



September Meeting

The September meeting of the Heart of the Heartlands was held on September 13, 2023 in the Webb Center at Carona, KS. There were 9 members present. Minutes of the meeting can be found at the end of this newsletter. Members in attendance were: John Chambers, Brian Carlson, Jack Evans, Denzil & Ivan Voorhees, Ed Brinkmeyer, Paul Morgan, and Kathy & Larry Spahn.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be October 11, 2023 at 7:00 pm at the Webb Center in Carona.

Heartlands - YouTube

Check out our YouTube channel:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMIkqWyCxftDif_ezgw3UyQ

Little Balkans Day Rides

The Little Balkans Day Rides were held on Saturday, September 2, 2023. This was actually our first set of rides of the year and it was well attended. Two rides, one departing at 9:00 am and the other at 11:00 am, left the intersection of Elm and Monroe streets heading southwest on the former Frisco line. As is customary on our one hour rides, the train went out for about 30 minutes, stopped and returned to the departure point. Both rides were full with many riders, young and old,



enjoying their first train ride. There were 266 passengers on the first ride with 255 passengers enjoying the nice ride at 11:00 am. Heartland members helping as car



attendants on this ride were: Rob McKnight, Dave Wallace, Jack Evans, Ivan and Denzil Voorhees, Jim McKeel, Brian Carlson, Bryson Spahn, and Kathy and Larry Spahn. Our thanks to them for their time and efforts.

-Photos by Rob McKnight

Artist Alley Rides

The next pair of rides will be September 30th, for the Artist Alley train rides. The two, one hour train rides will board at the restored Santa Fe passenger depot in downtown Chanute. The first ride will depart at 9:30 am and the second ride will leave at 1:00 pm. The depot is now the home of the Chanute Public Library and Martin and Osa Johnson Safari Museum. Members that are working on the rides should be at the Chanute depot around 8:30-8:45 am.

From our Past

We will be featuring photos from our past for awhile.

These are photos from the 2010 Little Balkans Day Ride. Photos are from the Larry Spahn collection.



Crowd waiting to board



Boarding the train



Don Keeney (foreground) & Ron Morgan

Announcements

- Museum hours are 10:00 am to 4:00 pm Wednesday through Sunday.

Heart of the Heartlands

Any questions, comments or suggestions, contact:

Brian Carlson

bcarlson@ckt.net

620-820-9665 (leave message)

Museum Director Report for August

A total of 125 people visited the museum during the month of August. Besides the four state region we had people from the states of Utah, Illinois, Idaho, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Washington, Massachusetts, New Mexico and Kentucky tour the grounds. The weather was very hot during most of the month which kept attendance down. The 12th was the busiest day with 28 people. There was a 16 year old from St. Louis with his grandmother who live in Monett, MO that paid us a visit. He is a rail fan and had expressly asked her to bring him over to see the museum. He stayed for over an hour as I showed him around. We had a gentleman from Missouri donate three framed prints and I was able to add them to our displays. I also hung several other signs and re-arranged some prints to remove some items that have been on the floor leaning up against display cases. Paul has continued to come out on Saturday afternoons. I took the time to clean both the inside and outside of the windows in the main museum building and they look much better. Time has also been spent cataloging various items in the collection. Watco sent out a carman who inspected the coaches then returned the next week and worked on the brake rigging on one of the coaches. Later that weekend he came back with his family to show them the museum. I also took some time one evening to clean the coaches with Brian and his family to get ready for the Little Balkans Days rides.

Passenger Car Cleaning

On the evening of August 30th, John Chambers along with Brian Carlson, his son Chase Carlson and his nephew Collin Carlson met to work on cleaning the passenger cars in preparation for the upcoming rides at Pittsburg and later in the month at Chanute. All three cars were swept out and all windows were cleaned on the inside. The



Chase Carlson

three restrooms were also cleaned. This consisted of cleaning the toilets, wiping down all the interior walls and cleaning the floor. It had been awhile since the cars had been cleaned so it was definitely in need of the attention.



Collin Carlson

September 13, 2023 - Heart of the Heartlands - Minutes

The September 13, 2023 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. Ivan Voorhees seconded the motion, the motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: After the presentation of the treasurer's report, by treasurer Brian Carlson, Denzil Voorhees moved, Jack Evans seconded the motion to accept the treasurer's report. The motion was passed by the membership in attendance.

Old Business:

Passenger Car Cleaning :

Many thanks to Brian Carlson, his son Chase and his nephew Collin, along with John Chambers for coming out and cleaning the passenger cars in preparation for the Balkans Days Train ride. The coaches had been sitting for quite awhile and were getting on the dingy side.

Balkan Days Train Rides:

The train rides that left Pittsburg at 9:00 am and 11:00 am were both sold out with many first time passengers enjoying the one hour rides. The weather was clear and warm. Heartland members working as car attendants were Rob McKnight, Dave Wallace, Jack Evans, Ivan and Denzil Voorhees, Jim McKeel, Brian Carlson, Bryson Spahn, and Kathy and Larry Spahn. The Little Balkans Committee donated \$1,000 to the Heart of the Heartlands which is greatly appreciated.

New Business:

Artist Alley Rides:

We will need volunteers to assist as car attendants for the September 30th, Artist Alley train rides. The two, one hour train rides will board at the restored Santa Fe passenger depot in downtown Chanute. The first ride will depart at 9:30 am and the second ride will leave at 1:00 pm. The depot is now the home of the Chanute Public Library and Martin and Osa Johnson Safari Museum. Members that are working on the rides should be at the Chanute depot around 8:30-8:45 am.

Museum Report:

John Chambers gave his monthly museum report. In summarizing the report, he said that attendance had slowed during the hot days we had in August. However, a good turnout came on Labor Day weekend

with 71 visitors attending the Saturday-Monday of Labor Day weekend. John also mentioned that many comments have been made by visitors in regards to not knowing we are here and how impressed they are with our collection. A more detailed report is in the newsletter for September.

Communications, Announcement, Additional Items:

- John reported on behalf of Jim McKeel about the SEK Museum Alliance. Dues for the 2024 year are now due. The Alliance is also going to be doing their passport program again. Ivan Voorhees moved to renew our membership with the SEK Museum Alliance and to purchase 25 passports. Jack Evans seconded the motion and the motion passed by the membership present.
- Discussion was held about talking to John Parsons about possibly using the Gay Parita for our annual dinner meeting in November.
- Rob McKnight had sent an email about a couple of items in regards to the passenger cars. One was in regards to the age of the fire extinguishers on board the cars. The other was about a washer or shim on one of the trucks on the 9202 car that probably needs to be further investigated. Discussion was held about looking into what would need to be done to check on the status of the fire extinguishers.
- Brian Carlson presented a ride proposal for the club to consider in regards to future rides. No action on the proposal was taken but it was decided to contact the railroad and do some more inquiring and data gathering.

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