

NRHS

WISCONSIN CHAPTER

Volume 73 Number 7

EST **I** 1950

September 2023

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 73 Years

Visit the Chapter Webpage www.nrhwis.org



Mid-Continent's ex-C&NW 1385 gets underway for Winona and points in Iowa in its role as North Western's "good will ambassador." Wyeville, Wisc., June 1985. *Photo by Chris Burger.*

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Wisconsin Chapter Meeting Schedule

Upcoming chapter events

September 8, 2023 Members Favorite Image Night NOTE THE DATE !! Second Friday of September
October 7 2023 Chapter Annual Banquet Pallas Family Restaurant Chris Burger Guest Speaker

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

Doors open by 7:00 pm, so arrive early to socialize. Meetings start at 7:30pm sharp. Please bring a friend!
Our meetings are live-streamed on the Zoom platform. Connection details are shared with chapter members and other interested persons via email the day of the meeting, or before. To ensure you are made aware of this info, we must have a working email address on file - send yours to president@nrhswis.org.

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

The Big Picture is your page!

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

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

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

Wisconsin Chapter officers are: President (currently vacant) Keith Schmidt, Vice-President; Tom Marcussen, Secretary; Tara Grudzielanek, Treasurer. Directors: Dan Grudzielanek, Mike Yuhas, Andrew Roach, Ward Wells and Neal Wegner.

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

All original material published in Sparks & Cinders may be reprinted in other railfan publications provided credit is given to "Sparks & Cinders, Wisconsin Chapter, NRHS." If an author is indicated for the item or article, credit must also be given to the author. The views, opinions, and comments published in Sparks & Cinders are those of the authors and do not reflect the policies of the Wisconsin Chapter or the National Railway Historical Society. Copyright ©2022, Wisconsin Chapter, Inc., NRHS.

Meeting Summary June 2 2023

Keith Schmidt started the meeting at 7:31 pm. We then had 28 devices connected on Zoom, and 15 in physical attendance at our in-person meeting site at the North Shore Congregational Church in Fox Point. Keith was presiding from the church basement. He introduced himself as the Wisconsin Chapter Vice President. We have had no Chapter President since the annual election on February 3. We need a President. Anyone who is interested in running for that office should contact Keith at president@nrhswis.org. He noted that today is National Donut Day. He is a retired law enforcement officer. They used to call donuts "power rings."

Vice President Report

Keith started with a summary of the Chapter Board Meeting on Monday, May 22. We just got a first draft of the minutes today. They are not yet posted on our website.

We successfully closed out our Chase Bank Certificate of Deposit (CD), which was paying very low interest, before it renewed for a not-much-better rate. We transitioned those funds to two new CD's, paying much higher rates, at Landmark Credit Union. We now have an 18-month CD paying 4.6 per cent, and a 24-month CD at 4.3 per cent. We also opened new savings and checking accounts there. The Board decided to close out our current US Bank checking account, and move that money to our Landmark Credit Union checking account. Then will only be dealing with one bank. We have not made any changes to our Heartland mutual funds.

The Board decided to try to make our summer East Troy outing another lunch train—because of the popularity and success of our 2022 lunch train. That is a change in plans for the Friday evening ride shown in the June issue of Sparks & Cinders. We are trying for Saturday, August 12. That is the best option among the few dates that are still open. Approximate cost will be \$70 to \$75 per person, with a 30-person minimum. There will two choices of entrée.

Our annual Chapter Banquet appears to be headed for Saturday, October 7. We are trying for the Pallas Restaurant in West Allis. Neal and Cathy Wegner have been calling them

From the Editor

for a week—with no response. They plan to call the manager if they do not hear anything by Monday, June 5. The banquet will replace our regular Chapter meeting for October. We are still working on obtaining a speaker.

We will send notice, via both e-mail and US Mail, of both the above events when we have final dates and full details. Announcements

Cate Kratville-Wrinn shared the detailed schedule for the upcoming “Shay It Forward” three days of events celebrating the life of Trains editor Jim Wrinn (March 21, 1961—March 30, 2022):

These will begin with a celebration-of-life party at the Polish Heritage Center at 6941 South 68th Street in Franklin, from 5:00 to 9:00 pm on Friday, June 23.

There will be a full-day Trains magazine event at the Illinois Railroad Museum in Union, Illinois on Saturday, June 24, from 10:00 am to approximately midnight. It will include 4 photo shoots, meals on board the restored Nebraska Zephyr (only 32 tickets sold for lunch, and 36 for dinner), and a limited number of opportunities (12) to drive J. Niels Lumber Company Shay #5. This a fund raiser for the restoration and maintenance of that Shay. Tickets are pricey for that reason. The event will be opened to the general public if not all of the available tickets are sold.

The Silver Creek & Stephenson Railroad Museum in Freeport, Illinois will hold a dinner and pop-up night time photo shoot, featuring their small geared Heisler locomotive on Sunday, June 25. Those events start at 5:00 pm.

Further details are available on the Krause Funeral Home website at <https://www.krausefuneralhome.com/obituary/james-g-wrinn/>.
Presentation

Dave Nelson took over at 7:41pm. Dave gave us a short introduction to Rod Robinson, whose photos he will feature. Rod was born in 1949. He worked for over 30 years with the Milwaukee Road, and then the Soo Line (after they took over in 1986). Rod died at age 50, in a tragic motorcycle accident, in 1999. He captured many images of areas and subjects that were not accessible to the public. He was also an avid photographer of other railroads, and a slide seller and trader, acquiring and collecting many other images of 1950s and 1960s Wisconsin railroading. We were treated to many hard-to-get images, lasting until 9:21 pm.

There were 41 devices connected on Zoom at the end of the presentation. We recorded a total of 42 devices connected via Zoom, and 15 in physical attendance in the church basement. Subtracting the two devices in the church basement yields a total attendance of 55.

Closing Announcements

The September 8 meeting will be our traditional Favorite Image Night. October will be our annual banquet. We are looking for other presenters going further into the 2023-2024 meeting schedule. Anyone with interesting material should contact Program Chair Dave Nelson at engine1385@aol.com.
On-Line Discussion

Jeff Wojciechowski took over hosting the Zoom meeting room, allowing us to offer an extended online discussion group / chat room. That closed about 9:45 pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Thomas W. Marcussen

Wisconsin Chapter Secretary

Another summer is coming to an end. I hope that everyone enjoyed their summer and had many great adventures and memories.

My summer was a busy one. In June, I took part in the inaugural “Shay it Forward” event at the Illinois Railroad Museum. This event honored the late Jim Wrinn, Editor of TRAINS magazine. I took part in the Engineer’s Experience, and got some throttle time on Shay #5. I also took part in the night photo session. It featured the Shay, SLSF 1630, CSS&SB 803, and PRR, GG1, 4927. The photo session started out very well, but was abruptly ended by thunderstorms that moved into that area. In July, I checked out Milwaukee’s newest rail customer. Komatsu’s plant on East Greenfield Ave now has a spur track that is served by the Union Pacific. This month I took a trip to Central Indiana and Illinois with fellow chapter members Dan and Tara Grudzielanek. We saw 11 different railroads. Five were Class 1’s and six were shortlines or regional railroads. It was a great trip.

The ending of summer means the beginning of another season of Wisconsin Chapter Meetings. Friday, September 8th, is Members Favorite Slide Night. Saturday October 7th is the Chapter Annual Banquet. This issue has more information about both of these events.

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CPKC #2816 “The Empress” International Excursion Announced

Canadian Pacific 4-6-4 No. 2816 will embark on a celebratory tour of the Canadian Pacific Kansas City system from Calgary to Mexico City.

The Final Spike Steam Tour will depart Calgary on April 14, the one-year anniversary of the merger of CP and Kansas City Southern.

Along the way the 2816 and CPKC business train will be on display in Moose Jaw, Sask.; Minot, N.D.; St. Paul, Minn.; Bensenville, Ill.; Davenport, Iowa; Kansas City, Mo.; Shreveport, La.; Laredo, Texas; and Mexico City.

A full, detailed schedule will be released early next year.

Dubbed the Empress, the 2816 was built by Montreal Locomotive Works in 1930. CP acquired the 2816 in 1998 and returned the locomotive to service in 2001 after an extensive overhaul that included converting it to burn oil. It’s been in storage since 2012.

CPKC had initially planned for the 2816 trip to run this summer, and the locomotive has been running main line tests this month after a successful stationary steam test last month.

Canadian Pacific 4-6-4 No. 2816 will set out from Calgary to Mexico City on April 14, 2024. Photo by Keith Schmidt



Friday September 8 2023 Chapter Meeting Members Favorite Slide Night

Our Fall 2023 season gets underway with our end-of-summer meeting featuring railroad images by YOU! By longstanding tradition, our season of programs will begin with the annual Members Favorite Slide Night (MFSN) on Friday, September 8. We'll be back at our in-person meeting place, the North Shore Congregational Church, 7330 North Santa Monica, Fox Point. For those unable to travel to Fox Point, the meeting will also be streamed, via the Zoom platform.

We are actively soliciting presenters! The subject matter is up to you - what you did on your summer vacation, a few shots of a unique or out-of-the-way railroad operation, steam action from back in the day, railroads in transition in the 1980s, recent pics of trains or photos from deep in your vault. This is your chance to shine!

Because we don't have the technology to transmit slides (legacy media) to our online audience, this program will be digital-only. To sign up to show your favorites, just reply to this message and let us know whether you anticipate you'll be in-person or remote. Additional meeting details, with instructions on how to connect, will be sent via this email channel before the meeting.

Guidelines for presenters

Ideally, local members who expect to attend in-person should submit their images beforehand - contact membership@nrhswis.org to discuss. Alternately, in-person presenters may bring digital images on a USB flash drive.

You may use presentation software (such as PowerPoint or Keynote) or show loose pictures.

If using presentation software, avoid transitions such as dissolves, etc. (there are no issues for the in-person audience, but they don't work well when streamed due to limited Zoom bandwidth).

Digital only. If you have some old gems ("legacy media") and need assistance digitizing them, contact membership@nrhswis.org.

You may narrate in real-time or provide a soundtrack.

The images you show should be predominately railroad-related, any era.

Please limit your presentation to approximately five minutes.

Model Train Show and Swap Meet Kettle Moraine Ballast Scorchers

When - Sunday October 8 2023 9am to 3pm

Where - Washington County Fairgrounds Hwy 45 and Hwy PV

Cost - \$4.00 Donation Children under 12, First Responders, and

Service Members are FREE.

The show has been expanded and will feature more sellers and model train layouts.

See operating model train layouts in N and HO Scale and several other scales.

Buy model trains to expand your collection or to get started in the hobby.

For more information <http://www.kmbsrrclub.org/index.html>

Chapter Annual Banquet Saturday October 7 2023

Wisconsin Chapter NRHS banquet returns in 2023. This is our annual gathering for the purpose of fellowship, good food, and a dynamic speaker. It all takes place on Saturday, October 7, in West Allis, Wisconsin at 6pm.

Our keynote speaker is Chris Burger, who will present "Workin' on the Railroad." Mr. Burger's thirty-nine years of railroading included time on the New Haven, New York Central, a US Army Railway Operating Unit, Chicago & North Western, Central Vermont and Indiana's "Central Railroads." Twenty-two of those years were with the North Western, of which thirteen were in Wisconsin (in four different locations), where, in addition to managing the railroad's Wisconsin Division, he was the moving force behind the railroad's "Good Will Ambassador" steam program in the 1980's.

Retired since 1998, Chris credits his North Western time and people for the experience and convictions that later helped him "turn-around" unprofitable operations in his native New England and Indiana. In retirement he has done some railroad related consulting, served on non-profit rail and related boards and leads a Kokomo IN based photo club. In addition, he authored a retrospective on his railroad career and photography series of articles in CLASSIC TRAINS magazine. His railroad photographs have won numerous awards in state and local shows and contests in addition to being published in magazines and books. Mr. Burger sums up his twenty-plus railroad jobs, the people he worked with, his wife Rita, and his life in retirement by quoting an early C&NW slogan "The Best of Everything" - which was also the title of his CLASSIC TRAINS series.

Our banquet will be held at Pallas Restaurant, South 108th Street in West Allis, Wisconsin. The menu: House salad, beef stroganoff and baked chicken, garlic mashed potatoes, veggie blend, ice cream, coffee. Cash bar is available.

This will be a memorable evening! Price is \$60 per person, or \$50 each for Wisconsin Chapter members and their guests, and NRHS members and their guests. Go to <https://wisconsin-chapter-nrhs.square.site> to order your tickets or to the Chapter website www.nrhswis.org to order tickets

Within a day or two of receipt of your order, we will send you a confirmation email. You will not receive printed tickets. Just check in at Pallas and enjoy the meal! Registration deadline is Friday, September 30, 6:00 PM CDT.

If you have any questions, please contact chapter membership chair Mike Yuh as via email at membership@nrhswis.org.



A westbound freight is passing the eastbound "Pacemaker" headed by one of the ex-CUT "P motors," Mt. St. Vincent, New York, Summer 1962. Photo by Chris Burger.

Chapter President Needed !!

As of Friday February 3, 2023 the Wisconsin Chapter NRHS is without a President. This office really needs to be filled. The President runs the chapter meetings on the first Friday of the month. The President also runs several board meetings throughout the year. The President is also the host of the annual banquet. Please consider running for this position. A special election can be held at anytime. There will be help in running the monthly meetings to help eliminate any fears of what is involved with that. Please consider this.

New Customer for the Union Pacific in Milwaukee

The Union Pacific picked up a new rail customer in Milwaukee this summer. Komatsu built a new headquarters and manufacturing plant on E Greenfield Ave on the near south side of Milwaukee. The manufacturing plant sits on the old site of Milwaukee Solvay Coke.

A rail spur was installed this summer to allow for the plant to receive rail cars from the Union Pacific. The line that serves the plant was once the CNW mainline to the Milwaukee lakefront depot and would host trains like the 400. Now the line hosts the Marsh Job which runs 3 days a week to serve several industries on the line. Aerial Photos by Keith Schmidt



Shay it Forward Event Illinois Railroad Museum

On Saturday, June 24 th , the Illinois Railroad Museum hosted the inaugural "Shay it Forward" event. This was organized by the late Jim Wrinn's widow Cate Kratville-Wrinn. It is a fundraiser for the "Shay it Forward" foundation. The goal of this foundation is to give grants to museums, or organizations, for the restoration, or maintenance, of steam locomotives. Primarily geared steam locomotives like the shay.

The day included "Throttle Time" engineer experiences on the IRM Shay #5. I participated in that. It was a great time. There were also lunch and dinner opportunities to dine aboard the Museum's articulated Nebraska Zephyr consist.

Another special event occurred in the afternoon. Cate took the throttle of the J Neils Lumber Company Shay #5 and brought it to The Central Pavilion area of the museum. Cate briefly talked to 50-60 people gathered there in the park. She then placed some of Jim's ashes into the firebox of the #5.

The day ended with a night photo session at the museum. The locomotives featured were Shay, SLSF 1630, CSS&SB 803, and PRR, GG1, 4927. The night session ended a bit early when thunderstorms began moving into the area. It would have been a great shot to see a bolt behind the GG1, but that didn't happen.

Overall, it was a great event with a great purpose. Hopefully it will happen again next year.

Photos and article by Keith Schmidt



Do You Know ?

by Dave Nelson

Out of the ashes of the Milwaukee Road's bankruptcy arose the Wisconsin & Southern Railroad, formed in 1980 by the FSC Corporation when the State of Wisconsin acquired some former Milwaukee Road branch lines and was looking for operators. Through various leases, purchases, and trackage rights agreements the WSOR became an important regional railroad operating a network of rail lines, mostly former Milwaukee Road or C&NW. Its North and South Divisions are physically separated. In 2011 the WSOR was acquired by WATCO, following felony guilty pleas by President and CEO William Gardner over campaign donation law violations.

During Gardner's presidency the WSOR was known for its hospitality to facilities tours, the operation of steam locomotives and passenger excursions (including the use of

locomotives and private cars were displayed at open houses held in Janesville and Madison. The Janesville celebration also honored the 100th birthday of the former Milwaukee Road roundhouse. Soo Line 2-8-2 No. 1003 appeared in both (pulling a "photo freight" in Madison), as



did WSOR E units and private cars. Madison also featured train rides to Waunakee in former C&NW bi-levels painted WSOR (there were unsuccessful efforts at the time to have the WSOR run commuter trains in Madison).



its own E units and passenger cars), and the reputation its Horicon paint shop earned for the beautiful paint jobs on WSOR locomotives, rolling stock and even its trucks. WSOR did contract paint work for other railroads including Class 1 railroad heritage units.

The WSOR celebrated its 25th anniversary in 2005 in high style. WSOR 4025 (a former UP SD40-2) was given a beautiful 25th Anniversary paint job, and it and other WSOR



From the Archives

September 1958 - 65 Years Ago

Fall Foliage Fling – Plans are not absolutely definite as yet, but finishing touches are being applied, for our proposed fan trip Milwaukee to Fox Lake on October 12. We plan to depart Milwaukee on the Milwaukee Road at 10:00 a.m., wind our way to Fox Lake and return at 6:00 p.m. Present plans call for No. 5901 to be the motive power, with orange and maroon 4400-series (original 1935 Hiawatha) coaches. The fare will be approximately \$6.00, including lunch. No. 5901 will be the last of many Milwaukee Road-built locomotives to see service.

September 1963 - 60 Years Ago

The Chapter is planning a trip on September 22 to Green Bay to visit the National Railroad Museum and the GB&W shops. Transportation will be C&NW Valley 400, via Fond du Lac and the Fox River valley to Green Bay and return C&NW Shoreland 400, via Manitowoc. Fare \$8.00....Items of interest in the literary world include the long-awaited "Diesels West" by David P. Morgan. Area fans will welcome it, as it will complement the earlier "Q" steam book, "Steam Locomotives of the Burlington Route," in giving an excellent overview of one road's motive power history. "Apex of the Atlantics" is a new Kalmbach book about the Pennsy family of 4-4-2s. While certain area fans will dispute the "Apex" portion of the title (there were other Atlantics!), this book represents a real labor of love on the part of the author, Frederick Westing – Carl Solheim, editor

September 1968 - 55 Years Ago

Reports from such scattered points as Kansas City, Tacoma, Bensenville, and Milwaukee indicate a sharp increase in the Milwaukee Road security program. Railfans are being unceremoniously turned over to local police even when observing from non-operating property such as parking lots....The C&NW has taken over the CGW and the Fort Dodge and Des Moines Railroad. CGW units were immediately pooled and are frequently in Milwaukee, although never as lead units....Milwaukee Road train nos. 117-118 (Chicago-Madison) now operate only on Friday-Saturday-Sunday and certain holiday periods. Milwaukee Road has stored Nos. 17B, 18A, and 19B, leaving only two E7s in service

September 1973 - 50 Years Ago

An Amtrak F7 and a Milwaukee Road switcher sideswiped west of the depot in Milwaukee recently and the F7 tipped over, according to news reports. The Kettle Moraine Railway has acquired ex-Cadillac & Lake City No. 9, a Baldwin-built 2-8-0.

September 1978—45 Years Ago

Chicago-August 3, 1978. Preliminary negotiations between the Milwaukee Road and the Union Pacific that could lead to the acquisition by the UP of segments of the Milwaukee Road's line between Butte, Montana, and the Pacific North Coast, were announced today by Stanley E. G. Hillman, Milwaukee Road bankruptcy trustee....Chicago-August 21, 1978. Invitations to take new jobs in Milwaukee are being extended to 62 skilled employees presently working in the Milwaukee Road's car and locomotive repair shops in Montana and Washington.

September 1983 - 40 Years Ago

There have been a number of special rail operations during the past summer, including the Monroe 101 Flyer from Monroe to Belleville on the CM&N July 2; N&W No. 611 from Chicago to Fort Wayne; and the Butler 400....Speculation is rampant about a possible takeover of the bankrupt Milwaukee Road by the C&NW

September 1988 - 35 Years Ago

One of the highlights of the summer was the visit of ex-Frisco No. 1522 on the Wisconsin Central between Chicago and North Fond du Lac. The Milwaukee Road depot at Brookfield has recently been painted in a cream color with dark brown trim....Plans call for the startup of Bill Gardner's Scenic Rail Dining dinner train on the Wisconsin & Southern on October 4. A new depot on Brown Deer Road has been constructed for the use of dinner train passengers.

September 1993 - 30 Years Ago

Two competitors bidding to replace the aging Amtrak Metroliner fleet visited Milwaukee during the past summer. The Swedish State Railways X2000 tilt-train was here June 28-30. On August 18, German Railways InterCity Express, or ICE, train visited as part of a nation-wide tour....Restored ex-Milwaukee Road S3 No. 261 is scheduled to operate between Fond du Lac and Stevens Point on September 18 and 19....The single-tracking of the Soo Line (ex-Milwaukee Road) is progressing eastward and has reached Oconomowoc. Generally, the former eastbound track will become the single track.

September 1998 - 25 Years Ago

Ex-CGW No. 1000, a McKeen motor car, left the Kettle Moraine Railway by flat-bed truck for the Nevada State Railroad Museum in Carson City on August 12. It will be used in the restoration of Virginia & Truckee McKeen car No. 22....WSOR has leased the ex-Milwaukee Road Madison- Watertown line from the Soo Line....WSOR has floated plans for a possible commuter train operation in the Madison area....Newspaper reports indicated that WSOR and Amtrak are engaged in discussions regarding a "great circle route" from Chicago to Madison to Milwaukee to Chicago. WC has obtained trackage rights on WSOR from Rugby Jct. to North Milwaukee. Power switches will be installed at the WSOR/WC crossing at Slinger.

September 2003—20 Years Ago

UP's conversion to remote-control operation at Janesville Yard is in full swing. Many of the main line switches have solar panels and the rest of the switches are being set up as remotes. The Milwaukee Road Skytop lounge-observation car Cedar Rapids is on display at the Milwaukee Art Museum as part of an exhibit honoring designer Brooks Stevens. Gas-electric rail motor car Great Northern No. 2313/Montana Western No. 31 at Mid-Continent Railway Museum was designated a Historical Mechanical Engineering Landmark on August 16. The Empire Builder marked its 75th Anniversary on June 11

September 2008 — 15 Years Ago

Devastated by a deluge from the raging Baraboo River, Mid-Continent Railway Museum announced it will cancel its summer trips. It's the first time in the museum's 46 years of operation that it's been forced to do this. Every building on the museum's grounds, excepting the office, is under water. Hardest-hit is the 1894-built Chicago & North Western depot; water stands several inches deep in each of its rooms. The flooding has devastated the museum's equipment as well. Diesel locomotives on the property will likely have to be trucked off-site for cleanup and repair, as the work they need is too extensive for the museum to handle.

September 2013 — 10 Years Ago

In August Amtrak began running its "Veterans Salute" P42 locomotive. The locomotive has a striking paint scheme featuring all of the branches of service. Two CNW depots are currently under restoration. The Morrisonville and DeForest depots are being worked on. On August 17th the Chapter held a summer picnic at Milwaukee Light Engineering Society. The 7 1/2" gauge railroad group provided rides on diesel and steam powered locomotives and cars. Food and drinks were available also.

September 2018 — 5 Years Ago

On Saturday August 18th the Chapter hosted a morning excursion at the East Troy Electric Railroad. The group of 20 rode the #846 Milwaukee car for the morning. This trip was different we were given permission to go down the Trent Siding. This is very rare mileage. The group was also treated to a shop tour. Except for a run in with some yellow jackets it was a great day. The final weld (Golden Spike) was made on The Hop Milwaukee streetcar system. Track laying is completed. Test runs will be starting soon. NKP #765 will be visiting Chicago and pull excursions between Chicago and Joliet. A pedestrian was struck and killed by UP #844 steam locomotive. The victim was standing too close to the tracks as the train approached. Aerial video of the incident was available.

The Big Picture



June 24 2023 Night Photo Session at Illinois Railway Museum for Shay it Forward. Frisco #1630 and SS&SB Railroad #803 pose under the lights. Photo by Keith Schmidt