

NRHS

WISCONSIN CHAPTER

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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



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Wisconsin Chapter Meeting Schedule

Upcoming chapter events

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January 3 2025 Cape Cod in 2020 Trains and Maritime Traffic by Doug Scott

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 for November 1 2024

President Keith Schmidt began the meeting at 7:30pm.

Keith welcomed everyone in attendance both in person and on Zoom. Those in person were treated to some cake and punch. The cake was to say Thank You to East Troy Railroad for everything that they have done with the Chapter in the past and in the future.

Some announcements included a Thank You to everyone that helped with and attended the chapter Banquet. A good time was had by all. Pallas Restaurant was a great host. Everyone was reminded that the 75th anniversary banquet will be held on Saturday October 4 2025.

Keith reminded those in attendance that dues are dues. Dues can be paid in person. Tara was in attendance at the church. Dues can also be paid online at www.nrhswis.org and clicking on Renew. Payment can also be mailed to Wisconsin Chapter NRHS PO Box 070758 Milwaukee WI 53207.

The 75th anniversary clothing items were on display in the back of the room. An order is going to be placed towards the end of November for delivery before Christmas hopefully.

Keith introduced the first speaker of the evening. Jim Feyerherm from the East Troy Railroad Museum. Jim spoke about some of the history of the museum and how the city of East Troy ended up buying the line. Jim mentioned that a group of railroad enthusiasts then started the museum and it has steadily grown since then. Photos were shown of the current collection in the museum and some of the cars that had been at the museum but have moved on to other locations. Jim ended his presentation with a plea for volunteers. The museum is busier than ever before and they are looking for people willing to volunteer. They need volunteers in all areas of the museum from maintenance to ticket takers, motormen and brakemen. If you are willing to help they will find something for you to do. Please contact them at easttroyrr.org

From the President

Keith then introduced Mike Yuhas and Ward Wells for the second presentation of the evening. Mike began his presentation with an announcement of the Outstanding Railroad Heritage Preservation Award which is presented by the National NRHS, Railway Age and Railway Track and Structures. The award was given to the Union Pacific. Mike had asked Keith Schmidt and Dan Grudzielanek for some photos but did not tell us why. Mike then thanked Keith and Dan for the use of our photos in the award presentation.

Mike and Ward then continued to cover 3 national NRHS events. The first event was the NRHS Spring Conference. Some highlights included a tour of the Iowa Interstate Railroad Headquarters in Cedar Rapids, IA. A ride on a Iowa Interstate inspection train from South Amana IA to Silvis IL. Then in Silvis IL a tour of the Railroading Heritage of Midwest America shops where the #3985 Challenger and UP 2-10-2 steam locomotives are currently undergoing restoration.

The second event was the NRHS Annual Convention from August 27 to August 30 in and around Harrisburg PA. Those in attendance were able to visit the Strasburg Railroad and Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania. On August 28th the East Board Top and Rockhill Trolley Museum were on the tour. Friday August 29th the Reading and Northern Railroad offered trips on the RDC cars. Saturday August 30th was supposed to be a visit to the Middletown and Hummelstown railroad, however the locomotive broke down. There were also meetings involved.

The third event was the NRHS Fall Conference held in and around Wilmington Delaware. Friday October 11th included an excursion of the Woodstown Central and tour of SMS Rail Line "Baldwin House". Meetings were also a part.

Mike announced that Bob Gallegos would be the presenter at the December 6 meeting.

The meeting ended at 8:45pm. Attendance was 21 in person and 30 via Zoom at the peak

Respectfully submitted
Keith Schmidt
NRHS Chapter President



Chapter 75th Anniversary Apparel Pre Order Available

At the Chapter banquet the 75th anniversary apparel was on display. It was well received with several people pre ordering items. Below is a list of the items available with the price. This price is the pre tax amount. Tax will be based on the buyers address. Payment will be made when the items are delivered. All of the items feature the 75th anniversary logo seen above embroidered on the item.

Short Sleeve Polo Shirt \$42.00 Small to 4X
White 100% Cotton or Gray 50% Cotton/50% Polyester

Sweatshirt \$50.00 Small to 4X White or Gray
50% Cotton and 50% Polyester

Long Sleeve Dress Shirt \$50.00 Small to 4X Gray Only
55% Cotton and 45% Polyester

Baseball Cap Adjustable Size White or Gray \$28.00

To preorder any of these please email at president@nrhswis.org.

As I write this the first snowflakes of the season are beginning to fall here in Milwaukee. After some relatively warm temperatures recently this is a reminder of winter in Wisconsin. Winter doesn't mean the end of enjoying the outdoors and maybe some trains running. It just means that it's done in a different way. Fresh snowfall and a good looking train make for some great shots.

2025 will be the beginning of the Chapter's 75th Anniversary. Plans are starting to be made for some great events. More information about those event will be coming out as soon as they come together. Those plans include a trip to Silvis IL to check out the shops and restoration of the #3985 Challenger and 2-10-2. Also a Wisconsin Chapter NRHS Day at the East Troy Railroad. Hopefully this will include a special photo shoot with the recently restored North Shore Dispatch Car. Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas and Holiday greetings everyone.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'KJ'.

CPKC Holiday Train will visit SE Wisconsin

CPKC US Holiday Train will be running again this December. The Holiday Train is celebrating 26 years of running and helping to raise money for local food pantries. This train decorated with thousands of LEDS draws large crowds where ever it stops. The purpose of the train also benefits the communities. The stops also feature a concert from the specially designed stage car. The concerts are a highlight of every stop. People attending the stops are encouraged to bring food items to donate. Those donations are given to local food pantries. Come out and see the train at one of these Wisconsin stops.

Saturday December 7 2024

6:45pm Arrival 7:00-7:30pm Event Sturtevant WI
Amtrak Depot 9900 E Exploration Ct

8:05pm Arrival 8:15-8:45 pm Event Caledonia WI
Railway Crossing 11402 County Road G

Sunday December 8 2024

4:00pm Arrival 4:15-4:45pm Event Wauwatosa WI
Railway Crossing Harwood Ave

5:30pm Arrival 5:45-6:15pm Event Hartland WI
Railway Crossing Cottonwood Ave

6:40pm Arrival 6:45-7:15pm Event Oconomowoc WI
Railway Crossing South Silver Lake

7:50pm Arrival 8:00-8:30pm Event Watertown WI
Brandt Quirk Park Parking Lot

9:05pm Arrival 9:15-9:45pm Event Columbus WI
Amtrak Depot 395 N Ludington St

Renew your Chapter Membership Today

Check your Sparks & Cinders address label. If it says your membership expiration date is 12/31/2024, it's time to renew!

There are three ways to continue supporting the chapter:

1. Hand \$20 to Treasurer Tara Grudzielanek at our next meeting.
2. Send a \$20 check to Wisconsin NRHS, PO Box 070758, Milwaukee, WI 53207.
3. Renew online for \$21 at www.nrhswis.org - click the Join or Renew button.

Friday December 6 2024

Kickin' Around Canada with Bob Gallegos

Until August, it had been over 19 years since Bob had gone north of the border. A lot has changed, and on this trip, Bob visited new Canadian territory (Winnipeg) for the first time. His program is a little of the Canada he photographed from the 1980s to 2005, and images from this year in Winnipeg and Southern Ontario.

Bob Gallegos is a native Californian, now residing in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, with his wife Karen Buckarma, who is also a railroad photographer. Bob works in the model railroad industry and is a modeler in N scale, S scale and live steam. He's been photographing trains for 50 years plus.

Make plans to attend what should be a great evening. Join us in person at the North Shore Congregational Church 7330 N Santa Monica Blvd. Doors open at 7pm. Program begins at 7:30pm. To join via Zoom please email Mike at membership@nrhswis.org to receive an invite to the meeting.



TH&B #403 rides the turntable at Hamilton Ontario



BC Rail RDC Train rolls along Seton Lake British Columbia



VIA Train #2 the eastbound Canadian rolls toward Winnipeg at sunset July 2024

Milwaukee Road : Rails of Innovation

The Milwaukee Public Library is hosting a special display of the large collection of Milwaukee Road archives that the library has. The display is available for viewing at the Downtown Milwaukee public library at 814 W Wisconsin Ave.

On November 1st the Milwaukee Road: Rails of Innovation exhibit opened. It will be available to browse through December 31. This exhibit celebrates one of America's most transformative railroads, the Milwaukee Road. Officially known as the Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul & Pacific Railroad, it was a major American railroad that played a pivotal role in the development of Milwaukee and the Midwest. Established in 1847 as Wisconsin's first railroad under the name Milwaukee and Waukesha Railroad, it connected Milwaukee to the Mississippi River by 1857.

On October 14, 1867, the Milwaukee Road established the first direct rail route between Chicago and the Twin Cities, a groundbreaking achievement made possible through the acquisition of several smaller railroads and rapid expansion. This "Pioneer Route" allowed passengers to travel directly between these major cities and later inspired the naming of the iconic "Pioneer Limited," one of the Milwaukee's most significant passenger train.

In a significant gesture to preserve its legacy, the Milwaukee Road donated its extensive archives to the Milwaukee Public Library in 1981, establishing the Milwaukee Road Archives. These archives offer a rich resource for historians and rail enthusiasts, ensuring that the history of this iconic railroad is preserved for future generations. The Special Collection Department at the Milwaukee Public Library continues to organize, digitize and process this archival material, as well as answer hundreds of reference, research, and reproduction requests every year. Our researchers range from academics, architects and historians, to authors, former employees, genealogists and hobbyists.

Article, photo and logo courtesy mpl.org



East Troy Railroad Holiday Trains for 2024

The East Troy Railroad will be having several different trains for the upcoming Christmas season. Below are some of the different offerings that they have available

Daytime Christmas Trains

November 30, December 1, 7-8, 14-15 and 21st.
9am, 10:30am, Noon, 1:30pm and 3pm.

Evening Santa's Special Trains

Wednesdays December 4, 11 and 18
Fridays November 29, December 6, 13 and 21
Saturdays November 30, December 14 and 21
5pm Departure

Christmas Parade Train Saturday December 7

Leaves Elegant Farmer 5pm
Arrives East Troy 6:30pm approximately

For more information or tickets check out www.easttroyrr.org

Thanks for Giving us a Ride East Troy Railroad

At the meeting on Friday November 1 2024 said Thank You to the East Troy Railroad for all that they have done with the Chapter. I was also announced that there are some preliminary plans for a "Wisconsin Chapter NRHS Day" at the museum next year. This event would be a part of the 75th anniversary of the Chapter.

The day would feature equipment that ran in Wisconsin. There might also be a photo event with the newly refurbished North Shore merchandise car. Plans are still coming together but watch for more information as things come together.

Below is the cake that was shared with guests at the meeting Friday evening. The cake says "Thanks for Giving Us a Ride". In the photo are L to R Tara Grudzielanek, Keith Schmidt, Ward Wells, Jim Feyerherm and Mike Yuhas.



75th Anniversary Apparel Ordered Pick Up at Friday December 6 Meeting

This morning I placed the first order of the 75th Anniversary clothing. These were the items that were ordered at the banquet and the last meeting. According to Bay View Threadworks who is doing the embroidery the items should be available for pickup at the meeting on Friday December 6th. If you ordered items please be prepared to pay for them that evening if you plan to pick them up. You will receive an email with the final price. If you want the items shipped we will work on getting them out to you and collecting payment.

I did order some extra items that would be available for sale and immediate pick up on that Friday. THANK YOU !! For supporting the chapter and purchasing the 75th anniversary apparel and wearing it proudly.



Happy Holidays and Happy New Year !!

Then and Now 20 Years Ago

Went out for a drive today and found myself near the former Milwaukee Road Stowell Yard on Milwaukee's near southside. The yard was originally the yard for staging and weighing cars coming from the port of Milwaukee Jone's Island. It also hosted a collection of railroad cars. One of the cars with a Great Northern Going to the Sun Mountain. That car operated as a bar restaurant for several years. Never ate there but I heard the Friday fish fry was good. In 2004 the cars and locomotive were moved in Kansas City to be used for display in the Kansas City depot. Unfortunately that never came about. The whereabouts of the equipment is not know. The photo on the left was taken in July 2004. The photo on the right was taken November 20, 2024. Story and Photos by Keith Schmidt



Do You Know ?

by Dave Nelson

On November 1, 1859, at around 10 a.m., in what is now Johnson Creek, a special 13-car passenger train headed for Chicago, loaded with perhaps 600 passengers celebrating a newly completed route between Oshkosh, Janesville and Chicago, struck a bull which had wandered onto the track. The animal got tangled up on the pilot ("cowcatcher") of the 4-4-0 "Perry H. Smith" locomotive, which was traveling at a leisurely 15 m.p.h., until the train reached a bridge over a small stream. The animal then got jammed beneath the locomotive causing the locomotive to derail and plunge into the creek, followed by a baggage car and 5 passenger cars. As car after car tumbled down into the creek and smashed into the cars below, the carnage was considerable as people were crushed, or lost limbs. Many of the dead had been standing in the first car, a baggage car, or on the open platforms of the cars, smoking. Johnson Creek was then barely inhabited and the dead, dying, and injured were in the smashed railroad coaches or in the chilly waters of the creek until help arrived about 5 hours later. According to contemporary newspaper accounts, eleven persons were dead at the scene; another three were not expected to live. The fatality count for the accident is generally given as 14 and 25 injured but it is quite possible that eventually there were more deaths from the many injuries. Ironically, it is thought that had the train been going faster the bull would have been thrown off the track by the locomotive and likely no derailment would have occurred. The wreck likely helped generate regulatory and legal efforts to mandate that farms be fenced off from railroad tracks.

The then-two-year-old Life Insurance Company of Wisconsin, headquartered in Janesville, Wisconsin (it is now the Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Company of Milwaukee) counted two of its insureds among the dead in that crash -- and it had only \$2000 on hand to pay the \$3500 in claims (that would be about \$2 million today). This could and should have bankrupted the Company and ended its existence, but the President and members of the Board personally provided or borrowed the money to pay the claims in full -- and the Company today is one of the largest employers in Wisconsin, with \$2.3 trillion in life insurance face amount on the books.

On November 1, 2024, at around 10 a.m. -- so 165 years later almost to the minute -- a gathering was held in a park in Johnson Creek within several hundred feet of the location of the accident, for a ceremony commemorating the event, including introductory remarks by Debra Brown of the Johnson Creek Historical Society, a reading by Marybeth Shuppe of one contemporary Wauwatosa newspaper account, the unveiling of a marker commemorating the wreck, and a parting prayer by Pastor Dale Vlasnik. The group then retreated to the nearby Johnson Creek Community Center to view displays and photographs of the railroad history of Johnson Creek, including its several C&NW depots (the last of which was demolished in 1990), and enjoy coffee, cake, and conversation. The civic celebration continued the next day with more historical presentations and a lunch.

It's been called Wisconsin's First Train Wreck. It remains one of the worst. The actual site of the wreck is not easily accessed by the public due to wetlands surrounding both sides of the Union Pacific track through Johnson Creek, but it is just a few feet south of the freeway bridge over the tracks. The closest approach for the public is about where the marker is located, near the tennis courts north of the Community Center



From the Archives

December 1954—70 Years Ago

At the NRHS National business meeting on November 14, The Milwaukee Chapter—NRHS was chosen to host the NRHS National Convention on September 3, 4, and 5, 1955.

December 1959- 65 Years Ago

The Milwaukee Road and the Rock Island are studying the possibility of merger, it was announced recently. The Milwaukee, with 10,590 miles of track, and the RI, with 7,584 miles, generally run in different areas with the exception of the Chicago and Omaha-Kansas City lines....The Burlington announced recently that it will retire and preserve the original Zephyr No. 9900.

December 1964 - 60 Years Ago

The Annual Chapter Railroadiana Auction was a success, netting some \$27 for the Chapter treasury. A new system for settling accounts will be in place for next year's auction, eliminating some confusion in this year's settlements after the auction.

December 1969 - 55 Years Ago

The annual Chapter election of officers featured a contest for President with Carl Solheim and Larry Trovinger as candidates. After the election, the Chapter sponsored a photo contest which was judged by Bill Rau, Harold Edmonson, and Fred Tonne. The annual auction was again a great success, netting \$74.20 for the Chapter treasury....The Santa Fe announced plans to discontinue the San Francisco Chief effective January 5, 1970. This will leave only the California Zephyr and the City of San Francisco on the Chicago-San Francisco route.

December 1974—50 Years Ago

The Milwaukee Road has repainted SD40-2 No. 156 in a red, white, and blue bicentennial paint scheme. Local fans opined that the MILW design was superior to N&W's No. 1776.

December 1979—45 Years Ago

The laying of welded rail on the eastbound Milwaukee Road main between Hartland and Elm Grove has been completed and operations are back to normal....President Carter signed "The Milwaukee Road Restructuring Act" on November 4 and the Milwaukee Road is "restoring full operation as fast as operationally possible

December 1984 - 40 Years Ago

Russ Porter's program "Not All Cars Used in Railroading Are Scrapped" highlighted alternative uses for retired railroad equipment....The run of the Heartland Special, the Reagan campaign train which ran on the B&O from Dayton to Perrysburg, Ohio, was chronicled by Dave Ingles, with additional information from the Chessie System....The impending demise of the West Allis Car Station, at 84th & Lapham, was noted.

December 1989 - 35 Years Ago

The Chapter's recent fan trip on the WICT was a complete success - a beautiful fall day and an interesting trip....NORTRAN, the public transportation agency for areas north of Chicago, has proposed running commuter trains on the WC from Des Plaines to Mundelein.

December 1994—30 Years Ago

The new Chapter publication, Wisconsin Rails II: A Passage of Time by Bob Baker, was offered for sale at Trainfest. 1,000 hardcover and 2,000 softcover copies have been printed.... Mid-Continent Railway Museum's ex-C&NW No. 1385 once again has sound running gear. Steam Operations Corp. of Birmingham, Alabama, found and repaired 68 cracks in the driving wheel spokes....Norfolk Southern announced that it was discontinuing its 28-year-old steam program effective January 1, 1995. No. 611 will be returned to the Roanoke Transportation Museum. The disposition of No.1218 and passenger cars is pending....New national officers of NRHS are: President Greg Molloy; Vice-President-Public Relations Dick Davis; Secretary David Acker-man; Central Region V-P Robert Ernst.

December 1999—25 Years Ago

The Chapter scheduled a railroadiana auction for Friday, December 3. Members were urged to: "Sell - all the old junk that has been gathering dust in your basement. Buy - all that neat stuff from someone else's basement."...Gardner Realty, an affiliate of Wisconsin & Southern Railroad, has purchased the Janesville roundhouse from the estate of the late Glenn Monhart. Janesville is the operating hub for the Southern Division of WSOR....UP announced a two year locomotive re-numbering plan since not enough contiguous number blocks are left to accommodate planned locomotive purchases. Locomotive numbers cannot exceed four digits because of computer system limitations....UP is considering whether to discontinue publication of its wall calendars because of budgetary constraints....The Fort Wayne Railroad Historical Society received a \$340,000 USDOT TEA-21 grant to restore ex-NKP 765 to service. The FWRHS must raise \$85,000 in matching funds for the project.

December 2004— 20 Years Ago

The CP Holiday Train visited the area on December 9 and 10.... A man from Alaska was sentenced to four years in prison for making bomb threats against the Empire Builder while it was traveling through Juneau county on July 6 last year....A Pennsylvania woman has sued Norfolk Southern after she was hit by a train. She claimed that the railroad failed to warn pedestrians that trains travel on the tracks. (I don't make this stuff up, folks -ed.)...Lionel LLC filed for bankruptcy on November 15. The filing was prompted by a \$40.8 million judgement against the company for alleged misappropriation of a competitor's designs by a sub contractor....Railroad video produced David Goodheart passed away suddenly on November 10 shortly after a three-day "photo freight" outing he organized with Soo No. 1003 on the WSOR....The B&O Railroad Museum re-opened its doors on November 13. It had been closed since a February 2003 snowstorm caused the roof to collapse on the 1884 roundhouse.

December 2009 — 15 Years Ago

It was announced the Milwaukee Road #261 would be returning to the National Railroad Museum in Green Bay, WI after the Friends of the #261 and the Museum couldn't come to terms on a long term lease. The Museum hopes to restore #261 and continue to have the steam locomotive pull excursion trains (note - The Friends of the #261 ended up buying the locomotive from the Museum the following year it has been restored and is running in Minnesota) Warren Buffet announced his Berkshire Hathaway Company is purchasing the BNSF Railroad in its entirety. The deal is said to be valued at 34 billion dollars in equity and 10 billion in BNSF debt.

December 2014 — 10 Years Ago

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) has awarded more than \$20.3 million in grants through the Freight Railroad Preservation Program (FRPP). In addition, WisDOT is awarding \$3.8 million in loans through the state's Freight Railroad Infrastructure Improvement Program (FRIIP). Recipients of 2014-2015 FRPP grants and FRIIP loans include: Port of Milwaukee and Wisconsin & Southern Railroad.

December 2019— 5 Years Ago

Unable to find a better offer or an affordable way to return it to Eau Claire, the city decided to sell its historic steam locomotive to a Duluth, Minn. museum for \$8. The City Council exercised its right to buy the locomotive, which had long resided in Carson Park, for \$4 last year but voted 10-0 Tuesday to sell Soo Line No. 2719 and its tender to the Lake Superior Railroad Museum. The steam locomotive was built in 1923 and operated until the mid-1950s. It came out of retirement in 1959 and hauled the last steam trains on the Soo Line tracks. It was given to the city of Eau Claire and was on display in Carson Park from 1960 to 1996.

The Big Picture



Amtrak Borealis #1333 westbound at Nashota East at Vettelson Road on August 16 2024 at 1:18pm. The train is running a little late. Photo by Tom Hoffmann