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American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association

# VIEWS & NEWS

VOLUME 74

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FEBRUARY 21, 2007

## Upcoming Events

### CSX Short Line Workshop

February 21-23, 2007  
St. Augustine, FL

### Railroad Day on Capitol Hill

March 14, 2007  
Washington, DC

### 2007 ASLRRRA Annual Convention

April 22-24, 2007  
Baltimore, MD

### Railroad Liability Seminar

June 26-29, 2007  
Rockport, ME

### NS Short Line Conference

July 29-31, 2007  
Roanoke, VA

Questions? Comments?  
E-Mail Us.

Click the link below to visit  
the ASLRRRA Classified Ads



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2 is in Effect

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## **ASLRRA 2007 ANNUAL CONVENTION – ALL ABOARD FOR BALTIMORE**

**NAVIGATING CHANGE • CHARTING NEW COURSES • FORGING OUR FUTURE** - That's the theme of this year's ASLRRA Annual Convention in Baltimore, Maryland. In today's changing environment, our industry must adapt with the times to ensure our future role in the transportation network. To meet this challenge, our Convention Planning Committee has prepared an agenda to keep you enlightened, informed, and entertained.

To keep you enlightened, there is a general session featuring presentations from Joseph Adams, Managing Director of Fortress Investment Group/RailAmerica; FRA Administrator, Hon. Joseph Boardman; Chief Marketing Officers from BNSF, CSX, NS, and UP; and ASLRRA President, Rich Timmons. These presentations will be followed up by more than 40 breakout session tracks covering the fields of Engineering; Finance & Administration; Legal; Legislative; Marketing & Emerging Markets; Operating & Maintenance; and Technology. We refer to this education track area as RailroadU. Watch for special emails and upcoming articles in Views and News, highlighting these various tracks.

To keep you informed, we have a sold out exhibit hall with more than 100 companies prepared to demonstrate their products and services and keep you up-to-date on all the latest technology.

As for entertainment, we have an Orioles baseball outing planned for Camden Yards on Saturday evening, April 21. Sunday night, after the opening reception in the exhibit hall, we have planned an event at the [B&O Railroad Museum](#) that we're calling Rockin' the Roundhouse, featuring [Rockin' Jason D. Williams](#). (Some of you may recall Jason from our Southern Region Meeting in Knoxville last Fall.) Following Tuesday's golf outing at [Chestnut Ridge Golf Club](#), we will hold our banquet and then close out the conference with entertainment in the Loco Lizard Lounge.

The Convention and its associated events will be held April 21-24, 2007, at the [Baltimore Marriott Waterfront](#), located in the heart of the Inner Harbor. The room rate is \$189 single double. Make your reservations online by [clicking here](#) OR call our special Reservation line at (800) 266-9432 to make your reservations. Mention ASLRRA Annual Convention to get our discounted group rate. *Do not call the hotel or the Marriott 800 number.* **Hotel room cut-off date is March 30.**

For further details on the convention, download the registration information by [clicking here](#).

To register online, [click here](#). If you need help with your login information, call the ASLRRA at (202) 628-4500 for assistance.

## **NOMINATIONS FOR SAFETY PERSON OF THE YEAR NOW OPEN!!!**

The American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association is currently accepting entries for its Seventh Annual Safety Person of the Year Award. All member railroads are invited and encouraged to participate by nominating an individual who exemplifies the model of safe work performance.

Since its introduction in 2001, the ASLRRA Safety Person of the Year Award has served to honor the small railroad employee with the most outstanding safety achievement, while placing special emphasis on initiatives that have improved employee safety in the workplace. As in the past, the award winner will be recognized at the ASLRRA Annual Convention, which will be held this year in Baltimore, Maryland, from April 22 - 24. The winner and one additional guest will be the guests of ASLRRA at the Convention, including travel and accommodation expenses.

We encourage all member railroads to participate in this competition. All entries must be submitted in typewritten or electronic Word document format, not to exceed two pages in length, over the signature of the railroad's CEO. Nominations must be received by ASLRRA before **Friday, March 2, 2007**. Please send submissions to the following address:

Tom Streicher, Gen'l Supt., Safety & Operating Practices  
ASLRRA  
50 F Street, NW, Suite 7020  
Washington, DC 20001

For additional details on the award program guidelines, please click [here](#). Feel free to contact Tom with any questions or requests for additional information by phone at (202) 585-3434 or by email at [tstreicher@aslrra.org](mailto:tstreicher@aslrra.org).

### **IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO ENTER THE MARKETING AWARDS COMPETITION!**

The American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association is currently accepting entries for its Twelfth 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 three distinguished judges will have the difficult task of selecting three top marketing initiatives. Each winner will receive an engraved plaque at the 2007 Annual Convention in Baltimore, Maryland.

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 in triplicate and received by ASLRRA before **Friday, March 9, 2007**. Please send submissions to the following address:

Jenny McKinney, Marketing Manager  
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@aslrra.org](mailto:jmckinney@aslrra.org). For more information, refer to the brochure by clicking [here](#).

### **DON'T MISS OUT ON RAILROAD DAY ON CAPITOL HILL!**

Railroad Day on Capitol Hill is on Wednesday, March 14, 2007. This may well be the most important Railroad Day event we have ever held. We are facing a new Congress with a complete new set of Committee Chairmen and a large number of new Members and staff. And this is the year we must get our tax credit extended as it expires on December 31, 2007. We are facing a huge education effort in Congress and we cannot do that effectively without your participation. There are literally thousands of interests asking Congress to enact specific legislation. One of the things that allowed us to stand out last time around was the 267 co-sponsors you helped generate for our tax credit legislation. That was the highest number of co-sponsors on almost any bill introduced in the last session of Congress and the powers that be in Congress took note of that. Through retirement or defeat we have lost 65 of those co-sponsors.

The good news is that we are getting good response from railroad and rail supply people with regard to attending Railroad Day on Capitol Hill. The bad news is that we have already sold out our room block at the Grand Hyatt Hotel, and the additional block of rooms at the nearby Marriott at Metro Center. To view a list of reasonably priced hotels, click [here](#).

Please register as early as possible (and no later than March 2) so we can schedule you on hill visits and have your name badge and registration materials ready for you when you arrive at the desk. [Click here to register online](#).

### **MURRAY SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINE APPROACHING**

The deadline for applications for the Susan C. Murray Memorial Women's Scholarship Program is on **March 1, 2007**. For additional information about the scholarship, Susan C. Murray, and details on how to apply, click [here](#).

### **DATA SURVEY EFFORT UNDERWAY**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> ASLRRRA-AAR joint data survey was sent out on Friday, February 2, 2007. This survey will help to make or break the renewal of the short line tax credit legislation. It is extremely important that these surveys are completed and returned quickly in order to enhance the chances of the legislation. Please direct any questions to Dave Whorton ([dwhorton@aslrta.org](mailto:dwhorton@aslrta.org)) at (202) 585-3430.

### **RAILAMERICA'S HULSTROM PASSES AWAY AT 48**

Scott A. Hulstrom, 48, Geneseo, Ill., passed away Sunday, Feb. 11, 2007. Scott was born in Kewanee, Ill. on May 6, 1958, to Howard and Helen Hulstrom. He graduated from Galva High School in 1976, and then attended Black Hawk West College, in Moline and Western Illinois University, in Macomb, Ill. He married Donna Mancini September 15, 1979 in Niles, Ill. Mr. Hulstrom was employed 23 years by the BNSF Railroad as a division superintendent in the New Mexico Division. He was most recently employed by RailAmerica of Boca Raton, Fla., as president of Central Operations. Mr. Hulstrom was a member and elder of Victory Church. He enjoyed golfing, fishing, hunting, and especially his family. A devoted husband, father and genuinely loved person, he will be missed.

Survivors include his wife, Donna; daughter and son-in-law, Katie and Jason Tutor of Seattle; sons Nick of Seattle, Zak, a student at University of Illinois in Champaign, Ill.; sisters and brothers-in-law, Suzie (Dan) Gale of Bradford, Ill., Sonja (Terry) Shinn of House Springs, Mo.; brother and sister-in-law, Ernie (Brenda) Hulstrom of Galva, Ill. and several nieces, and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents and parents-in-law.

The celebration of his life was held at 11 a.m. Friday, February 16 at Vandemore Funeral Home Ltd., Geneseo. In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorials to the Victory Church, Geneseo. Condolences may be left at [www.vandemorefuneralhome.com](http://www.vandemorefuneralhome.com).

## **CN STRIKE ENTERS SECOND WEEK**

The strike against Canadian National by approximately 2,800 United Transportation Union workers in Canada continues into its second week. The latest development occurred on Monday, when the Canada Industrial Relations Board (CIRB) rejected CN's application that the UTU strike be declared illegal. As of this writing, CN is still working to maintain service by having its management fill positions of striking UTU workers. CN's U.S. operations have so far not been affected by the strike. CN is posting a daily update of strike developments. To view CN's page on the state of the railroad, click [here](#). To view the updated labor negotiations page, click [here](#). Please direct any concerns or updates in the area of service performance to Dave Mears ([dmears@aslrra.org](mailto:dmears@aslrra.org)) at (202) 585-3436.

## **ASLRRA WELCOMES NEW MEMBER**

Recently the ASLRRA welcomed one new railroad associate member. The new member is:

**Cincinnati Railway Co.**, 11013 Kenwood Rd., Bldg. 1, Cincinnati, Ohio 45242, Phone/Fax (513) 791-7245, website: [www.cincinnati-railway.com](http://www.cincinnati-railway.com), of which Guy D. Marino is the operations manager.

## **FDA ISSUES DRUG ADVISORY WARNING**

Patients treated with Requip or Mirapex have reported falling asleep while engaged in activities of daily living, including the operation of motor vehicles, which sometimes resulted in accidents. Although many of these patients reported somnolence while on Requip or Mirapex, some perceived that they had no warning signs such as excessive drowsiness, and believed that they were alert immediately prior to the event. Some of these events have been reported as late as 1 year after initiation of treatment.

## **IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME**

This year, Daylight Savings Time (DST) begins the second Sunday in March. We would like to remind short line and regional railroads that some AEI readers, especially those readers that concurrently send data to the Class I railroad the line connects with, might not presently accommodate the new DST dates.

We suggest that railroads check their readers and associated systems to ensure that both the receiving and sending systems are able to handle the DST change. Since many AEI system providers have prepared a "patch" to accommodate the change, railroads should contact their AEI system provider if there is a possible problem.

## **STB TO RELOCATE WITH SOME DISRUPTION TO SCHEDULE**

The Surface Transportation Board announced that the agency is scheduled to relocate from its existing location at 1925 K Street, N.W. to new offices located at 395 E Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20423-0001. The relocation is anticipated to begin at **5:00 p.m. EST, on Wednesday, February 28, 2007**. **STB offices will be closed on March 1 and 2 and will reopen for normal business operations at the new location beginning March 5, 2007.**

The STB anticipates that equipment relocation and other workspace disruptions will interfere with normal business operations during the February 28 - March 4, 2007 relocation. During that time, the STB **will not**:

- accept normal mailed case filings;
- accept non-mail, electronic filings, including recordations;
- receive general mail;
- process cases; and
- issue decisions.

Parties with time-sensitive matters please note that even case filings that would begin a proceeding and trigger a deadline for processing or effectiveness **will not be accepted during the days needed to accomplish the agency's relocation**. Likewise, the STB will suspend its processing of recordations during the days involved in its relocation.

**Following the STB's move**, the agency's new telephone numbers will be obtainable in two ways: (1) dial any agency phone number now in use to listen to a recording advising of the new phone number replacing it; or, (2) access the STB's Web site, at <http://www.stb.dot.gov>; click "**Contact Us**" at the bottom of the home page; then, when the new page appears, click either the "**Key Contacts List**" or the "**Ready Reference List**" found at the bottom of the new page.

This advisory will be followed by another news release containing emergency contact information to ensure that the STB remains accessible during the move.

### **ASLRRA CO-HOSTS SECURITY FORUM**

Over 200 rail security principals, suppliers and other interested persons were in attendance at the Railway Age 2007 Railway Security Forum & Expo, held January 22 and 23 at the Crystal Gateway Marriott in Arlington, VA. Railway Age presented the event in partnership with the Association of American Railroads, the American Public Transportation Association, the Railway Supply Institute, and the American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association.

Attendees learned from a comprehensive series of presentations by government and industry officials related to rail security, including a panel discussion, "On The Hill: Security Legislation To Watch," moderated by ASLRRA's VP & Executive Director Steve Sullivan. The program then split into concurrent sessions, one to concentrate on passenger rail security and the other focusing on freight rail security.

The program was highlighted its first day by a keynote address by Admiral Thad Allen, Commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard, and a lunchtime address by Asa Hutchinson, the former Under Secretary of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

### **FORBIS PROFILED IN PROGRESSIVE RAILROADING MAGAZINE**

Jalene Forbis, the League of Railway Industry Women's 2006 "Outstanding Woman of the Year," director of the California Short Line Railroad Association, and vice chairman of the ASLRRA Legislative Policy Committee, was recently featured in an article in December 2006's Progressive Railroading Magazine. This article, entitled "Master Multi-Tasker," can be viewed on the PR website by clicking [here](#).

## W&LE TO RECEIVE CROSSING UPGRADES

The Ohio Rail Development Commission (ORDC) recently authorized upgrades to seven grade crossings as part of a statewide crossing safety program.

The commission instructed Norfolk Southern Railway and the Wheeling & Lake Erie Railway Co. (W&LE) to begin engineering work on three of the upgrades. W&LE will replace crossbucks with electronic flashing lights and gates at crossings in Solon and Massillon; NS will upgrade equipment electronics and add gates to existing flashing lights at a crossing near Youngstown.

ORDC also authorized NS, W&LE and the Indiana & Ohio Railroad Co. to replace crossbuck signs with flashing warning lights, gates and other warning devices at four crossings in three counties.

The upgrades target seven of 19 crossings ORDC has identified as priority projects. Since the state launched a crossing safety program in the mid-1990s, ORDC has upgraded 1,250 of Ohio's 6,000 public crossings.

## RAILINC INDEX/STEELROADS EVENT REPORTING – JANUARY 2007

Railinc recently released their traffic index and Steelroads event reporting for January 2007. Carloads decreased by 6.3% compared to January 2006. Seven of the commodities listed made gains, with metallic ores making a 10.3% gain. Meanwhile ten commodities dropped, with crushed stone, sand and gravel, lumber and wood products, and nonmetallic minerals each suffering a greater than 25% drop. To view detailed information, click [here](#).

## RMI RAILCONNECT INDEX OF SHORT LINE TRAFFIC

For the week ending: 2/03/2007

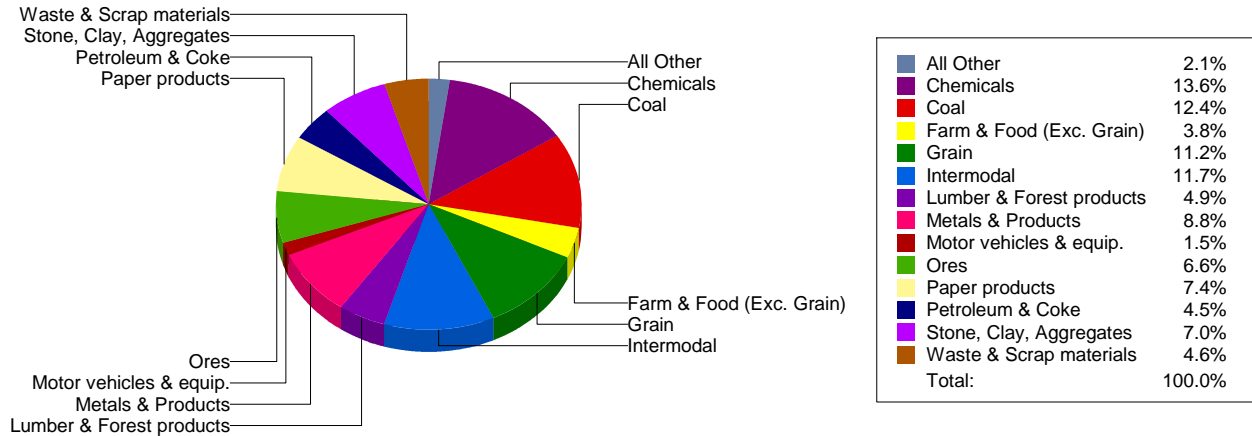
Week Number: 5

Number of Railroads: 307

	Current Week			Year-To-Date		
	2007	2006	% Change	2007	2006	% Change
<b>Carloads Handled</b>						
Coal	14,453	17,133	-15.64%	73,234	78,962	-7.25%
Grain	13,727	13,280	3.37%	66,263	70,811	-6.42%
Farm & Food (Exc. Grain)	4,643	5,134	-9.56%	22,362	24,237	-7.74%
Ores	7,685	7,563	1.61%	38,865	40,879	-4.93%
Stone, Clay, Aggregates	7,796	10,660	-26.87%	41,324	50,030	-17.40%
Lumber/Forest Prods.	6,246	8,144	-23.31%	28,853	38,965	-25.95%
Paper Products	8,412	9,174	-8.31%	43,479	46,616	-6.73%
Waste & Scrap Materials	5,730	5,884	-2.62%	27,372	28,760	-4.83%
Chemicals	16,296	15,195	7.25%	80,589	78,122	3.16%
Petroleum & Coke	5,803	5,520	5.13%	26,486	27,039	-2.05%
Metals & Products	11,129	12,755	-12.75%	51,751	57,695	-10.30%
Motor Vehicles & Equip.	1,930	1,933	-0.16%	8,968	10,155	-11.69%
Intermodal	14,593	17,692	-17.52%	69,226	86,920	-20.36%
All Other	2,524	3,189	-20.85%	12,448	15,612	-20.27%
<b>Total</b>	<b>120,967</b>	<b>133,256</b>	<b>-9.22%</b>	<b>591,220</b>	<b>654,803</b>	<b>-9.71%</b>

## RailConnect Index

Year-To-Date



## RAILROAD TRAFFIC

According to the AAR, U.S. carloads were down 5.5 percent in the week ending February 10, 2007, with 311,720 cars originated, compared to 329,889 cars originated in 2006. Carloads for U.S. non-Class I's that submit data to the AAR were down 19.6 percent for the week and 18.2 percent for the year to date. U.S. intermodal traffic was up 1.1 percent for the week but down 1.2 percent for the year to date. U.S. and Canadian intermodal traffic is up 4.0 percent for the year. Total volume is down 5.4 percent for the year, with an estimated total of 189.3 billion ton-miles, compared to 200.0 ton-miles in 2006.

For just the week ending February 3, 2007, U.S. carloads were down 7.2 percent and carloads for U.S. non-Class I's that submit data to the AAR were down 19.7 percent, 10.7 percent in the East. U.S. intermodal traffic was down 2.4 percent for the week.

## EMBARGO NOTICES AND REROUTE ORDERS

A complete listing of embargo notices is available at [aarembargo.railinc.com](http://aarembargo.railinc.com).

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