



April Meeting

The April meeting of the Heart of the Heartlands was held on April 9, 2025 starting at 7:00 pm in the Webb Center at Carona, KS. There were 13 members present for this meeting. Minutes of the meeting can be found at the end of this newsletter.

Members in attendance were: John Chambers, Bob Capps, Jack Evans, Paul Morgan, Michael Sheward, Ed Brinkmeyer, Jim McKeel, Rob McKnight, Mike & Connie Payton, Darrell Cave, Brian Carlson, and Larry Spahn.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be at 7:00 pm, May 14, 2025 at the Webb Center in Carona.

Heartlands - YouTube

Check out our YouTube channel:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMIkqWyCxfDlf_ezgw3UyQ

Heartlands Train Show Presence

Thanks to the time and effort of member Rob McKnight, the Heartlands has a presence at numerous train shows in the four state area. As was mentioned in last month's newsletter, there are nine shows that Rob plans to attend in 2025. Rob sets up a very professional display at the shows. It is one that not only advertises but highlights the unique learning opportunities for one to experience when at our museum.



In addition to the discussions he has with show attendees, he also sells some souvenirs as well. Many of the things he sells have been donated by members. Paul Morgan has donated numerous HO scale cars, building kits and other items. Ed Brinkmeyer



has donated timetables as well. We appreciate Rob's willingness and dedication to spend a Saturday, and in some cases a Friday, to attend these shows on our behalf. Thanks Rob!



The photos here are of the display setup for the Heartlands Toy Train Association Show held in Broken Arrow, OK on April 25-26.



From our Past

These photos were taken during a Hobo's Day get together in November of 2005.

- Larry Spahn photos



Heart of the Heartlands

Any questions, comments or suggestions, contact:

Brian Carlson

secretary@heartlandsrailroadmuseum.org

620-820-9665 (leave message)

Planned Group Visits

There are several groups that have indicated that they are planning on making a visit to our museum in the next couple of months. On the days the groups are present, we can use extra volunteers to help John Chambers work with the attending groups as well as any other visitors that arrive. If you can make it out on any of the dates below, your help would be greatly appreciated.

April 24	Ft. Scott Christian Learning Center
April 26	Kansas City Thunder Bird Club (cancelled)
May 7	Columbus Head Start
June 7	Green Country Jeep Club

Museum Director Report for April

Report by John Chambers

- In March we had 240 visitors at the museum from the four state area plus Texas, Tennessee, Iowa, California and Italy.
- We lost power on the fourteenth starting around 2:00 pm due to high winds blowing down a couple of power poles near Carona.
- On the fifteenth the Polar Bear Camping Club stopped by on their poker run with around ninety visitors this day. Thank you to Jack Evans, Larry and Kathy Spahn for helping out.
- On March 27th the rock for the Watco storage container project was delivered. Wet weather has slowed this project down.
- Had a couple of people come by scouting out the museum to include on stops for different groups including a T-Bird car club from Kansas City and a Jeep group from Tulsa?
- The biggest photo collection we've added in a while is from Tim Ren of Parsons. Tim has been taking pictures of railroads in this area since around 1980. Tim donated his photo collection to us. What makes this a nice addition is that he had already scanned all of them, catalogued, identified and put them in folders. We now have three thumb drives of his collection. We looked at a few early photos of the Carona depot he took and the first Santa Train that the Heartlands sponsored.

April 9, 2025 - Heart of the Heartlands - Minutes

The April 9, 2025 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 Steward seconded the motion, the motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Brian Carlson presented the treasurer's report for the month of March. After the presentation of the treasurer's report, John Chambers moved and Jim McKeel seconded the motion to accept the treasurer's report. The motion was passed by the membership in attendance.

Old Business:

New Container:

Three truck loads of AB-3 rock were delivered and the dead tree located in the area where the container will be placed has been removed. The area is ready for the pad to be built and the container delivered and setup.

Driveway Alarm:

The new driveway alarm has been installed and seems to be working satisfactorily. This should help John know when visitors have arrived on the grounds.

New Business:

Credit Card System:

Treasurer Brian Carlson presented a proposal on a system to use for accepting credit card payments. The proposed system utilizes a system called Square to process credit card transactions. The proposal included purchasing a terminal for use at the museum for the gift shop. The system would also allow for Rob McKnight to accept credit cards at the train shows he attends by using his phone to connect to the system. Rob has experience using this system and had previously donated card readers and a receipt printer. Purchasing a new terminal for the museum would allow Rob to use his phone and the donated card readers to process payments at any of the shows he attends (provided he has cell service or can connect to WiFi). The proposal was for purchasing a Square terminal to be used at the museum for \$299 and a 20-pack of receipt paper rolls for \$29. This brought the proposal total to \$328. After the proposal was presented and a brief discussion, Jim McKeel moved to purchase the terminal and receipt paper at a total of \$328. Darrel Cave seconded the motion and it was passed by the membership present.

Lawn Mowers:

Larry brought up that Kevin Anselmi with Watco would like to borrow the Snapper mower and offered to service both mowers. Watco would like to use the Snapper around the company headquarters in Pittsburg as a backup. If at some point in time, we needed the Snapper back, they would return it to us for our use. After a brief discussion, Connie Payton moved to have them service both mowers and to use the Snapper mower, returning it to us if we should need it in the future. Darrell Cave seconded the motion and it was passed by the membership present.

Planned Visits to the Museum:

As can be seen from the list below, John would appreciate any help that you can give to assist him with the visiting groups that have contacted us in regards to their plans on visiting the museum. He needs to have someone in the museum while he leads the groups on the outside tours and to also sell souvenirs.

- **Fort Scott Christian Learning Center:** The group is planning a visit to the museum on Thursday, April 24, 2025. They plan on arriving around 1:30 pm. The group will consist of thirty seven members including adults. The kids are grades third through sixth.
- **Kansas City Thunder Bird Club Visit:** Members of the T-Bird club plan on visiting the Carona Museum on April 26th. There may be twenty or more T-birds in the group. This is something worth button on your calendar!
- **Columbus Head Start:** The group plans on visiting the museum on May 7 at 10:00 am. There will be around fourteen persons, three to five year olds and staff visiting the museum and displays.
- **Green Country Jeep Club:** On June 7th, 2025, there will be around twenty jeeps and fifty or more members visiting the Carona Museum.

Decals, patches, stickers:

Discussion was held about having some sort of decal, sticker or patch available as a souvenir in the gift shop. Many of the visiting auto groups collect stickers or decals as a way to commemorate their visit.

Monthly Museum and Visitors Report:

John Chambers gave his museum and visitors report:

Rob McKnight Train Show Report:

Rob McKnight informed the group that he would be attending the Wichita Toy Train Club Show in Arkansas City, KS on April 19th and the Heartlands Toy Train Association Show in Broken Arrow, OK on April 25-26. These were the next two train shows of the nine he is planning on attending this year on behalf of the Heart of the Heartlands.

Rob also presented QR codes that he had made for the train shows and also the museum. The QR codes allow for a person to use their smartphone to scan the code which then takes them to our website. One of the codes brings the individual to our donations page and the other code takes them to our membership page.

Rob also presented a plan for replacing the QR codes on our outdoor exhibits. A few years ago, QR codes were placed on the outdoor exhibits that would allow a person to read more information about that particular exhibit or they could hear about the exhibit in a recording made by member Bob Capps. Those

old QR codes have worn out or have disappeared over the years. Rob proposed purchasing more durable signs to revitalize the project. After a short amount of discussion, Jim McKeel moved to proceed with the sign project as described by Rob. Paul Morgan seconded the motion and it was passed by the membership present.

Other Items:

- Darrell Cave informed the group that all of the necessary tax submissions had been made for the Heartlands. Our thanks to Darrell for performing this duty each year.
- Jim McKeel informed the group that we are currently in the process of moving all of the digital copies of the newsletter to an online storage location so that they can be accessed more readily. This also allows us to free up space on our website where they had been stored.
- Brian Carlson also informed the group that LED fluorescent light fixtures had been purchased for the main museum building. Larry Spahn will be installing those fixtures in the near future.
- Darrell Cave inquired as to the status of the scanner and possible slides that were in the possession of the late Alan Chilton. The scanner has not been returned. Discussion was held and the thought was that we would begin looking for a replacement scanner.

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