisconsin's "full crew" law has been passed by the State Senate. Predictably, labor and management positions on the legislation were in opposition....The protracted strike on the Florida East Coast, which began in 1963, has been settled. Wages will be increased by 31% this year with an additional 6% raise in 1973....On December 28, the ICC approved the merger of the IC and GM&O to form the Illinois Central Gulf Railroad....Little Chief Mountain, an ex-GN round-end observation car was among the cars damaged in an Amtrak derailment near Bonner's Ferry, Idaho.

## January 1977 - 40 Years Ago

BN announced a ban on Amtrak SDP40F locos on its rails, citing safety concerns....Mid-Continent Railway Museum announced Snow Train '77 would operate on February 19 and 20, 1977.

## January 1982 - 35 Years Ago

The Milwaukee Road has reached agreement in principle to acquire the Rock Island's West Davenport-Washington, Iowa line. It will become a part of the main line to Kansas City. The existing Muscatine-Washington line will be abandoned.

## January 1987 - 30 Years Ago

The new C&NW radio dispatching system was featured, including copies of the current employee's timetables, radio frequencies, and train symbol information.

## January 1992 - 25 Years Ago

The Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railway has received a federal grant of \$549,291 for restoration of locomotive No. 463 and construction of three new passenger cars....WICT moved three trains of 15 piggyback cars on December 1st, 3rd, 5th, and an 18-car consist on December 7th from Swiss Colony in Monroe to Chicago. The trains represented about one fourth of the total shipments from Swiss Colony in the two-week period.

## January 1997 - 20 Years Ago

New Metra service between Chicago and Antioch, Illinois, via the Wisconsin Central has begun. The service runs west from Chicago on the ex-Milwaukee Road line via Elgin to River Grove, then at Tower B-12 it turns north on the WC to Antioch. Service is currently week-day only....The Midwest Rail Initiative was announced on December 3. Studies are underway for a high-speed rail network linking Chicago, Milwaukee, Detroit, St. Louis, and Minneapolis-St. Paul....The Milwaukee Association of Commerce on December 5 proposed a commuter rail line running between Milwaukee and Waukesha or Oconomowoc. The plan met with mixed reaction from government officials. Advocates want the service in place before reconstruction of I-94 begins in the spring.

## January 2002 - 15 Years Ago

Norfolk Southern announced in December that it was taking the line over Saluda Mountain – the steepest mainline grade in North America – out of service because of a shift in coal traffic. NS says it has no plans to abandon the 33-mile line between Hendersonville, North Carolina and Mascot, South Carolina. It will be railbanked, an NS spokesman said....The fifth season of the MPTV-produced PBS series "Tracks Ahead" will begin airing in February....Passenger service between Middleton and Madison on WSOR will be restored after five months of negotiations. The train will be operated by the Middleton Community Development Authority

## January 2007 - 10 Years Ago

While construction workers were attempting to remove the upper portion of the bell tower at the Milwaukee Amtrak station during major remodeling on Thursday, December 21, it came crashing down and crushed two parked cars. There were no injuries reported....The new Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Transit Authority is considering asking the Legislature for authority to levy a .05% sales tax in the three counties to cover the local share of building and operating the KRM Commuter Link – rail service between Kenosha, Racine, Milwaukee, and intermediate stops. Federal and state aid and fares would cover most of the line's estimated \$237 million construction cost and \$14.7 million annual operating cost....Soo Line 4-6-2 No. 2719 was moved by Union Pacific in early December from its long-time storage spot at Altoona to Adams, 111 miles to the east. The 1923 Alco is owned by the Locomotive & Tower Preservation Fund of Eau Claire. After extensive negotiations, an agreement was reached for the 2719, which was restored by the L&TPF in 1998, to move to the Lake Superior Railroad Museum (LSRM) in Duluth for display and operation. The locomotive last operated in 2001.

## January 2012 - 5 Years Ago

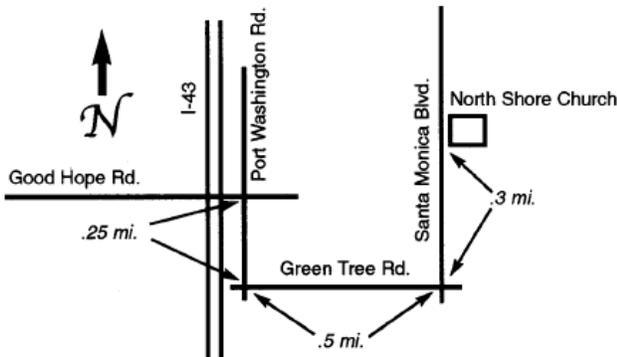
Shortline conglomerate Watco Cos. has announced it will buy a 90 per cent interest in Milwaukee-based regional Wisconsin & Southern Railroad Co. Current WSOR President William Gardner will remain president even as he relinquishes control of the line. Watco said it plans to expand WSOR's footprint while seeking out new markets and more cost-effective routings for the railroad's customers. No current Watco lines connect to WSOR's network. Wisconsin & Southern operates more than 700 miles of track in southern Wisconsin and northern Illinois, most of it under agreements with the state of Wisconsin. Under the deal, all current agreements for track use will continue. WSOR's corporate structure will remain the same, and its Milwaukee headquarters will remain home to the railroad's dispatching, customer service, and other administrative functions. Watco filed to acquire WSOR at the Surface Transportation Board on November 29, and plans to close on January 1, 2012.

Sparks & Cinders  
1102 Aspen Dr  
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**FIRST CLASS**

### Chapter Meeting Location

North Shore Congregational Church  
7330 N. Santa Monica Blvd.  
Fox Point, WI



For Weather Cancellations and Updates  
check the Chapter Webpage  
[www.nrhswis.org](http://www.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 July and August, at 7:30 p.m. The Wisconsin Chapter, Inc., NRHS, 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.

The interim editor of Sparks & Cinders is Keith Schmidt. All material to be included in Sparks & Cinders should be sent to him via U.S. Mail to 3286 S. Springfield Ave Milwaukee, WI 53207 or by e-mail to: [sparksandcinders@gmail.com](mailto:sparksandcinders@gmail.com) by the 15th of the month preceding the month of publication. All address changes should be sent to the treasurer, Tom Hoffmann, 1102 Aspen Dr., Waukesha, WI 53188-2314.

Membership in the Chapter is open to anyone having an interest in any aspect of railroading. A subscription to Sparks & Cinders is included in the annual dues of \$65.00 per year which also includes membership in the national organization and a subscription to its publications, NRHS Bulletin and NRHS News. Officers of the Wisconsin Chapter are: President, Dave Nelson; Vice-President, Keith Schmidt; Secretary, Tom Marcussen, Treasurer, Tom Hoffmann; National Director Tom Hoffmann; Directors, Greg Mross, Mike Yuhus, Ralph McClure, Andrew Roach, Neil and Cathy Wegner and Past President Bob Baker.

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