

NRHS

WISCONSIN CHAPTER

Volume 74 Number 8

EST 1950

October 2024

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 74 Years

Visit the Chapter Webpage www.nrhswis.org



UP #4014 "Big Boy" leads the "Heartland of America Tour" train eastbound at Meredith IL on the Geneva Subdivision September 9 2024 Photo by Dan Grudzielanek

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Wisconsin Chapter Meeting Schedule

Upcoming chapter events

Saturday October 5 2024 Chapter Annual Banquet—Pallas Family Restaurant 5pm Cash Bar 6pm Dinner
Friday November 1 2024 TBA

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 membership@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 Yuh as membership@nrhswis.org (or via USPS at PO Box 070758 Milwaukee, WI 53207).

Wisconsin Chapter officers are: Keith Schmidt, President; Ward Wells, Vice-President; Tom Marcussen, Secretary; Tara Grudzielanek, Treasurer. Directors: Dan Grudzielanek, Mike Yuh as, Andrew Roach, Ralph McClure 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 ©2024, Wisconsin Chapter, Inc., NRHS.

Meeting Summary for September 6 2024

Introduction

President Keith Schmidt ran this meeting from our in-person meeting site in the basement of the North Shore Congregational Church in Fox Point. Recording started at 7:30 pm. Keith started the meeting at 7:31 pm. Keith welcomed all of us to the first meeting of our 75th season. Dan and Tara Grudzielanek brought cake and other treats, with coffee and milk, at the back table, for in-person attendees to enjoy.

Announcements

Keith thanked all who were at our East Troy trolley ride on Saturday, August 24. We had 38 riders on North Shore Line car 761. We gave the East Troy Electric Railroad a \$500.00 donation in appreciation for their extra effort to make this event special. We got stuck on the steep grade just SW of the last crossing on the rare-mileage Trent Tube spur. The grass that had grown up over the little-used track was slippery and an electrical insulator. The problem was resolved, after some delay, by applying some semi-conductive silica sand to the rails. We had two photo runby's at St. Peter's Road close to sunset. We then went on the NE end of the line at Indian Head Park in Mukwonago. We ran back SW to East Troy in the dark. Some of us had an informal dinner before the ride at LD's Barbecue. Others enjoyed treats at Lauber's Ice Cream Shop afterward.

Union Pacific has been running their Western Pacific heritage unit, in the leading position, on their unit coal trains up to the Wisconsin Power & Light Edgewater Power Plant SE of Sheboygan.

Union Pacific Big Boy 4-8-8-4 # 4114 will be at their Global III intermodal yard, west of Rochelle, Illinois, this weekend. There will be a public display event on Sunday, September 8.

The Grohmann Museum of Art at Milwaukee School of Engineering just opened (tonight) a new exhibit of railroad art, featuring (long-time Kalmbach Publishing artist / illustrator) "Gil Reid & Friends." It will run through December 2024.

Our 2024 annual Chapter Banquet will be at Pallas Family Restaurant on 108th Street in West Allis on Saturday, October 5. This will replace our regular October meeting. The event will begin with cocktails (cash bar) at 5:00 pm. Dinner will be served at 6:00 pm. The menu will be similar to last year: house salad, beef stroganoff and baked chicken, garlic mashed potatoes, veggie blend, ice cream, and coffee. Our speaker will be Ryan Daleen, a Fleet Portfolio Manager at GATX (freight car leasing). Ryan oversees GATX's fleet of plastic

From the President

pellet hoppers, intermodal well cars, flatcars, and aggregate hoppers. Ryan has been with GATX since 2021. He has been in the transportation industry since 2016 working a variety of roles. Ryan also volunteers at the Illinois Railway Museum working in the Steam and Operations Departments. Cost to attend is \$50.00 for members and their guests, or \$60.00 for each non-member. Sign-up is now open on our Chapter website at nrhswis.org.

Members can now renew for 2025 (or non-members can join) on line. If you like what you see here, please consider joining us as a Wisconsin Chapter member. There are three ways to join (or renew). The first way is very easy. Our treasurer Tara Grudzielanek is here tonight. Go to the back of the room, and pay the 20.00 in annual dues (by cash or check) tonight. The second way is on-line payment via our website at nrhswis.org. That second option includes an extra \$1.00 fee for credit card processing costs. The third way is to send a \$20.00 check to Wisconsin Chapter NRHS, P. O. Box 070758, Milwaukee, WI 53207. Dues payments support Chapter meetings like this one, other activities and publications. Your support is much appreciated. You will receive 10 issues of our monthly newsletter Sparks & Cinders, plus admission to members-only events, and member discounts on other events and merchandise. Trainfest is coming up on the weekend of November 23-24, at the Baird Convention Center in downtown Milwaukee. More details are just coming out now, and will be made available via e-mail, our Chapter website (nrhswis.org), or in future issues of Sparks & Cinders. We will have a booth this year. We are looking for volunteers to staff it. If you enjoy talking to people about trains, please contact Ward Wells at wwardw@hotmail.com.

We are considering a special 75th anniversary trip / outing in the spring of 2025. Details for this are still being developed.

Presentation

Tonight we continued our September tradition of Favorite Image Night—a series of short presentations from multiple members. These began at 7:42 pm.

Keith Schmidt started us off with a short video of our East Troy trolley trip (above). He followed that with a collection of Ron Wischer images in and around the busy diamond crossing at Duplainville going back to the 2003 and 2004.

Dan Grudzielanek was second. He showed two years of favorite (mostly nationwide) images from 2023 and 2024.

Dave Nelson (third) had images from his trip down to, and attendance at Galesburg, Illinois, Railroad Days in June 2024.

Rob Pfeiffer (fourth) had images from Duplainville, Fond du Lac, Green Bay, and Upper Michigan.

We then switched from in-person attendees to remote (via Zoom) presenters.

Al Baker (fifth) presented his (mostly) Wisconsin images from 2024.

Mike Yuhas was sixth. He gave images from a long summer 2024 trip along the Mississippi River to Louisiana, west to Texas, north-west to Colorado, and then touring the Pacific Northwest, Montana and Wyoming.

Keith Schmidt returned with a short video of his running Nevada Northern 2-8-0 #93 around Ely, Nevada in August.

There were 17 in-person attendees in the church basement. Your secretary saw a peak of 28 devices connected in the Zoom meeting room. Subtracting the one device in the church basement tonight yielded a total peak attendance of 44.

The presentations ended shortly before 9:00 pm. The recording stopped at 9:01 pm. There was no on-line discussion group tonight. The Zoom meeting room closed at 9:05 pm.

Respectfully Submitted
Thomas W. Marcussen
Wisconsin Chapter Secretary

Welcome to Fall 2024. As the seasons change and the weather gets cooler its time to get out and enjoy the fall colors and the crisp fall weather. Thank You to those that were a part of the Members Favorite Slide Night. There were some great presentations. Things went well. Thank You to Dan and Tara for providing some sweet treats to help kick off our 75th anniversary season. It was very well received. Great Cake !!

The 2024 Banquet is coming up on Saturday October 5th at the Pallas Family Restaurant. We have a great speaker lined up. Hope to see you there.

The week of September 23-28 is Rail Safety Week. Operation Lifesaver uses this week to get the message out about safety around railroad track. This includes street cars and museums. Please be aware around any railroad tracks. See Tracks Think Train.

Get out and "Get Busy Livin".



RRHMA to host "Tractors and Trains" event at Silvis IL October 18-19 2024

Initially announced on Sept. 1, the Railroading Heritage of Midwest America's (RRHMA) upcoming Tractors & Trains event, scheduled Oct. 18-19, now has a new layer of excitement brewing.

A Sept. 13 announcement headlines plans for the non-profit organization to unveil its latest acquisition that's touted as a rare piece of railroading history. The unveiling will take place at the Oct. 18 insider dinner in the RRHMA Silvis shops. The new equipment will then be accessible the following day for those participating in shop tours. The tours themselves will also showcase Union Pacific steam locomotives Nos. 3985 and 5511 under restoration.

In addition to both the dinner and shop tours, steam-powered train rides around the yard will be powered by Flagg Coal Co. 0-4-0T No. 75 on Oct. 19. Other activities during the festivities will include displays, food trucks, face painters and a variety of vendors, according to RRHMA.

Tickets for the dinner, shop tour and train ride are sold separately, and can be purchased by visiting <https://rrhma.com/tractors-trains-2024/>

Courtesy TRAINS Newswire Firecrown Media

Below is a shot of the UP #3985 being worked on at Silvis in June 2024 from Keith Schmidt



Some Ohio Trains in August 2024

By Keith Schmidt

I joined Dan and Tara for a railfan trip August 19-22 2024. We investigated Ohio and Indiana area for shortline and regional railroads. We were successful. We saw the Wheeling and Lake Erie, Ohio Central and Louisville and Indiana railroads. Plus action from some of the class I railroads including CSX and NS. Below are some photos from the trip.



A matched set of 4 Wheeling and Lake Erie SD40-2 leads a rock train through Sycamore Ohio on August 18 2024



A classic "tilt board" signal protects a diamond between RJ Corman and Wheeling & Lake Erie outside of Brewster OH



Ohio Central #4096 a Super 7 leads a local train near Zaynesville OH. In full Conrail paint this might be a former Monongahela railroad unit.

Trainfest 2024 is right around the corner !

Do you enjoy talking trains with people? If so, the Chapter is looking for you. The Wisconsin Chapter NRHS will be hosting a table at Trainfest 2024 Saturday November 23rd and Sunday November 24th at the Baird Center in downtown Milwaukee. The show's hours are 9am to 5pm both days. We would be grateful if you could help us staff the table at any time during the show. There are no specific shifts or minimum time required. More details will be available as we get closer to the show. If you are interested in helping out please contact Ward Wells at wardw@hotmail.com.

Setup for Trainfest will be Friday November 22 2024 between 9am and 8pm. The group running Trainfest has suggested using www.spothero.com to reserve parking. You can reserve a parking spot for the day now. Cost for parking at the Baird Center is \$33 per day. A lot across the street is \$20. Lots 3 blocks away are \$5-\$6. There will be more information as the show gets closer.

Grohmann Museum to feature Gil Reid and Friends "Working on the Railroad Exhibit"

Sometimes called the "railroad industry's very own Picasso," Gil Reid's work ranks among the all-time great railroad art. Gilmore Wiley Reid (1918-2007) was born in St. Louis but, following his service in the Second World War, made his lifelong home in Wisconsin where he practiced as a commercial artist for decades. Reid worked for Kalmbach Publishing in Milwaukee from 1956 to 1978 as assistant art director and illustrator for Trains and Model Railroader magazines. He also created illustrations for Amtrak's annual calendars from the 1970s to the early '90s, among his other work for books, posters, and prints.

Reid's longtime friends and collectors, Rita and Chris Burger, have established an archive of his art and Amtrak calendar work at the Grohmann Museum from which this exhibition is drawn. A railroader and rail executive for 39 years, Chris is perhaps best known locally for managing the Chicago & North Western's Wisconsin Division, where he was the moving force behind the railroad's "Good Will Ambassador" steam program in the 1980s. Over the course of his career, Chris both collected Reid's work and commissioned numerous pieces for his annual Christmas cards.

Gil Reid and Friends is a must-see for any railfan. From initial sketches to printed product, the railroad art of this amazing watercolorist will be joined by other images of railroading from the museum's collection by O. Winston Link, David Plowden and others, including Chris Burger himself.

Be sure to catch this rare display before it leaves the station!

The exhibit runs from September 6th to December 22nd 2024. There will be a Gallery Night event on Friday October 18th from 5pm to 9pm. A Gallery Talk will be given by Chris Burger on that evening at 7pm. For more information check out <https://www.msoe.edu/grohmann-museum/exhibitions-events/>

Do You Know ?

By Dave Nelson

The preliminary floor plan for Trainfest 2024 shows an unexpected but welcome presence -- the railroad museum at Colfax, Wisconsin. Unless you've had reason to travel in that part of the state (the village of Colfax is in Dunn County, a little north and west of Eau Claire and actually not all that far from Minneapolis) it is unlikely whether you have been to this interesting little railroad museum, but a visit to the corner of Main Street and Railroad Avenue in Colfax is worth the stop, quite apart from the busy CN mainline that goes through town. Like so many railroad museums, it has more rolling stock than it can afford to restore -- but at least the stuff is preserved. And their collection of railroad china, uniforms, signals, telegraph and other station memorabilia is nicely displayed in its building and in an old passenger car. One surprising area of emphasis -- railroad themed paperweights.



Surprisingly given its size, the Colfax museum owns no less than two historic Soo Line depots: the 1915 sandstone depot (Colfax was in an area of sandstone quar-

ries) which houses much of its collection and which was built on the foundation of its predecessor, the surprisingly substantial 1898 wood depot which was moved across the street and used as a habitation for many years until it was



acquired by the museum to house archives and a library. The original Colfax depot of 1884 burned down.

The most attractive exhibit is a beautiful wood red Soo Line caboose, No. 273, which has the good fortune of being under a roof.



Another Soo Line wood caboose, No. 256, is in good condition but not yet fully re-stored.

From a rarity standpoint, a highlight is a Soo Line "Fowler" single sheathed wood boxcar, also under cover. Few Fowler boxcars have been so beautifully preserved. Also preserved but not yet under cover is a nice Soo Line steel coach. Looking



battered and sad is a Soo Line GP30, No. 703, which might be beyond restoration but is a significant rarity because the Soo Line saved money on its EMD GP30 purchases by directing the

use of the Alco trucks and traction motors taken from the FA diesels it used as trade-ins. Not all equipment is Soo Line: for example, a Northern Pacific coach, a Minneapolis, Northfield & Southern



caboose (looking rather the worse for wear), a Milwaukee Road baggage car and caboose, and a great rarity in rail

preservation, a Chicago, Minneapolis, St. Paul & Omaha ("Omaha Road," a C&NW affiliate and subsidiary) wood baggage car No. 305 in a good state of preservation. But ironically one of the newest items might be the most unique from a preservation



standpoint: a Milwaukee Road trailer used in its piggyback service. Most of these were scrapped as soon as their length made them uncompetitive and obsolete, and few museums

seem interested in piggyback equipment. Although the lettering is faded it appears to be in decent shape. The Colfax museum has a website and a Facebook page. It is well worth visiting and deserves our support.



From the Camera of Dan Grudzielanek

North Shore Car #761 sits at the Depot after the Chapter's charter on a beautiful August 24th evening.
Photo by Dan Grudzielanek.



Unfortunately, Union Pacific's Big Boy Heartland of America Tour did not pass through Wisconsin. The closest it came to Wisconsin was the Chicago area on September 9, 2024. My wife, and Chapter Treasurer, Tara Grudzielanek and I were able to view the train at three different locations that day. (Note—the first photo is the cover shot this month)



Wheaton IL on the Geneva Subdivision



Chicago Heights IL on the Villa Grove Subdivision

Heritage Visitor to the area on Labor Day 2024

By Keith Schmidt

The Union Pacific #1983 Western Pacific heritage unit has been pulling the Sheboygan coal train the past several weeks. Word got out that the #1983 would be leading the train and it would be passing through Milwaukee on Labor Day September 2 2024. So I charged up the drone and camera batteries and headed out to photograph our heritage visitor.

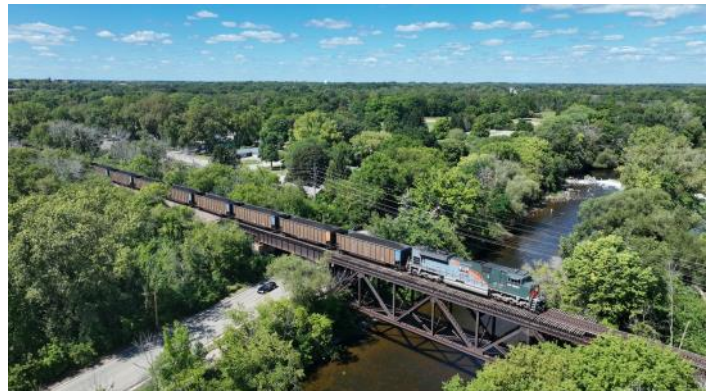
Using several Facebook groups to track its location myself and friend Dan Larkee were able to catch the train several times. We also ran into some fellow chapter members including Jerry Krug and Patti. A few photos from the chase below.



Working hard climbing the .8% grade through West Allis. It was just two locomotives on the loaded train.



Rounding the curve crossing over Capitol Drive about the enter Butler Yard.



Crossing the Milwaukee River in Glendale WI north of Bender Road

From the Archives

October 1954—70 Years Ago

That the Milwaukee Road's Braves Specials have been popular cannot be questioned when looking at the final tally. Thirty-three trains this season carried 10,606 passengers, producing a net revenue of \$42,845.... "Night Mail," a dramatic motion picture showing the run of an express train from London to Scotland will be featured at the October meeting. Produced some twenty years ago (in 1934) by the British Information Service, this documentary shows the telegraph room at Euston Station in London and picking up mailbags on the fly among other scenes.

October 1959 - 65 Years Ago

For those with a yen for something different and \$19.95 to prove it, True magazine carried an ad for alleged 100-year-old Danish railway lamps. They're already wired, in black with brass trim and red, green, and amber lenses

October 1964 - 60 Years Ago

The news this past week has been of utmost interest to area fans and historians; the Milwaukee Road and the North Western have agreed on major points of a merger agreement! This most logical move would strengthen the new road to enable it to compete with such possible roads as UP+RI and GN+NP+ CB&Q combinations. The two serve 141 points in-common. With the merger of the CGW and the CNW to be followed by the proposed MILW+CNW, the system would, at 21,000+ miles be second only to the 25,000 mile GNP&B (proposed). The directors of both companies, the shareholders, and the ICC must yet give their blessings to this move; surely the brotherhoods will oppose it, we, at any rate, have much to follow in the next months!...The Milwaukee Road will operate football specials from Milwaukee to Madison on Oct. 17, Oct. 31, and Nov. 21. A 21-car train was operated on Sept. 26 for the Notre Dame game. There will also be special cars from Minneapolis for the Minnesota game.

October 1969 - 55 Years Ago

This issue of S&C included an extensive history of the Empire Builder, celebrating its 40th anniversary year, by Jerry Hilton. Also, another installment of "Hiawatha's Teakettles," an all-time steam locomotive roster of the Milwaukee Road compiled by S&C editor Jim Harper, appeared....News items: Northwest Illinois Chapter received their chapter charter from NRHS....Many Midwestern railroads, including MILW, C&NW, CB&Q, and RI raised passenger fares by 10% on October 1st

October 1974—50 Years Ago

Wisconsin Chapter was preparing to host Mid-Rail '74 on October 4 and 5. Highlights included a program of 16mm films of railroading in the 1930s presented at the regular Chapter meeting on Friday night, a Saturday visit to Milwaukee Solvay Coke to view the electric operation, a tour of the Milwaukee Road Shops, luncheon at the Depot Restaurant in Waukesha and a ride on the Kettle Moraine Scenic Railway with Chapter member Dick Hinebaugh. On Saturday evening the banquet at the Wisconsin Club featured NRHS President E. Lewis Pardee as speaker....News item: The end of electric operation on the Milwaukee Road on June 15, 1974, was noted in a reprint of an article from Milwaukee Road Magazine

October 1979—45 Years Ago

The hot topic of discussion among local fans was the imminent inauguration of Superliner equipment on the Amtrak Empire Builder. After several training and publicity trips, the first revenue trip was slated for October 28....The proposed restructuring (reduction) of the Amtrak system was detailed in a reprint from the Amtrak News.

October 1984 - 40 Years Ago

The continuing saga of "who gets the Milwaukee Road" continued to be documented in S&C as the Federal Court scheduled hearing dates for comments on the proposed reorganization plan. GTW had just dropped out of the race leaving Soo Line and CNW as possible new owners.

October 1989 - 35 Years Ago

After a Spring of takeover attempts by the Japonica Partners, the C&NW has finally been "taken private" by a friendly suitor. The UP now owns a 25% stake in the North Western....C&NW has taken delivery of 30 GE C40-8s, the first GE power purchased since the 1960s. Their stomping ground will be the western coal line in Wyoming....Two sections of the WC roundhouse at North Fond du Lac have been torn down.

October 1994 - 30 Years Ago

The new Chapter publication Wisconsin Rails II will go on sale at Trainfest® on November 13 and 14....Amtrak received the Brunel International Railway Design Award for the Genesis AMD-103 locomotive. Apparently the awards jury didn't read Passenger Train Journal issue No. 200 in which readers voted for, among other things, the ugliest passenger diesel. The readers' choice: The AMD 103....The original Burlington Zephyr will be given a cosmetic restoration at Northern Railcar in Milwaukee prior to being placed on display at the Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago

October 1999 - 25 Years Ago

Wisconsin Central restructured its management team in the wake of the forced departure of co-founder Ed Burkhardt in August....Pentrex announced that it will cease publication of Rail News and Vintage Rails and concentrate on its rail video business...Kalmbach Publishing Co. announced the launch of a new quarterly magazine Classic Trains....WC announced that the last through train from Fond du Lac to Butler on the West Bend Sub. operated on August 25. The central 12 miles between Eden and West Bend will be removed from service. Eden will be served by Fond du Lac yard jobs and the south end will be accessed via trackage rights on WSOR from Slinger to DBR Jct On September 25th Chapter members enjoyed a 180-mile round trip on WSOR (ex-Milwaukee Road) from North Milwaukee to Oshkosh via Slinger, Hartford, Horicon, and Ripon on WSOR.

October 2004 - 15 Years

Amtrak announced on September 17 that it will discontinue hauling mail for the U.S. Postal Service to concentrate on its core business of transporting passengers....The Mineral Point Railroad Society announced the Grand Opening of the restored 1856 Mineral Point Depot....NRHS Past President Nelson W. Bowers passed away on September 5.

October 2009 — 15 Years Ago

"Bound For Butler" with Mike Yuhas will be the first program in the "Butler Railroad Nights" series sponsored jointly by your Wisconsin Chapter and the new Butler Public Library this Wednesday, September 30th beginning at 6:30 p.m. at 12808 W. Hampton. The digital program will focus on the Union Pacific's Shore Line and be featuring mostly recent photos taken on the line which runs between Sheboygan and Butler. Come on out for an enjoyable hour-long experience which will include refreshments and your opportunity to see the recently moved Chapter Archives. Former Soo #2719 powered steam excursions for the NRHS National Convention held in Duluth, MN.

October 2014 — 10 Years Ago

For the first time in over 40 years there will be rail service between Chicago and Madison. Pullman Rail Journeys in conjunction with Iowa Pacific will run trains between Chicago and Madison that will allow fans to take in a Wisconsin Badger Football game or just a nice day in Madison, WI. The Iowa Pacific's beautifully painted E-units will power this luxurious train. The train set will feature dome car for a great panoramic view of rural Wisconsin and what should be some great fall colors. Travelers will have several different travel options. One option even includes the chance for Madison residents to leave behind the hustle of Badger football game day and head to Chicago to maybe do some shopping on the Magnificent Mile or check out other sights or museums. This option will allow for an evening return to Madison, WI.

Judy Sandberg, a key figure in the Friends of the 261 that operates Milwaukee Road 4-8-4 No. 261 and the mother of the Friends Chief Operating Officer Steve Sandberg, died Sept. 17 after a short battle with cancer. She was 72. Judy Sandberg was the face of the Friends organization on steam excursions, working in the concession car and walking the train, visiting with passengers and fielding questions.

October 2019— 5 Years Ago

Milwaukee Alderman Robert Bauman and HOP GM Terry Mulcahy will be presenting an update on the Milwaukee streetcar "The Hop". The Hop started revenue service on November 2018.

The Big Picture



UP #1983 leads the Sheboygan coal train northbound at Maritime Road in Port Washington WI Photo by Al Lederman