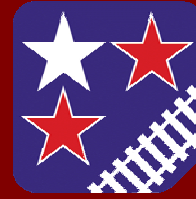


You have been sent the ASLRRA newsletter, *Views & News*, in HTML format. If your e-mail viewer will not accept this format, you can view *Views & News* online at: http://www.aslrra.org/news_publications/Views_News/

American Short Line and
Regional Railroad Association's

VIEWS & NEWS



VOLUME 78

NUMBER 25

December 22, 2009

Upcoming Events

ASLRRA Legislative
Policy Committee
Meeting
January 8, 2010
Palm Desert, CA

Railroad Day on
Capitol Hill &
Legislative Dinner
February 25, 2010
Washington, DC

CSX Short Line
Workshop
March 7-9, 2010
Saint Augustine, FL

ASLRRA Annual
Convention
May 1-4, 2010
Hilton Bonnet Creek
Orlando, FL

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Security Alert Level 2
is in Effect

IN THIS ISSUE

- [ASLRRA Welcomes More New Members](#)
- [Senate Commerce Committee Votes STB Reauthorization, 'Re-Reg' Legislation](#)
- [Tax Credit Update](#)
- [TIGER Grant Update](#)
- [FY 2010 Appropriations Bill Proposes New Rail Investment](#)
- [Railroad Unemployment Benefits Extended](#)
- [FRA Reporting Thresholds Increased](#)
- [FRA Releases Roadway Worker NPRM, Requests Comments](#)
- [Car Repair Billing Format Changes Go Live January 8, 2010](#)
- [2010 Convention Booths Going Fast](#)
- [Nominations Open For 2010 Marketing Awards](#)
- [BNSF Awards Short Line Achievement](#)
- [Iowa Pacific Is Awarded \\$64.4M RRIF Loan, States Issue Grants](#)
- [Latest Flu Updates](#)
- [Meetings & Conferences Coming Up](#)
- [New \(And Changing\) Railroads](#)
- [Members In The News](#)
- [Other Industry News](#)
- [Class I Rail Traffic](#)
- [RMI RailConnect Short Line Traffic Index](#)
- [Helpful Links](#)
- [Be Sure To Check Out ASLRRA Hot Tracks!](#)
- [Forward Your Press Releases to ASLRRA!](#)

Please note that this is the final issue of Views & News for 2009. Our first issue in 2010 will be published on January 19th

The Association will be closed on Thursday, December 24th, Friday, December 25th, and December 30th-January 1st.

Have a safe and happy holiday!

ASLRRA WELCOMES MORE NEW MEMBERS

We are pleased to welcome the following new Railroad member:

Transkentucky Transportation Railroad, Inc.: Transkentucky Transportation Railroad, Inc. operates 50 miles of track in Kentucky and connects with CSX Transportation. The railroad is located at 205 Winchester St., Paris, KY 40361 and their main number is (859) 987-1589. Their website is www.ttirailroad.com and their fax number is (859) 987-1625. Please contact President Russell Rogers at rrogers@ttirailroad.com.

We are also pleased to welcome the following new Associate member:

ESRI: ESRI's GIS (Geographic Information Software) allows railroaders to visually manage facilities, assets, right of ways, construction and many other parts of the railroad. The GIS system enables railroads to take separate IT systems and integrate them into one common operating picture. ESRI is located at 380 New York St., Redlands, CA 92373 and their main number is (909) 793-2853. Their website is www.esri.com/transportation and their fax number is (909) 793-3039. Please contact Transportation Industry Solutions Manager Terry Bills at tbills@esri.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. Email Cheryl at chuyck@aslrta.org or phone her at (202) 585-3431.

SENATE COMMERCE COMMITTEE VOTES STB REAUTHORIZATION, 'RE-REG' LEGISLATION

Senate Commerce Committee Chairman Jay Rockefeller (D-WV) has introduced S. 2889, a long-expected bill to change federal oversight of U.S. railroads. The bill, which was approved unanimously out of the committee, has the short title of "Surface Transportation Board Reauthorization Act of 2009" and is officially titled "A bill to reauthorize the Surface Transportation Board, and for other purposes."

The bill is notable in its scope. It was recently referred to by an industry spokesman as potentially "the most significant rewrite of railroad regulatory legislation in 30 years...since the Staggers Act of 1980." As noted in a report on Progressive Railroading Magazine's website, the bill would require railroads to quote "bottleneck" rates; set standards for reciprocal switching and terminal access; create a process for parties to challenge paper barriers; require future paper barriers to be "reasonable and in the public interest"; and increase STB scrutiny of future railroad mergers for competitive, service and environmental effects. Additionally, the bill proposes to strengthen the STB's oversight of the rail industry by updating rail transportation policy, providing the board independent investigative authority and creating a rail customer advocate to help resolve shipper concerns. The legislation also would alter the rate complaint processes, require railroads to provide service standards to shippers, mandate that the STB review current class exemptions for unregulated railroad traffic and set lower fees for filing complaints with the board.

Links to the official text and the Chairman's press release is available at <http://commerce.senate.gov>.

The ASLRRRA membership's Legislative Policy Committee (ASLRRRA-LPC) has been involved in active discussions with the Commerce Committee for most of the year and has successfully protected ASLRRRA member interests in numerous places in the bill. ASLRRRA-LPC worked overtime for two weeks as this committee action approached. ASLRRRA-LPC remained actively engaged with the Commerce Committee and hosted daily membership conference calls from Saturday, Dec. 12th through Wednesday, Dec. 17th to respond to events as they evolved. ASLRRRA-LPC has focused its attention on preserving short line economic viability from unintended consequences of this legislation.

TAX CREDIT UPDATE

The Senate recently announced that it would likely put off consideration of the extension and enhancement of the federal Short Line Tax Credit, despite its having gained majority support in both the Senate and the House. Adam Nordstrom of Chambers, Conlon & Hartwell comments:

“Regrettably, the Senate announced today that the ongoing debate on the health care bill likely precludes the opportunity to spend any remaining legislative days before Christmas on the tax extenders or estate tax bills. We will have to continue that effort in the New Year. We remain unsure when the Senate could start to take action on this legislation. Once the Senate adjourns for Christmas and New Year, it is not expected to reconvene until January 19th. As occurred in 2008, we will have to secure the extension retroactive to January 1, 2010.”

TIGER GRANT UPDATE

The U.S. Department of Transportation updates that it is continuing to review TIGER (Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery) grant applications. The TIGER program was announced last May. Funded at \$1.5 billion, nearly \$50 billion in funding requests were received by the time of the summer filing deadline, totaling approximately 1,400 applications from all 50 states.

Although the USDOT issued a press release last September stating that it was going to post all TIGER applications on its website beginning the week of September 28th, recent notice from USDOT advised that they will not proceed with this initiative. The spokesman added that all applications are still being considered and that USDOT is still on track to announce projects approved for funding this coming January.

FY2010 APPROPRIATIONS BILL PROPOSES NEW RAIL INVESTMENT

President Obama signed into law on December 16th an omnibus federal appropriations bill, which passed the House and Senate the previous week.

The bill provides \$122.1 billion for the U.S. Department of Transportation and the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development for Fiscal Year 2010, representing a 12 percent increase from the previous fiscal year. That amount includes \$67.9 billion in budget authority, up from \$55 billion provided in FY2009.

Additional to \$41.1 billion for highways, \$10.7 billion for mass transit, \$3.5 billion for airports, and \$2.9 billion for modernizing air traffic control, the bill includes several rail-related appropriations, including the following:

- \$1.6 billion for Amtrak

- \$2.5 billion for high-speed and intercity passenger rail, which is \$1.5 billion above the president's original request. This money is additional to the \$8 billion appropriated for passenger rail by the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act (ARRA) earlier this year.
- \$600 million for competitive grants that will support significant transportation projects in various modes. These will be administered by the U.S. Department of Transportation and are similar to the \$1.5 billion Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant program launched earlier this year. NRC President Chuck Baker has noted that "the explanatory statement that accompanies the legislation specifically calls out inland port and freight rail projects as appealing for this program."

(Note: The above report was excerpted from a recent edition of the AASHTO Journal, which is published by the American Association of State and Highway Transportation Officials.)

RAILROAD UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS EXTENDED

On November 6th, President Obama signed legislation that will extend unemployment insurance benefits for railroad workers. The "Worker, Homeownership, and Business Assistance Act of 2009" authorizes the payment of extended unemployment benefits to rail workers who file for unemployment between July 1, 2008 and June 30, 2010.

The details under the legislation outline regulations for railroad workers depending on their years of service. A railroad worker who has less than 10 years of service, for example, will be eligible for up to a 65 day extension of benefits within 7 consecutive 2-week registration periods. Workers with 10 or more years of service may now receive extended benefits for up to 130 days within 13 consecutive 2-week registration periods. In order to pay these extended unemployment benefits, the legislation also provided funding of \$175 million under the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act. While the extended benefit period includes any claims up to December 31, 2010, that date will change if funds from the \$175 million are exhausted before that time.

As employees become eligible for the extended unemployment benefits, they will be notified by and receive applicable claim forms from the Railroad Retirement Board (RRB). Claims can be filed securely by the employee online at www.rrb.gov or mailed to the RRB office in their area.

FRA REPORTING THRESHOLD INCREASED

by Dave Whorton, ASLRRA's Manager of Communications & Data

The FRA recently issued a final rule raising the threshold for reporting certain railroad accidents/incidents involving property damage from \$8,900 to \$9,200. The reporting threshold, as in previous years, will increase on January 1st.

Among other reasons, the increase is imposed to guarantee that FRA's reporting requirements reflect cost increases that have occurred since the reporting threshold was last computed in December of 2008. The FRA has found that this rule imposes no additional burden on any person, but rather provides a benefit by permitting the valid comparison of accident data over time.

For more details on the increased threshold and how it was calculated, [click here](#). Please direct any comments or questions to Tom Streicher (tsreicher@aslrta.org) at (202) 585-3434.

FRA RELEASES ROADWAY WORKER NPRM, REQUESTS COMMENTS

The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) recently released a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) proposing that railroads adopt specified on-track safety procedures to protect certain roadway workers from the movement of trains or other on-track equipment on “adjacent controlled track.” FRA proposes to define “adjacent controlled track” to mean “a controlled track whose track center is spaced 19 feet or less from the track center of the occupied track.” These on-track safety procedures would be required for each adjacent controlled track when a roadway work group with at least one of the roadway workers on the ground is engaged in a common task with an on-track roadway maintenance machine or coupled equipment on an occupied track. FRA also proposes to require that railroads, contractors to railroads, and roadway workers comply with these procedures.

Comments to the proposed rule must be received no later than January 25, 2010. To view the NPRM in the Federal Register, link to http://www.aslrra.org/images/news_file/Roadway_Worker_NPRM_December_2009.pdf

CAR REPAIR BILLING FORMAT CHANGES GO LIVE JANUARY 8, 2010

A reminder that new – and mandatory – car repair billing format changes will become effective on January 8, 2010.

The latest car repair billing changes are detailed in Circular C-11157. The changes support Version 6.5 of the Car Repair Billing Procedures Manual. Changes in Version 6.5 include the following:

1. Updated edit Charges in Appendix C to clarify ambiguous edits:
 - A. Added “D” as a valid Applied Wheel Class Code.
 - B. Added “D” as a valid Removed Wheel Class Code.
 - C. Changed Removed Wheel data edit – “XXXX” is allowed if data is unknown or illegible.
 - D. Changed the Removed Wheel Data format in Appendix G from Numeric to Alphanumeric.
2. Updated Appendix D:
 - A. Added missing error codes 1Q, 1R and 1S.
 - B. Added “Quantity” description to error code “0” description for clarity.
3. Modified Appendix S to remove spaces as a valid value for “Repairing Party Invoice Number” and “Repairing Party Document Reference Number”.
4. Modified Appendix S example data for clarity.

All of the revisions made from Version 6.4 (the last version) to Version 6.5 are listed in the Car Repair Billing Procedures Manual Change Log at the beginning of the Manual. The latest version of the Manual may be downloaded at the Railinc Car Repair Billing Community website: <https://community.railinc.com/products/crbpricing>.

The AAR Car Repair Billing (CRB) Committee reminds that, on and after the January 8 effective date, “if any mandatory reject errors are found in the record format or record balancing submitted to Railinc, the entire file will be rejected for correction and will not be processed through Railinc’s Data Exchange. The Committee strongly encourages that this information be distributed to all Car Repair Billing and IT personnel...that work with or are responsible for Car Repair Invoices submitted to Railinc’s Data Exchange.” For further information, contact Matt Hanburry at matt.hanburry@railamerica.com.

2010 CONVENTION BOOTHS GOING FAST

Green Company Spotlight New For 2010

The following from ASLRRA work partner Kathy Keeney concerns 2010 convention booth sales:

The 2010 ASLRRA Annual Convention is shaping up to be another sellout. Booth sales have been brisk, with about 85% of the exhibit spaces sold. The new Green Aisle of the Exhibit Hall has been very popular and has sold out. The Green Aisle and Green Theater spotlight companies that provide environmentally friendly products and services to the railroad industry,

The exhibit space is one big ballroom that is perfectly suited to accommodate the increasing size of the ASLRRA exhibition with numerous food & beverage and seating areas and prime booth locations. The rate remains \$1,850 per booth for 2010. Exhibit sales are only open to ASLRRA member companies. If your company is not an ASLRRA member but is interested in exhibiting, please contact Cheryl Huyck at 202-585-3431 or chuyck@aslrta.org for membership information or you can learn more about membership and/or download an application, by clicking here: http://www.aslrta.org/our_members/how_to_join/index.cfm

For more information on booths, please contact Kathy Rogers (krogers@ubmglobaltrade.com) or Kathy Keeney (kkeeney@ubmglobaltrade.com) of *The Pocket List of Railroad Officials* and UBM Global Trade, ASLRRA's exhibit partners.

The 2010 ASLRRA Annual Convention is being held May 1st-4th, at the brand-new Hilton Bonnet Creek in Orlando, FL. Convention registration and hotel reservation information will be posted in January 2010.

NOMINATIONS OPEN FOR 2010 MARKETING AWARDS

The American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association is currently accepting entries for its Fifteenth Annual Marketing Awards Competition. All member railroads are invited and encouraged to participate. Eligibility and outcome will not be affected by either the size of a competing railroad's project or the size of its operations.

Since it was introduced over a decade ago, submissions to the ASLRRA Marketing Awards Competition have increased each year. We have every reason to expect that this year will surpass all others, both in terms of the quality and quantity of entries. From among the received applications, a panel of six distinguished judges will have the difficult task of selecting three top marketing initiatives. Each winner will receive an engraved plaque at the ASLRRA Annual Convention in Orlando, Florida.

We encourage all member railroads to participate in this competition. Short line and regional railroads have some of the most innovative and successful marketing initiatives in today's railroad industry. ASLRRA's Marketing Awards Competition is a prime opportunity to demonstrate this fact to your peers, while also proving to present and potential customers how effectively you operate.

All entries must be mailed and received by ASLRRA **before Friday, February 26, 2010**. Please send **six copies** of your submission to the following address:

ATTN: Jenny McKinney, Director – Marketing
American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association
50 F Street, NW, Suite 7020
Washington, DC 20001

Feel free to contact Jenny with any questions or requests for additional information by phone at (202)585-3449 or by email at jmckinney@aslrta.org.

BNSF AWARDS SHORT LINE ACHIEVEMENT

In November, BNSF Railway presented its Short Line Achievement Awards to the Plainsman Switching Co. (PSC), Yellowstone Valley Railroad (YSVR) and Burlington Junction Railway (BJRY) for their efforts to increase traffic volume, develop new business and foster partnerships with BNSF. The awards also recognize the railroads' ability to be "good stewards" in their communities. The awards were presented at this year's 14th Annual Shortline Conference in Fort Worth, TX.

PSC, which handles major commodities like cottonseed, cotton oil, grain, aggregates and machinery, attracted new rail-served businesses to Lubbock, Texas in 2009. YSVR developed new customers in the natural gas, crude oil and frac sand markets, all while maintaining operations in the often extreme weather conditions of eastern Montana. BJRY, based in Iowa and Illinois, has enjoyed a 12% volume increase year to year and also boasts a 24-year streak of no lost-time injuries among its employees.

"Each short line has greatly exceeded the standards in customer focus, resourcefulness, operational flexibilities and a local presence in their communities," said BNSF Vice President of Network Development Pete Rickershauser in a prepared statement. "The end result has been growth business benefiting all involved supply-chain stakeholders."

IOWA PACIFIC IS AWARDED \$64.4M RRIF LOAN, STATES ISSUE GRANTS

Iowa Pacific Holdings, operator of six U.S. short lines, recently received a \$64.4 million Railroad Rehabilitation and Improvement Financing (RRIF) loan from the Federal Railroad Administration. The loan was one of the largest of the RRIF program and the only one made by the FRA so far this year. Iowa Pacific said that it would use the loan proceeds to pay off bank debt and help fund upgrades to 200 miles of track operated by its Texas-New Mexico and West Texas & Lubbock Railroads. Iowa Pacific CEO Ed Ellis expressed gratitude for the loans, noting that "[these] RRIF projects are the last major rehabilitations needed on our lines."

In addition, two eastern states made appropriations to help fund rail infrastructure improvements:

In Maryland, the Maryland Transit Administration recently appropriated \$1.5 million to rehabilitate 17-1/2 miles of line between Massey, MD and Worton in Kent County. Rehab work includes replacing rail, replacing more than 6,000 ties, and installing new ballast. The line is leased by the State of Maryland to the Maryland & Delaware Railroad.

In Pennsylvania, the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation recently awarded a total of \$24.5 million in funding grants to 39 rail shippers and railroads operating in the state. The grants were made through the state's Rail Freight Capital Budget, Transportation Assistance and Rail Freight Assistance programs. Short line and regional railroads receiving grants include the following:

- \$3.2 million to the Stourbridge Railroad to rehabilitate 23 miles of track and upgrade a bridge
- \$1.7 million to the Buffalo & Pittsburgh Railroad to construct a siding and reactivate a bridge over the Clarion River
- \$1.4 million to the Pittsburgh & Ohio Central Railroad to enhance yard capacity and efficiency by upgrading track and replacing turnouts
- \$1.0 million to the Wheeling & Lake Erie Railway to rehabilitate concrete pedestals at 40 locations, and to replace bridge deck timbers, install bridge approach ties and improve bridge approaches
- \$770,336 to RJ Corman Railroad Group to rehabilitate track, replace bridge ties and complete concrete repairs

LATEST FLU UPDATES

In a continuous effort to update our members on the H1N1 outbreak, the ASLRRA offers the following new information regarding the spread and treatment of the disease:

From the Center for Disease Control and Prevention:

Key Flu Indicators

Each week CDC analyzes information about influenza disease activity in the United States and publishes findings of key flu indicators in a report called [FluView](#). During the week of December 6th-12th, 2009, influenza activity decreased over the previous week across all key indicators. Most indicators, however, remain higher than normal for this time of year. Below is a summary of the most recent key indicators:

- [Visits to doctors](#) for influenza-like illness (ILI) nationally decreased slightly this week over last week. This is the seventh consecutive week of national decreases in ILI after four consecutive weeks of sharp increases. While ILI has declined, visits to doctors for influenza-like illness remain slightly elevated nationally.
- Influenza hospitalizations and [hospitalization](#) rates decreased in all age groups.
- The proportion of [deaths](#) attributed to pneumonia and influenza (P&I) based on the 122 Cities Report decreased over the previous week, but remains elevated for this time of year. This proportion has been higher than expected for eleven consecutive weeks. In addition, 9 flu-related [pediatric deaths](#) were reported this week: 8 of these deaths were associated with laboratory confirmed 2009 H1N1, and one was associated with an influenza A virus that was not subtyped. Since April 2009, CDC has received reports of 276 laboratory-confirmed pediatric deaths: 232 due to 2009 H1N1, 42 pediatric deaths that were laboratory confirmed as influenza, but the flu virus subtype was not determined, and two pediatric deaths that were associated with seasonal influenza viruses. Laboratory-confirmed deaths are thought to represent an [undercount](#) of the actual number. CDC has provided [estimates about the number of 2009 H1N1 cases and related hospitalizations and deaths](#).
- Eleven states are reporting [widespread influenza activity](#); a decline of three states from last week. They are: Alabama, Alaska, California, Delaware, Kentucky, Maine, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Nevada, New York, and Virginia
- Almost all of the influenza [viruses](#) identified so far continue to be 2009 H1N1 influenza A viruses. These viruses remain similar to the virus chosen for the 2009 H1N1 vaccine, and remain susceptible to the antiviral drugs oseltamivir and zanamivir with rare exception.

*All data are preliminary and may change as more reports are received.

To learn more, visit <http://www.cdc.gov/H1N1FLU/>.

MEETINGS & CONFERENCES COMING UP

January 6th-9th, 2010, 2010 NRC Conference: To be held at the Desert Springs JW Marriott Resort & Spa in Palm Desert, California. The NRC hotel block is now open. For more information about the hotel or the conference, including a draft program overview, go to the NRC 2010 conference link on the left side of the NRC home webpage at www.nrcma.org.

January 8th, 2010, ASLRRA Legislative Policy Committee Meeting: To be held at the Desert Springs JW Marriott Resort & Spa in Palm Desert, California. The NRC hotel block is now open. For more information about the hotel or the conference, including a draft program overview, go to the NRC 2010 conference link on the left side of the NRC home webpage at www.nrcma.org.

January 13th-14th, 2010, The Midwest Association of Rail Shippers (MARS) Meeting: MARS's 234th meeting will be held at the Oak Brook Marriott in Oak Brook, Illinois. The theme of the 2010 January meeting is "Recovery Challenges in 2010". FRA director Joe Szabo will deliver the keynote address on Wednesday the 13th. Register for the conference online at www.railshippers.com and click on "Midwest". Call (630) 850-5555 to make hotel reservations.

February 25, 2010, Railroad Day on Capitol Hill: To be held at the Grand Hyatt in Washington, DC. Hill appointments will be arranged from 9:30am to 4:30pm. Registration will open in the coming weeks. For more information, contact Kathy Cassidy at kcassidy@aslrra.org.

March 2-3, 2010, 15th Annual AAR Research Review: To be held at the Pueblo Marriott Convention Center in Pueblo, Colorado. The subject of the conference is "Meeting the Industry's Technology Goals." Register online at www.regonline.com/15thannualreview.

March 9-11, 2010, Timber & Steel Railroad Bridges Workshop: To be held at the Center for Transportation Research at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville, TN. Attendees are responsible for meals and lodging. Directions to the campus provided upon enrollment in the workshop. Call (865) 974-5255 for more information and to register.

March 15-19, 2010, Railroad Track Inspection & Safety Standards Workshop: To be held at the Center for Transportation Research at the University of Tennessee in Chattanooga, TN. Attendees are responsible for meals and lodging. Directions to the campus provided upon enrollment in the workshop. Call (865) 974-5255 for more information and to register.

April 12-16 & November 1-5, 2010, NARS Bridge Inspection Course: To be held at Johnson County Community College in Overland Park, KS. ASLRRRA members receive the sponsored price of \$550 for these dates only for the course. Contact Elwood Starner at elwood.starner@narstraining.com or call (913) 319-2662.

NEW (AND CHANGING) RAILROADS

New Railroads:

Georgia Southern Railway: A Class III carrier, it will operate approximately 67 miles of track in Georgia and will interchange with Norfolk Southern at Fort Valley, Dover and Midville. Operations were expected to begin on or about December 16, 2009. Contact information is as follows: Georgia Southern Railway, Attn: Mr. Joe Evans, Director, 1318 South Johanson Road, Peoria, IL 61607, P: (309) 697-1400 x222, F: (309)697-5387, evans@pioneer-railcorp.com.

YCR Corporation: A Class III carrier, it will operate approximately 22 miles of track in Washington State and will interchange with BNSF at Toppenish, WA. Operations were expected to begin on or about December 21, 2009. Contact information is as follows: YCR Corp., Attn: Paul Didelius, President, 499 Railex Road, Burbank, WA 99323, P: (509) 540-9499, pd@frontierrail.com.

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

Iowa Pacific's Rio Grande Scenic Railroad (RGSR) is the new operator of the annual winter ski train that runs from Denver to the Front Range ski and snowboard resort at Winter Park. Trips begin December 27 and continue through March 28, 2010. The Denver-Winter Park ski train, whose route includes a 4,000 foot climb to the resort, was first operated in 1940... **Lycoming Valley Railroad** recently worked with Universal Well Services and Allison Crane & Rigging on a "pod arrangement" of four old covered hopper cars that will be used for the storing of 100 mesh grade FRAC sand. Located at the Lundy Warehousing Arch Street Facility in Williamsport, PA, the cars are now ready for the 10 railcars that are being shipped to the site this week... **North Shore Railroad** worked with the North American Railcar Operators Association (NARCOA) to operate the Marine Corp Toys for Tots program from Northumberland to Berwick, PA on December 12th. As part of the fee, each attendee brought a Christmas toy to donate to a child in need... Employees for **Ohio Central Railroad Co.** recently voted for and were approved to become members of Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen (BLET). The 47 employees of the Coshocton-based railroad who joined the union will receive job protection from the BLET and will be a part of the railroad retirement system. The National Mediation Board approved the vote on December 17th... **RailAmerica, Inc.** appointed Randy Pianin as Vice President and Corporate Controller and Principal Accounting Officer, effective December 14th. Mr. Pianin has worked in accounting, operations and finance for over 24 years, most recently with Office Depot. RailAmerica also appointed Harold Tynes as Vice President of Financial Services and Ira Berger as Vice President of Financial Planning & Investor Relations.... **Reading and Northern Railroad** celebrated their increased business in 2009 by awarding employees with all-expense paid vacations. This year, the company hired additional employees, purchased over 100 new rail cars and upgraded its infrastructure. Employees will have their choice of trips to Disney World; Baltimore, MD; Williamsburg, VA; London, England; or a cruise... **Stella-Jones Inc.** recently acquired Tangent Rail Corp., which provides wood crosstie products to the railroad industry. As a producer of industrial pressure treated wood products, the purchase of Tangent Rail will expand Quebec-based Stella-Jones' capabilities within the US railway tie industry... **Transportation Technology Center Inc. (TTCI)** recently released their research publications concerning a range of rail-related topics: Rail Welding; Bridges; Ballast Materials; Crossties and Fasteners; and Special Trackwork. For more information, please contact Kathy Drotar at Kathy_drotar@tci.aar.com or visit www.aar.com... **Watco Companies** will service a new wind turbine facility at the Kansas Logistics Park in Newton, KS. Construction on the plant, which is due to measure 150,000-200,000 square feet will begin in the second quarter of 2011. The steel turbine towers will be more cost-effective than other wind towers since they will measure an additional 100 feet, bringing them to an altitude with stronger and more constant winds.

OTHER INDUSTRY NEWS

The Railway Association of Canada recently marked its 90th anniversary. The Canadian equivalent of the AAR and ASLRRA, the RAC represents 54 freight and passenger railroads in Canada, as well as 40 associate members ...**The Florida state legislature recently approved legislation laying the groundwork for new central Florida commuter rail service.** The legislation, which had been rejected twice before, calls for CSX to sell the state approximately 60 miles of line in the Greater Orlando area over which the new service will operate. It also gives CSX a measure of liability protection, which had been a sticking point with the earlier efforts. A state spokesman said that it hopes to have the new service, to be called SunRail, in operation by 2012 ...**Norfolk Southern recently became the first Class I railroad to join the U.S. Green Building Council, a Washington-based nonprofit concern dedicated to promoting cost-efficient and energy-saving buildings.** NS has committed to submitting buildings from three of its proposed new intermodal terminals in Birmingham, AL; Greencastle, PA; and Memphis, TN for certification through a green-building rating system developed by the council ...**The Railroad Retirement Board recently released a study of longevity of railroad retirees.** The study found that a male railroader retiring at age 60 can be expected to live on average another 21.3 years. The study also found that a female railroader retiring at age 60 can be expected to live on average another 24.5 years, 3.2 years longer than a retired male railroad of the same age. The entire longevity report is available on the RRB website at www.rrb.gov ...**Union Pacific recently announced the promotion of Dennis Duffy to Vice Chairman-Operations, effective January 1.** Mr. Duffy was most recently UP's EVP-Operations. UP also announced the following additional appointments, also effective January 1st: Lance Fritz as VP-Operations; Rick Turner as VP-Labor Relations; and Bob Grimailia as VP-Safety, Security & Environment.

CLASS I RAIL TRAFFIC

For the week of December 12, 2009, the Association of American Railroads reports that U.S. rail volume grand totaled 29.3 billion ton-miles, down 9.8 percent from the comparable week last year. U.S. carload rail traffic was down 10.2 percent, down 5.4 percent in the East and down 13.2 percent in the West. Seven of nineteen carload commodity groups increased this year over last, including grain mill products up 16.1 percent, chemicals up 14.8 percent, metallic ores up 14.7 percent, and motor vehicles and equipment up 11.2 percent. Also for the week, U.S. intermodal rail traffic was down 3.0 percent, Canadian carload rail traffic was up 1.9 percent, Canadian intermodal rail traffic was down 7.4 percent, Mexican carload rail traffic was up 2.0 percent, and Mexican intermodal rail traffic was up 13.6 percent.

For the period January 1st through December 12, 2009, U.S. rail volume grand totaled 1.41 trillion ton-miles, down 15.8 percent from the comparable period last year. Also for this period, U.S. carload rail traffic was down 16.8 percent, U.S. intermodal rail traffic was down 15.0 percent, Canadian carload rail traffic was down 19.1 percent, Canadian intermodal rail traffic was down 15.1 percent, Mexican carload rail traffic was down 10.8 percent, and Mexican intermodal rail traffic was down 14.4 percent.

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. This report totals 337 such railroads and the index is calculated weekly. The **below data is as of the week ending December 12, 2009**, the 49th full week of this year. Special thanks to RMI's Cheri Denton for this valuable statistical information.

	Week Ending December 12			Year-To-Date		
	2009	2008	% Change	2009	2008	% Change
CARLOADS HANDLED						
Coal	9,895	15,236	-35.06%	569,993	719,460	-20.77%
Grain	12,289	11,251	9.23%	569,392	636,465	-10.54%
Farm & Food (Exc. Grain)	4,522	5,278	-14.32%	234,341	258,646	-9.40%
Ores	1,833	1,360	34.78%	89,330	129,294	-30.91%
Stone, Clay, Aggregates	7,753	9,043	-14.27%	474,653	574,247	-17.34%
Lumber/Forest Prods.	3,356	4,100	-18.15%	171,939	238,790	-28.00%
Paper Products	5,977	6,551	-8.76%	272,558	358,007	-23.87%
Waste & Scrap Materials	4,119	3,831	7.52%	214,165	288,031	-25.65%
Chemicals	14,803	15,600	-5.11%	697,342	800,298	-12.86%
Petroleum & Coke	3,301	4,730	-30.21%	170,633	273,306	-37.57%
Metals & Products	5,918	7,241	-18.27%	270,481	502,739	-46.20%
Motor Vehicles & Equip.	1,303	1,268	2.76%	49,872	91,150	-45.29%
Intermodal	5,402	6,366	-15.14%	311,683	599,295	-47.99%
All Other	1,818	1,600	13.63%	70,723	136,459	-48.17%
Total	82,289	93,455	-11.95%	4,167,105	5,606,187	-25.67%

HELPFUL LINKS

To use the Railinc Embargo & Permit System, including open & prepay station (OPSL) notes, link to <https://aarembargo.railinc.com/epdb/public.do> **Note: All embargo offers were required by Railinc to re-subscribe by December 1. If you have not yet done so, please contact ASLRRA's Steve Sullivan at sullivan@aslrta.org as soon as possible.**

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