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American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association

VIEWS & NEWS

VOLUME 71

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**H.R. 876 has
265 Co-sponsors
and
S. 1703 has
18 Co-sponsors**

[Click here to find out if
your representatives or
senators are co-sponsors.](#)

**Make plans now to
attend our fall regional
meetings!**

Southern Region Meeting

Marriott's Griffin Gate
Resort
Lexington, KY
Sept. 12-14, 2004

Eastern Region Meeting

Hyatt Regency on the
Hudson
Jersey City, NJ
Sept. 30-Oct. 2, 2004

Central / Pacific Region Meeting

Hyatt Regency
Riverwalk
San Antonio, TX
Oct. 10-12, 2004

**Questions?
Comments? E-Mail
Us.**

**Currently, Railroad
Security Alert Level
2 is in Effect**

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SIX SHORT LINES PRESENTED NS MARKETING AWARDS

Norfolk Southern presented marketing awards to six short line railroads during their annual Short Line Meeting, held June 6-8 in Roanoke, VA. The awards were presented by Dan Pratcher, Director Shortline Marketing, on behalf of Norfolk Southern's six business groups. Each NS business group recognized a short line that has excelled in business development over the past year. The following short lines were presented with marketing awards:

- Agriculture, Fertilizer and Consumer Products: Reading and Northern Railroad Company, accepted by Dan Gilchrest
- Automotive: North Shore Railroad, accepted by Todd Hunter
- Chemicals: East Tennessee Railway, L.P., accepted by Garland Horton
- Coal: R.J. Corman Railroad / Pennsylvania Line, accepted by Tim Potts
- Metals and Construction: Youngstown Belt Railroad Company, accepted by Terry Feichtenbiner
- Modalistics: Columbia Terminal, accepted by Tina Worley

NEW RAIL INDUSTRY GRASSROOTS ORGANIZATION LAUNCHED

Railroad and rail supply industry officials have announced the launch of a new, non-profit grass roots organization—GoRail. GoRail's mission is to mobilize the industry's half-million employees and retirees to promote a positive railroad agenda and get the word out about the public benefits of railroading.

"GoRail's message is simple," said GoRail Director, Shannon Bagato. "A strong and growing railroad industry is essential for America's future, and harmful policies like re-regulation and unfair taxation would hurt not just the railroad industry, but all Americans. What we need are pro-rail policies that will grow the business, reduce highway congestion and create new economic opportunities."

GoRail will be a valuable new source of information on how the political scene affects rail industry employees and retirees – whether it is jobs and the health of the railroad retirement system or the overall strength of the industry. It will also provide the tools and know-how to make it easy for rail employees and retirees to get involved and make a difference in the political process by contacting their elected officials directly.

The formation of GoRail comes at a critical time for the U.S. economy. Freight volumes in the United States are expected to jump more than 67 percent by 2020, and the nation must find ways to move these goods as efficiently and safely as possible. GoRail argues that America's freight railroads are the answer, presenting a clear alternative to continued reliance on an already overcrowded, costly highway system.

"Every ton of freight moving on a rail car instead of a truck is delivering major public benefits; moving freight by rail is safer, cleaner, more efficient and more economical – and it means less gridlock on our nation's crowded highways," said Bagato.

GoRail's industry supporters agree: "Railroads have a key role to play in keeping the economy moving and creating jobs, reducing highway congestion and air pollution and keeping prices down for shippers and consumers," said Edward R. Hamberger, President and CEO of the Association of American Railroads. "Rail industry employees and retirees can make a real difference by joining GoRail and educating the public – and policy makers – about the benefits of rail to society."

"Go Rail's formal launch is only the beginning," said Director Bagato. "In the coming months we will be contacting railroad and supply company employees and retirees throughout the country to build support for a stronger rail industry and a more efficient U.S. economy. We are going to use every form of communication – group meetings, newsletters and the media, the web, email, and individual contacts. We look forward to spreading the message on the advantages of rail and to mobilizing the industry's most important asset—it's people."

For more information, visit www.gorail.org, or call 1-877-4GoRail.

MISSOURI & VALLEY PARK RAILROAD WINS RAIL BUSINESS WIN-WIN AWARD

Missouri & Valley Park Railroad (MVP) was awarded *Rail Business Magazine's* Win-Win Partnership Award at the North American Rail Shippers Conference held this May in Colorado Springs, CO.

MVP has made significant progress in customer relations since its start in 2002, according to the magazine. The 21-track-mile system serves the automobile, paper, steel, lumber and roofing industries in the Valley Park, MO, area just west of St. Louis. The DaimlerChrysler North and South Assembly Plants are currently one of their largest customers.

Allan Roach, Senior VP & COO for American Railroads, the parent company of MVP, said, "We went into this relationship with DaimlerChrysler with our eyes wide open. We reviewed the entire auto parts supply chain from origins at the stamping plants to finished automobiles at the assembly plants. We identified inefficiencies in the supply chain logistics that we brought to the attention of the assembly plants.

Together, we redesigned how auto parts cars are switched into and out of the assembly plants. The changes we asked for required that our customer make changes to their operations so that we could meet their expanding production goals. MVP also made change in our crew scheduling and switching processes to accommodate our customers' needs. In the end, we both became more efficient and most importantly paved the way for increased rail shipments.

"The real key to this success was MVP coming to the table with quantifiable statistics that identified the areas where improvements were needed. One example was that our switch crews were spending 963 hours a year re-switching railcars. This had the additional affect of reducing capacity in a rail yard that already needed additional capacity to accommodate increased railcar shipments. We chart and trend every aspect of our operations and have regular meetings with our customers to help them understand how *their* logistics processes affect *our* ability to meet existing rail business and to pave the way for increased shipments by rail."

MVP was recognized for increasing rail shipments by 28 percent last year and for providing customized switching services with extra scheduled switches.

MVP credits its success to consistency, flexibility and innovation, as well as having BNSF as a great Class I partner.

INTERNET DEPRESCRIPTION SYSTEM

Railinc has developed an on-line Deprescription Bid and Offer web application to replace the current Fax and DePre-PC Bid and Offer system. Effective July 16, 2004, the Fax and DePre-PC process will be eliminated, and will be replaced by the internet application. However, until then the current process and Internet process will run parallel. [Click here](#) to view the Deprescription Web Application User's Manual or visit www.railinc.com. If after reading the User Manual you are having difficulty downloading the required Digital Certificate, please call the Railinc Customer Support Center at 800-544-7245. All other questions should be directed to Susan Smith, Supervisor Deprescription at 919-651-5056.

JUNE RAILWAY AGE ARTICLE LOOKS AT SHORT LINE SAFETY

In the June, 2004 issue of *Railway Age*, Roger Nelson, President of North American RailNet, chair of ASLRRRA's Safety Committee and member of ASLRRRA's Executive Committee, wrote the seventh article in the "Short Line / Regional Perspectives" series. The article, "Safety is Good Business," discusses the importance of safety to short line railroads and the factors that have been responsible for improving short line safety in recent years. Nelson states that improving safety has been a team effort and describes the roles played by several industry groups in reducing worker injuries. To view the article, [click here](#).

ROADWAY WORKER PROTECTION QUICK REFERENCE AVAILABLE

The FRA has published a Roadway Worker Protection Quick Reference. It is a brochure-sized guide that provides information on Roadway Worker Protection regulations and requirements and offers safety tips on how to ensure that your railroad is operating safely. Contact Matt Reilly at (202) 585-3434 or mreilly@asfrra.org to request a Roadway Worker Protection Quick Reference. They are also available from the FRA Office of Safety Assurance and Compliance.

3rd QUARTER 2004 RCAF

The Surface Transportation Board has announced that for the third quarter of 2004, the Rail Cost Adjustment Factor (RCAF) (Unadjusted) is 1.071, the RCAF (Adjusted) is 0.534, and the RCAF-5 is 0.509.

[Click here](#) for a copy of the decision.

CHECK YOUR FRA FATALITY TOX BOXES

FRA has requested that all railroads check inside your FRA post-accident "fatality" tox boxes to see if you have blood tubes that expire in July 2004 or December 2004. If the blood tubes are expiring on either of those dates, please complete the following information and email it to Kathy Schnakenberg, FRA Drug & Alcohol Program Specialist, at kathy.schnakenberg@fra.dot.gov so the laboratory can send you replacement blood tubes to insert into your boxes:

Name of Railroad:

Contact:

Railroad Address (no PO Boxes):

Telephone Number:

Email Address:

Fatality Tox Box Numbers (begins with PM):

THOMPSON HIRES NEW NATIONAL ACCOUNTS SALES MANAGER / REORGANIZES SALES TEAM

Thompson Industries, Inc, a major manufacturer of treated wood railroad products, is pleased to announce the hiring of Jeff Broadfoot, formerly with the Forest Products Division of Kerr-McGee Chemical Corp, as their National Accounts Sales Manager. Broadfoot is based in Indianapolis, Indiana and will be responsible for all Class I railroad accounts in both the U.S. & Canada as well as all other regional, short line, and industrial railroad accounts within the north central region of the U.S.

Broadfoot started his career with Kerr-McGee in 1983 after graduating from the University of Missouri, Columbia with a B.S. in Forestry. During his twenty-year tenure with the company, his responsibilities included sales of treated wood products to numerous Class I, regional, short line, contractor, utility and industrial customers throughout the Continental U.S. and Canada.

“We are excited to have Jeff on board as part of our sales team”, says Harry W. Scott, President of Thompson. “Jeff brings a wealth of knowledge and experience with him, which will help achieve our strategy of long-term growth in the treated wooden railroad product industry.”

As a part of this strategy, Thompson has also reorganized their sales force. Former Sales Manager, Tony Helms has been appointed to Commercial Sales Manager and will be responsible for all sales to Mexico as well as all regional, short line, industrial, and track-work contractor sales in the south central region of the U.S. Eva Davis has been appointed to the position of Customer Service/Inside Sales Representative and will be responsible for all railroad contractor sales as well as customer service, sales support & administrative duties. With a plant expansion project slated to start in a few weeks, "we will be substantially increasing our capacity to both process and treat ties," says Scott. "This expansion and reorganization will better allow us to serve our customers' treated wood railroad product needs both now and for years to come."

KELLY TAYLOR NAMED ADMINISTRATOR FOR ODOT RAIL DIVISION

The Oregon Department of Transportation Rail Division has a new administrator. Kelly Taylor was selected from a pool of highly qualified applicants following a national search.

Ms. Taylor joined ODOT in 1978 as clerical assistant at the Driver and Motor Vehicle Services Division (DMV). During her 18 years with DMV, she was promoted several times, serving as lead worker, analyst, supervisor, and legislative liaison.

In 1996, Taylor moved to the ODOT Director's Office and assumed legislative responsibility for Motor Carrier Transportation Division as well. She has represented ODOT before the legislature, testifying in committee hearings and working with legislators, constituents, and numerous stakeholders.

In her role as Rail Division Administrator, Taylor will manage day-to-day rail safety operations and long-term strategic planning for Oregon's rail system.

"Kelly's experience with motor carrier and DMV legislation at ODOT, and her extensive work with transportation industry, local governments and state legislators make her eminently qualified to lead ODOT's rail programs," said ODOT Director Bruce Warner.

Taylor replaces long-time administrator Claudia Howells.

PIERRE (PETE) RASMUSSEN, 1923-2004

Pierre (Pete) Rasmussen, 80, died in his home in Middletown, NY on June 23, 2004 after a prolonged illness. Rasmussen began his railroad career in 1946, following military service in WWII. He worked for numerous railroads before he and 2 partners founded the Middletown and New Jersey Railway Co. in the early 1960's. Rasmussen served as President of the M&NJ for several years and was an active ASLRRRA member and a member of the O&W Historical and Technical Society. A surviving son, Pete Rasmussen Jr., now operates the railroad.

FRA REGION 5 TRAINING SEMINAR SCHEDULED

The FRA will hold a Region 5 Training Seminar August 18-20, 2004 at the Radisson Resort in South Padre Island, Texas. The seminar will be hosted by the Brownsville & Rio Grande International Railroad and will include two days of classroom sessions. Topics covered will include: MP&E Power Brake Regulations, Drug & Alcohol Testing Regulations, Hazardous Material Regulations, Track, Roadway Protection Overview and Operating Practices & SOFA Presentation. For information on registration, please call BRG Railroad at 956-831-7731 or e-mail asandoval@brgrr.com or ntorres@brgrr.com.

RAILROAD TRAFFIC

According to the AAR, U.S. carloads were up 4.4 percent in the week ending June 19, 2004. For the year to date, carloadings are up 3.5 percent compared to 2003. Carloads for U.S. Non-Class I's that submit data to the AAR were up 10.7 percent for the week, and are down 2.3 percent for the year. Carloads for Week 24 were up 1.6 percent in the East and 6.7 percent in the West compared to the same week in 2003. U.S. intermodal traffic was up 12.4 percent for the week and is up 8.7 percent for the year. U.S. and Canadian intermodal traffic was up 10.2 percent for the week and is up 7.2 percent for the year. Total volume for the week was up 5.1 percent from 2003 and total volume for the year is up 4.8 percent through the 24th week of 2004.

For just the week ending June 12, 2004, U.S. carloads were up 3.3 percent and carloads for U.S. Non-Class I railroads that submit data to the AAR were up 9.3 percent. Carloads were up 1.5 percent in the East and up 4.8 percent in the West. U.S. intermodal traffic was up 11.2 percent for the week and U.S. and Canadian intermodal traffic was up 8.9 percent from the prior year.

EMBARGO NOTICES & REROUTE ORDERS

A complete listing of embargo notices is available at embargo.railinc.com.

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