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American Short Line and
Regional Railroad Association's

VIEWS & NEWS



VOLUME 76

NUMBER 2

January 29, 2009

Upcoming Events

2009 Railroad Day On
Capitol Hill &
Legislative Dinner
February 26, 2009
Washington, DC

CSX Short Line
Conference
March 8-10, 2009
St. Augustine, FL

2009 Annual
Convention
Red Rock Resort
April 25-28, 2009
Las Vegas, NV

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is in Effect

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ASLRRA WELCOMES MORE NEW MEMBERS

WE are delighted to welcome the following new railroad member:

Caddo Bossier Port Commission Railroad: The PSBX serves the Port of Shreveport-Bossier in Louisiana. It totals 15 miles of line and interchanges with Union Pacific. Reach them at P.O. Box 52071, Shreveport, LA 71135, P: (318) 524-2272, F: (318) 524-2273, www.portsb.com. A good contact there is Director of Operations Hugh McConnell at hugh@portsb.com.

AND equally delighted to welcome the following new associate members:

Cameron Management Services: Cameron Management Services provides regulatory compliance assistance to the short line industry. Headed by the noted railroader Tom Collard, it can help with program development, employee training, testing, and documentation. Reach them at 249 Devore Drive, Meadville, PA 16335, P: (814) 853-2942, cameronmanagementservices@yahoo.com. Reach Tom directly at tcollard@gmail.com.

Kanza Services LLC: Kanza Services offers technical service assistance for any maintenance-of-way equipment on a daily charge basis and also re-manufacturers Jackson 6700 tampers. It also provides contract service for surfacing gangs, tie replacement and steel replacement gangs, and operates a railcar repair shop in Parsons, KS. Reach them at 709 S. Kansas Avenue No. 200, Topeka, KS 66603, P: (785) 233-5347, F: (785) 233-3558, www.kanzagroup.com. A good contact there is VP-Marketing Phil Brown at pbrown@kanzagroup.com.

Walker Magnetics Group Inc: Walker Magnetics Group provides magnets, material handling systems, track sweepers, grinder attachments, and rail brake manufacturing. Reach them at 20 Rockdale Street, Worcester, MA 01606, P: (508) 853-3232, F: (508) 852-8649, www.walkermagnet.com. A good contact there is President Dick Longo at dlongo@walkermagnet.com.

Are you aware of a company with different products or services than your own and interested in heightening their visibility to short line and regional railroads? Then let Cheryl Huyck know, so that she may acquaint them with the many benefits of becoming an ASLRRA associate member. Contact Cheryl at chuyck@aslrta.org, P: (202) 585-3431.

ONERAIL COALITION LAUNCHED

Earlier this month, a coalition of ten rail associations, interest groups, and other constituents, including two non-rail organizations, formed the OneRail Coalition. This new organization was formed, according to its spokesman, to promote public policies that recognize rail as a critical element of the nation's transportation system.

The coalition seeks to expand passenger rail options across the country and also ensure the capacity, safety and integrity of the nation's freight rail network. OneRail also aims to enact policies and implement programs that expand public and private investment in freight rail, and support state efforts to obtain an ongoing, dedicated funding source for intercity passenger rail expansion.

Coalition members, additional to ASLRRA, include the American Public Transportation Association, Amtrak, the Association of American Railroads, Building America's Future, the National Association of Railroad Passengers, the National Resources Defense Council, the Railway Supply Institute, the States for Passenger Rail Coalition, and the Surface Transportation Police Partnership.

Further information about the OneRail initiative may be found at www.transact.org.

RAILROAD DAY ATTENDANCE RECKONED VITAL

One of the most important decisions you can make this year is to attend Railroad Day On Capitol Hill, which is this coming February 26.

This is the annual day where the people of our industry gather en masse to brief our elected officials and their staffs of the importance of short line and regional railroads. Seeing and conversing firsthand with those who run, supply and otherwise support our railroads greatly impresses upon these officials and staff the importance of our industry to the national transportation system, and to the national economy. A successful and well-attended Railroad Day builds the foundation of support needed to preserve the Short Line Tax Credit, deter opportunistic re-regulation, and help bring about a fairer and more balanced means of transportation infrastructure funding.

Railroad Day is comprehensive. Following a detailed early morning briefing of “whats, hows and whys,” you and your colleagues will be off to your congressional visits. As evening approaches, ASLRRA will host a legislative reception and dinner, where you will have the chance to meet hundreds of representatives from throughout our industry, as well as from Congress, federal, state and local agencies. Everything is put in motion to ensure that you have a great and fruitful day in DC – even free farecards to use Washington’s world-famous subway to reach Capitol Hill offices are included!

The staff of ASLRRA and its allied organization, Chambers, Conlon & Hartwell, make it easy for you to attend Railroad Day, including scheduling your congressional appointments, getting you registered, and helping you find a place to stay. For starters, link to the Railroad Day section of the ASLRRA website at http://www.aslrra.org/meetings_seminars/2009_Railroad_Day_on_Capitol_Hill/.

- To set up appropriate congressional appointments, contact CC&H’s Jeff Van Schaick (pronounced van-skoyk) at jeff.vanschaick@cch-llc.com or (202)715-2915; be sure to tell Jeff if there are specific congressmen or states that you want to be scheduled with.
- For registration and accommodation assistance, contact ASLRRA’s Kathy Cassidy at kcassidy@aslrra.org or (202)585-3443.
- To increase your prominence among those attending, excellent sponsorship opportunities have been established. To secure them, contact ASLRRA’s Jenny McKinney at jmckinney@aslrra.org or (202) 585-3449.

Let’s see to it that every ASLRRA member company sends at least one representative –hopefully even more! –to this vital railroad industry event.

CN CLOSING IN ON EJ&E CLOSING

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia declined January 22 to grant the emergency request of a number of Chicago suburban communities to postpone Canadian National’s acquisition of the Elgin, Joliet & Eastern Railway. The court said that the petitioners “have not satisfied the stringent standards required for a stay pending court review.” The court’s decision continues to progress CN’s acquisition of the EJ&E, which the U.S. Surface Transportation Board conditionally approved on December 24. In related news, CN CEO Hunter Harrison told a conference call with financial analysts that CN would soon close on the acquisition.

RAIL SUBCOMMITTEE HEARS TESTIMONY OF SHORT LINE IMPORTANCE

In its first public hearings of 2009, the House Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines, & Hazardous Materials heard testimony on January 28 about freight rail transportation, including its present and future roles, performance, benefits, and needs. Testifying on behalf of short line and regional railroads was Rick Webb, CEO of Watco Companies, which owns and operates 19 short lines, which together total nearly 4,000 track miles in 16 states.

In his testimony, Mr. Webb suggested that short line and regional railroads can play a positive role in bringing about economic stimulus. Said Mr. Webb, “Infrastructure funding is at the center of the current discussions over economic recovery. The government is looking to fund ‘shovel ready’ projects that result in immediate job creation, that use materials made in the United States, that help leverage additional private investment and that provide long term benefits to our transportation network. It will come as no great shock to the Committee that we believe that increasing short line spending meets every one of those criteria.”

The Railroad Subcommittee is chaired by Rep. Corrine Brown (D-FL). It is subordinate to the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee, which is chaired by Rep. James Oberstar (D-MN). A complete copy of Mr. Webb’s testimony before the subcommittee is available by linking to the ASLRRRA website at http://www.aslrra.org/images/news_file/Webb_Testimony_01_28_09.pdf

NS AGAIN PROVIDING TOP HAZMAT TRAINING FOR SHORT LINE PARTNERS

Norfolk Southern has announced that it will offer 45 qualified short line and regional railroaders the opportunity to attend, at its expense, a four-day hazmat emergency response training class. The class will be held at the Transportation Technology Center’s state-of-the-art Emergency Response Training Center (ERTC) in Pueblo, CO. This class, which will be April 20 through 23, is identical to the highly successful one held last year at ERTC courtesy of NS.

The class, which is ERTC’s “Advanced Rail Car Specialist” course, covers all facets of hazmat response. Instruction is both classroom and on-site. Included are comprehensive exercises that teach response to both daytime and nighttime accidents and hazmat releases, and in which students will be required to respond and mitigate whatever problems are presented to them by ERTC instructors.

Prospective attendees must be from short line and regional railroads that connect with NS. Although NS will pay instructional expenses, attendees remain responsible for all travel, accommodation and meal expenses, the latter including a \$100 charge per person for meals at ERTC. Those NS short line partners who did not have a participant in last year’s class are especially encouraged to participate this year; final decision as to who attends will rest with NS’s Environmental & Safety Department. For more information, including a form to request enrollment in the class, contact NS’s Assistant Manager-Hazardous Materials John Lerner at john.lerner@nscorp.com, (574) 296-2215.

USDOT HIKES TANK CAR CONSTRUCTION STANDARDS

Earlier this month, the U.S. Department of Transportation's Pipeline & Hazardous Material Safety Administration issued new rules related to the construction of rail tank cars used to carry toxic inhalation hazard (TIH) commodities.

The rules require such tank cars built on or after March 16, 2009 to have better puncture resistance from a side impact, by means of thicker inner shells where the hazmat is held and/or thicker outer jackets, depending on the specific hazmat being transported. Additionally, each end of the car is to be protected with a full head shield. Cars must also have strengthened valves, top fittings and nozzles that do not allow a product release in a rollover accident.

The new rule also imposes a 50mph maximum speed restriction on all loaded TIH tank cars and allows for an increase in the gross weight of the tank car to accommodate the enhanced safety measures. It also requires tank car owners to prioritize the retirement or replacement of older tank cars used in TIH service which were built prior to 1989 with non-normalized steel that may not adequately resist the development of fractures.

Rail industry representatives commended USDOT for the development and implementation of these new rules for new tank cars. "These new tank cars standards will sharply reduce the likelihood that any of these dangerous chemicals will be released during accidents," said Association of American Railroads President & CEO Ed Hamberger. He added that, "According to a study conducted for AAR by the University of Illinois, the new standards will reduce the likelihood of substance release by up to 73 percent, depending upon the specific commodity."

RMI ANNOUNCES FOURTH ANNUAL FAST TRACK AWARD RECIPIENTS

RMI, a provider of information products and services to the short line and regional railroad industry and its customers, has announced its 2009 Fast Track Award winners. According to a company spokesman, the award recognizes railroads who use RMI products to "implement procedures resulting in more comprehensive automation of manual processes, improved information capture and reporting, greater accounting control, enhanced asset management, or more efficient processes in any capacity."

Winners of awards were the Buckingham Branch Railroad; CG Railway; CSXT; Dakota, Minnesota & Eastern and Iowa, Chicago & Eastern Railroads (Note: the DM&E and the IC&E have been acquired by, and are being merged into, the Canadian Pacific Railway); Louisville & Indiana Railroad; Montreal, Maine & Atlantic Railway; Ontario Northland Railway; Port Terminal Railroad Association; R.J. Corman Railroads; Terminal Railroad of St. Louis; Wisconsin Northern Railroad; and the WT&L Corporation.

The winners will be recognized in RMI's 2009 Fast Track calendar and at the annual RMI User Meeting to be held June 14 through 16 in Atlanta, GA.

RRB IMPLEMENTING NEXT TOLL-FREE PHONE PHASE

The U.S. Railroad Retirement Board (RRB) announced that an additional 18 field offices will be added to its nationwide toll-free telephone service by the end of January, 2009. A single toll-free number (**1-877-772-5772/1-877-RRB-5RRB**) will provide RRB customers with access to the agency's field offices. In addition, the new toll-free number will offer options for self-service through automated menus and automatic routing of calls to claims representatives in nearby offices during emergency and peak periods.

The additional 18 offices are Kansas City and St. Louis, MO; Nashville, TN; Louisville, KY; Scranton, Harrisburg, Altoona, and Philadelphia, PA; Baltimore, MD; Denver, CO; Albuquerque, NM; Omaha, NE; Wichita, KS; Billings, MT; Portland, OR; Salt Lake City, UT; and Bellevue and Spokane, WA.

Twelve of the RRB's 53 field offices participated in the initial implementation of nationwide toll-free telephone service during November and December, 2008. Those 12 field offices were St. Paul and Duluth, MN; Fargo, ND; Des Moines, IA; Jacksonville and Tampa, FL; Atlanta, GA; Birmingham, AL; Oakland, Sacramento and Covina, CA; and Mesa, AZ.

Nationwide toll-free telephone service will be implemented in the remaining 23 RRB field locations by March 2009. Until then, RRB customers who reside outside of the service areas covered by these 30 offices should continue to use the telephone number for the field office providing service to their area. Customers can get these numbers by calling the automated RRB Help Line at 1-800-808-0772 or by visiting the RRB's Web site at www.rrb.gov.

SCHOLARSHIP INFO FOR MSU RR MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

(Retired ASLRRRA Board Member Robert Grossman, who with Ms. Maggie Silver worked to arrange this scholarship program on behalf of the Cooperstown Conference, has asked that we mention about it in this edition, for those who may have missed its mention in the previous edition.)

Michigan State University's Railway Management Program has announced that scholarships have become available for two employees of Class III railroads. The next class will run for one week each month starting in April, 2009.

Robert Grossman and Maggie Silver, on behalf of the Cooperstown Conference, have established these scholarships in memory of Walter G. Rich, who was the President and CEO of the Delaware Otsego Corporation. Each scholarship is for \$7,500 and will be applied to the \$15,000 fee of the four week course. The fee covers 20 nights lodging, all breakfasts and lunches, and two dinners each week. It does not include transportation to and from class locations and three dinners each week. Those costs and the balance of the fee will be borne either by the railroad or the employee.

The Certificate Course in Railway Management is a comprehensive course, examining all aspects of the rail industry from a management perspective. The course is ideal for employees who want to grow and accept more responsibilities at their railroad. April 5-10 is devoted to the fundamentals of railroading. May 10-15 covers customer service, sales and marketing, as well as the financial aspects of rail operations. June 7-12 is spent at the Transportation Technology Center, learning how to manage operating functions. July 12-17 focuses on leadership and management. More information on each week of the course can be found at www.raileducation.com.

The Scholarship Committee of the American Association of Railroad Superintendents will manage the application and initial selection process. Applicants are directed to visit the website of the American Association of Railroad Superintendents www.supt.org, click on the hyperlink that is entitled MSU Railway/Walter Rich Scholarship, and complete the application. Applications must be submitted by March 2, 2009. Questions should be directed to Bill Wick at the Railway Management Program via email wickw@msu.edu.

CONVENTION BREAKOUT SESSIONS ANNOUNCED

The breakout sessions for the 2009 ASLRRA Convention in Las Vegas, NV have been announced! An initial listing follows, with more detail about each track to come in the near future. We are finalizing the room block and weblinks with the hotel and will have reservation and registration information posted next week. Watch your email for more details and links to make reservations.

100 Series: Engineering & MOW Track

200 Series: Finance & Administration Track

300 Series: Legal Track

400 Series: Legislative & Regulatory / LMOA Track

500 Series: Marketing Track

600 Series: Operations & Safety Track

700 Series: Technology Track

Monday, April 27 - 2:10pm – 2:55pm

- Session 101 – Economics of Crosstie Density Replacement: Does the Business Support the Investment? (RR101)
- Session 201 – Tired of Filtering Through Paper Job Applications? Imagine the benefits of an Online Applicant Tracking System
- Session 301 – Common Carrier “Obligation”–What Is It and When Does it Apply, and its Affect on TIH/Hazmat (RR101)
- Session 401 – Short Line Tax Incentive – Get in the Game
- Session 501 – Transforming Your Short Line into a Transloading Success Story
- Session 601 – Hey Lucy! What Goes Into a Fatigue Management Plan? (Hint: Not Vitameatavegamin) (RR101)
- Session 701 – Advancements in Locomotive Technology

Monday, April 27 - 3:10pm – 3:55pm

- Session 102 – Essential Elements of a Bridge Management Plan (RR101)
- Session 202 – Making “Cents” of Safety: A Case Study of a Successful Safety Incentive Program
- Session 302 – Preemption: Where It Stands
- Session 402 – 2009 Action Plan for Truck Size and Weights
- Session 502 – Pricing Options for Short Lines: ISS, Junction, Handling Carrier, Switch – Which is the Best for You? (RR101)
- Session 602 – Do You Know What You Don’t Know About HR 2095? (Get Smart on the Requirements to be in Compliance)
- Session 702 – The ABCs of PTC (Positive Train Control) (RR101)

Monday, April 27 – 4:20pm – 5:05pm

- Session 103 – Extreme Engineering: Case Studies of Challenging Projects - Tunnel Restoration and Underpass Below Sea Level
- Session 203 – Working for the Railroad: What’s All the Fuss about Railroad Retirement? (RR101)
- Session 303 – Railroad Retirement Board: Disability Claim Developments
- Session 403 – New President/New Congress: 2009 Legislative Developments Impacting Our Industry
- Session 503 – Ethanol – Is it “Gone to the Wind”? The Outlook for Ethanol and the Emerging Wind Turbine Market
- Session 603 – Switching Operations Fatality Analysis [SOFA], Causative Factors for Injuries, Accidents, and Fatalities
- Session 703 – Imagine the Possibilities: New Options in Handheld Technology

Tuesday, April 28 – 9:25am – 10:10am

- Session 104 – Putting Your Railroad on the Map: Using GIS and Digital Mapping to Maximize Workflow Efficiency and Safety
- Session 204 – Company Valuations: What You Can Do Today to Maximize Your Company’s Value

for Tomorrow

- Session 304 – Diagnosis of an FELA Case
- Session 404 – LMOA Session To Be Determined
- Session 504 – Demurrage Application and Collections Problems? Extended Asset Utilization Tariff: Offering Innovative and Proven Options for Short Lines
- Session 604 - The 411 on Accident/Incident Reporting (RR101)
- Session 704 – It’s More Than Point A to Point B: Get a Grip on Your Operation with Locomotive GPS

Tuesday, April 28 – 10:30am – 11:15am

- Session 105 – AREMA Bridge Manual Primer, An Overview (RR101)
- Session 205 – Benchmarking, Part II – How Does Your Deck Stack Up to the Other Guy’s?
- Session 305 – Railroads and the Antitrust Laws: When Do They Apply? (RR101)
- Session 405 – LMOA Session To Be Determined
- Session 505 – Trucks and Trains: Friends or Foes?
- Session 605 – Suicide by Train: How To Deal With This Growing Phenomenon
- Session 705 – What’s Up Doc? Industry System Updates From Railinc-UMLER, EMIS, etc.

Tuesday, April 28 – 11:25am – 12:10pm

- Session 106 – New Regulations for the Installation, Maintenance, and Repair of CWR
- Session 206 – Tax Maintenance Credit Update: The Renewed and Improved Credit and Putting it To Work For Your Railroad
- Session 306 – Major Legal Ramifications of the New Safety Bill
- Session 406 – LMOA Session To be Determined
- Session 506 – Marketing Award Winners: Profiles in Excellence
- Session 606 – Fitness for Duty – Evaluating New Employees and Employees Returning to Work
- Session 706 - Get Revved Up About Fuel Conservation and Green Initiatives: Options and Practices for Your Short Line

CONFERENCES UPCOMING

Please note the following industry conferences of particular interest:

March 10-11: ASLRRRA/FRA Drug & Alcohol Program Manager Training Session With Signs & Symptoms Training. To be held at the Embassy Suites Kansas City Plaza in Kansas City, MO.

March 12: ASLRRRA/FRA Accident & Incident Reporting Seminar. Also to be held at the Embassy Suites Kansas City Plaza in Kansas City, MO.

NOTE: The above classes will comprehensively instruct railroaders whose duties include these matters. You may sign up for either of the above and there is a discount for signing up for both. For further details, link to the ASLRRRA website at http://www.aslrra.org/safety_training/Training_Seminars/

March 16-20: Railroad Track Inspection & Safety Standards. To be held in Chattanooga, TN (directions to the training facility will be provided upon registration.) Sponsored by the Center for Transportation Research of the University of Tennessee. For further information, call (865) 974-5255 or email Jenny Jones at gohjones@utk.edu.

March 18-19: Creating Capacity. To be held at the Union League Club in Chicago, IL. Sponsored by Railway Age and Railway Track & Structures Magazines. The keynote speaker for this conference will be CSX CEO Michael Ward, who the previous day will receive Railway Age’s Railroader Of The Year Award (the latter at an invitation-only event.) For further information, link to the Railway Age website at <http://www.railwayage.com/conference3.html>

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

The **Cedar Rapids & Iowa City Railway** said that they have begun the process of replacing their bridge over the Cedar River in Cedar Rapids, IA, according to wire service reports. The earlier bridge was washed away by June, 2008 Midwest flooding. A railway spokesman said that the new bridge will sit at the same location as the old one, but will be better-equipped to withstand future floodwaters.....**GATX** announced the appointment of Dale Williams as Director of Sales for Strategic Sales. Ms. Williams was most recently VP-Market Development for the Montreal, Maine & Atlantic Railway.....**Lancaster & Chester Railway** will serve a new \$30 million oil recycling plant to be built on its line by Southeastern Petroleum Corporation. When operational, the plant will produce up to 10 million gallons of reused oil annually.....**Portland & Western Railroad** will soon join the ranks of short line and regional railroads hosting commuter rail service. The service, which will be operated by Oregon's TriMet, will run between the Beaverton, OR Transit Center and Wilsonville, OR. Revenue service will start February 2.....Two short line holding companies, **Genesee & Wyoming** and **RailAmerica**, have debuted new websites. The new sites include improved information displays and features. Link to the G&W site at www.gwrr.com and to the RailAmerica website at www.railamerica.com**RailComm** recently completed product installation for Virginia's Commonwealth Railway. The railway will use RailComm's Centralized Traffic Control system for its operations.....**Shortline Data Systems**, an information services provider to the short line and regional railroad industry, recently published its January, 2009 newsletter. The newsletter details the latest information about SDS's ROCS System, including its recent installation on the Gulf & Ohio Railroad System. To obtain a sample copy of the newsletter, send an email to Steve Friedland at sfriedland@sdsrocs.com**Commonwealth Business Media's** parent company, UBM Global, announced that Traffic World Magazine and Journal of Commerce would merge into a single weekly publication effective March 2. Paul Page, currently editor of Traffic World, will be editorial director of the new weekly, and Joe Bonney, editor of the Journal of Commerce, will be executive editor.....**University Services** has announced that Dr. Ben Gershon is now working for them in a direct relationship. University Services is an ASLRRRA preferred provider of drug testing services. For more information about their services and programs, contact ASLRRRA's Tom Streicher at tstreicher@aslrra.org.

CONTAINERS THROUGH LOS ANGELES/LONG BEACH DECLINE

Reflecting the "depth of the global recession," as a statement from the Port of Long Beach put it, 2008 container volume through the port decreased to 6.5 million 20-foot equivalent units (TEUs), a decline of 11 percent compared with 2007's total. It was the largest single-year decline in more than two decades. The year culminated in an especially weak December, when volume decreased 25.3 percent to 429,946 TEUs, representing the lowest monthly total since February, 2005.

At the neighboring Port of Los Angeles, container volume in 2008 totaled 7.8 million TEUs, down 6 percent compared with 2007's volume. In December, total volume declined 25.2 percent to 561,033 TEUs.

The Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach are the principal entry point for goods imported into the U.S. from the Pacific Rim. Together, they are the busiest container port in the U.S. and the fifth busiest in the world. The ports are served by Pacific Harbor Lines Railroad, whose switching services including making up eastbound trains for BNSF and Union Pacific.

CLASS I RAIL TRAFFIC

For the week ending January 17, 2009, the Association of American Railroads reported that U.S. rail volume grand totaled 28.3 billion ton-miles, down 16.8 percent from the comparable week last year. U.S. carload rail traffic was down 17.9 percent, down 24.4 percent in the East and down 13.2 percent in the West. All 19 carload commodity groups were down this week versus the comparable week last year.

Also for the week, U.S. intermodal rail traffic was down 13.7 percent, Canadian carload rail traffic was down 21.8 percent, Canadian intermodal rail traffic was down 16.5 percent, Mexican Carload rail traffic was down 7.9 percent, and Mexican intermodal rail traffic was down 8.1 percent.

For the period January 1 through January 17, 2009, U.S. rail volume grand totaled 57.0 billion ton-miles, down 16.5 percent from the comparable period last year. Also for this period, U.S. carload rail traffic was down 17.4 percent, U.S. intermodal rail traffic was down 14.0 percent, Canadian carload rail traffic was down 24.3 percent, Canadian intermodal rail traffic was down 15.1 percent, Mexican carload rail traffic was down 14.0 percent, and Mexican intermodal rail traffic was down 16.1 percent.

(NOTE: Canadian traffic totals include the U.S. operations of the two Class I carriers based in Canada, Canadian National and Canadian Pacific.)

RMI RAILCONNECT SHORT LINE TRAFFIC INDEX

The RMI Railconnect Index is waybill-based and totals shipments billed by non-Class I railroads using RMI billing products. For this report, this totals 345 such railroads. This index is calculated weekly and the below data is as of the week ending January 10, 2009, the 1st full week of this year.

	Week Ending January 10			Year-To-Date		
	2008	2007	% Change	2008	2007	% Change
CARLOADS HANDLED						
Coal	15,637	12,718	22.95%	15,637	12,718	22.95%
Grain	13,582	15,624	-13.07%	13,582	15,624	-13.07%
Farm & Food (Exc. Grain)	5,155	5,125	0.59%	5,155	5,125	0.59%
Ores	1,523	2,651	-42.55%	1,523	2,651	-42.55%
Stone, Clay, Aggregates	9,186	8,215	11.82%	9,186	8,215	11.82%
Lumber/Forest Prods.	3,118	3,628	-14.06%	3,118	3,628	-14.06%
Paper Products	6,231	8,191	-23.93%	6,231	8,191	-23.93%
Waste & Scrap Materials	3,874	4,292	-9.74%	3,874	4,292	-9.74%
Chemicals	16,419	16,447	-0.17%	16,419	16,44	-0.17%
Petroleum & Coke	5,245	5,234	0.21%	5,245	5,234	0.21%
Metals & Products	7,218	10,453	-30.95%	7,218	10,453	-30.95%
Motor Vehicles & Equip.	422	655	-35.57%	422	655	-35.57%
Intermodal	7,948	9,363	-15.11%	7,948	9,363	-15.11%
All Other	1,507	1,849	-18.50%	1,507	1,849	-18.50%
Total	97,065	104,445	-7.07%	97,065	104,445	-7.07%

HELPFUL LINKS

To use the Railinc Embargo & Permit System, including open & prepay station (OPSL) notes, link to <https://aarembargo.railinc.com/epdb/public.do>

Members wanting to review ASLRRRA recommended emergency preparations may link to <http://members.aslrra.org>, enter email and password, click on the word “Documents” at the top of the page, then click on “ASLRRRA Emergency Plans” on the left side. Contact ASLRRRA’s Dave Whorton at dwhorton@aslrra.org, P: (202) 585-3430 if you need further assistance.

Looking for freight cars to fill short, medium and long-term shipment needs? Check out the Car Clearinghouse, which includes freight cars currently idled by many railroads. The cars are of all types and capacities, and usually move free to the initial loading location, following conclusion of negotiated arrangement for their use. For more details, go to the Car Clearinghouse link on the ASLRRRA website, http://www.aslrra.org/member_tools_services/Equipment_Availability_Clearinghouse/

To reach the Railinc homepage, link to www.railinc.com

Do you know of a helpful rail or related industry website? If so, send it to ASLRRRA’s Dave Mears for consideration for inclusion in this section. Websites should be generic in nature and of common interest and usefulness; ASLRRRA’s Eric O’Neill, for example, recently furnished a link to a website that defined the safety of bank deposits, which we then ran in this space. You may contact Dave at dmears@aslrra.org, and please include a description of the suggested website and the link to it.

Views & News is published by...
American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association
50 F Street, N.W., Suite 7020, Washington, DC 20001
(202) 628-4500 FAX (202) 628-6430 aslrra@aslrra.org

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