



August Meeting

The August meeting of the Heart of the Heartlands was held on August 14, 2024 in the Webb Center at Carona, KS. There were 14 members present. Minutes of the meeting can be found at the end of this newsletter. Members in attendance were: John Chambers, Jack Evans, Jim McKeel, Denzil & Ivan Voorhees, Larry & Kathy Spahn, Rob McKnight, Paul Morgan, Darrell Cave, Michael Sheward, Gary Brown, and Connie & Mike Payton.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be at 7:00 pm, September 11, 2024 at the Webb Center in Carona.

Heartlands - YouTube

Check out our YouTube channel:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMIkqWyCxfDif_ezgw3UyQ

Upcoming Train Rides

Little Balkans Days -

There will be two one hour train rides on Saturday, August 31, 2024. Trains will depart at 9:00 am and again at 11:00 am. Boarding will be at Monroe and Elm Streets in Pittsburg, KS. Members working on the rides should be at the boarding area at 8:30am. These rides sold out within a few hours. Several comments were made suggesting that there should be more train rides.

Artist Alley Rides -

Two, one hour train rides are scheduled to depart the Chanute Depot, one at 9:30 am and the other at 1:00 pm on September 28th, 2024. Members working on the rides should at the boarding location in Chanute by 9:00am.

Train Bench Donation

Recently, we received word from Mr. Jack Johnson from Columbus, KS about a depot bench he was wanting to donate to the Heartlands. Larry Spahn contacted Mr. Johnson and he obtained some information about the bench. Mr. Johnson said that he had purchased it sometime in the past and now had no more use for it. The bench can seat nine passengers, with wooden arms between the seats, was eighteen feet in length and was made of solid oak. According to information he had when it was purchased was that it was from the Kimberling City, Branson, Missouri area. After an inspection trip by Kathy Spahn and Larry to Columbus they found it to be in very good shape, the finish weathered a bit. Larry informed Jack that we would be happy to accept his donation but it would probably take some time for us to make arrangements to get it. Mr. Johnston said that he would take care of the moving of the bench to the Carona museum. Larry thanked him greatly for this!



- Larry Spahn photos

From our Past

We will be featuring photos from our past for awhile.

These pictures were taken in September of 2012 for the Little Balkans Days "Chicken Run". For those that remember, the Sunday of Balkans' Days we took passengers from Pittsburg to Carona for a catered chicken dinner. Notice in the background is the tender for the 1023. The 1023 would be arriving in the next couple of weeks.

- Larry Spahn photos



Announcements

- Rob McKnight has completed the frame for the Missouri Pacific Emblem. The project will be finished when there is enough help available to lift the emblem into its frame. Thanks to Rob for his work!

Heart of the Heartlands

Any questions, comments or suggestions, contact:

Brian Carlson

bcarlson@ckt.net

620-820-9665 (leave message)

A few days later, Mr. Johnson arrived with the bench and a small moving crew consisting of a couple of Columbus High School football players and their coach. We had hoped to place the bench in the Boston depot but the waiting room is only 15ft x15ft, so for now it will be placed in the Webb Center along the east wall, under the TV and projector screen. John Chambers opined that the bench was most likely from a Missouri Pacific passenger depot as the railroad served that area. Hopefully a closer inspection may reveal more information as to which railroad it did come from.



Boy Scouts' Campout at Carona

Labor Day weekend Boy Scout Troop #522 from Wichita will be camping out at Carona. The troop is working on their railroad merit badge. This is a difficult badge to earn and we are excited to host the troop in their endeavors. They plan on arriving around 9:00 pm on Friday, August 30th. Part of their work towards earning their badge will include riding the 9:00 am train ride out of Pittsburg. In addition to their ride, Watco will do an Operation Lifesaver presentation. For community service to us, they are going to work on painting the motor car sheds. If anyone can volunteer on Saturday, August 31 at Carona, it would be very helpful. John will be helping the scouts where needed and we could use some people to help monitor the museum on that day. We are looking forward to their arrival and stay and thank them for choosing us to help them with their accomplishments.

Union Pacific - Big Boy #4014

For anyone interested in a bit of history returning to the area, the UP Big Boy #4014 steam locomotive will be making a return to the area this fall. The #4014 is the only remaining Big Boy of the 25 built that is still operational. As part of the Union Pacific's "Heartland of America" tour, it will be in Oklahoma and Kansas on October 14-15th, 2024. On Monday, October 14 it is scheduled to travel from McAlester, OK to Coffeyville, KS. The next day it will make its way from Coffeyville to Kansas City, MO, Union Station. Cities in Oklahoma will include, Muskogee and Claremore. Towns in Kansas will include Independence, Neodesha, Garnett, Osawatomie and Paola. For more information check out the heritage steam schedule on www.up.com.



- Brian Carlson photos

Additional Announcements

- Kepley Guttering, of Chanute installed guttering on the south side of the Webb Center. We are hopeful this will prevent the large pools of water that form along the south side of the building during heavy rains.
- The Sunflower Summer Program ended on August 11th. A final report about this program should be available for the September meeting and newsletter.
- The Great Plains Railroad Museum in Wichita is having the Kansas Railfest on Sept 6. Also the Santa Fe band will be giving a concert at the museum on Sept 7 at 4 p.m.

Heart of the Heartlands

6769 NW 20th St.
Scammon, KS 66773

Phone: 620-448-1065

Santa Fe Depot

In 2000, the Heartlands placed a Santa Fe Depot bench in the Stillwell Hotel in downtown Pittsburg. The bench was originally located in the Santa Fe Depot in Independence, KS. Currently it is on loan to the Stillwell Foundation. Recently, Heartland



member

- Mike Sypult photos

Mike Sypult toured the Stillwell Hotel and took some pictures of the bench. Being extremely heavy, it doesn't appear to have moved from its initial position 24 years ago. It also seems to be taken care of and in good shape.

Museum Director Report for July

Report by John Chambers

- Had a total of 198 visitors from July 10 to Aug 11 from the 4-state region and Texas, Minnesota and Pennsylvania.
- I became ill with a virus and we were closed from July 24th through the 28th.
- On July 20th which was the day of the Joplin train show we had several visitors who came by after the show.
- including members Daniel Archer and Dusty McCoy who both used the library for some research.
- We had several former KCS employees visit including one who was here when Paul Morgan was and they both had a nice long reunion visit.
- I had a phone call from a Kent Broady from Carl Junction, Missouri who asked if we'd like some items from his family. His grandfather Bert Broady was a KCS section worker out of Tipton Ford, Missouri and had kept several items and photos of his railroad career. Kent came by the next day and donated the items which included some railroad passes, letters, photos and other items. They have been cataloged and put into a 3-ring binder for preservation and viewing.
- We had a nice number of families using the Kansas Sunflower Summer program which ended on Aug 11th. After we receive our final payment from the state Brian will have an ending dollar figure to see how much we made. It seemed like a success. The \$5 per person we received is money we would not have made. In addition, it was good publicity for us as we had several extra visitors that I don't think would have known about us if we hadn't participated in the program.

August 14, 2024 - Heart of the Heartlands - Minutes

The August 14, 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. John Chambers seconded the motion, the motion passed.

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

Old Business:

Little Balkan Train Rides:

There will be two one hour train rides on Saturday, August 31, 2024. Trains will depart at 9:00am and again at 11:00am. Boarding will be at Monroe and Elm Streets in Pittsburg, KS. Members working on the rides should be at the boarding area at 8:30am. These rides sold out within a few hours. Several comments were made suggesting that there should be more train rides. The cars have been in Coffeyville being repaired and receiving some touch up paint. They would be back in Carona in time for the rides.

Artist Alley Rides:

Two, one hour train rides are scheduled to depart the Chanute depot, one at 9:30am and the other at 1:00pm on September 28th, 2024. Members working on the rides should at the Chanute at 9:00am.

Wichita Boy Scouts Visit:

A group of scouts from the Wichita area will be visiting the Carona Museum on Labor Day weekend to earn the hard to get, railroad merit badge. They will be riding the train at Little Balkans Days and then camping out at the museum. At the time of the meeting, 12 scouts and 5 adults were planning on attending. Watco would be providing an Operation Lifesaver presentation and the Cherryvale Model Railroad Club would be assisting. John Chambers asked for volunteers Saturday afternoon to help at the museum while he would be working with the scouts.

Missouri Pacific Emblem:

Heartland member, Rob McKnight has completed the stand for the Missouri Pacific emblem. When enough people are around to lift the emblem into the stand the final touches will be complete.

New Guttering:

Kepley Guttering, of Chanute, called and said that they plan on being at the museum on August 20th to install the new guttering on the south porch of the Webb Center on Tuesday, August 20. Larry will be

there to let them in and open the building if needed. He will also inquire about ice dam brackets at that time.

T-Shirts:

After much discussion about T-shirts it was decided to seek several new logo ideas and then Jim and Darrell will meet with First Edition Hix in Pittsburg to decide on colors and quantities to be ordered. In addition, Darrell has procured the kids engineers hats.

Train Show Report:

Rob McKnight reported on the train shows he had attended. He was at Stillwater, OK on July 13, with 434 people attending with sales of \$227 plus a \$10 donation. He then attended Joplin, MO on July 20th with 400 attending. Sales of \$238 and donations of \$5 were collected. Steve Gardner was able to help the club with a second table in Joplin and Rob requested using two tables in the future to make it easier for setup and sales. Rob will attend the Springfield, MO show on September 21st and Joplin on Nov 30th.

New Business:

Propane:

Brian Carlson asked Larry to check with the McCune Co-op about our propane usage and if we had any left on the books. We have nothing left on the books and we used 456 gallons last year. They have a sale on propane until this Friday. Pre-pay price is \$1.66 per gallon. After Larry checked on our balance of propane, it was discovered that we had no remaining gallons on the books. Darrell Cave moved to purchase 500 gallons while it was on sale with Mike Payton seconding the motion. The motion was passed by the members present.

Donation:

Mr. Jack Johnson recently got in touch with Jim McKeel through our web site and then referred him to me about his donation of a depot bench to the Heartlands. Larry called Mr. Johnson and he gave some information about the bench. He said that he had purchased it sometime in the past and now had no more use for it. He said that the bench is for nine passengers, is eighteen feet in length and is made of solid oak and that there are wooden arms between the seats. (This pretty well ruled out it being a church pew.) He said that the person he purchased it from said that it was from the Kimberling City, Branson, Missouri area. Kathy Spahn and Larry went to Columbus to inspect the bench. It was found to be in very good shape, the finish weathered a bit. Larry informed Jack that we would be happy to accept his donation but it would probably take some time for us to make arrangements to get it. Mr. Johnston said that he would take care of the moving of the bench to the Carona museum. Larry thanked him greatly for this! We had hoped to place the bench in the Boston depot but the waiting room is only 15ft x15ft, so for now it will be placed under the porch in front of the Webb Center. John Chambers opined that the bench was most likely from a Missouri Pacific passenger depot as the railroad served that area. Hopefully a closer inspection may reveal more information as to which railroad it did come from.

Monthly Museum and Visitors Report:

John Chambers gave his museum and visitors report:

- Had a total of 198 visitors from July 10 to Aug 11 from the 4-state region and Texas, Minnesota and Pennsylvania.
- I became ill with a virus and we were closed from July 24th through the 28th.
- On July 20th which was the day of the Joplin train show we had several visitors who came by after the show.
- including members Daniel Archer and Dusty McCoy who both used the library for some research.
- We had several former KCS employees visit including one who was here when Paul Morgan was and they both had a nice long reunion visit.
- I had a phone call from a Kent Broady from Carl Junction, Missouri who asked if we'd like some items from his family. His grandfather Bert Broady was a KCS section worker out of Tipton Ford, Missouri and had kept several items and photos of his railroad career. Kent came by the next day and donated the items which included some railroad passes, letters, photos and other items. They have been cataloged and put into a 3-ring binder for preservation and viewing.
- We had a nice number of families using the Kansas Sunflower Summer program which ended on Aug 11th. After we receive our final payment from the state Brian will have an ending dollar figure to see how much we made. It seemed like a success. The \$5 per person we received is money we would not have made. In addition, it was good publicity for us as we had several extra visitors that I don't think would have known about us if we hadn't participated in the program.

Other Items:

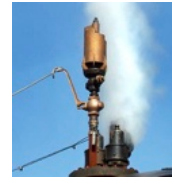
- A wooden model trains was donated to the museum by Brian Troglia. He worked on the train and bridge display with many man hours involved. The club appreciates his donation.
- The bench in the Stilwell Hotel is still in place and in good shape.
- Jim noted that the Great Plains Railroad Museum in Wichita is having the Kansas Railfest on Sept 6 and the Santa Fe band will be giving a concert at the museum on Sept 7 at 4 p.m.

Jack Evans moved to adjourn the meeting. Jim McKeel seconded the motion and it passed by the membership present. Meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Got a spot?

Don't hesitate to send something in if you have a place you have been or would like to go to. Our members would love to hear about it!

Whistle Stop!



The Conway Scenic Railroad's depot

- Article and photos by Heart of the Heartlands member, Brian Carlson

In last month's issue, I talked about the recent Amtrak trip my wife and I took to Boston via Kansas City and Chicago. After arriving at Boston, we rented a car and travel to the northwest part of Vermont through New Hampshire and on to Portland, Maine before returning to Boston to catch our train back home. Along the way, we stopped in North Conway, New Hampshire to catch a ride on The Conway Scenic Railway.



North Conway Station



#573 - Lead our train excursion

The Conway Scenic Railroad's depot is located in historic downtown North Conway, NH which is situated in the White Mountains region of New Hampshire. The railroad operates on two historic railway routes. One is the line from North Conway to Conway that was formerly part of the Conway Branch of the Boston and Maine Railroad. The other is the line from North Conway through Crawford Notch to Fabyan that was once part of the Mountain Division of the Maine Central Railroad. The line began in 1872 with the Boston and Maine acquiring the Conway Branch in 1890. Our passenger cars were used on the Boston and Maine Railroad prior to their arrival in Kansas. They probably were not used in Conway, however. In 1961, the station was closed and only limited freight service remained. A man by the name of Dwight Smith, an employee of the Boston and Maine was able to convince the railroad to sell the portion of the Conway Branch to him and two other local businessmen when the

line was set to be abandoned in 1974. This purchase was the start of the Conway Scenic Railroad. The railroad offers four main excursions.

- **Mountaineer** - Advertised as their most scenic. It is a 50-60 mile round trip that takes 4.5-5.5 hours to complete.
- **Sawyer River Excursion** - Trip along the Saco River and through the woods of the Sawyer River. It is a 21 mile round trip that takes 2 hours and 10 minutes.
- **Conway Valley Train** - This train runs daily covering the 5.5 miles from North Conway to Conway. With its 55 minute time for a round trip, this is the one we traveled.
- **470 Club Excursion** - This train runs to Crawford Notch but makes several stops along the way for passengers to de-board to take pictures of the train as they run by for the photo opportunities.



#6739 - Our coach car

All of the trips travel through some very picturesque scenery, especially in the fall when the leaves are changing. The railroad currently operates 9 locomotives for their various trips. These include a 0-6-0 steam locomotive, #7470 built by the Grand Trunk Railway in 1921. The railroad also has an operation RDC-1 unit built in 1952 by the Budd Company that is used for special events. Rounding out the active roster are an EMD-GP35, two EMD-GP38's, an EMD-GP7, a GP9 and two F7A's. Steam locomotive #501, a 2-8-0 built by Aldo in 1910 is currently under restoration. The passenger cars include early 20th century coaches, mid 20th century coaches, dome cars and other special cars.



Conway Station - Turn around point

Our trip to Conway was on a beautiful sunny day and was a very enjoyable and memorable trip. The New Hampshire country side we traveled through did not go along the river, or forest, or mountains, but mostly went through farmland, full of growing crops. Maybe, we will return some day to partake in a couple of the longer rides up into the mountains. We might even make it a visit during the fall foliage season! Granted, Conway is not exactly next door to our museum in Carona. However, if you are in the area, it is definitely worth a stop.



De-boarding view

- Historical information is from: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Conway_Scenic_Railroad