

You have been sent the ASLRRRA 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 79

NUMBER 2

February 2, 2010

Upcoming Events

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

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

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

Click the link below to
visit the ASLRRRA
Classified Ads



Make sure to forward
Views & News on to your
colleagues and staff!

[Click here to unsubscribe
from Views & News](#)

Currently, Railroad
Security Alert Level 2
is in Effect

IN THIS ISSUE

[ASLRRRA Welcomes More New Members](#)

[Tips and Updates on Railroad Day on Capitol Hill](#)

[Nominations Sought for ASLRRRA Safety Awards](#)

[FRA's Szabo Asks Railroaders to Focus on Safety](#)

[Deadline Approaching for CWR Compliance by Class 3 Railroads](#)

[FRA Issues Special Advisory on Crossings](#)

[FRA SOFA Group To Present Switching Fatality Findings](#)

[Feds Award \\$8 Billion for Passenger Rail](#)

[2010 ASLRRRA Marketing Awards Competition](#)

[Pennsylvania Now Accepting Applications for Rail TAP Funding](#)

[Corn Production Poised to Set Record in 2010](#)

[First Half Gateway Performance Meetings Scheduled](#)

[Meetings and Conferences Coming Up](#)

[Members In The News](#)

[Other Industry News](#)

[Class I Rail Traffic](#)

[RMI RailConnect Short Line Traffic Index](#)

[Correction](#)

[Be Sure to Check Out ASLRRRA Hot Tracks](#)

[Forward Your Press Releases to ASLRRRA!](#)

[Follow ASLRRRA on Facebook & Twitter!](#)

[Helpful Links](#)

ASLRRRA WELCOMES MORE NEW MEMBERS

We are pleased to welcome the following new Associate members:

CHP Consolidated Health Plans: CHP Consolidated Health Plans, providers of Short Line Health Insurance Plan (SHIP), delivers the quality benefit administration, affordability and federal compliance your employee health plan needs. The company provides health plans that are customized for short line railroads. CHP is located at 2077 Roosevelt Ave., Springfield, MA 01104 and their main number is (800) 633-7867. Their website is www.consolidatedhealthplan.com and their fax number is (413) 747-8418. Please contact Director of Sales and Marketing Drew DiGiorgio at drew@consolidatedhealthplan.com. *Be sure to visit CHP at Booth 1108 at the ASLRRRA Annual Convention!*

Fenton Rigging & Contracting, Inc: Fenton Rigging & Contracting, Inc.'s services include railroad bridge repair and replacement, pile driving, crane work, grouting, steel work and much more. Fenton Rigging & Contracting is located at 2150 Langdon Farm Rd., Cincinnati, OH 45237 and their main number is (513) 758-1276. Their website is www.fentonrigging.com and their fax number is (513) 758-1277. Please contact Project Manager Tommy Wallace at towallace@fentonrigging.com. *Be sure to visit Fenton Rigging & Contracting at Booth 1124 at the ASLRRRA Annual Convention!*

Florail, Inc.: Florail, Inc. is a freight railcar leasing company. Florail can be reached at P.O. Box 2089, DeLand, FL 32721 and their main number is (386) 738-7611. Their website is www.florail.net and their fax number is (386) 738-7611. Please contact President Claude Bigot at cbigot@florail.net.

National Salvage & Service Corporation: National Salvage & Service Corporation provides dismantling services, bridge demolition and removal of railroad ties from railroad right-of-ways. National Salvage & Service Corporation can be reached at P.O. Box 300, Clear Creek, IN 47426 and their main number is (812) 339-9000. Their website is www.nssxcorp.com and their fax number is (812) 331-8235. Please contact Railroad Division Manager Jason Feagans at jason.feagans@nssx.biz.

Sunbelt Rentals, Inc.: Sunbelt Rentals, Inc. is one of the largest equipment rental companies in the U.S. Sunbelt Rentals provides 24/7 service for the rail industry, providing equipment rentals for track maintenance and construction, bridge maintenance and repair, signal maintenance and more all backed by a comprehensive performance guarantee. Sunbelt Rentals, Inc. is located at 2341 Deerfield Drive, Ft. Mill, SC 29715 and their main number is (813) 376-4145. Their website is www.sunbeltrentals.com and their fax number is (803) 578-6703. Please contact Director of Rail Services Mike McDonald at michael.mcdonald@sunbeltrentals.com. *Be sure to visit them at Booth 203 at the ASLRRRA Annual Convention!*

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 ASLRRRA associate member. Email Cheryl at chuyck@aslrra.org or phone her at (202) 585-3431.

[back to top](#)

TIPS AND UPDATES ON RAILROAD DAY ON CAPITOL HILL

The purpose of Railroad Day on the Hill is to get our message out to Congress as clearly and strongly as possible. One of the best ways to do that is to bring one of your customers and/or local officials with you. Ask any short line executive who has done so in the past and they will tell you that a customer/local official presence results in a much more successful meeting. The Congressman pays more attention because third party support removes the element of the railroad's financial self-interest from the discussion. To see coverage of last year's record-breaking event, click on this link: <http://railroadday.shutterstock.com/>.

Almost 400 people have signed up to participate in this event to date, and while the Railroad Day room block is sold out, rooms still remain in the Grand Hyatt Hotel at a higher rate (\$359 at last check). A quick review of Expedia.com shows other hotels in the area that are offering a comparable rate:

Hilton Garden Inn Washington DC, \$269 per night
Crowne Plaza Hamilton, \$209 per night
Red Roof Inn, \$160 per night
Residence Inn, \$239 per night

If you have questions or would like more information about Railroad Day on Capitol Hill, please visit http://www.aslrra.org/meetings_seminars/railroad_day_on_capitol_hill/index.cfm.

[back to top](#)

NOMINATIONS SOUGHT FOR ASLRRRA SAFETY AWARDS

Nominations are now being accepted for ASLRRRA's two safety awards: **Safety Person of the Year** and **Most Improved Railroad**. The winners of these awards will be honored at the ASLRRRA Annual Convention in Orlando this coming May.

The **Safety Person of the Year Award** will recognize the small railroad employee who has demonstrated outstanding safety achievement, with special emphasis on initiatives that improve employee safety in the workplace. Any employee of an ASLRRRA member railroad may be a candidate for this award. Among the considerations in selecting the winner of this award will be that the nominee has never sustained an FRA-reportable injury and has exhibited a high degree of safety awareness through visible promotion of safety programs and initiatives.

The **Most Improved Railroad Award** has undergone a change in the way it will be adjudicated this year. Unlike in previous years, when the award was given based solely on the railroad's FRA Frequency Severity Index score, the recipient of this year's award will be decided through a criteria-based selection process. This criteria includes: demonstration of improved safety over a period of at least three years; evidence of implementation of programs, processes and procedures that have resulted in a marked improvement in safety; and explanation of the "capital" (i.e. manpower, funding, related resources, etc.) that have been devoted to improving safety.

Nominations for **Safety Person of the Year** should be sent as a letter on company letterhead and signed by the CEO of the nominated individual's railroad. Nomination letters for Safety Person Of The Year should be sent to:

Tom Streicher
ASLRRRA
50 F St NW Suite 7020
Washington, DC 20001

Entries must be received no later than Friday, February 26, 2010

For complete award and nomination details, link to http://www.aslrra.org/images/news_file/Safety_Person_of_the_Year_Brochure_2010.pdf.

Nominations for **Most Improved Railroad** should be sent to:

Dave Whorton
ASLRRA
50 F St NW Suite 7020
Washington, DC 20001

Nominations may be sent either as a letter or an email, the latter to dwhorton@aslrta.org.

Entries must be received no later than Friday, March 5, 2010

[back to top](#)

FRA's SZABO ASKS RAILROADERS TO FOCUS ON SAFETY

In a special letter sent January 26, FRA Chief Administrator Joe Szabo called for all U.S. rail industry employees to make the maximum effort to work safely on the job. Mr. Szabo noted in his letter that, although preliminary reports indicate that 2009 may have been the safest year on record, there were nevertheless 16 on-duty fatalities during the year. The text of Mr. Szabo's letter follows:

“Dear Colleague:

“Preliminary data indicates that 2009 may have been the safest year on record by many measures. This accomplishment is the result of the diligent and sustained efforts of rail labor, rail management, and the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA). I thank you and commend you for your role in this accomplishment.

“The news is not uniformly good, however. Last year, 16 railroad employees were killed on the job. This tragic toll is more than just a number; it represents human lives: a father not there to walk his daughter down the aisle, a mother not there for her son's first day of school, an employee nearing retirement who did not live to enjoy the fruits of his labor.

“As the new year begins, I'm asking each of you to use your time and talents to help eliminate railroad employee fatalities. In this world of instant communication and technology and information "overload," we need to maintain complete situational awareness. Keep your mind clear of distractions-keep cell phones and other devices turned off- and focus on the task at hand. The railroad environment is totally unforgiving and the slightest lapse could be tragic.

“We need to think about rules compliance and consider its impact on ensuring a safe return home after each tour of duty. We must break down the barriers that keep us from achieving rules compliance, like taking a shortcut or yielding to pressure from a supervisor to unsafely expedite a move. We must take the time to ensure each rule is complied with, and mentor fellow coworkers. Remind them that it is all about going home safely, and if you are pressured by a supervisor to expedite a move by turning your back on the rules, report it. FRA will work diligently to ensure that the focus on rules compliance is consistent within each carrier's organization.

“Having spent 19 years on the ground myself, I – like you – understand the realities of railroading. My stomach still turns in knots each time I hear of an on-duty fatality. Let us each do everything we can to take care of ourselves and our coworkers. Zero fatalities is the only acceptable number, and it's a number we can all live with.

Sincerely, Joseph Szabo.”

[back to top](#)

DEADLINE APPROACHING FOR CWR COMPLIANCE BY CLASS 3 RAILROADS

The date is February 22 for compliance with the new continuous welded rail (CWR) regulations by Class 3 railroads. These regs were released last August 25 by the Federal Railroad Administration. They are already effective for Class 1 and 2 railroads.

Requirements of the new CWR regs include the following, which are excerpted from the newsletter of NRCMA Board Member John Zusan:

- A qualified person that inspects or supervises the installation, adjustment, or maintenance of CWR must complete a comprehensive training course and demonstrate his understanding of CWR.
- Fines for non-compliance have risen from a maximum of \$650 per violation to \$25,000 per violation. Willful violation has risen from \$27,000 to \$100,000.
- A CWR track owner must have a written CWR plan in place. The plan must be approved by the FRA.
- A bolted joint in CWR installed after August 25, 2009 must be welded within 60 days.
- A CWR track owner must establish a range (working range) that causes track buckling.
- A CWR track owner must determine areas that are prone to buckles and pull-aparts.
- A “Fracture Report” is now required for every broken joint bar. This report needs to be submitted to the FRA twice annually.
- A CWR track owner must have a training program that includes written procedures and provisions for annual re-training.
- A CWR track owner must also have a CWR standards and procedures manual at every location of CWR track.

A complete copy of the regulations is available by linking to <http://fdsys.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2009-08-25/pdf/E9-20253.pdf>.

[back to top](#)

FRA ISSUES SPECIAL ADVISORY ON CROSSINGS

The Federal Railroad Administration has issued a special safety advisory related to the identification and handling of highway-rail grade crossings with vertical profile conditions. The advisory, formally designated FRA Safety Advisory 2009-03, was issued December 31, 2009 and was published in the Federal Register on January 22, 2010.

The advisory recommends that each state “identify public highway-rail grade crossing where Low Ground Clearance signs have been installed and submit updated data on these crossings to the [U.S.] DOT Crossing Inventory.” It further recommends that the states implement policies and procedures to identify public highway-rail grade crossings that do not satisfy the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials’ Policy on Geometric Design of Highways and Streets (a.k.a. the “AASHTO Green Book”) and asks

that corrective action be taken to bring them into compliance.

The advisory references earlier U.S. National Transportation Board Safety Recommendations H-96-01, 02 and 04. Its issuance follows a related action taken in December by the Transportation Safety Board of Canada in response to a recent Canadian accident, in which a low-clearance truck became impaled on a crossing and was then struck by an approaching train.

The complete text of the advisory is available by linking to <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2010/2010-1118.htm>.

[back to top](#)

FRA SOFA GROUP TO PRESENT SWITCHING FATALITY FINDINGS

The Federal Railroad Administration has announced that its Switching Operation Fatality Analysis (SOFA) Working Group will present its initial findings to the rail industry in a special meeting to be held the afternoon of Railroad Day On Capitol Hill, February 25. In a letter sent to rail industry leadership, FRA Chief Administrator Joe Szabo – himself a member of the group immediately prior to his appointment as FRA head – has invited them to Washington to “discuss some of SOFA’s latest findings; the actions we, as an industry, can take to address those findings; and what measures will be taken to monitor progress in creating a safer workplace for operating crews that work in yards, industries, and along the mainlines of our Nation.”

The SOFA group was first convened by FRA in 1998 to examine the 76 fatalities that involved railroad employees engaged in switching operations between January 1, 1992 and July 1, 1998. That group’s findings included five operating recommendations, later shortened to “5 Livesavers” that are now in widespread use throughout the industry: Secure equipment before action is taken; protect employees against moving equipment; discuss safety at the beginning of a job or when a project changes; communicate before action is taken; and mentor less experienced employees to perform service safety. The group was reconvened by FRA in 2004 and then again in early 2009, on both occasions a response to switching-related fatalities having unfortunately continued to occur.

The current SOFA group is made up of eleven career railroaders, who altogether total over 300 man-years’ industry experience, and is assisted by three high-level consultants. Additional to its FRA facilitators, the group includes representatives from the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers & Trainmen, the United Transportation Union, the Association of American Railroads, and the American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association. Participating for ASLRRA have been Tom Streicher and Dave Mears. Dave says that the group is “far and away” the most effective labor-management team he has ever been involved with. “The level of synergy coming out of the group is truly remarkable,” he says. “There is no defensive posturing whatsoever. If, for example, the group’s examination of a switching fatality reveals that it was due in some degree to human error, no one disputes it.” Dave says that participating in the group has had special meaning for him due to his maternal grandfather having lost part of his leg while switching cars for the old Pittsburgh & Lake Erie Railroad in the 1930s. “My involvement here gives me a chance not only to honor his memory, but also to try to make sure that what happened to him stops happening to others,” he said.

Additional to having been given special access to FRA case documentation, the group has employed the latest technological innovations in its work. A recent case examination saw the use of the satellite map tool Google Earth, which was displayed on the screen to give the group an aerial view of the site where a switching fatality occurred. This assisted the group in familiarizing themselves with the accident location and the physical sequence of events that led up to it, as well as allowing them to check for anything unique to the site that may have contributed to the accident.

The group has now completed its detailed examination of 55 switching fatalities occurring between January 1, 2004 and December 31, 2009. It has also entered them into an advanced database management system, and is presently using that system to deduce the commonalities and other relational elements present among them. From this work will come recommendations that will – as stated with both hopefulness and expectation in Mr. Szabo’s letter – “if implemented, reduce these types of fatalities to zero.”

[back to top](#)

FEDS AWARD \$8 BILLION FOR PASSENGER RAIL

On Wednesday, January 27, President Obama and key members of his administration announced the particulars of federal funding grants for the construction or improvement of selected U.S. passenger rail services. The funding was called for by last year’s American Recovery & Reinvestment Act (ARRA) and totals approximately \$8 billion.

A total of 79 projects will be funded in a total of 31 states. Regionally, this totals as follows: In the Northeast, \$485 million for 22 projects; in the Southeast, \$1.876 billion for 11 projects; in the Midwest, \$2.617 billion for 24 projects; and in the West, \$2.943 billion for 22 projects. The three states gaining the largest funding were California, \$2.25 billion for its planned high-speed rail network and \$94 million for conventional passenger rail; Florida, \$1.25 billion for the first phase of its planned Tampa-Orlando high-speed rail line; and Illinois, \$1.25 billion to effect speeds of up to 110mph on the existing line between Chicago and St. Louis, MO.

Of particular note related to short line and regional railroads is \$50.5 million to Vermont for track and structural improvements on the line between St. Albans, VT and the Vermont-Massachusetts line. That line is traveled by Amtrak’s daily “Vermont” train operating over the tracks of RailAmerica’s New England Central Railroad. News reports indicated that these and associated improvements could speed the train by as much as an hour as it travels through Vermont and Massachusetts.

A map of funded projects and links to more detailed information is available by linking to the website of the National Association of Railroad Passengers at http://www.narprail.org/cms/index.php/hotline/more/hotline_639/.

[back to top](#)

2010 ASLRRR MARKETING AWARDS COMPETITION

Don’t Forget! Deadline is only three weeks away!!

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 fifteen years ago, submissions to the ASLRRR 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 ASLRRR 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 industry. ASLRRR’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 ASLRRRA **before Friday, February 26, 2010**. Please send **six copies** of your submission to the following address:

Jenny McKinney, Director – Marketing
ASLRRRA
50 F Street, NW, Suite 720
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@aslrra.org.

[back to top](#)

PENNSYLVANIA NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR RAIL TAP FUNDING

The following message is addressed to the short line and regional railroads of Pennsylvania from the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission:

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania provides financial assistance to railroads operating in the state through two funding programs, the Rail Freight Assistance Program (RFAP) and the Rail Transportation Assistance Program (Rail TAP). **The Rail TAP program is currently accepting applications for funding, now through Friday Noon, February 12, 2010.**

Rail TAP, otherwise known as Capital Budget, is available to those having a line item in the current Capital Budget Bill. For those who do not have a line item, you should contact your local state representative or state senator to secure a line item. The project can be funded up to 70 percent of the total project costs, not to exceed the amount of the line item. The final grant award will be based upon actual bid costs or agreed upon prices if work is to be performed by your own labor forces.

More information on the PennDOT rail freight assistance grant programs is available by clicking [here](#). Please contact the PennDOT Bureau of Rail Freight directly for assistance with any processing questions.

Please contact the PennDOT Bureau of Rail Freight directly with any questions or processing questions.

[back to top](#)

CORN PRODUCTION POISED TO SET RECORD IN 2010

Progressive Railroading recently published an article that bears good news for railroads' grain traffic in 2010. The article highlights a report issued by the U.S. Department of Agriculture that projects an increase in corn production in 2010. A 1% increase is anticipated, which would bring corn production to a record 13.2 billion bushels in the coming year. The previous record for corn production came in 2007, with 13 billion bushels.

The increase in corn production is attributed to the use of "scientifically proven" biotechnology applications. U.S. Grain Council's Director of Biotechnology Programs Rebecca Fecitt said that, "We hope to see this upward trend in yields for U.S. corn continue."

In addition, the USDA projects sorghum production to increase to 383 million bushels, which is 19 million bushels higher than the previously projected amount in December 2009.

To read the full article from Progressive Railroading, visit <http://www.progressiverailroading.com/news/article.asp?id=22346>.

[back to top](#)

FIRST HALF GATEWAY PERFORMANCE MEETINGS SCHEDULED

The Association of American Railroads has now scheduled gateway performance improvement meetings for the first half of 2010.

For the first half of the year, meetings will be held at and for the following gateways on the following dates: **Chicago, IL, at the Chicago Transportation Coordination Office, on March 22 and 23; Memphis, TN on April 20; New Orleans, LA on April 22; Birmingham, AL on April 27; Vancouver, BC, Canada on May 18; Minneapolis, MN on May 20; Kansas City, MO on June 15; St. Louis, MO on June 17; Detroit, MI on June 22; and Buffalo, NY on June 24.**

The AAR has in the past encouraged short line and regional railroads operating in these gateways, or that have service issues related to traffic flowing through these gateways, to attend and participate at these meetings. If unable to attend, relevant matters may be forwarded on for attention and follow-up. For additional information, contact ASLRRA's Dave Mears at dmears@aslrta.org.

[back to top](#)

MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES COMING UP

ASLRRA's 2010 Regional Meetings have been scheduled! More details on each of the meetings will become available throughout the year. Check in with http://www.aslrta.org/meetings_seminars/index.cfm for more information!

February 25, 2010 Railroad Day on Capitol Hill: To be held at the Washington Grand Hyatt in Washington, DC. More information and registration available on ASLRRA's website: http://www.aslrta.org/meetings_seminars/railroad_day_on_capitol_hill/index.cfm.

September 12-14, 2010 Eastern Region Meeting: To be held at the Renaissance Baltimore Harborplace Hotel in Baltimore, MD.

October 3-5, 2010, Central Pacific Region Meeting: To be held in Kansas City, MO.

November 7-9, 2010, Southern Region Meeting: To be held in Atlanta, GA.

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.

April 22, 2010, NRC Auction: To be hosted by Balfour Beatty Rail at their Washington, PA facility. More information will be forthcoming regarding details on the auction and travel/lodging recommendations. For more information, contact Balfour Beatty's Equipment Director Mark Meyer at mmeyer@bbri.com or (904) 378-7124.

[back to top](#)

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

The **Eastern Indiana Railroad** was granted an easement this week by The Union County Redevelopment Commission. The easement will allow the railroad to build a rail spur at their new industrial park on U.S. 27 South... **Iowa Interstate**'s new "Heritage" locomotive took its inspiration (and paint colors) from that of Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific. The unit will serve the route between Blue Island, IL and Council Bluffs, IA which had previously been served by Rock Island (see photos below)... **RMI** recently announced the launch of their new web address: www.rmiondemand.com. In addition to a new address, the website now features descriptions on all RMI solutions, including OASIS and AutoTrack... **Paducah & Louisville Railway** recently received preliminary approval of \$400,000 in tax incentives from the state of Kentucky. The funds will be used to build a new "green" headquarters for the railroad... **Strasburg Rail Road** recently presented Lancaster Farmland Trust with a gift of \$25,000 to preserve 77 acres of farmland. The gift, which is the Strasburg Rail Road's second of its kind in five years, is awarded to an Amish dairy farm in Paradise Township, Pennsylvania... Berks County Pennsylvania is requesting proposals to operate its recently acquired Colebrookdale rail line, running from a Norfolk Southern connection at Pottstown ten miles to Boyertown, PA. To request a copy of the RFP, email Teri West of **TranSystems** at tlwest@transystems.com ... **Wisconsin & Southern Railroad Co.** is promoting a plan to both federal and state lawmakers to grant about \$90 million in government funds and "shovel-ready" projects to upgrade their rail infrastructure. Improvements to the rail line would include the installation of new wood ties, continuous-welded rail and ballast, and other reconstruction efforts.



Newly repainted Iowa Interstate locomotive

Photo by: Mid-America Car

[back to top](#)

OTHER INDUSTRY NEWS

BNSF recently announced the appointment of Dean Wise as its new VP-Network Strategy. In his new position, Mr. Wise, who was most recently with Norbridge Consulting, will be responsible for haulage management, interline management, network strategy development, public-private partnerships, and short line business development. Mr. Wise succeeds Peter Rickershauser, who has announced his retirement effective April 30 ... **Canadian National recently announced the following executive appointments:** Keith Creel as EVP & Chief Operating Officer; Jean-Jacques Ruest as EVP & Chief Marketing Officer; Luc Jobin as EVP & Chief Financial Officer; Sean Finn as EVP-Corporate Services & Chief Legal Officer; Kim Madigan as VP-Human Resources; Robert Noorigian as VP-Investor Relations; Jeff Liepelt as SVP-Eastern Region; and Karen Phillips as VP-Public & Government Affairs ... **Canadian National has announced that it will make an initial donation of C\$100,000 to the Red Cross in support of the agency's relief efforts in Haiti, which suffered a major earthquake on January 12.** CN said that it would also match employee donations to the Red Cross dollar-for-dollar ... **Officials of Chicago's Chicago Region Environmental & Transportation Efficiency Program (CREATE) noted completion of another project of the program, the upgrading of McCook interlocking.** McCook locates approximately 13 miles west of downtown Chicago, where BNSF's Transcon Line crosses the CSX-Indiana Harbor Belt route between Blue Island and Franklin Park, IL. The upgrading allows trains to increase their speed through the interlocking from 10mph to 25mph ... **The Port of Seattle recently completed the purchase of the 42-mile BNSF line between Snohomish, WA and Renton, WA,** which runs via the east side of Lake Washington. The purchase price was \$81.4 million. BNSF will continue to provide freight rail service over the line, which is also slated for future commuter rail service and a bike and hiking trail alongside it ... **The Obama Administration has nominated Jeffrey Moreland to the Amtrak board of directors.** Mr. Moreland was a longtime attorney for the Santa Fe and then the BNSF, retiring in 2007 as the latter's executive vice president for public affairs ... **The U.S. Department of Transportation's Bureau of Transportation Statistics recently reported the final results of a 2007 commodity flow survey.** The report stated that rail movements that year totaled approximately 1.9 billion tons and 1.3 trillion ton-miles, representing 40 percent of all ton-miles. The report also stated that trucking accounted for another 40 percent of all ton-miles and that all rail, truck and water shipments totaled 12.5 billion tons and 3.3 trillion ton-miles ... **The U.S. Federal Railroad Administration has announced the appointment of Dr. Magdy El-Sibaie as its deputy associate administrator for safety, regulatory, and legislative affairs.** Dr. El-Sibaie, who was recently FRA's director of research and development and has most recently served as the acting associate administrator for hazardous materials of the U.S. Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, will succeed Grady Cothen, who has announced plans to retire from the FRA in March ... **The U.S. Railroad Retirement Board recently released its new Customer Service Plan.** The RRB's plan lays out its customer service standards and the levels of services that customers can expect. For a summary of the plan, link to http://www.rrb.gov/opa/qa/pub_1001.asp.

[back to top](#)

CLASS I RAIL TRAFFIC

For the week ending January 23, 2010, U.S. rail volume grand totaled 30.2 billion ton-miles, up 4.9 percent from the comparable period last year. U.S. carload rail traffic was up 2.9 percent, up 10.7 percent in the East, but down 0.2 percent in the West. Also for the week, U.S. intermodal rail traffic was up 2.9 percent, Canadian carload rail traffic was up 13.5 percent, Canadian intermodal rail traffic was up 7.4 percent, Mexican carload

rail traffic was up 29.8 percent, and Mexican intermodal rail traffic was up 41.6 percent.

For the period January 1 through January 23, 2010, U.S. rail volume grand totaled 84.4 billion ton-miles, down 2.5 percent from the comparable period last year. Also for this period, U.S. carload rail traffic was down 3.2 percent, U.S. intermodal rail traffic was up 0.9 percent, Canadian carload rail traffic was up 19.1 percent, Canadian intermodal rail traffic was up 4.4 percent, Mexican carload rail traffic was up 27.4 percent, and Mexican intermodal rail traffic was up 42.5 percent.

[back to top](#)

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 340 such railroads. This index is calculated weekly. The **below data is as of the week ending January 23, 2010**, the 3rd week of 2010. Special thanks to RMI's Cheri Denton for this valuable statistical information.

	Week Ending January 23			Year-To-Date		
	2010	2009	% Change	2010	2009	% Change
CARLOADS HANDLED						
Coal	10,805	11,664	-7.36%	30,644	39,908	-23.21%
Grain	14,049	11,351	23.77%	40,157	34,170	17.52%
Farm & Food (Exc. Grain)	4,975	4,762	4.47%	13,375	13,865	-3.53%
Ores	3,026	1,225	147.02%	8,499	3,832	121.79%
Stone, Clay, Aggregates	9,462	9,170	3.18%	25,434	25,619	-0.72%
Lumber/Forest Prods.	3,488	3,353	4.03%	9,668	9,345	3.46%
Paper Products	5,475	6,203	-11.74%	17,276	18,138	-4.75%
Waste & Scrap Materials	4,747	4,362	8.83%	12,914	12,811	0.80%
Chemicals	16,002	15,486	3.33%	48,080	46,089	4.32%
Petroleum & Coke	4,237	3,359	26.14%	11,778	12,565	-6.26%
Metals & Products	7,254	6,000	20.90%	19,985	19,183	4.18%
Motor Vehicles & Equip.	937	782	19.82%	2,523	1,847	36.60%
Intermodal	6,460	7,290	-11.39%	17,256	23,151	-25.46%
All Other	2,140	1,333	60.54%	6,096	3,856	58.09%
Total	93,057	86,340	7.78%	263,685	264,379	-0.26%

[back to top](#)

CORRECTION

In our last edition we noted the passing of Frank Waring. Mentioned among his career accomplishments was that he was a founder of the Maryland & Pennsylvania Railroad. In fact, Mr. Waring was a founder of the

Maryland & Delaware Railroad. Thanks to Robert Grossman for sending us this correction. We apologize for the error.

[back to top](#)

BE SURE TO CHECK OUT ASLRRRA HOT TRACKS

Every Wednesday, the ASLRRRA staff selects several current news stories in the short line industry to post on the Hot Tracks section of the association's website. Be sure to check out www.aslrra.org every week for the latest news on short line and regional railroads!

[back to top](#)

FORWARD YOUR PRESS RELEASES TO ASLRRRA!

One of the many benefits afforded ASLRRRA members is the posting of press releases in the HOT TRACKS Section on the ASLRRRA web site www.aslrra.org. Please make sure to add the ASLRRRA to your press release distribution list and forward them to Eileen Keane at ekeane@aslrra.org. The press release should include a link back to the news listing on your company's website.

[back to top](#)

FOLLOW ASLRRRA ON FACEBOOK & TWITTER!

Be sure to follow the latest ASLRRRA news and developments on Facebook and Twitter!

ASLRRRA maintains both its own and also a 2010 Annual Convention Facebook page. To follow either or both, log into www.facebook.com, signing up if you are a first-time Facebook user. Search on "American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association" to get to the ASLRRRA page and on "ASLRRRA Annual Convention" to get to the Convention page, then make sure to click on "Become A Fan." For further information contact ASLRRRA's Jenny McKinney at jmckinney@aslrra.org.

ASLRRRA also uses Twitter to tell – as do more than 40 million other Twitter users worldwide – "what we are doing." You can view the ASLRRRA Twitter page directly at www.twitter.com/aslrra. And if you sign up for a free Twitter ID at www.twitter.com or if you already have one, you can customize it to automatically receive ASLRRRA updates, including on a mobile device, such as a Blackberry or iPhone, as well as on a conventional mobile phones capable of receiving text messages. For further information, contact ASLRRRA's Dave Mears at dmears@aslrra.org.

[back to top](#)

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 ASLRRRA's Steve Sullivan at sullivan@aslrra.org as soon as possible.**

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

To reach the ASLRRRA public website, link to www.aslrra.org. To reach its members'-only website, link to members.aslrra.org.

[back to top](#)

Views & News

Dave Mears, Managing Editor

Eileen Keane, Chief Contributing Editor

published by

The 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

For More Information on the ASLRRRA's benefits and services, please visit our website at:

www.aslrra.org

[Click here to unsubscribe from Views & News](#)