



August Meeting

The August meeting of the Heart of the Heartlands was held on July 14, 2021 in the Webb Center at Carona, KS. There were 12 members present. Minutes of the meeting can be found at the end of this newsletter. Members in attendance were: Jack Evans, John Chambers, Ivan & Denzil Vorhees, Brian Carlson, Darrell Cave, Bryson Spahn, Kathy & Larry Spahn, Paul Morgan, W.D. Carter, and Bob Capps.

Heart of the Heartlands

The monthly newsletter is constructed by Secretary-Treasurer Brian Carlson. If you have any questions, comments, suggestions you may reach him at: bcarlson@ckt.net
620-820-9665

Heartlands - YouTube

Check out our YouTube channel:

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

Train Rides

The Little Balkan Days train rides will be held on Labor Day weekend. There will be two rides on Saturday, September 4th. The first ride will be at 9:00 a.m. with the second departing at 11:00 a.m. Both rides will load at the intersection of Elm and Monroe Streets in Pittsburg. Tickets are \$5.00 each and are available at the Pittsburg Area Chamber office, phone number 620-231-1100. Any remaining tickets will be sold at the boarding site. Any member wishing to help with the ride should be at the boarding site at least 45 minutes prior to departure. The wearing of masks is mandatory for everyone. Due to the new upswing in Covid-19 virus cases, no souvenirs will be sold on this ride.

Due to capital improvements being made on the trackage that would have to be used for the train rides out of Dewey, the Dewey Western Days Rides have been cancelled. In the long run, the capital improvements will not only help the railroad it will make future rides much smoother and safer for us. This was going to be our only revenue producing ride of 2021. With its cancellation, that will make two years without any revenue from train rides.

Visitors to the Museum

The last weekend of our summer hours took place on August 21-22. On Saturday, August 7th, there were about 50 visitors to the museum complex. There is an increasing number of visitors coming on days that we are not officially opened. More people have been calling and making appointments. These appointments are usually handled by John Chambers or Larry Spahn. Sometimes, if there is time to notify others and their schedules allow, other members will come out and assist John or Larry. Often, people will show up while John is working at the museum just to check out what we have to offer.

What is it?

This is an item that is currently located at the Carona museum. What is it?



Answer next month

Photo courtesy of Brian Carlson

Last month's picture was of the Frisco hopper car. Built November 1959 for the St. Louis - San Francisco (Frisco) Railroad as a 2-bay hopper used mainly to transport bulk cement. It was later owned by the South Kansas & Oklahoma Railroad who retired and then donated it to the Heartlands.

Announcements

- The next meeting of the Heart of the Heartlands will be September 8, 2021 at the Webb Center starting at 7:00 pm.
- We will be voting on the membership proposal presented in the last 2 newsletters. If you have any questions, let us know.

Grounds and Mowing

Discussion was held at the August meeting about the state of the physical grounds at the museum. Over the years, as rain has fallen and softened the ground, mowing has produced a toll on the conditions of the physical ground itself. What was once a fairly smooth surface to mow, many places have become rough to mow. There are some places where tire ruts from vehicles used to free stuck mowers has made the grounds very rough on the mower operators. The physical strain on them is increasing and making it a bit more difficult to complete the job. The club is looking into options to possibly rework the ground and reseed to remove the ruts and rough patches.

Donation

Kathy Bernard, who has donated several items from her father and grandfather's years with the Memphis, Fort Scott and Gulf and Frisco railroads visited the museum the first part of August with several more items that she found. She was very impressed with the preservation and display of her families artifacts. Kathy also donated \$100.00 to the Heartlands. Thank you Kathy for your donations and monetary gifts to our organization.

Paul Morgan brought in some more donations to the Heart of the Heartlands. In this round of donations, Paul brought in train orders from the Kansas City Southern Railroad. Our thanks to Paul for his contributions.

Annual Meeting

The annual meeting for the Heart of the Heartlands will be held on Saturday, November 13 at 1:00 pm at the Webb Center. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, there will not be a dinner this year.

Open Board Member Position

Due to the passing of longtime Heartland's member, Alan Chilton, his vacant board position needs to be filled. If you are interested or know of a member that might be interested in filling this position please let us know.

August 14, 2021 - Heart of the Heartlands - Minutes

The August 14, 2021 meeting of the Heart of the Heartlands was brought to order by President Larry Spahn at 1:00 p.m.

Minutes of previous meeting: Jack Evans moved to accept the minutes as mailed. W.D. Carter seconded the motion, the motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: After the presentation of the treasurer's report by treasurer Brian Carlson, W.D. Carter moved, Darryl Cave seconded a motion to accept the treasurer's report. The motion was passed by the membership in attendance.

Old Business:

Dewey Western Days Rides: Unfortunately the Dewey train rides have been canceled due to capital improvements being made on the trackage that would have to be used on the train rides. These improvements will make future rides much smoother and safer. Unfortunately the Heartlands have not had any revenue producing rides in the past two years due to the Covid 19 virus.

Grass Cutting: Heartland's member Jim Lovell reported that the many deep ruts in the grassy areas need to be addressed as it nearly bounces you off of the mower and really is hard on the back and neck. These ruts are probably due to the grass being mowed when it is too wet or too soon after it rains. Jim suggested that we consider having the rutted areas disced and harrowed to smooth these ruts out. Larry also mentioned that he has mowed the grass several times and agrees with Jim. If the grounds were smoother the grass could be mowed more quickly without being shaken off of the mower. It is really rough to mow and needs to be addressed. Discussion was held with a final decision to be made at the September meeting.

Museum Staffing: There is only one more weekend to be open over the summer months. We have had quite a number of visitors to the Webb Center, some traveling quite a long distance with many favorable reports on the museum and displays. On Saturday, August 7, there were about 50 visitors to the museum complex.

New Business:

Donations:

- Kathy Bernard, who has donated several items from her father and grandfathers years with the Frisco, Santa Fe and the Kansas City Southern railroads, visited the museum the first part of August with several more items that she found. She was very impressed with the preservation and display of her families artifacts. Kathy also donated \$100.00 to the Heartlands.

- Paul Morgan, brought in some more donations from his collection of railroad artifacts. This donation consisted of train orders from the KCS.
- Brian Carlson reported that a \$25 donation was made via our club's website in memory of Alan Chilton.

Train Rides: As far as we know at this time the Little Balkan Days train rides will be held on the Labor Day weekend, Saturday, September 4th. Two rides are scheduled, the first at 9:00 am and the second at 11:00 am. Tickets are \$5.00 each and are available at the Pittsburg Area Chamber office, phone number 620-231-1000. Any remaining tickets will be sold at the boarding site. Those working on the train should be at the boarding area at Elm and Monroe Streets at least forty five minutes before boarding. The wearing of masks is recommended but not mandatory at this time. Due to the new up swing in Covid 19 virus cases no souvenirs will be sold on this ride.

Annual Meeting: The date and time for the annual meeting was set. It will be held on November 13 at 1:00 pm at the Webb Center. With the current Covid situation, there will not be a dinner associated with the meeting this year.

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