



July Meeting

The July meeting of the Heart of the Heartlands was held on July 10, 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, Paul Morgan, Ethan Lawrence, Jack Evans, Michael Sheward, James McKeel, Denzil & Ivan Voorhees, Connie & Mike Payton, Ed Brinkmeyer, Brian Carlson, Darrell Cave and Larry & Kathy Spahn.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be at 7:00 pm, August 14, 2024 at the Webb Center in Carona.

Heartlands - YouTube

Check out our YouTube channel:

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

Museum Director Report for June

Report by John Chambers

- Had a total of 143 visitors from June 12 to July 7 from the 4-state region and these states: Minnesota, Tennessee, Arizona, Nebraska, Utah and Virginia.
- The 4th of July was a disappointment with only four touring the 1023 and looking for the Geocache by the front gate. We may want to look at closing on the 4th next year.
- Two visitors saw Rob at the Northwest Arkansas train show.
- Had a guy from Kansas City that works for A&K Railroad Salvage and he rebuilt their small switch engine that's similar to our Missouri Pacific Plymouth #3001 locomotive. We had a nice conversation about how it runs and is built.
- I finished cataloging the donation from John Rosacker from Kansas City. John graduated from PSU with a degree in history and later worked for the Kansas and Oklahoma Department of Transportations in the railroad division. Ended up being 212 individual items with multiples of some of them. It includes many employee timetables, track charts and condensed profiles, maps plus state reports and documents. This will be a nice collection for those doing research on Kansas and Oklahoma railroads.

New TV in the Webb Center

Recently, the TV in the media area of the Webb Center ceased to be operational. A new 70" TV was purchased in the middle of June. Heartland members Kathy and Larry Spahn picked up the new TV and brought it to Carona. Once there, Heartland members Brian Carlson and his son Chase took down the old TV and mounted the new one in its place. The new one is now fully functional for presentations of all kinds.

From our Past

We will be featuring photos from our past for awhile.

These pictures were taken in September of 2003 during the construction of the first building of the Webb Center. The first one is looking towards the main door. The second is looking toward the east end of the building.

- Larry Spahn photos



Announcements

- There will be a couple of upcoming train ride dates.
 - August 31 - Pittsburg, KS - Little Balkans - 9:00 am & 11:00 am
 - September 28 - Chanute, KS - Artist Alley - 9:30 am & 1:00 pm.
- More details to come.

Heart of the Heartlands

Any questions, comments or suggestions, contact:

Brian Carlson

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620-820-9665 (leave message)

A Summer Trip on the Rails

- by Brian Carlson

This past month, my wife Dawn and I have been fortunate enough to take a couple of train rides via Amtrak to Chicago and the northeast part of the United States. In addition to our Amtrak travels, we were also able to ride some regional scenic trains. This month I am writing about our experiences riding the rails on Amtrak. Next month's newsletter will include our ride on the Conway Scenic Railway in North Conway, New Hampshire. The following month will be looking at our ride on the Maine Narrow Guage Railroad in Portland, Maine.

Our first trip was our longest trip. We boarded Train 4 - The Southwest Chief at Kansas City's Union Station around 8:15 am. This train would take us to Chicago's Union Station where we would disembark and wait for our next train's departure. We had coach seating for this leg of our journey arriving in Chicago around 3:35 pm. Our next train, Train 448 - the Lake Shore Limited was scheduled to depart at 9:30 pm. Since we had a roomette booked for this leg of the journey, we went to the Metropolitan Lounge inside of Union Station. Utilizing the temporary baggage service in the lounge, we left our bags and went out for some Chicago pizza.

Around 8:45 we boarded Train 448 and settled in for our trip to Boston, Massachusetts. Our car attendant prepared our beds and we slept through the train's journey through northern Indiana and northern Ohio. We awoke around Erie, Pennsylvania, showered, dressed and went to the dining car for breakfast. An interesting thing about Train 448 is that Train 48 is also a part of the train. When the train reached the station at Albany-Rensselaer, NY, some car movement took place. The train we were on was separated. The locomotive and 4 of the cars (our sleeper, two coaches and the cafe car) would continue its journey to Boston as Train 448. Another locomotive was brought in to take the remaining cars to New York City as Train 48. We arrived in Boston's South Station around 8:30 pm.

After renting a car and touring New England for a week, we boarded Train 449 - the Lake Shore Limited with a 12:50 pm departure. Upon arrival at Albany-Rensselaer station, the car movement began again. This time, Train 49, coming from New York City, arrived about 20 minutes after we arrived. The cars from Train 49 were combined with the cars on Train 449 (from Boston) and the newly created single train headed out for Chicago. On this leg of the trip we had a bedroom accommodation instead of a roomette. This was our first time with a bedroom option and it was a nice change of pace.

We arrived in Chicago around 11:00 am. We had gone ahead and upgraded our tickets to a Roomette for the Chicago to KC portion of our trip. It had been a long week and the opportunity to take a nap in our own private room was very appealing. We grabbed some lunch in Union Station and waited again in the Metropolitan Lounge. We boarded Train 3 - the Southwest Chief - around 2:25 and departed Chicago shortly before 3:00 pm. With our accommodation came a meal in the dining car. My flat iron steak and my wife's pan roasted chicken breast were good. Although maybe not as good as a regular restaurant, they both satisfied the taste buds. Not too bad for a moving dinner; moving along about 80-90 miles per hour. Upon our arrival in Kansas City around 10:25 pm, we completed our trip to New England.

July 10, 2024 - Heart of the Heartlands - Minutes

The July 10, 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. Paul Morgan seconded the motion, the motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: After the presentation of the treasurer's report by treasurer Brian Carlson, Michael Sheward moved and Ethan Lawrence seconded the motion to accept the treasurer's report. The motion was passed by the membership in attendance.

Old Business:

Missouri Pacific Emblem:

Heartland member, Rob McKnight has volunteered to build the display stand that will provide a new home this artifact.

New TV Set:

We now have a new 70 inch TV in the Webb Center media area, Kathy and Larry Spahn picked up the TV and delivered it to Carona. Brian and his son Chase came out and took the old one down and installed the new set. They also got it setup for our day-to-day use. The old set was taken to the recycle center in Pittsburg.

Depot Bench:

On June 20th, Heartland members Larry Spahn and Brian Carlson met fellow Heartland member Bob Still in Decatur, Arkansas. The purpose of the trip was to pick up a depot bench that came from the Lake Geneva, Wisconsin Depot. The bench is in very good condition and has been placed in the Morgan Addition for use watching the model railroad display.

Monthly Museum and Visitors Report:

John Chambers gave his museum and visitors report:

- Number of visitors on July 4th. Suggested we close for future July 4th dates.
- The supervisor for the lawn company came out. He mentioned there were two more dead trees.
- The lawn company had also sprayed the parking lot to kill the weeds. May come for another spraying in the fall.
- A couple of visitors had posted information on YouTube and Facebook about our museum.
- Had a request from Bishop Taylor from Shreveport, LA in regards to filming a documentary on the 1023.
- Pittsburg Homeschool Coop wants to come out in September.

- Jim Selesky from Parsons has offered that if we double our next order of brochures that he will pay for the extra as long as he receives 100 brochures.

New Business:

T-Shirts:

Discussion was held about new T-Shirts for the souvenir shop. After much discussion, it was agreed that Darrell Cave and John Chambers would inventory the shirts we had left. Darrell would work on gathering bids for a decision to be made in regards to purchasing new shirts.

Other Items:

- Darrell Cave inquired about getting a credit card system setup at the museum. Brian Carlson would be working on it as quickly as possible. Discussion was also held in regards to handling of fees and deposits of income from the credit card system. Possibly depositing the money into our debit card account.
- Paul Morgan donated several HO scale rolling stock to the Heartlands.
- Brenda & Guy Ferguson made a donation to the Heartlands as a celebration gift for members Kathy & Larry Spahn in recognition of their 50th wedding anniversary.

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