



April Meeting

The April meeting of the Heart of the Heartlands was held on May 14, 2025 starting at 7:00 pm in the Webb Center at Carona, KS. There were 15 members present for this meeting. Minutes of the meeting can be found at the end of this newsletter. Members in attendance were: John Chambers, Jack Evans, Rob McKnight, Paul Morgan, Ivan and Denzil Voorhees, Darrell Cave, Jim McKeel, Michael Sheward, Ed Brinkmeyer, Brian Carlson, Mike & Connie Payton, and Larry Spahn.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be at 7:00 pm, June 11, 2025 at the Webb Center in Carona.

Heartlands - YouTube

Check out our YouTube channel:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMIkqWyCxftDlf_ezgw3UyQ

Museum Director Report for April

Report by John Chambers

- We had 150 visitors for the month of April 2025 from the four state region plus Louisiana, Texas, Minnesota, Mississippi, California and Australia.
- Jeff Terry, Manager CPKC Heritage Services and Operations U.S. and Steven Pawlow a major KCS memorabilia collector from Mississippi visited Carona on April 13th. They both stayed for several hours and left very impressed with the museum. Jeff presented us with two copies of a picture of KCS #488 on the turntable at Pittsburg, no date, from the KCS company archives. This is the 2-8-0 Consolidation steam locomotive that was built in 1906 and converted in 1925 in the KCS Pittsburg shops into 0-8-0 switch engine #1023 which we have on display. This is the only known photograph of the 1023 in it's as build condition. Jeff is wanting to come visit again and look through some of our archives.
- The Fort Scott Christian School on April 24th visited with 38 students from 3rd through 8th grade plus adults. They divided into two groups and spent over an hour at the museum. They didn't set enough time to make a complete tour but were very happy with what we presented and want to come back again. Thanks to Larry and Kathy Spahn plus Paul Morgan for helping out with the tour.
- We had lots of rain, over five inches during a three day period which kept Watco from working on the container project.
- The Thunderbird car club from Kansas City was unable to stop at Carona due to time constraints but they would like to include us in a fall two day trip. Hopefully we will see them later this year.
- Had a visitor from Fredonia who is interested in the railroads of that town as he's wanting to build a model railroad layout based in the 1960's. After he toured the grounds he came back in and let me know that he grew up in Boston, Massachusetts and remembers riding in the Watco coaches when they were in commuter service for the

From our Past

On a rainy day in May of 2015, these photos were taken of the Wisconsin & Southern as it was parked at Carona for a brief stop.

- Larry Spahn photos



Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority in the 1970's. Was neat talking to him about riding in the cars when they were in daily use.

- Justin Ziesenis from the Frontenac Library Board contacted me as they are building a new library and museum building and are looking for information on the Santa Fe. He and the library director will be visiting in the future to look through our archives. Ed Brinkmeyer is also getting some information together for them.

Train Shows Report

Report by Rob McKnight

Wichita Toy Train Club - Arkansas City, KS - April 19

Attendance: 175 Sales: \$386

- Attendance was done, most likely because it was a cold rainy day and it was Easter weekend.
- Sales were good despite the low attendance.
- Thank you to Ed and Paul for the donations!

Heartland Toy Train Association - Broken Arrow, OK - April 25th & 26th

Attendance: 579 Sales: \$477

- Good attendance, 3rd highest of the shows we've attended.
- Friday sales were \$113, Saturday was \$364
- Finally figured out the TV monitor and it worked well. We need a promotional video/DVD for Carona.
- Our banner needs to be updated to read 'Heartlands Railroad Museum'
- We need a way to separate our tables from our neighbors, possibly table coverings or a second banner.
- There were lots of kids (138) and was able to talk to a lot of people about the museum.
- Overall, I feel it was a great show for the museum in both sales (2nd best) and meeting people.

Heart of the Heartlands

Any questions, comments or suggestions, contact:

Brian Carlson

secretary@heartlandsrailroadmuseum.org

620-820-9665 (leave message)

May 14, 2025 - Heart of the Heartlands - Minutes

The May 14, 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. Jim McKeel 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:

Museum Replacement Lighting:

The old fluorescent light fixtures and bulbs have been removed and replaced with more efficient LED lighting fixtures. The old lighting system was not only very inefficient but now is not recommended for use in museum settings as the fluorescent light rays cause deterioration of the colors and dyes used in pictures and paintings. The new lights provide about the same amount of illumination for half the cost. Our thanks to Larry Spahn for replacing the lights.

Storage Container:

Wet weather conditions have delayed the completion of this project. When weather permits the container should be completed very quickly.

Visits to the Museum:

As can be seen from the list below we have had several groups visit the Webb Center.

Fort Scott Christian Learning Center: *Due to the number of persons in the group they were split into two groups with one group being shown through the Webb Center while the other half enjoyed the outside displays. The groups then switched out so everyone could see all of displays we have to offer.*

Columbus Head Start Group:

The group visited the museum on May 07 at 10:00 am. There were fourteen persons, three to five year olds and staff visiting the museum and displays.

Kansas City Thunder Bird Club Visit:

Due to time restraints and rainy weather forecast, the T Bird club cancelled their visit but plan on coming later in the year.

New Business:

Signal Collection Discussion:

Jim McKeel recently called and asked if we might be interested in acquiring a donation of a huge signal collection. He had recently spoken with Larry Toerber who was once employed by the Milwaukee Railroad as a signal maintainer. He told Jim that he had a large collection of signal equipment, relays, instruction manuals etc, etc. After the restructuring of the company, Larry went to work for the FRA as an inspector and after thirty seven years of service is retiring. He will be selling his property and moving in the near future and is looking for a home for his collection.

After the discussion with Jim and Larry Spahn, Jim arranged a visit for that weekend. Larry called Brian Carlson, our treasurer, and Brian said that he was free that Sunday and was willing to drive out and see what we might be getting into. We need to discuss the possible acquisition of this collection. After some discussion it was agreed that the Heartlands would not be able to accept this donation. All were in agreement in helping Larry Toerber find a suitable place for his collection.

Monthly Museum and Visitors Report:

- Reported on Oklahoma Heritage Railway Association possible collaboration with the Heartlands on various projects.
- Gave his museum report for April
- Mentioned that the Green Country Jeep Club is planning on coming to Carona on June 7th,

Rob McKnight Train Show Report:

- Arkansas City show was on April 19th. This was the Saturday of Easter weekend. Attendance was vary low, but Rob did sell \$386 worth of items.
- The following week, April 25th & 26th, he attended the Heartland Toy Train Association show in Broken Arrow, OK. There were 579 people in attendance. Sales were \$477
- Rob mentioned that our banner needs to be updated to reflect our "Heartlands Railroad Museum" name. Darrell Cave moved and Jim McKeel seconded a motion to have Rob get a new banner made. The motion was passed by the members present.

Signs & Stickers:

Darrell Cave presented to the club numbers for purchasing stickers, patches, pins and signs to the club. Jim McKeel moved and John Chambers seconded a motion for Darrell to pursue costs of purchasing stickers, patches, pins and signs for the club. The motion was passed by the members present.

Other Items:

- There were no other items.

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