



May Meeting

The May meeting of the Heart of the Heartlands was held on May 8, 2024 in the Webb Center at Carona, KS. There were 15 members present. Minutes of the meeting can be found at the end of this newsletter. Members in attendance were: John Chambers, Michael Sheward, Guy & Brenda Ferguson, Denzil & Ivan Voorhees, Joe Murphey, Darrell Cave, Rob McKnight, Jack Evans, Larry & Kathy Spahn, Jim McKeel, Ed Brinkmeyer and Paul Morgan.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be at 7:00 pm, June 12, 2024 at the Webb Center in Carona.

Heartlands - YouTube

Check out our YouTube channel:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMIkqWyCxftDif_ezgw3UyQ

School Group from Missouri

On April 23rd, the Oak Hill Mennonite School from Lamar, MO visited the museum complex. There were 39 students and parents that went through the museum and the outdoor displays. John Chambers showed them the exhibits and explained the stories behind them. Don Richardson, Paul Morgan and Larry and Kathy Spahn were also in attendance to help with the visitors. The group thanked us and enjoyed their experience.



- Photos by Larry Spahn

Train Shows

Hearland's member, Rob McKnight has been busy this spring attending various train shows in the four state area. He attended the train show at Arkansas City, KS on April 20th. With approximately 321 people in attendance at the show, Rob met with numerous visitors and showcased the museum complex in Carona. Rob usually takes items we have for sale to the shows and sold out of most everything that he brought. The next show for our traveler was the train show at Dewey, OK on May 11th.

The Heartlands wishes to thank Rob for all of his time and dedication in getting the word out about the Heartlands. Several visitors to the museum have mentioned that they have talked to Rob at a train show. A few new members have joined after meeting with Rob as well. We would like to welcome them and all of our new members.

From our Past

We will be featuring photos from our past for awhile.

These pictures were taken at the Flag Days train rides in Altamont KS, June of 2008.

- Photos courtesy of Larry Spahn



Announcements

- USD 506 Labette County, will be at Carona on June 7th. There will be 3 bus groups touring Big Brutus as well as us. One bus at a time will be at Carona at 9:00, 10:00 and 11:00 in the morning. If you can help out with this large group, please come on the 7th.

Heart of the Heartlands

Any questions, comments or suggestions, contact:

Brian Carlson

bcarlson@ckt.net

620-820-9665 (leave message)

Museum Director Report for April

- *The information in this report was pulled from the Museum Directors' biweekly reports. The report covers from April 1 to April 21.*
- April 3-7 — Total of 34 visitors. Catalogued items, worked on new model train layout, cleaned restrooms and gathered trash.
- April 10-14 — Total of 61 visitors. Setup for April 13th meeting, received donations from Dave Calwell, cleaned up after April 13th meeting.
- April 17-21 — Total of 19 visitors. Catalogued items from Dave Calwell, cleaned restrooms and gathered trash, added items to the Calwell displays.

Sunflower Summer Program

The Sunflower Summer Program began on Saturday, May 25th and runs through August 11th. This program is to encourage school age children and their families to attend attractions across the state of Kansas. Through the program, families can receive free admission to participating museums and other attractions. The Heart of the Heartlands does not charge admission, but for the first time this year, the program is now including locations that do not charge admission.

A parent or guardian of a school age child (grades PK-12), downloads the Sunflower Program app to their smart phone. After completing their initial signup with the program, the parent-guardian takes their child to a participating venue. Once there, they go into the app, select the venue they are located at currently and download tickets for admission to the venue. The museum, attraction, etc. then admits the app ticket holders free of charge. The Sunflower Program will then reimburse the venue for the tickets "purchased" through the app. The visitors are able to enter free of charge and the museum is reimbursed for their admission fee.

As mentioned earlier, the Heartlands does not charge admission. However, the Sunflower Program will reimburse the Heartlands \$5 for each ticket "purchased" through the program. The tickets through the app are transferable from a parent to an aunt, uncle, friend, etc. that will be taking the school aged children to the venue. School age children must be in attendance for the "free" tickets and the tickets are only good for a given venue once per season. We look forward to seeing how this program works out for us.

Additional Announcements

- As the summer begins, we expect more and more visitors at the museum. If you can come out on a Saturday or Sunday to help with visitors, it would be greatly appreciated.
- The SEK Museum Alliance passports are now available! We have our initial stock of 25 passports to provide to those interested visitors. The idea behind the passports is for an individual to pickup a passport at any of the participating museums in SE Kansas. They then take the passport to the various museums as they visit them and receive a stamp marking their visit.
- Reminder that the new rack cards advertising the Heart of the Heartlands are being distributed. If you know of a location that would be a good fit for our cards, let us know!

Heart of the Heartlands

6769 NW 20th St.
Scammon, KS 66773

Phone: 620-448-1065

Green County Model Railroad Donation

There has been a lot of interest in the newly set up HO model railroad display that was donated to the Heart of the Heartlands from the Green Country Model Railroad Club. John Chambers has been busy setting up the layout. Don Richardson added depth to the display by painting scenes on the blue back drop separating the lay out. This is a simple two track display that features the three coach Watco passenger train. The other track features a facsimile of the KCS 1023 pulling a freight train of vintage cars representative of the local area. This layout is a great addition to our museum displays.



- Photos by Larry Spahn

Other Items

- Boy Scout Troupe 522 of Wichita, KS is planning on being at the museum over the Labor Day Weekend to obtain their railroading merit badges. Based on previous discussions, they will hope to ride the train as part of the Little Balkans Days train rides in Pittsburg. Outside of that, they will be at the complex for the weekend working on various components of their railroad merit badge. Approximately 15-20 people are expected to attend. If you have time on that weekend and would be available to help with the group, we could use your assistance.
- Members who want to work the Little Balkans and following train rides need to pass the online safety training class again this year. It was decided at the May meeting that there will not be a general class meeting offered this year. Contact Brian Carlson for information and login credentials for the online material. John Chambers can also administer a paper copy to members at the museum.
- The CPKC steam train came through Pittsburg on May 21st. It was on its way from Kansas City to Heavener, OK. From there it was going to Louisiana, Texas and on down to Mexico City, Mexico. It is scheduled to come back through Pittsburg on June 25th.

May 8, 2024 - Heart of the Heartlands - Minutes

The May 8, 2024 meeting of the Heart of the Heartlands was brought to order by President Larry Spahn at 7:00 p.m.

Minutes of previous meeting: Jack Evans moved to accept the minutes as mailed. Michael Sheward seconded the motion, the motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: After the presentation of the treasurer's report, Michael Sheward moved, Jim McKeel seconded the motion to accept the treasurer's report. The motion was passed by the membership in attendance.

Old Business:

Display Painting Bids:

Two representatives from Sherwin-Williams Paint Company visited the Carona museum recently. They were supposed to meet with Rolando, one of the two contractors we contacted to give us bids for painting several pieces of rolling stock we have on display and the repair and painting of the two depots and motor car sheds. We already have received a written estimate from Helt Inc. for each of the cars and engines. The two representatives spoke with John Chambers at the time of the visit. Rolando was not present at the time of the visit.

Monthly Museum and Visitors Report:

John Chambers gave his museum and visitors report:

- Numbers down due to continued rain.
- John noted water flowing from the roof toward the museum. Larry will get pricing for gutters and installation for the south side of the museum.
- Dave Calwell's recent donations have been catalogued and placed on display. John took photos and sent them to Dave.
- Discussed the school visit from the Mennonite school at Lamar, MO.

Rob McKnight Train Show Report:

Rob attended a train show at Arkansas City, KS on April 20. He sold most of the items he took as well as promoted the Heartlands. There were 321 people in attendance at this show. John Chambers noted that two visitors from Winfield mentioned talking to Rob at the show. Anyone with model railroad items they would like to donate to be sold to raise funds for the museum are encouraged to bring them to the next meeting. Rob also attended a show in Dewey, OK on May 11th.

New Business:

School Students Visit:

There has been a lot of interest in the newly set up HO model railroad display that was donated to the Heart of the Heartlands from the Green Country Model Railroad Club. John Chambers has been busy setting up the layout. Don Richardson added depth to the display by painting scenes on the blue back drop separating the lay out. This is a simple two track display that features the three coach Watco passenger train. The other track features a facsimile of the KCS 1023 pulling a freight train of vintage cars representative of the local area. This layout is a great addition to our museum displays.

Green Country Model Railroad Club of Tulsa Donation:

There has been a lot of interest in the newly set up HO model railroad display that was donated to the Heart of the Heartlands from the Green Country Model Railroad Club. John Chambers has been busy setting up the layout. Don Richardson added depth to the display by painting scenes on the blue back drop separating the lay out. This is a simple two track display that features the three coach Watco passenger train. The other track features a facsimile of the KCS 1023 pulling a freight train of vintage cars representative of the local area. This layout is a great addition to our museum displays.

Invitation:

You are invited to join us in celebrating Kathy and Larry Spahn's 50th Wedding Anniversary on Sunday, June 2nd, 2024 at 2:00pm to 4:00pm at the Weir Senior Citizens Bldg. at 108 North Lincoln St in Weir. Please let Kathy know if you can attend so we can make sure we have enough seats and refreshments. (620-704-2407) **Your PRESENCE is the only present desired.**

Other Items:

- John discussed with the group the Boy Scout Troupe 522 of Wichita, KS plans of coming to the museum over the Labor Day Weekend to obtain their railroading merit badges. Approximately 15-20 people are expected to attend.
- Members who want to work the Little Balkans and following train rides need to pass the online safety training class again this year. Contact Brian for information and login credentials. John can also administer a paper copy to members at the museum but there will not be a general class meeting offered this year.
- Members were reminded of the CPKC steam special passing through Pittsburg on May 21. Timing of arrival is unknown so members were asked to check the CPKC website for details.
- Rob asked about replenishing the T-shirt stock. John will check again with Bleacher Gear in Parsons. Jim McKeel will get some quotes as well.
- The Columbus News Report had a front page article and color picture of the Carona Memories print.

Jack Evans moved to adjourn the meeting. Ivan Voorhees seconded the motion and it passed by the membership present.