



# 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)



35 members and guest enjoyed a beautiful July evening riding on the South Shore Cars at the East Trolley Museum. The weather could not have been better. Those in attendance also enjoyed pizza at Roma's Ristorante before the ride. Many also enjoyed an ice cream sundae at Lauber's Ice Cream Parlor after the ride. The photo was taken by an employee of Laubers Ice Cream. Thank You

NOTE - September Meeting Date Friday Sept 8th

*In This Issue*

- Chapter Outing at East Troy Trolley Museum
- From the President
- Uncover Relics from the Past

## Upcoming Events September 2017

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

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

Saturday September 16, 2017

Chase Bank - Cudahy 7:30pm

SE Corner Packard and Layton Use East Lot

North Shore Home Movies - Tom Poliak

### WISE Division NMRA

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

Monthly Meeting

Sunday September 17 2017 12 Noon to 4pm

Clarion Hotel - NEW LOCATION

5311 S Howell Ave

Clinics, Swap Meet and Layout Tours

### NRHS National Convention

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

Dates to be Announced

Cumberland, MD

### Milwaukee Road Historical Association

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

National Convention

Watch to webpage for Convention Information

### C&NW Historical Society

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

Watch for upcoming events

### Soo Line Historical and Technical Society

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

National Convention

September 7-10, 2017

Minot, ND

### 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)



## Favorite Slide/Photo Night - Show Off some of your Best or What you shot this summer

It is time for the annual Favorite Slide/Digital Photo Night. NOTE THE DATE CHANGE - Due to Labor Day the meeting is being held on Friday September 8th at 7:30pm.

A digital projector and slide projector will be provided. If you showing digital best to bring your own laptop. PLEASE limit your presentations to 10 minutes or less. This should allow everyone that wishes to show photos a chance to do that within our time limits. Show off your best shots. Or let's see what you did over the summer. Maybe dust off some slides from the collection and lets see some classic stuff. This is YOUR night to shine.

The meeting will begin at 7:30pm with announcements and any rail news from the area. After the brief announcements the presentations will begin. The meeting is in the basement of the North Shore Congregational Church at 7330 N Santa Monica Dr. The basement is handicap accessible with an elevator. Please arrive on time as the doors must be locked by 8pm. Bring a friend or enemy



## Wisconsin Chapter Meeting Schedule

Friday September 8, 2017 - Favorite Slide/Digital Photo Night

NOTE DATE CHANGE FOR SEPTEMBER !!!

Friday October 6, 2017 - 20 Years Ago - Tom Hoffmann

### 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 email [engine1385@aol.com](mailto:engine1385@aol.com)

## June 2017 Meeting Summary

President Dave Nelson welcomed the 28 people in attendance at 7:32 pm. There were one first-time attendee, Arthur Zimmer a friend of the Wrinn's.

The East Troy Railroad outing has been moved to Saturday, July 29. Coordinator Bob Baker is not in attendance tonight. Interested members and guests should sign up with Keith Schmidt. Payment will be collected at the event. We will start with pizza at Roma's Restaurant in East Troy. We will reserve a larger car, with more space, than the Sheboygan car that we had in 2015. We will finish the event with ice cream at Lauber's in East Troy.

Events chair Ralph McClure announced that Jeff Marker is taking reservations for Franklin Park Railroad Days on Saturday, June 10, and the other Metra trips and auto trips listed in the May 2017 issue of Sparks & Cinders. We will probably be doing a Chapter trip to the Illinois Railroad Museum in late September or early October. No date has been set.

Street car track is being installed in downtown Milwaukee. The contractor accidentally cut an AT&T trunk line, causing a several-day outage of telephone service to several large office buildings.

Dave Nelson, and Neal and Cathy Wegner, attended the Chicago and North Western Historical Society Convention in Rockford, Illinois. They took a bus tour of many former C&NW sites in the Rockford area. The C&NW HS recently broke ground for a

*continued from Page 2*

C&NW Archives Building on the grounds of the Illinois Railroad Museum in Union, Illinois. The C&NWS is looking for donations to complete construction of this building.

Art's Cameras is having a sale this weekend—June 3-4.

Trains magazine is sponsoring a tour of Metra's (former Rock Island) Rocket House Shops at 47th Street in Chicago, Illinois, in conjunction with the Nickel Plate #765 trips to Joliet on the weekend of June 17-18. Editor Jim Wrinn, who is in attendance, has a limited number of passes available. Interested parties should see him, but only if they can actually use the pass.

Cate Kratville-Wrinn started her presentation at 7:44 pm. Her late father Bill Kratville had been the Union Pacific Railroad photographer for many decades, and taken many now-rare photographs of UP and other (mostly western and Midwestern) railroads. Many of those that she shared with us went back to steam days. Her presentation ended at 8:49 pm.

Dave Nelson reminded everyone that the next meeting will be Favorite Slide Night on Friday, September 8.

Respectfully Submitted  
Thomas W. Marcussen  
Wisconsin Chapter Secretary

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## ***FROM THE PRESIDENT***

Our dinner and ride at the East Troy Trolley Museum on July 29 could not have had better weather, and 35 members and guests all seemed to have a great time on a glorious summer evening. (So did the local mosquitoes during the photo run-bys.) Many thanks to Keith Schmidt for organizing the entire evening in East Troy -- the pizza buffet at Roma's, the ride on the Museum's South Shore cars 30 and 22, and the ice cream treat at Lauber's afterwards. Also, many thanks to Bob Baker for acting as registrar for this event. We had a great crew from the Museum -- Chuck and Evan Richards, and Liz Barnes -- and it seemed to me everyone was having a wonderful time.

Don't forget that our September meet is NOT the first Friday of the month (which would be the start of the Labor Day weekend) but instead Friday September 8. This is the traditional member's favorite slide/digital image night. Please do try to keep your presentations to 10 or 12 minutes or so. Unlike a few years ago, we have been getting very good participation at this event, so by everyone keeping to the limit we can let everybody show their stuff. There have been some interesting railfanning opportunities this summer, including steam locomotives, so I look forward to show. Please -- whether it is old stuff or new, slides or digital, bring images to the September meeting so everyone can enjoy them.

Speaking of railfanning -- I myself had a number of interesting railfan outings this summer, some local, some a bit of a drive away, some with local friends and some with an out of town guest. It was good to get the camera out again, and I saw some interesting trains. But I did notice one thing that warrants your attention. There are many "invasive" plants that naturalists are concerned about, including the phragmites that look a bit like huge cat-tails but which are very aggressive and are actually eliminating cat-tails and other native species of plants and the animals and insects that depend on them. But more to the point, this summer for the first time I saw an incredible amount of wild parsnip along the roads and railroad tracks of Wisconsin and Illinois. Wild parsnip looks like a yellow Queen

Anne's Lace -- quite pretty -- but woe to the person who brushes against it. Doing that causes a painful burning, a rash that blisters, and even skin discoloration, rather like a true burn or contact with poison ivy or sumac. I had heard about wild parsnip for years but only this summer did I see it in thick quantities during my rural railfanning. If you are prone to going out and about to railfan in rural areas I suggest you familiarize yourself with what wild parsnip looks like.

*Dave*

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## **Update on NRHS Membership Renewal**

The NRHS News for June brought word that the flawed "Amilia" membership and renewal software -- that Canadian firm was chosen in some haste when the NRHS broke its ties with the Fernley & Fernley firm a few years ago -- is itself being terminated, due to the difficulties so many of us experienced using it to renew our memberships (as Hugh Harris, the Membership Administrator, wrote, ironically Amilia proved to be "too inexpensive"). Some of you even had to struggle with Amilia's insistence in conducting renewals in French. (O Canada!) The new system is from NeonCRM of Chicago (no French spoken there) and the article says it will be rolled out in October when the 2018 renewal process will begin. Do not attempt to renew early on your own initiative - wait to hear from the NRHS on this. The NRHS strongly urges you to use the on-line system due to its cost and manpower savings, but paper check renewals will be accepted. *by Dave Nelson*

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## **Milwaukee Road #261 to pull Fall Rare Mileage Trips**

This fall the Friends of the 261, in cooperation with the Twin Cities & Western Railroad and its subsidiary Minnesota Prairie Line, will operate steam excursion trains featuring Milwaukee Road steam locomotive 261. These trips will originate out of Minneapolis Jct. More information about the trip and to purchase tickets please check out [www.261.com](http://www.261.com).

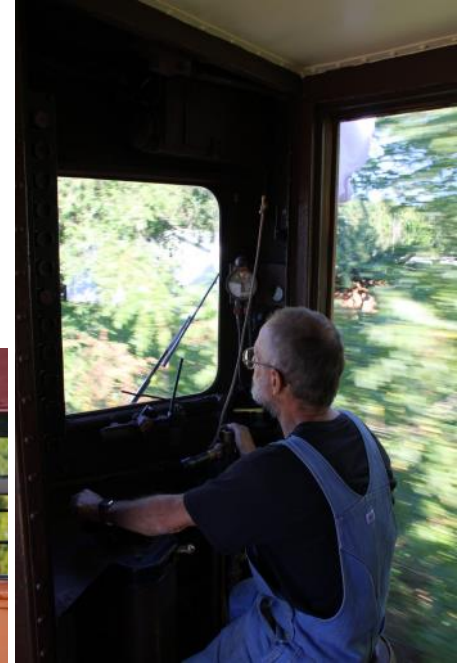
**Saturday September 30th** - Train will depart from Minneapolis Junction at 9:00am westbound on the Twin Cities and Western. At Young America, MN the train will turn south on the former Minneapolis and St Louis RR tracks to Winthrop or Gibbon for some very rare mileage running.

**Sunday October 1st** - Train will depart from Minneapolis Junction at 9:00am heading west on the Twin Cities and Western to Glencoe, MN. Returning to Minneapolis Junction at 5pm. There is no way to turn the train a diesel will pull the train back to Minneapolis. This line was the former route of the Milwaukee Road Olympian Hiawatha. There is no place to turn the train so a diesel will pull the train back to Minneapolis.

Photo Run-bys are said to be a part of both Saturday and Sunday trips. For more information [www.261.com](http://www.261.com)



East Troy Outing July 29 2017



## Doors Open Milwaukee 2017 for the Rail Enthusiast

by David Nelson

One of the neater traditions that has taken hold in Milwaukee is the annual "Doors Open," which offers the opportunity to tour interesting buildings throughout our area which are otherwise closed to visitors. The 2017 Doors Open will be held September 23-24 and more details are available at [doorsopenmilwaukee.org](http://doorsopenmilwaukee.org). There is usually a supplement to the newspaper with a full schedule as well. Note that some buildings are only available to scheduled tours, some of which are free but ticketed, while others are self guided and free (but even then are not open for all hours of the two days, churches being just one obvious example). Some buildings say interior photography is not permitted (yet some people report photography was freely allowed in spite of that).

There are buildings with direct and obvious railroad ties. The Colby Abbot Building was built in 1885 to be the home office of the (original) Wisconsin Central Railroad. Lakefront Brewery on Commerce St. was a 1908 TMER&L power house. The WE Energies Public Service Building was a streetcar/interurban hub and features trolley car terra cotta models above the doors. The old Railway Exchange Building downtown is usually open and Bob Gallegos reports there are some railroad related things to see inside. The Grain Exchange Room is a jaw-dropper and has some rail-related art to see. The Cudahy C&NW Depot has interesting displays and old photos to see. Those are just a few.

Other buildings are or were rail-served industries, often repurposed in imaginative and interesting ways. For example, the two old Milwaukee Gas Light Company buildings in the river valley are along the CP main. One is now City Lights Brewery. The other is Zimmerman Architectural Studios which last year offered a free booklet with wonderful old photos.

Still other buildings are worth visiting for their rail photography and rail proximity opportunities. Again, Bob Gallegos reports that the US Bank Building has some great views from the deck using a long lens. In past years the Jones Island sewerage treatment plant has been open. The Pritzlaff Building is along the CP and is in the background of many famous photos of the old Milwaukee Road depot. The Anderson Municipal Building/Lake Tower offers some views of the CP on the South Side.

And lastly there are buildings which are just likely to be interesting to the sorts of persons who like trains, such as various downtown lift and bascule bridges, the Milwaukee Fire Museum, the Mitchell Gallery of Flight archives, Milwaukee County Transit fleet maintenance building, and the list goes on. Of course there are also dozens upon dozens of buildings with no railroad relationship whatever which are nonetheless fascinating to see from the inside. I encourage all Chapter members to take advantage of this rare two-day opportunity.

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### Kettle Moraine Ballast Scorchers Model RR Club 15th Annual Model Train Show and Swap Meet

**Sunday October 8, 2017 9am to 3pm**

Washington County Fairgrounds

Highway 45 and Highway PV

Model Train Layouts and Model Trains for Sale

\$3.00 Donation at the Door

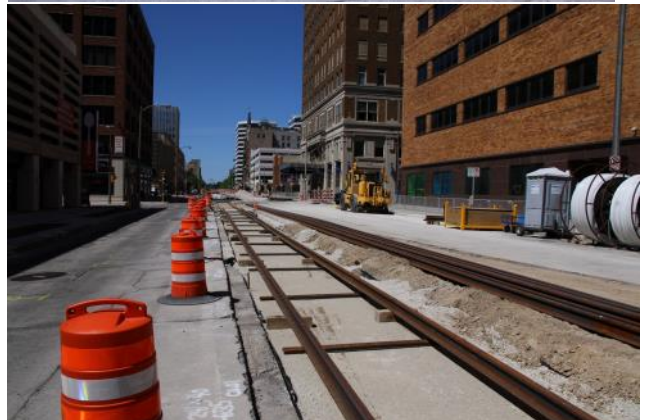
Kids 12 and Under Free

Service Personnel free with ID.

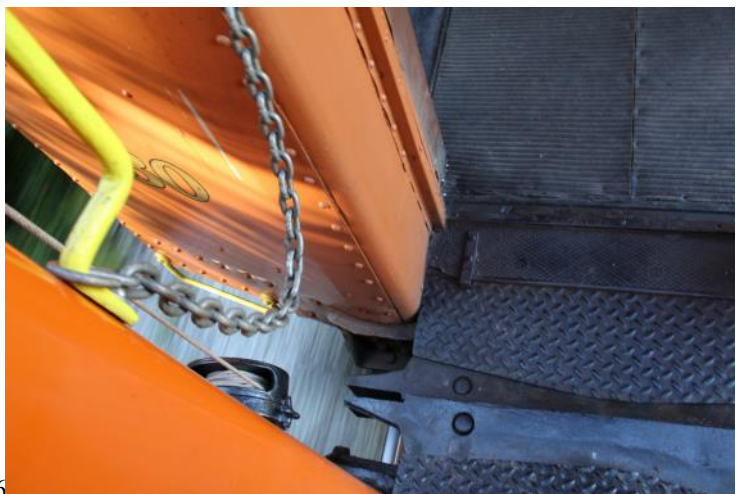
For more info check out [www.kmbsrrclub.org](http://www.kmbsrrclub.org)

## Milwaukee Streetcar Track Installation uncovers some Relics of the past.

While digging up Milwaukee Street to install new tracks for the Milwaukee Street Car the original tracks of the street car system were unearthed. Also uncovered appeared to be some of the original brick pavers that were used for the streets. The photos below were taken in June 2017 of Milwaukee St



Flying the White Flags and Sporting Lanterns the South Shore Cars were the high-light of the East Troy Outing. Photos by Mike Yuhas and Keith Schmidt



# From the Archives

## September 1957 — 60 Years Ago

Steam power still operates regularly in Wisconsin. Four saddle tankers work six days a week at the Dresser Trap Rock quarry one mile north of Dresser Junction....Laird Ross visited the Soo roundhouse in Gladstone, Michigan in July and reported three Mikes were ready to run. Soo plans to use them between Rhinelander and Sault Ste. Marie during the grain rush....Soo Line No. 2719 powered a Minnesota railfan trip to Rice Lake in August.

## September 1962 — 55 Years Ago

Carl Solheim, editor of S&C, apologized for the abbreviated issue as he was on military duty at Camp McCoy from June 17 to August 25....It was noted that the first RPO car operated on July 28, 1862 on the Hannibal & St. Joseph Railroad....L&N, owners of the Civil War locomotive The General, offer a set of six 35mm slides of the loco plus a collapsible viewer for \$1.35....Mid-Continent Railway Museum completed its first season of operation at Hillsboro.

## September 1967 — 50 Years Ago

The Burlington is operating the combined Empire Builder/North Coast Limited via the Milwaukee Road between La Crosse and Chicago due to a freight derailment which reportedly knocked out a bridge. The detour is expected to continue at least until September 2....Forty-six RPO mail handler jobs on the Milwaukee Road were eliminated on September 1. Much of the RPO business in the west is being shifted to other modes of transportation....HUD's Urban Transportation Task Force visited Milwaukee July 7 to discuss Milwaukee's future rapid transit plans. The feds were not impressed with the busway plan for 1990.

## September 1972 - 45 Years Ago

Worthington L. Smith has taken over as president of the Milwaukee Road, succeeding Curtis E. Crippen, who is retiring. Smith comes from the Great Northern/Burlington Northern....Amtrak will begin service from Montreal to Washington, DC via Springfield, Massachusetts and New York on September 29....The shops of the Cass Scenic Railroad were destroyed by fire on July 23. A Climax was destroyed and a Shay was badly damaged....Amtrak plans to close Cincinnati Union Terminal and replace it with a new station measuring 32 x 40 feet. The new station is 1/28th the size of the CUT waiting room and is actually smaller than the foyer of the men's room at CUT!

## September 1977 - 40 Years Ago

On August 13 the last two Milwaukee Road box cab electrics still on the active roster, Nos. E50A&B, arrived in Milwaukee for repainting and donation to the Lake Superior Transportation Museum in Duluth....Milwaukee County Executive Bill O'Donnell has proposed an extensive light rail system running on the old C&NW corridor along the lake front and also running parallel to the east-west freeway

## September 1982 - 35 Years Ago

Mid-Continent's ex-C&NW No. 1385 will be making a trip to Boone, Iowa for "Pufferbilly Days." It will spend the winter in Green Bay for necessary flue and superheater work....The Milwaukee Road has closed the stations at Brookfield and Oconomowoc and it is rumored that the Duplainville Tower will be automated....The Milwaukee Road has completed purchase of 98 miles of former Rock Island trackage in eastern Iowa for \$17 million....The Milwaukee Road has also reached an agreement with the RTA for transfer of Chicago-area commuter operations....Also, the Milwaukee Road has signed a stock acquisition agreement with the Grand Trunk Corp. An eventual merger of GTW and MILW is foreseen.

## September 1987 - 30 Years Ago

Trading of C&NW stock on the NYSE was suspended after rumors of a pending sale or restructuring of the company caused the price to rise from \$20.12 to \$41.25 within a week....Officials of the Irving Trust Co. toured the Lake States Transportation Division property on August 21. This is related to the pending sale to Wisconsin Central, Ltd., scheduled to be closed on Sept. 15.

## September 1992 - 25 Years Ago

The Wisconsin & Southern will soon be purchasing the WICT from parent company Chicago West Pullman. The purchase is scheduled to be completed August 21. WICT will reportedly remain a separate entity at the corporate level but operations will be consolidated with WSOR....WC hosted Amtrak specials for the EAA convention at Oshkosh on August 1 and 2. The 16-car trains made for excellent photo opportunities in the Oshkosh area on both days....Chicago's elevated transit system turned 100 years old on June 6. To celebrate the centennial, the CTA provided birthday cake to passengers at the Quincy and Wells Street station. Santa Fe announced that steam locomotive No. 3751 will run from Los Angeles to Chicago and return as part of an Employee Recognition Excursion Train.

## September 1997 - 20 Years Ago

Canadian Pacific announced that it would be spending approximately \$12 million on capital projects in the Milwaukee metropolitan area in the next year. It also announced that the Air Line would be severed due to Miller Park construction....The NTSB released a final report on the WC Weyauwega derailment. The report states that the derailment was probably caused when "the switch point rail broke, due to an undetected bolt hole crack that progressed from improper maintenance." The derailment caused evacuation of the area after several tank cars filled with propane caught fire. Approximately 2,300 persons were kept from their homes for 18 days while the propane burned off.

## September 2002 - 15 Years Ago

UP No. 3985 paid a visit to Butler on June 15 and 16....Ex-Soo Line No. 1003 powered the Circus Train on July 8. UP's Global III intermodal facility in Rochelle, Illinois opened on May 29....The St. Louis Steam Train Association announced that ex-Frisco No. 1522 would be retired after trips on September 28 and 29. Upcoming mandated boiler work, high insurance costs, and limited operating opportunities were factors in the retirement announcement....CP began work on replacing the century-old swing bridge over the Black River at La Crosse with a lift bridge....A 107-car CN train bound from Chicago to Winnipeg derailed on July 15 in the Allenton Marsh in Washington County. The train caught fire but hazardous materials were not involved.

## September 2007 - 10 Years Ago

Milwaukee Road single stall enginehouse still standing in Waukesha as part of Dixon Oil complex on St Paul Ave. An original Kodachrome slide of NP FTA #5403A sold for \$1009.99 on Ebay. Hang onto those slides. Brighton Park interlocking has been upgraded. It was still controlled by a switch tender and manual semaphores. New diamonds and interlocking were installed. Brighton Park sees 70-80 per day.

## September 2012 - 5 Years Ago

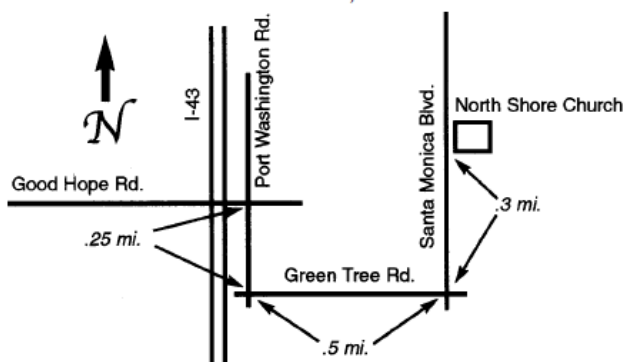
This was the first issue after Bob Joyce retired as editor. Keith Schmidt and others agreed to take over as interim editor. Bob was editor for 23 years. THANK YOU !! Reports on the 2012 NRHS Convention and a successful METRA trip to Indiana were included. Milw #261 passed hydrostatic testing. This will allow for final assembly of #261 on the road to running again in 2013.

Sparks & Cinders  
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**FIRST CLASS**

### Chapter Meeting Location

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



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 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 Yugas, Robert McLeod, Ralph McClure, Andrew Roach, Neil and Cathy Wegner and Past President Bob Baker.

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