



# THE SEMAPHORE



**May 2016**

**Newsletter  
of the  
Minnesota  
Transportation  
Museum**

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### Summer Hours at JSR Begin June 3

The Roundhouse will be open 10-4 Wednesday, Friday and Saturday, and noon to 4 on Sunday this summer. Rides will be on Saturday as usual. This is a good time for new volunteers to get acquainted with the Museum. If you're interested in history, like to talk to people and would like to volunteer, please call Ray Carr at home at (651) 733-5299 or by e-mail at: raycarr1946@gmail.com.

## Train Days a Success

April 30th and May 1st was our second Train Day(s) with our Director of Programming and Development, Danielle on board. Last year's Train Day (singular) brought in record numbers and new community partners. This year was even bigger, with a 2-day celebration and 1,525 in attendance (950 on Saturday and 575 on Sunday). We had volunteers at Jackson Street, Union Depot, and at our opening weekend in Osceola, and we managed to pull it all off! Twin Cities Kids Club was our partner for Train Days at Jackson Street and helped greet customers as they arrived. Choo Choo Bob's is now an official kid's area sponsor. To celebrate we had Engineer Paul perform on Sunday and host a toddler "ribbon cutting" for the corner with the Choo Choo Bob's focus. This was a hit with families with small kids. On Saturday Peace Coffee and Lunds Byerly's sponsored a Jazz Coffee morning with a New Orleans style Jazz Quartet and local swing dancers on site to perform. With such large numbers the cabooses rides and shuttle buses were running at full capacity for a large portion of the



day. The Twin City Model Railroad Museum were on site with two layouts, one was an interactive Thomas display. We worked with them to promote their new space, while having them at the event was great for reaching greater audiences. We had food trucks on site serving burgers and crepes and as usual the blacksmiths came up with a great giveaway. While the Union Depot's Train Days event was more focused on equipment and railroading, we focused our event on families and entertainment with the aim of expanding our reach and visibility further. As usual, the simulator at Union Depot was a hit, with reports of huge numbers all week-end.

On the evening of the 30th, two large Twin Cities non-profits, Eat for Equity and Cycles for Change, hosted a dinner at the museum bringing in another 150 people.

*(Continued on page 2)*

## National Train Days JSR Attendance: Saturday we had 875 visitors, Sunday 578.

### *Train Days a Success continued*

The theme for that evening tied into train days, emphasizing the importance of the railroads in building communities in the past, and the work these two non-profits are currently doing to help strengthen our community. Thank you for the Board Chairman, George Bergh for representing MTM at this event and helping out with set up and tear down.

Huge thanks to all of the volunteers and staff who helped pull this huge weekend off. We had people helping with set up, running the simulator, interacting with guests at the Union Depot, directing parking at Jackson Street, driving the buses, making coffee (constantly), working the tills, giving tours, operating the train rides, helping with clean up, printing material, and much more. 🍷

- Erik Johnson

## Summer Programs

Our Director of Programming and Development, Danielle Enblom, is working on new programming for the summer. Vintage Bus Brewery Tours were a huge success last year, and we'll be scheduling them all ahead of time this year and listing them on the website by the end of the month. We're currently scheduling kids performers and food trucks for select Saturdays, and have an exciting event being planned with Twin Cities Kids Club.

Information will be released soon.



Displays set up at the roundhouse.



SDP-40 325 on display at St. Paul Union Depot.



Our booth in the concourse at St. Paul Union Depot.

## New Volunteer Coordinator

Long-time MTMer Ray Carr has offered to work with new volunteers. If you, or anyone you know, is interested in doing something at either the Roundhouse or on the train at Osceola, please contact him at home at (651) 733-5299 or by e-mail at raycarr1946@gmail.com.

Summer projects at the Roundhouse include finishing the installation of two storage sidings in the back yard, continued work on the lounge car GN 1084, and body work on the F-unit GN 454A. Work is also in progress on reinstalling track 13 in Bay B to eventually house the steam program. There are also exhibit and displays in development for JSR.

Docents are always needed at the Museum and car hosts on the train. The Tots 'n Trains program on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays at JSR has proved to be very popular. The 'course material' is in place for the rest of the summer but helpers are needed for crafts. We are also looking for other interested Moms to help plan the rest of this year and next year.

If any of these or other projects sound interesting to you, please contact Ray at home at (651) 733-5299 or by e-mail at raycarr1946@gmail.com.

Aug. 25-Labor Day, Sept. 5, 2016

**MINNESOTA STATE FAIR**



### MTM at MSF Again This Year!

MTM is partnering with Operation Lifesaver again this year at the Minnesota State Fair. The simulator will be there but we'll have a larger booth this year. Specific information will be developed as the Fair gets closer but between MTM and OLI the booth will need coverage for 36 shifts of 4 or 6 hours each. The Education Building is open 9am - 9pm.

If there is enough interest in becoming an Operation Lifesaver representative, classes can be arranged. Gate tickets will be provided. Plan your trip to the Fair around a shift in the booth and get in free!

### Mother's Day in Osceola

We had a slam bang day in Osceola. The weather was perfect, the passengers happy and crew and car attendents feeling great. Engineer Noel Petit was doing a second consecutive day, as were brakeman Nancy and Scott Stearns and many of our car attendents. All of our trains went out on time. Both of our brunches were sell outs and the dinner was well attended. Hats off to Andrew Tighe who was able to rearrange seating so people who had the wrong day or other mixups were not left standing on the platform. Every Mother was given a rose as she stepped off the train. All in all a great day in Osceola. Everyone left with a smile.

## Coming Events



**Board meetings** are on the third Thursday of every other month.

June 16, 2016

August 18, 2016

October 20, 2016



### Equipment wish list

Got one of these collecting dust?

We have identified some items that are in need at MTM.

- wood chipper
- disk/belt sander
- drum sander
- weed mower

Our official donation contact is:  
 Larry Coulter  
 952-261-7812

### May

- 5/3 1100 OSCV Dining Charter
- 5/4 1030 Tots 'n Trains
- 5/8 ----- Mothers Day
- 5/11 1100 OSCV Lunch Charter
- 5/12 1900 TCD/NMRA
- 1100 OSCV Dining Charter
- 5/14 1200 C&NW Convention 140 box lunches
- 5/17 1100 OSCV Ride Charter
- 5/18 1030 Tots 'n Trains
- 1100 OSCV Lunch Charter
- 5/19 1000 Thurs (tent.) Church group 40s
- 1100 OSCV Brunch Charter
- 5/25 1100 OSCV Lunch Charter
- 1600 JSR Photo Shoot
- 5/26 1000 JSR Trinity Academy-Hudson
- 5/28 1030 James b'day 80yo

### June

- 6/1 1030 Tots 'n Trains
- 1630 OSCV (tent) Cory Rauben dinner
- 6/8 1030 HAP group
- 6/11 1030 Ernest b'day
- 1100 OSCV Dining Charter
- 6/15 1030 Tots 'n Trains
- 1045 JSR Photo Shoot
- 6/17 1830 MTM B of D Meeting
- 6/19 ----- Fathers Day
- 6/21 1100 OSCV Dining Charter
- 6/22 1000 JSR Mpls YMCA
- 1300 ISD622 Mplwd Oakdl, NSP
- 6/23 1000 ISD622 MONSP
- 1300 ISD622 MONSP
- 6/24 1000 ISD622 MONSP
- 6/27 0930 JSR Bernies Montessori
- 6/30 0930 JSR North Trail Elem. School
- 1100 OSCV Dining Charter

### July

- 7/23 1030 Matthew b'day



**Minnesota Transportation  
Museum Corporate Office**

193 Pennsylvania Ave E  
St. Paul, MN 55130-4319  
651-228-0263  
contact@trainride.org

**Osceola & St. Croix Valley  
Railway**

PO Box 176  
114 Depot Road  
Osceola, WI 54020  
715-755-3570  
joanna@trainride.org

**Jackson Street  
Roundhouse**

193 Pennsylvania Ave E  
St. Paul, MN 55130-4319  
651-228-0263  
contact@trainride.org

**Classic Buses**

193 Pennsylvania Ave E  
St. Paul, MN 55130-4319  
651-228-0263  
contact@trainride.org

**Minnehaha Depot**

Minnehaha Depot c/o MTM  
193 Pennsylvania Ave E  
St. Paul, MN 55130-4319  
651-228-0263  
contact@trainride.org

**Executive Director**

Erik Johnson  
erikj@trainride.org

**Newsletter Editor**

Warren Plaisance  
651-308-0456  
warrenplais@gmail.com

## Chicago & Northwestern Historical Society visit



On Saturday, May 14th, 127 attendees of the C&NW Historical Society convention, visited Jackson Street Roundhouse. As part of their tour for the day, the group enjoyed their box lunches in the proper surroundings.

## New Member System

The new online system has finally launched. With this system, we will be able to provide our members with streamlined and improved communication and registration, online access to keep track of member perks, an e-version of member cards and coach passes, and more. It was our hope to launch it earlier this year, however it took longer than expected. We thank you all for your patience and apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused. Check your inboxes for the link to sign in and get started! For members who do not use email or prefer a card to be sent to them, we will also be sending a mailing out this week. In the future we will ask members to select getting their card online (and helping MTM to be more environmentally responsible and save on admin costs), or receiving their card and welcome letter.

## Minutes – April 21 2016

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*Minnesota Transportation Museum Board of Directors*

### **0. ATTENDANCE**

#### **Present**

- Bergh
- Corchran
- Falkofske
- Hagan
- Heath
- Hopp
- Mason
- Petit
- Pew
- Radimecky
- Rafferty
- Sears
- Tighe
- Van Niewaal
- Wellman

#### **Excused**

- Nelson

#### **Members**

- Marilyn Thomas
- Dennis Coongton
- Thomas Needle
- Scott Heiderich
- Joann Falkofske

### **I. CALL TO ORDER**

Called to order at 1833.

### **II. APPROVE MEETING AGENDA**

Van Niewaal/Rafferty/All

***MISSION:** MTM is a non-profit organization that collects, preserves, interprets and operates historic railroad and transportation equipment and artifacts in order to tell the story of transportation history through unique attractions and engaging experiences.*

### III. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

1. February 21, 2016 – Regular meeting (Done by email).
2. March 17, 2016 – Annual meeting (Not prepared yet).

### IV. TREASURER'S REPORT

Sent by email.

As of April 15, \$6k behind budget YTD. Majority due to reduced donations & grants. Net down \$30k YTD. Cash flow negative due to time of year and poor performance of stock market. Borrowing to pay – to be replenished as year goes on.

Hopp: At end of March, Jax St was profitable YTD. How does that compare to previous years? Van Niewaal: Similar.

Bergh: Size of line of credit? Van Niewaal: Lots of headroom but NOT wanting to borrow more. GNRHS and SMI payments not in yet. Osceola: Lower insurance offset by higher depot rent.

Auditors should almost be done with 2014.

Approve: Rafferty/Wellman/All.

### V. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Sent via email.

Jax St attendance up significantly year over year 2014 to 2015 to 2016. (YTD). Special events boosted March 2016.

Train Days will be two days. Amtrak no longer hosting nationally, (last year was last year), Union Depot and MTM requested, and Amtrak is doing more this year than last. Steve Glischinski is coordinating, Robert Ball is coordinating security for Union Depot. Amtrak is bringing in their full exhibit train. MTM is bringing 325, 1102 and simulator. Projected to be a huge weekend. TCMRM will have a temporary exhibit in Jax St since they are between locations. Choo Choo Bob will be in Jax St also. MTM providing train rides 10-4 Sat and Sun and also historic bus shuttles between Union Depot and Jax St. We have some vendors in sponsoring. (Providing services). This is the same weekend as our opening at Osceola.

Twin Ports restoration crew is our members plus TCU Job Corps – the kids beg to come back. The national Job Corps office is coming June 1<sup>st</sup> to make a promotional video.

Cleaning up around Jax St: Risk management advisor of new insurance company came to visit. Suggested more clean up. Especially Bay B and the back yard.

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More and more requests for wedding parties and anniversary receptions. We found our way onto a “unique wedding sites” list on the web. Getting 2+ requests per week. Some corporate inquiries as well. Should help Jax St’s revenue stream.

Goal is to end year without a financial loss.

Al Hogan, blacksmiths, and volunteers have been working together on Osceola equipment. Unity is nice to see.

Promoting Jax St as a “destination stop” in the visitor’s centers. Busses have helped tremendously – unfortunately we lost two drivers. Met with director of American Swedish Institute. They would like to publicize availability for co-events at Minnesota Association of Museums – ASI’s head of exhibits is an MAM board member. (There is a special category of grants for partnerships between museums. There is also a special grant category for *rolling* museums.) Richfield Bus Lines has been a real asset for this. Wellman and Tighe: Work contacts at Metro Transit to see if they can interest drivers. Would present some minor details to work out. Rafferty: If we are becoming so popular, are we charging enough? Tighe: Yes. Johnson: May be potential for growth, but limited volunteer resources are limiting growth. Working on game plan for Busses for 2017.

Approve: Wellman/Van Niewaal/All.

## **VI. OTHER REPORTS – no action required**

### **Review Board of Directors Responsibilities (Bergh)**

Minnesota Council of Nonprofits has useful information. You can create an individual account – Minnesota Transportation Museum is a member organization.  
<http://www.minnesotanonprofits.org/>

Wellman: Are Board packets in progress?

### **StEPs, Grant Status with MHS (Bergh)**

On track to finish in June and file reports in July – is a pre-requisite for Minnesota Historical Society grants.

May 10<sup>th</sup> – Jax St 1830 hours

June 7<sup>th</sup> – Jax St 1830 hours

### **Jax St Historic Designation (Bergh)**

Andrea Pizza from Deco-Cultural has been making progress. On track. GNRHS archivists have been very helpful providing resources. We are in the St Paul Historic Properties district, but at the time (20+ years ago) the building was “too much modified” to be registered. Getting registered will open doors to large grants, such as for the roof.  
<http://www.decocultural.com/>

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*Correction: Don Mason requested that George ask Andrea Pizza to present at the next Board meeting.*

## **VII. NEW BUSINESS – board action required later**

### **Committees Needed (Bergh)**

#### **Finance**

Required by bylaws. George appoints Noel Petit to the committee. Van Niewaal envisions a monthly commitment – additional MTM members welcome. Radimecky volunteered.

#### **Development**

Focus on raising money and outreach. Bergh is looking for volunteers. Johnson: Envisions this group putting on gala events to attract corporate sponsors.

Sears: Can a charter (purpose statement) be written?

#### **Bylaws Review & Update for Clarification**

Annual meeting showed that some pieces of our by-laws would benefit from clarification. Bergh recruits Rafferty and Hagan and Hoppe.

Rafferty: MTM by-laws originally written in mid-1960's, have been updated but could benefit from more. (Gave examples). Is willing to chair this effort.

Hopp: Example: By-laws only address individuals as museum members. We have corporate and civic members (Guild of Metalsmiths, Village of Osceola) – which are not addressed. Are they allowed to vote? Johnson: Minnesota Transportation Alliance is also interested in a membership. Hopp: Also, is a lifetime membership a family membership?

#### **Osceola Leases (Van Niewaal)**

Lease for the depot with the Osceola Historical Society is renewed annually. Each of the last few years, it has increased in price. (Significantly for 2016). CN lease on Dresser Sub is up at end of December 2016. Wants to have both signed before we set our 2017 operating schedule.

Rafferty: Board authorization required for Johnson to negotiate? Van Niewaal: Yes for multi-year.

Johnson: OHS is also interested in getting the lease signed earlier in the year. They seek more money to fund property repairs. In 2016 the lease is a fixed amount per month. (More arm's-length). In 2016, we are leasing it for seven months: April-October. Previously, it was an amount per passenger. They are willing to discuss a multi-year contract.

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Sears: Did research with a realtor who specializes in the St Croix Valley area: Most commercial properties that size in that area would lease for less. How do City Council and Chamber of Commerce feel about us? Joanna Falkofske: They love us.

(Much discussion)

Mason: Johnson please bring proposal to next Board meeting.

#### **Pet Policy (Van Niewaal)**

Suggests a policy of no pets on the property, except for service animals. (Reflecting concerns raised by customers.)

#### **Collection/Personnel Policies (Van Niewaal)**

Personnel policy did not get distributed in time – to be sent out shortly.

Collection policy – additional comments came up at StEPs meeting last Tuesday.

### **VIII. OLD BUSINESS – board action required**

None.

### **IX. OPEN DISCUSSION – discussion among board and members**

Petit: We are an attraction, not a museum. Museums require subsidy. (Much discussion). Johnson: Science Museum and Children’s Museum are attractions, not museums. Corchrn: Science Museum and Children’s Museum do not emphasize preservation.

Bergh: Next meeting: Would like to talk more about Board giving.

### **X. ADJOURNMENT TO EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Motion to adjourn: Van Niewaal/Rafferty/All  
Adjourned at 2015.

### **XI. UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS**

Board meetings are on the third Thursday of every other month.

June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2016  
August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016  
October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2016

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