



August Meeting

The August meeting of the Heart of the Heartlands was held on August 13, 2025 starting at 7:00 pm in the Webb Center at Carona, KS. There were 14 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, Paul Morgan, Jim Herriott, , Darrell Cave, Larry & Kathy Spahn, Brian Carlson, Michael Sheward, Ed Brinkmeyer, Mike & Connie Payton, John Randall and Jim McKeel.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be at 7:00 pm, September 10, 2025 at the Webb Center in Carona.

Little Balkans Train Rides

On Saturday, August 30th, there will be two train rides for Little Balkans Days. The first ride will depart Pittsburg from the intersection of Elm and Monroe Streets at 9:00 and and return at 10:00 am. The second ride will depart at 11:00 am. Persons wishing to help staff the rides should be at the boarding site before 8:30. The rides sold out very quickly, in a matter of days.

Columbus Head Start

Recently a group from the Columbus Head Start program toured the grounds. There were youngsters and adults on the grounds. The pictures here are of that visit, courtesy of John Chambers.



Green Country Jeepers

On June 7th the Green County Jeepers from Tulsa, Oklahoma stopped by and toured the grounds. There were several jeeps present and of course their drivers and passengers were on hand to take in what we had to offer. The pictures here are of that visit, courtesy of John Chambers.



Heartlands - YouTube

Check out our YouTube channel:

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

From our Past

In the spring of 2018, the Fredonia gate was being installed at the entrance to the museum. This gate guarded the crossing between the Frisco and the SantaFe at Fredonia.

- Larry Spahn photos



Train Shows Report

Report by Rob McKnight

Heartlands Toy Train Association

Saturday, July 12, 2025

Stillwater, OK

Attendance: 402 Sales: \$274

- Visited with a gentleman from Neosho whose family has the concrete Neosho lettering from the KCS depot there. He said that his sister was intending to reach out to the Heartlands about a possible donation. Unfortunately, I did not get his name.
- Our table was next to the Oklahoma Heritage Railroad group. Several of them mentioned looking forward to helping us out.
- Overall good show with lots of interest in the museum.
- Credit card sales were \$50.00.

Tri State Model Railroaders Model Train Show

Saturday, July 12, 2025

Joplin, MO

Attendance: Approx 600 Sales: \$404.50

- Due to the extremely hot weather, the majority of the crowd showed up in the morning.
- Was another really good show. Lots of kids.
- Visited with lots of people who have visited the Heartlands, and with many who are looking forward to visiting.
- Very good sales of H.O. model train merchandise.
- Credit card sales were \$34.00. Thank you to Larry Spahn and Jim McKeel for watching the table so I could take breaks.
- The next train show is the two day show at Springfield on September 19th and 20th.
- I am already getting applications for shows in 2026.
- The first one is the Northwest Arkansas show on Saturday, January 31st and Sunday, February 1st.

Artist Alley Train Rides

The Chanute Artist Alley Train rides will be Saturday September 27th. There will be two rides with the first departing at 9:30 a.m. and the second at 1:00 p.m.

Heart of the Heartlands

Any questions, comments or suggestions, contact:

Brian Carlson

secretary@heartlandsrailroadmuseum.org

620-820-9665 (leave message)



CPKC Bartlett shuttle train passing
Carona depot

Foggy Morning



Museum Director Report for July

Report by John Chambers

- We had 195 visitors during the month from the four state area plus Colorado, Texas, California, Nebraska, Nevada, Pennsylvania and Key West, Florida.
- Weather was mixed with some rainy days but several extremely hot ones which kept people from looking very long at the outdoor displays.
- Received a call from Don Bailey brother of Bill who says that the items donated so far from Bill's estate are not complete as he has much of Bill's good stuff and once he can gather all of it up he will contact me again to see how it can get sent up here.
- Darrell Cave installed the new signs on July 26th and within a day I received feedback from visitors that they saw the signs and decided to check us out. They look very nice. Now hopefully we can get the state of Kansas to install signs like they have for Big Brutus.
- We've received several large donations within the last several months and I have been working on cataloging them and adding to our library and display's. I finished the Bill Bailey donation of eight binders of mostly photographs. Also finished the Charles Bennett donation and sent him a donation letter with a list of the items given.
- On July 12th we received two large donations. One was from Jessica Michael from Pittsburg and contains older model railroad items mostly in poor condition. She received them from an uncle's estate but has no room for them and promised they wouldn't be thrown away. I've kept a few things but most will be taken to train shows and sold.
- The other donation is from Glen Roark from Neosho, Missouri. He donated several totes of many different items including a few lanterns, books, locks, timetables, calendars, etc. Many of which are from the Frisco railroad. I am now in the process of cataloging them and one of the items I've found is a public timetable from 1909 for the Missouri and North Arkansas Railroad which is fairly rare.
- Gift shop sales seem to be doing well and the addition of the credit card system has increased our sales.

August 13, 2025 - Heart of the Heartlands - Minutes

The August 13, 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: John Randall moved to accept the minutes as mailed. John Chambers 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 Jack Evan seconded the motion to accept the treasurer's report. The motion was passed by the membership in attendance.

Old Business:

Update from Darrell Cave:

Darell updated everyone on the status of the projects he has been working on. The vinyl signs have been installed at the intersection of 20th Street and K-102. Also, the new sign in front of the museum, that includes our hours, has been installed as well. All of the stickers and patches are in. He has made some hats for an initial run and plans to make more as needed.

Rob McKnight Train Show Report:

Rob was unable to attend the meeting, but Brian Carlson read the report that Rob had submitted.

- The Stillwater, OK show was the best that we've had. Rob visited with several people about our group. One individual there might have a donation for us down the road. It would be the concrete lettering from the KCS depot in Neosho, MO. Rob wanted to thank Jim McKeel for watching the table so he could take a break.
- On Saturday, August 9, 2025, Rob was at the Tri-State Model Railroaders Model Train Show in Joplin, MO. Rob visited with lots of people who have visited the Heartlands, and with many who are looking forward to visiting. Rob wanted to thank Larry Spahn and Jim McKeel for watching the table so he could take breaks.
- Rob is also getting applications for shows in 2026. The first one is a two day event on Saturday and Sunday, January 31 - February 1 in Northwest Arkansas. Due to the pricing of tables where each day is a new charge for tables, Rob suggested for this year, to attend on Saturday and not Sunday. If the show is successful, then maybe in future years he would plan on both days. The members present agreed.

New Business:

Little Balkans Train Rides:

On Saturday, August 30th, there will be two train rides for Little Balkans Days. The first ride will depart Pittsburg from the intersection of Elm and Monroe Streets at 9:00 and return at 10:00 am. The

second ride will depart at 11:00 am. Persons wishing to help staff the rides should be at the boarding site before 8:30. John and Larry started the coaches up to make sure all is well.

Pre-purchase Propane:

It was reported that the McCune Co-op was offering their annual pre-pay propane deal for the upcoming winter season. The pre-pay price was \$1.54 per gallon and would expire on August 20th. John Chambers moved to purchase propane up to the allowed amount the Co-op would allow us to have. John Randall seconded the motion and it was passed by the members present.

Monthly Museum and Visitors Report:

- Gave his museum report for July

Other Items:

- No other items this month

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