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American Short Line and
Regional Railroad Association's

VIEWS & NEWS



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Upcoming Events

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

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

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WELCOMING ANOTHER NEW MEMBER

WE are delighted to welcome as a new associate member.....

Lone Star Railroad Contractors Inc: Lone Star is a comprehensive provider of railway infrastructure services, including railroad construction, rehabilitation, maintenance, track inspections and consulting. Reach them at P.O. Box 1150, Ennis, TX 75120, P: (972) 878-9500, F: (972) 878-9503, www.lonestarrailroad.com. A good contact there is VP Joe Cro at joe@lonestarr.net.

(**CORRECTION:** Referencing last week's edition, please know that the correct spelling of our new associate member specializing in all facets of transportation law is **Baker & Miller PLLC**. Reach them at 2401 Pennsylvania Avenue NW Suite 300, Washington, DC 20037, P: (202) 663-7820, F: (202) 663-7849, www.bakerandmiller.com. A good contact there is Partner William Mullins at wmullins@bakerandmiller.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 ASLRRRA associate member. Contact Cheryl at chuyck@aslrria.org, P: (202) 585-3431.

RAILROADS, THEIR CUSTOMERS, IMPORTANT OTHERS CONVERSE WITH CONGRESS ON RAILROAD DAY

Mr. Smith came to Washington last week – as did hundreds of other names in support of the short line and regional railroad industry! Last Thursday, February 26, beheld the 11th annual Railroad Day On Capitol Hill, produced by ASLRRRA and the Association of American Railroads in association with numerous allied organizations and sponsors. Despite an economic environment that has curtailed many business trips, a record-breaking number – over 450! – railroaders, rail shippers, suppliers, and other friends of the industry came to Washington to meet with senators, congressmen, and their staffs. At those meetings, Railroad Day attendees spoke with enthusiasm and eloquence about the worth of helping short lines and regional railroads at the federal level – help that will in turn work to strengthen our nation's economy.

The day began with a comprehensive briefing by Adam Nordstrom of Chambers, Conlon & Hartwell and Obie O'Bannon of the AAR. Their briefing outlined important public policy issues for railroads and how best to discuss them with federal legislators. Attendees were then off to their scheduled meetings on Capitol Hill. Participants reassembled later that evening for a gala reception and dinner at the Grand Hyatt Washington Hotel. At the dinner, ASLRRRA President Rich Timmons posthumously presented the Association's E.A.R.L. Award to James Brunkenhoefer, the late national legislative director for the United Transportation Union. The award is presented annually by the Association for longstanding "Excellence [in] Advancing Rail Legislation." Closing the evening were the comic stylings of Keith Harwell of CC&H, ably assisted by pianist and singer David Tittsworth, with a special appearance by Consensual Sound, a.k.a. CoSo, an a capella singing group from Washington's Sidwell Friends School.

ASLRRRA sincerely thanks the sponsors of Railroad Day for making it a landmark event of the 2009 railroad calendar. Additional to ASLRRRA and AAR, association sponsors were the **National Railroad Construction & Maintenance Association**, the **Railway Engineering-Maintenance Suppliers Association**, the **Railway Supply Institute**, **Railway Systems Suppliers Incorporated**, the **Railway Tie Association**, and the **Saving Our Service** organization. Corporate sponsors were the **Aberdeen & Rockfish Railroad Company**, **Ansaldo STS USA**, **Arch Insurance Company**, **Atlas Railroad Construction Company**, **BNSF Railway**, **Boatright Companies**, **Commercial Insurance Associates LLC**, **Foley & Lardner**, **Genesee & Wyoming Inc.**, **L.B. Foster Company**, **Lancaster & Chester Railway**, **Markel Essex Insurance**, **McCarthy Rail Insurance Managers Inc.**, **National Academy of Railroad Sciences**, **New York, Susquehanna & Western Railway**, **Osmore Railroad Services**, **Permian Basin Railways**, **Progressive Railroad Magazine**, **R.J. Corman Railroad Group**, **RailAmerica**, **RailWorks**, **RMI**, **Short Line Data Systems Inc.**, **Stella-Jones/BPB Corporation**, the **Salvage Group Inc.**, **Thompson Industries Inc.**, **Union Pacific Railroad**, **Unitrac Railroad Materials Inc.**, **Watco Companies Inc.**, **Wheeling & Lake Erie Railway Company**, and **Zurich**.

NEW ASLRRRA WEBSITE DEBUTED

Last week, ASLRRRA debuted its new website. Additional to its new look, the website now also includes a host of new features intended to better introduce the Association and its work, and also tell more about the short line and regional railroads, and the providers of goods and services to them, who make up the Association's membership.

ASLRRRA's Dave Whorton, who helped develop the new website and will oversee it, recently called attention to several of its new features. These include a new and streamlined format; a direct login capability from the website's public portion to its special members-only section; and new links to fact sheets and videos, the latter now also included on the website's front page. Dave adds that the website showcases the Association's new credo of telling the public how short lines and regional railroads "...connect America's communities, strengthen America's economy, and protect America's environment."

Be sure to check out the website at your first opportunity, which is at its same location on the World Wide Web, www.aslrra.org. Also, let us know what you think of it; we would sincerely appreciate your comments for the website's future "tweaking." Email them to Dave, the Association's Manager-Communications & Data, at dwhorton@aslrra.org.

ASLRRRA GATHERS SHORT LINES TO FORGE PTC FEEDBACK

ASLRRRA convened a special meeting in Chicago, IL on February 18 and 19 to consider the technology of positive train control (PTC). Attending were key representatives of short line and regional railroads potentially impacted by PTC requirements arising from the Rail Safety Improvement Act of 2008. The Act calls for PTC installation in certain circumstances, including passenger train operation and movement of toxic-by-inhalation (TIH) traffic.

At the meeting, attendees were first briefed on matters at hand by ASLRRRA President Rich Timmons. Participants then broke up into two groups, one looking at PTC from a passenger perspective and the other from a freight perspective. The groups then reviewed operations to which PTC may be applicable and went on to consider PTC alternatives, such as enhanced operating rules, that may still fulfill the Act's intentions by providing PTC-like protections.

The results of the meeting will be presented to the PTC Working Group of the Federal Railroad Administration's Railroad Safety Advisory Committee (RSAC) that is now at work to define PTC regulations. ASLRRRA sincerely thanks those who, on short notice, came to the Chicago meeting and contributed to its good results. In alphabetical order by railroad, this included Eileen Reilly of the Alaska Railroad, Steve Powell of the Buckingham Branch, Nate Gamble of Finger Lakes, Dan Kelly and Dave Nelson of Indiana Harbor Belt, Mick Burkart and Jeff Johnson of Iowa Interstate, Steve Friedland and Chuck Jensen of Morristown & Erie, Preston Claytor of RailAmerica, Henry Lampe of SouthShore Freight, Alan Hardy of Tacoma Rail, and Larry Jensen of Watco Companies.

BOARD CONFERENCE CALL HELD

ASLRRA held its first board of directors meeting of 2009 on January 19.

The meeting, a conference call, was co-hosted by Board Chair Tom Schlosser and ASLRRA President Rich Timmons. Following ASLRRA's Steve Sullivan confirming that a quorum was present to conduct business and introductions by Mr. Schlosser, Mr. Timmons then presented a comprehensive update of his and staff activities. Following Mr. Timmons's update, representatives of ASLRRA standing committees presented updates of committee business. ASLRRA staff also joined the call to stand by for any specific questions. The call concluded with the board expressing satisfaction with the Association's situation and direction.

The ASLRRA board is comprised of approximately 35 individuals, who are assembled regionally and represent various constituencies of membership. The next board meeting will be face-to-face, on occasion of the 2009 annual convention in Las Vegas. Another conference call meeting and another face-to-face meeting will be scheduled later in the year.

NS DAMAGE PREVENTION & FREIGHT CLAIMS CONFERENCE POSTPONED

As Views & News went to press, we were intent on mentioning Norfolk Southern's planned conference on damage prevention and freight claims, a conference especially tailored to short line and regional railroads. The free conference had been scheduled for March 23 through 25 at NS's David Goode Office Building in Atlanta, GA.

But a few hours ago, we received word from Pam Blakeney, NS's Mgr-Freight Claims Settlement, that the conference has been postponed with no new date scheduled as yet. However, Ms. Blakeney asks that anyone interested in possibly attending the conference to please send her an email at pamela.blakeney@nscorp.com, so that she can contact them when it is rescheduled, which she said she hopes will be later this year.

CN INTEGRATES ABSORBED SHORT LINES

As information, particularly to those involved with Industry Reference File (IRF) and related file updates, Railinc has issued the following notice related to the adoption, by Canadian National, of the QRC/CFQ railroads. The railroads were acquired last year by Canadian National. What follows references the QRC/CFQ family of railroad marks:

"OCRR was implemented on February 1, 2009. CFMG and NBEC will be implemented on March 1, 2009. The CBC, which is part of the CFMG family, will remain as a standalone mark with no station attached at this time. CBC is retaining their name but the others listed above will be or have been expired in the Mark/SCAC file as a RR3 and will point the PP (property mark) to CN as the owner.

"On April 1, QRC will then be merged into the CN family.

"Railinc and CN have completed all the IRF updates for OCRR, CFMG (CBC), and NBEC, and will update QRC during March. All carriers should have received these updates via EDI over the last few months. CN will expire all the DFMG, NBEC and CBC stations this week.

"If you have any questions, please contact Railinc at irfgroup@railinc.com."

LOVE THE CONVENTION? TELL US WHY AND WIN A \$50 AMEX GIFT CARD!

Do you look forward to ASLRRA's Annual Convention each spring? Is it your must-attend event of the year? Tell us why and you could win an AMEX Gift Card! Simply send an email to Jenny McKinney at jmckinney@aslrta.org by **Friday, March 6th** describing why you find the Convention such a valuable tool and a not-to-be-missed event. We will choose several of the submissions to post on the meeting website and if yours is among those selected, you'll receive a \$50 American Express Gift Card as our way of saying "Thank you!" for sharing your experience with us. And be sure to reply by **Friday, March 6th**! We look forward to learning why ASLRRA's Annual Convention is your go-to source for first rate education, excellent networking opportunities, and the only Exhibit Hall designed exclusively for the small railroad industry.

We hope that you plan to join us in Las Vegas from April 25th – 28th and would like to remind you that online registration for the event is now open. You can access our quick and easy system with the following link:

https://members.aslrta.org/mtg_list.asp

Be sure to sign up before March 18th in order to get the lowest Early Bird registration fee and save \$100! And while you're making your travel arrangements, plan to arrive early on Saturday, April 25th and join us for a fun night of networking with new acquaintances and reconnecting with old friends during Cosmic Bowling at Red Rock Lanes. While the primary room block at the Red Rock Resort may be sold out, an overflow block has been established at the nearby J.W. Marriott for a rate of \$159 per night. You may make your reservations by phone by calling 800-297-5056 and mentioning group code **ASLRRA**, or online by clicking here: <https://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/lasjw-jw-marriott-las-vegas-resort-and-spa/> and using group code **ASLASLA**. **Hotel room cut-off date is March 26th.**

DO YOU KNOW WHO THE SAFETY PERSON OF THE YEAR IS? IF SO, TELL US

ASLRRA is currently accepting entries for its Ninth 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 Red Rock, Nevada, from April 26 - 28. The winner and one additional guest will be the guests of ASLRRA at the Convention, including travel and accommodation expenses.

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 6, 2009**. Please send submissions to the following address:

Tom Streicher
General Superintendent-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@aslrta.org.

FRA SEMINAR UPDATE

The Federal Railroad Administration's 2009 Spring Conference will be held Tuesday, May 5 through Friday, May 8, at South Padre Island, TX. The Brownsville & Rio Grande International Railroad will serve as host for this event. Included in the conference will be regulatory training workshops in the following areas: track; motive power and equipment; hazardous materials; operating practices; and signals and grade crossings. For further information and registration, link to the BRG Railroad website at www.brgr.com or contact Norma Torres at ntorres@brgr.com.

NOTE: The March 10-12 FRA training seminars in Kansas City, MO are sold out! ASLRRRA and FRA thank you for your interest. These seminars will cover drug & alcohol program management and accident & incident reporting. If you are interested in future seminars that may be scheduled on these topics, please contact ASLRRRA's Kathy Cassidy at kcassidy@aslrra.org, who will put your name on the mailing list for future information.

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

Graham-White Manufacturing, which provides new and remanufactured component parts for rail and transit, has announced their acquisition of The Vista Corporation of Roanoke, VA. Started in 1985, Vista remanufactures heavy-duty locomotive engine components.....**Essex Insurance** has changed their name to **Markel Essex Insurance**. A division of the Markel Group of companies, Markel Essex Insurance is an excess and surplus lines carrier marketing light to medium loss exposures through managing general agents and brokers nationwide.....**RailComm** recently announced the appointment of Morelle Cheney as Business Development Manager-Western Region. Mr. Cheney was most recently Assistant Territory Manager for RJ Corman Derailment Services.....**10East Corporation** has announced that Montana Rail Link will soon start using its RailDOCS Preventive Maintenance Management System (PMMS). The RailDOCS system provides necessary support for preventive maintenance and government compliance activities.....**Transportation Occupational Medicine Consultants (TOMC)** has announced that **RailAmerica** will start using its program of hearing conservation services. TOMC is a preferred provider of such services to ASLRRRA member railroads.

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 348 such railroads. This index is calculated weekly and the below data is as of the week ending February 7, 2009, the 5th full week of this year.

	Week Ending February 7			Year-To-Date		
	2009	2008	% Change	2009	2008	% Change
CARLOADS HANDLED						
Coal	14,870	14,522	2.40%	69,832	72,898	-4.21%
Grain	15,431	14,662	5.24%	66,526	78,185	-14.91%
Farm & Food (Exc. Grain)	5,758	5,796	-0.66%	25,785	27,607	-6.60%
Ores	1,977	3,320	-40.45%	7,634	14,587	-47.67%
Stone, Clay, Aggregates	9,737	10,960	-11.16%	47,242	52,150	-9.41%
Lumber/Forest Prods.	4,071	4,839	-15.87%	17,662	23,048	-23.37%
Paper Products	6,282	7,935	-20.83%	31,425	40,604	-22.61%
Waste & Scrap Materials	4,716	6,786	-30.50%	23,056	31,774	-27.44%
Chemicals	17,100	17,268	-0.97%	80,900	87,640	-7.69%
Petroleum & Coke	4,417	5,939	-25.63%	20,897	29,078	-28.13%
Metals & Products	6,642	11,757	-43.51%	33,961	58,154	-41.60%
Motor Vehicles & Equip.	1,045	1,780	-41.29%	3,767	6,951	-45.81%
Intermodal	8,250	14,454	-42.92%	38,716	66,568	-41.84%
All Other	1,654	3,003	-44.92%	7,692	12,502	-38.47%
Total	101,950	123,021	-17.13%	475,095	601,746	-21.05%

HELPFUL LINKS

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

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

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

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