



January Meeting

The January meeting of the Heart of the Heartlands was held on January 9, 2019 in the Webb Center at Carona, KS. There were 20 members and 3 guests present. Minutes of the meeting can be found at the end of this newsletter. Members in attendance were: Jack Evans, Guy Ferguson, Bryson Spahn, Larry & Kathy Spahn, Tom Johnston, Jim McKeel, Joe Murphey, Bob Capps, Brian Carlson, Michael Sheward, Nicolas Ybarra, Theresa Singleton, Michael and Connie Payton, Frank Osborn, Jimmie Lovell, Steven Garner, Darrell Cave and Gordon Garrett.

KCSHS Calendar

The Kansas City Southern Historical Society's 2019 calendar has member Bill Bailey's picture of the KCS #1023 steam engine at Carona on the back cover.

Pittsburg Schools First Graders Santa Ride

Five hundred and thirty two students enjoyed the one hour train ride. The students had previously read the Polar Express book and then watched the movie before the ride. The classes from each of the schools arrived by bus and were chaperoned by their teachers.



Photo courtesy of Larry Spahn

They were all wearing their pajamas for the train ride just like in the movie. After everyone was aboard and the train got underway, all were treated to a large sugar cookie and a bottle of water that was distributed by employees from WATCO.



Photo courtesy of Larry Spahn

Santa Claus was waiting

along the tracks in a bucket truck to wave at the children as they passed by. Christmas songs were played and the kids joined in the fun and sang along with the music. Each student was given a "silver bell" as they got off of the train as a special souvenir of the



Photo courtesy of Larry Spahn

ride. Everyone had a great time. Heartland members, Mike Sheward, Jim McKeel, Denzil and Ivan Voorhees, Dave Parker, Guy & Brenda Ferguson, Tom Johnston and Kathy and Larry Spahn assisted in presenting the rides.



Photo courtesy of Larry Spahn

What is it?

This is an item that is currently located in the



Carona museum. What is it?

Answer next month

Photo courtesy of Brian Carlson

Last Month's picture was a part of the hand carved wooden steam locomotive models from the John Downes' collection.

Announcements

- The next meeting will be Wednesday, February 13, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. at the Webb Center. We hope to see you there.
- Membership renewal time is taking place. Secretary Brian Carlson has contacted all members via email and/or regular mail about the status of their membership. To date, 80% of the membership has renewed. Several members had already paid for multiple years, thus do not need to renew at this time.

January 2019 Newsletter

Fredonia Santa Express Train Ride



Photo courtesy of Larry Spahn

Two train rides were provided for the Chamber of Commerce on December 15, 2018. The first train ride departed at 9:00 a.m. with 240 passengers aboard and the second at 11:00 a.m. with 230 passengers aboard the train.

Passengers boarded the train and departed from the old La Farge cement plant. The La Farge Company provided the use of their parking areas and concrete streets for loading passengers. The rides were sold out and all tickets gone



Photo courtesy of Larry Spahn

within thirty six hours. The train rides were well received and everyone had a good time. Santa Claus was also on hand to greet the passengers as they returned from the one hour rides. Hot cocoa and kettle corn was available after the rides. Heartland

members that traveled to Fredonia to assist in the rides were Mike and Connie Payton, Denzil and Ivan Voorhees, Jim McKeel, Chuck Dugnolle, John Chambers, Guy Ferguson, Brian Carlson and Kathy and Larry Spahn.



Photo courtesy of Larry Spahn



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KCS Holiday Express

The train visited Pittsburg on Friday, December 07, 2018. The train was parked at the intersection of Monroe and Elm Streets and was opened to the public at 4:00 p.m. Two thousand seventeen persons visited the train. Many visited with Santa Claus and all children under ten received a gift package as they got off the train. Members of the Pittsburg Police Department were on hand to control traffic and also provided hot chocolate to all that stopped by their booth. The Salvation Army was also on hand serving hot chocolate. Proceeds from the event went to the Pittsburg Salvation Army. Heartland members that worked as elves on the train were Joe Carlson, John Chambers, Nick Ybarra, Darrell Cave, Denzil and Ivan Voorhees and Kathy and Larry Spahn. As a thank you for their service on the tram' those working received a 2018 limited edition, Christmas ornament 2 featuring the KCS Christmas train.

Safety Meeting

Dates were set for the annual safety meetings. These are the meetings that all members planning on helping on the passenger cars must attend. There will be one in Wichita on March 10 at 3:00 p.m. The location will be announced later. The other safety meeting will be in Carona on March 16 at 1:00 p.m. There is some work towards possibly having an online safety meeting and test to help benefit members that can not attend the scheduled meetings or may have to drive from a great distance. More details will be coming.

2019 Train Rides

Work has begun on formulating the train ride schedule for 2019. So far we have received interest from Clearwater, Winfield, Wichita and Bartlesville as possible spring rides. Pittsburg, Dewey, Chanute and Fredonia are possible fall rides. There is a possibility we may have a ride in Cherryvale as well. More details will be announced when the 2019 train ride proposal has been completed.

Dave Calwell Santa Fe Collection

Jim McKeel has been working with Dave Calwell, “a long time Heartland member”, since Jim learned that Dave was looking for a permanent home for his collection. Jim set up a meeting with Dave to view his collection and to discuss what he had in mind. Jim, Brian Carlson and Larry traveled to Topeka on Sunday, January 6, to meet with Dave. It is amazing what Dave has acquired over the many years that he worked for the Santa Fe as Claims Manager for the Eastern Division. We have the opportunity to be the beneficiaries of the entire collection. If we decide to pursue the collection we will have to have room to display it properly and this will entail adding on to our present structure. This will be a sizable expenditure and will reduce our operating cushion for museum operations considerably. Dave said that he would be willing to donate \$10,000.00 toward the construction of an addition. Discussion was held about the type of addition needed for the building as well as other items discussed about displaying the collection and preserving the collection. The club voted to accept the donation of the collection and authorized president Larry Spahn to gather cost estimates in regards to adding on to the current Webb Center.

Test Passenger Train

Rick Webb contacted the club and asked if the Heartlands would be interested in being involved in part of a six month test of running a passenger train between Tulsa and Oklahoma City. This may or may not happen but the plans are in the works to do such an operation. The train would run seven days a week, one train each way per day. All ride revenue would go to the Heartlands and the railroad would pay for room and board for the train crew while the trial was being performed. It is currently being planned that the current company passenger cars would be used. The question arose that if we cannot get enough interest in doing it ourselves we could possibly be involved with training people to do what we do. He also asked what would work best for us as to when the test would start and end. Such as January to June, June to December etc.? This project is in the very early stages and he repeated that it may not even happen. After discussion of the matter, it was determined that there was interest from those in attendance. Larry will be getting in touch with Rick to let him know of our interest.

January 9, 2019 - Heart of the Heartlands - Minutes

The January 9, 2019 meeting of the Heart of the Heartlands was brought to order by President Larry Spahn at 7:00 p.m.

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

Treasurer's Report: After the presentation of the treasurer's report by treasurer Brian Carlson, Guy Ferguson moved, Mike Shepard seconded a motion to accept the treasurer's report. The motion was passed by the membership in attendance.

Old Business:

Pittsburg Schools First Graders Santa Ride: Five hundred and thirty two students enjoyed the one hour train ride. The students had previously read the Polar Express book and then watched the movie before the ride. The classes from each of the schools arrived by bus and were chaperoned by their teachers. They were all wearing their pajamas for the train ride just like in the movie. After everyone was aboard and the train got underway, all were treated to a large sugar cookie and a bottle of water that was distributed by employees from WATCO. Santa Claus was waiting along the tracks in a bucket truck to wave at the children as they passed by. Christmas songs were played and the kids joined in the fun and sang along with the music. Each student was given a "silver bell" as they got off of the train as a special souvenir of the ride. Everyone had a great time. Heartland members, Mike Sheward, Jim McKeel, Denzil and Ivan Voorhees, Dave Parker, Guy & Brenda Ferguson, Tom Johnston and Kathy and Larry Spahn assisted in presenting the rides.

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New Business:

Train Ride Schedule for 2019: Clearwater has requested train rides this year and has given us a choice of four weekends that they can have their rides on. They are April 20th and 27th and May 11'th and 18th. We are also looking at the possibility having rides at Winfield and Wichita in the same time frame, as the cars will already be out west. We want to work in a spring ride at Bartlesville. In the fall Dewey would like to have the train and also the Fredonia Chamber of Commerce would like to have a fall ride if possible. They would have to work out a deal with La Farge to use their facilities as the track into Fredonia is excepted trackage and no passenger trains are allowed on it anymore. Cherryvale is also being considered as a possible ride location possibly in the fall.

KCHS Calendar: The Kansas City Historical Society, 2019 calendar has member Bill Bailey's picture of the KCS #1023 steam engine at Carona on the back cover.

Meeting with Rick Webb: Rick called and asked Larry to come in and talk with him. Larry met with Rick and he informed Larry that he would like to have the Tall Grass business car as part of the passenger train and that Cameron Lundy would be responsible for the passenger cars. It was also discussed that any problems or questions concerning the cars should be reported to Cameron. Larry mentioned that the COTS inspection on the Tall Grass coach was out of date and would need to be done before we could attach it to the train. Rick informed Larry that Cameron would take care of that and also all of the maintenance and upkeep on the coaches. The two also spoke about the seventy ton, GE switch engine that was donated to the Heartlands by the Coffeyville refinery two years ago and is sitting in the yards near the yard office in Coffeyville. He said that he would have Cameron check and see what needs to be done so it can be moved to Carona. Cameron is setting up maintenance procedures and inspections that are needed and their scheduling pertaining to the coaches to make sure they are kept up to date.

Dave Calwell Santa Fe Railroad Collection: Jim McKeel has been working with Dave Calwell, "a long time Heartland member", since Jim learned that Dave was looking for a permanent home for his collection. Jim set up a meeting with Dave to view his collection and to discuss what he had in mind. Jim, Brian Carlson and Larry Spahn traveled to Topeka on Sunday, January 6, to meet with Dave. The quality and range of the collection is almost beyond belief. It is amazing what Dave has acquired over the many years that he worked for the Santa Fe as Claims Manager for the Eastern Division. We have the opportunity to be the beneficiaries of the entire collection. If we decide to pursue the collection we will have to have room to display it properly and this will entail adding on to our present structure. This will be a sizable expenditure and will reduce our operating cushion for museum operations considerably. Dave said that he would be willing to donate \$10,000.00 toward the construction of an addition. Discussion was held about the type of addition needed for the building as well as other items discussed about displaying

the collection and preserving the collection. John Chambers moved to accept the donation of Dave Caldwell's collection and the \$10,000 donation towards an addition. Tom Johnston second the motion and the motion was passed by the members present. Darrell Cave moved to authorize Larry to pursue building cost estimates. John Chambers seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Safety Meeting: We need to set a date for our annual safety meeting on the use of our passenger equipment and proper ways to assist passengers on getting on and off of the coaches. Brian and Jim are currently working on a method of allowing members to take the safety test on line. This would be very helpful for members that live a considerable distance away or couldn't make it to the meeting. We are working out the details such as a member having to attend the first meeting in person if they had not done so previously. A date for the safety meeting in Carona was set for March 16 at 1:00 pm. Jim McKeel announced there would be a safety meeting in the Wichita area on March 10 at 3:00 pm. The location of the Wichita meeting will be announced at a later time.

Test Passenger Train: Rick Webb has called and asked if the Heartlands would be interested in being involved in part of a six month test of running a passenger train between Tulsa and Oklahoma City. This may or may not happen but the plans are in the works to do such an operation. The train would run seven days a week, one train each way per day. All ride revenue would go to the Heartlands and the railroad would pay for room and board for the train crew while the trial was being performed. It is currently being planned that the current company passenger cars would be used. Who would be interested is taking part in this if it should come to pass? If we cannot get enough interest in doing it ourselves we could possibly be involved with training people to do what we do. He also asked what would work best for us as to when the test would start and end. Such as January to June, June to December etc.? This project is in the very early stages and he repeated that it may not even happen. After discussion of the matter, it was determined that there was interest from those in attendance to inform Rick of such. Larry will be conveying the fact there is interest from the club back to Rick.

2019 DUES ARE DUE: This looks to be a very interesting year and we would appreciate your help in continuing our work preserving and presenting our railroad heritage. All members have been notified of their membership status either by email or regular mail. If you have any questions, contact secretary Brian Carlson.

Correspondence: None

Nick Ybarra moved to adjourn the meeting. Guy Ferguson seconded the motion and the motion passed.