



February Meeting

The February meeting of the Heart of the Heartlands was held on February 14, 2018 in the Webb Center in Carona, KS. There were 13 members present. Minutes of the meeting can be found at the end of this newsletter. Members in attendance were: Alan Chilton, Jack Evans, Tom Johnston, Kathy & Larry Spahn, Joe Murphey, Brian Carlson, John Chambers, Michael Sheward, Mike & Connie Payton, Darrell Cave, and Carol Lewis.

Slide Show

There will be a slide show at Carona on March 4 from 11:00 am to 5:00 pm. Bring snacks and enjoy. Bad weather will cancel the event.

Fredonia Gate

It was decided to go see what the interlocking gate at Fredonia looked like and what needed to be done to get it. This gate was located at the intersection of the Santa Fe line and the Frisco line in Fredonia, KS. This was a standard Frisco manual swing type of gate like the one that was donated from Cherokee. The Cherokee gate was located south of Cherokee, KS where the Missouri Pacific and Frisco crossed. The Cherokee gate was heavily damaged when the BNSF removed it. The hope was to acquire the Fredonia gate in a much better condition for display.



Photo courtesy of Jay Hastings

Gate prior to removal

Dave Parker, Larry Spahn and John Chambers traveled to Fredonia on January 20th to check the gate out. On a visual inspection, the gate appeared to be in a lot better shape than the Cherokee gate. After considerable work in clearing the brush and trees out of the way the trio measured the gate, the post and the gate support and decided that it would be worth the trouble to use it as a display.



Photo courtesy of Larry Spahn

Gate loaded for transport to Carona

Dave Parker and Larry Spahn returned to Fredonia on February 5th with Dave's pickup truck and ten foot trailer and tools. They went to work and removed the ladder, cut off the supporting angles for the gate post and laid it on the ground. The gate was cut into pieces small enough to haul back to Carona. The gate was delivered and unloaded at Carona at 4:30 pm that day. Steve Parsons, a retired pipeline welder, has



Photo courtesy of John Chambers

Gate on the museum grounds at Carona. The yellow gate in the background will be replaced with this gate.

What is it?



This is an item that is currently located in the Carona museum. What is it?

Answer next month

Photo courtesy of Brian Carlson

Last Month's picture was a conductor's uniform for the KCS Railroad. It was donated by Bob Gibson of Appleton City, MO. The suit belonged to Carl W. Gibson, conductor for the KCS Railroad. Carl worked for the KCS from 1935-1976.

Email Notifications

Since the vast majority of the membership have email addresses with us, we wanted to let everyone know that as certain things come up between newsletters, we will send email announcements prior to the next meeting or newsletter. If you would like to receive these announcements please email Brian Carlson at bcarlson@ckt.net and let him know. This will not change the status of having a newsletter mailed to you.



Photo courtesy of Jim McKeel
Gate in use back in the day. The depot was the Santa Fe and Frisco depot in Fredonia.

offered to put the gate back together for us. He did all the work on the front and rear step boards as well as the engine latches on the Empire engine.

Jim McKeel found a picture of the Fredonia, Frisco depot and the crossing gate taken in the early 1960's. The area sure looks different now. Discussion for the location of the gate was held.

Agreement was to make it part of a working gate at the entrance to the museum complex. It would replace the current gate used as the main gate to the Webb Center and museum grounds.

2018 Train Rides

The tentative list of train rides for 2018 is being compiled for submission to the railroad. Once the list is submitted to Brad Snow at Watco, he will go through the channels on the railroad's side of things to see if the rides can be slotted into the railroad's calendar for 2018. We hope to hear back soon and then confirm our rides for 2018. Stay tuned!

City	Date	# Rides	Departure Times
Bartlesville, OK	April 14	3 - 1 hr each	10 am, 1 pm, 3 pm
Winfield, KS	April 28	2 - 2 hr each	9 am & 2 pm
Wichita, KS	May 5	1 ride	8:30 am - 4:30 pm
Columbus, KS	June 23	1 ride	10:00 am - 11:30 am
Pittsburg, KS	September 1	??	??
Dewey, OK	September 22	3 - 1 hr each	10 am, 1 pm, 3 pm
Chanute, KS	September 29	3 - 1 hr each	10 am, 1 pm, 3 pm
Pittsburg	December	1	Watco Santa Train
Fredonia, KS	December 15	TBD	TBD

2018 Motor Car Rides

Jay Hastings and John Chambers are working on rides for 2018. Things have been hectic for the two but they hope to have some rides this spring. As soon as there are rides scheduled, we will post those events. Be watching!

Announcements

- The annual safety meeting for passenger train rides will be held on March 10, 2018 at 1:00 at the Webb Center. Anyone interested in helping with train rides needs to attend this training.
- There will be another annual safety meeting for passenger train rides held in Wichita. It will be on March 11 starting at 3:00 pm. Meeting location will be in the back dining room of Panera Bread located at 3337 East Central Avenue, #101, Wichita, KS 67208.
- The next meeting will be March 14, 2018 at the Webb Center in Carona, KS. The meeting will start at 7:00 pm.
- Amtrak Ride - Six members have made their reservations for an overnight trip to Reno, Nevada from April 21st - April 26th. The group will arrive in Reno in the morning of the 23rd, stay the night and then leave late in the afternoon on the next day. For more information contact Larry Spahn, 620-396-8594 after 5:00 pm.

Depot Repair

The repairs on the Boston and Carona depots have been put on hold until the weather warms up. The shingles on the Boston Depot that had been blown off have all been replaced. The south part of the ridge cap has also been repaired. All of the holes caused by woodpeckers have been patched with metal, with one hole in the peak of the gable remaining to be repaired. Russ Green, currently the individual working on the repairs, will have his scaffolding out here at that time. Once that repair is completed, the pressure washing, scraping of loose paint and the painting of the depots will take place.

Propane Leak

The mystery of what happened to our propane has been solved. After replacing our old air compressor we were able to pressure up the line. A leak was discovered at the joint where the pipe comes up to the furnace located on the north side of the new addition. B&B Excavation out of Girard came out on Monday, February 12, and dug up the line and replaced a corroded fitting. The fitting was only 3 years old. In the future, we will try to find better quality materials for projects such as these.



Photo courtesy of Larry Spahn

Air Compressor

The old air compressor used for various things at the museum has been replaced with a new one. The old one, which had been donated years ago, developed a leak in a weld on the tank and could not be repaired cost effectively. A new compressor was bought at Harbor Freight in Joplin. The new unit has a one year guarantee. There was a question about the quality of Harbor Freight's products, but it was decided to purchase the compressor from Joplin. With the ease of going to Joplin for a replacement outweighing the hassle of messing with return shipping.

February 14, 2018 - Heart of the Heartlands - Minutes

The February meeting of the Heart of the Heartlands was brought to order by President Larry Spahn at 7:00 pm on February 14, at the Webb Center. There were 13 members present for the meeting.

Minutes of previous meeting: The minutes of the January 2018 meeting were approved as mailed. The motion for approval was made by Jack Evans and seconded by Alan Chilton. It passed by the membership present.

Treasurer's Report: After presentation of the treasurer's report, Alan Chilton moved to accept the report, Joe Murphey seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

Old Business

Fredonia gate: It was decided to go see what the gate at Fredonia looked like and what needed to be done to get it. Dave Parker, Larry Spahn and John Chambers traveled to Fredonia on January 20th to check it out. On a visual inspection the gate appeared to be in a lot better shape than the Cherokee gate. After considerable work in clearing the brush and trees out of the way we measured the gate, the post and gate support and decided that it would be worth the trouble to use it as a display. Dave Parker and Larry Spahn returned to Fredonia on February 5th with Dave's pickup truck and ten foot trailer and tools. They went to work and removed the ladder, cut off the supporting angles for the gate post and laid it on the ground. The gate was cut into pieces small enough to haul back to Carona. The gate was delivered and unloaded at Carona at 4:30 pm that day. Jim McKeel found a picture of the Fredonia, Frisco depot and the crossing gate taken in the early 1960's. The area sure looks different now. Discussion for the location of the gate was held. Agreement was to make it part of a working gate at the entrance to the museum complex. It would replace the current gate used at the Webb Center.

2018 Train Rides:

The ride list request is being completed. Jim McKeel informed Heart of the Heartlands that he has again spoken with the Hutchinson Director of Downtown Development and he said that he would not assist us in putting on the rides because he can see no benefit to the city. Jim McKeel has arranged to have two, three hour train rides out of Winfield on April 28th. The first ride departing at 9:00 am and arriving back at 11:59 am with the second ride departing at 2:00 pm and returning at 5:00 pm. Jim has also managed to arrange one ride out of Wichita on the following weekend, May 5th. The train will depart Wichita at 8:30 am and arrive at Yoder at 11:00 am. The train will depart Yoder at 2:00 pm and arrive at Wichita at 4:30 pm. John Chambers reported that Jay Hastings has arranged to have three train rides out of Bartlesville on April 14th. The first train will depart at 10:00 am and return at 11:00 am. The other two trains will depart at 1:00 pm and 3:00 pm with both returning an hour after their departure. The Balkan Days rides are in question as the number of persons riding the trains has declined considerably after many years of having train rides. It has been proposed that we may want to cancel the rides for a year or two. Chanute Artist Alley Rides will be on September 29th with the usual 10:00 am, 1:00 pm and 3:00 pm departure times. Dewey, OK has requested three one hour rides on Saturday, September 22nd. Watco's Christmas Ride for the kids will be held sometime in December. Fredonia, KS is also desiring a ride in December as well. There was also discussion for a ride out of Columbus, KS on June 23rd. There would be one ride on this date with a 10:00 am departure time. The ride will be in conjunction with the Columbus Sesquicentennial Celebration.

Safety Meeting:

A meeting will be held at Carona on Saturday, March 10th at 1:00 pm. Jim McKeel will hold a meeting in Wichita on March 11 at 3:00 pm in the back dining room of Panera Bread located at 3337 East Central Avenue, # 101, Wichita, KS, 67208. Those wishing to work on the passenger train rides must attend this meeting.

Slide Show:

There will be a slide show at the Carona museum, weather permitting, on March 4th, 11:00 am to 5:00 pm. Bring a snack.

KCS Motor Car:

Joe Murphey informed the group that until the weather warmed up there was not much to report on the car other than some tinkering.

Depot Repair: The repairs on the Boston and Carona depot have pretty well been put on hold until warmer weather. The blown off shingles on the roof of the Boston Depot have all been replaced as well as the south part of the ridge cap. The woodpecker holes have been patched with metal. One hole in the peak of the gables at each end will be the last one repaired. Russ Green will have his scaffolding out here at that time. The pressure washing, scraping of loose paint and painting will be done in the spring.

Motor Car Rides: John Chambers reported that he has been working with Jay Hastings on some spring motor car rides. There will be an announcement of rides once plans are completed.

New Business

Propane Leak: The mystery of what happened to our propane has been solved. After replacing our old air compressor we had air to pressure up the line. A leak was discovered at the joint where the pipe comes up to the furnace located on the north side of the new addition. B&B Excavation out of Girard came out on Monday, February 12 and dug up the line and replaced a corroded fitting, it was only three years old. We won't buy anymore pipes or fittings from China. These were bought from Home Depot.

Air Compressor: The old air compressor has been replaced with a new one. The old one, which had been donated several years ago, developed a leak in a weld on the tank and could not be repaired cost effectively. A new compressor was bought at Harbor Freight in Joplin. The unit has a one year guarantee. Harbor Freight was questioned about their quality of products but it was decided to go with Harbor Freight as it is much easier to go to Joplin and get another one without all of the hassles of return shipping.

Amtrak Ride: Time is running out!! A train ride and overnight stay to Reno, Nevada and return is planned for a departure of April 21st and returning on April 26th. Six members have already made their train and room reservations. Anyone interested is welcome to come along. Four members will leave from Osceola, Iowa on the Zephyr and three from Kansas City, MO on the Chief where they will make connections with the Zephyr at Galesburg, IL. The group will arrive in Reno at 8:25 am on the 23rd, stay overnight in Reno and leave at 4:06 pm the next day. For more information contact Larry Spahn, 620-396-8594 after 5:00 pm.

Correspondence:

There was no correspondence.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Jack Evans and seconded by Alan Chilton. The meeting was adjourned by approval vote of the membership present.