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American Short Line and
Regional Railroad Association's

VIEWS & NEWS



VOLUME 78

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June 2, 2009

Upcoming Events

2009 Central-Pacific
Region Meeting
August 16-18, 2009
Seattle, WA

2009 Eastern Region
Meeting
October 11-13, 2009
Indianapolis, IN

2009 Southern Region
Meeting
November 8-10, 2009
Panama City Beach, FL

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ASLRRA WELCOMES NEW MEMBER

With great pleasure, we welcome the following new associate member:

Hamilton Construction Company: Hamilton Construction is a bridge contractor, serving the Western U.S. since 1939. The company's rail division, Hamilton Rail, specializes in the construction and repair of railroad structures. Contact them at P.O. Box 659, 2213 S. F Street, Springfield, OR 97477, P: (541) 746-2426, F: (541) 746-7635, www.hamil.com. Please contact RR Division Manager Bob Hirte at bhirte@hamil.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@aslrra.org or phone her at (202) 585-3431.

BREAKING NEWS: RR ANTITRUST BILL VOTE CANCELLED

Word has just been received that the anticipated cloture vote on the federal Railroad Antitrust Enforcement Act bill of Sen. Herb Kohl (D-WI), S.146, has been cancelled. Chuck Baker and Adam Nordstrom of Chambers, Conlon & Hartwell here report on the latest developments:

“The cloture vote on S.146, the railroad antitrust bill, which was scheduled to take place on Tuesday, June 2, has been cancelled. This legislation drew concerns from the Senate Commerce Committee and effective grass roots outreach from the railroad industry (thank you to the Short Lines that contacted your Senators) made clear our industry concerns. We presume that due to these efforts and others that there would not be the 60 votes needed to invoke cloture on this bill and move it to the Senate floor for a vote. Instead, some limited portions of this bill will be added into the STB re-authorization bill that the Senate Commerce Committee is working on. We will keep you posted as more information becomes available.”

HOURS OF SERVICE REGULATIONS ANNOUNCED

The Federal Railroad Administration has announced new regulations related to hours of service for train crews and selected other operating employees. They are the first major regulatory specifics announced by FRA in the wake of the passage of the federal Rail Safety Improvement Act (RSIA) last year. The regulations were developed by a working group of the Rail Safety Advisory Council (RSAC). Participating in that working group were ASLRRA's Keith Borman and Tom Streicher, who represented the interests of short line and regional railroads, and who worked alongside representatives from Class I railroads, passenger railroads, rail labor, and FRA officials.

The new regulations limit train employees to 276 hours of time on duty, waiting for or in deadhead transportation from a duty assignment to a location of final release, or in any other mandatory service for the rail carrier per calendar month. The regulations continue the existing maximum of 12 consecutive hours on duty, but increase the minimum off duty period to 10 consecutive hours during the prior 24 hour period. They specify that a railroad may not require or allow an employee to exceed 40 hours per month awaiting or in deadhead transportation from duty that is neither time on duty nor time off duty (also known as “limbo time”) in the first year after the date of enactment, with that number decreasing to 30 hours per month after the first year, except in instances where there is an occurrence of unforeseen cause, e.g., accident, derailment, etc.

The regulations are published in the Federal Register and may be viewed in their entirety by linking to <http://www.thefederalregister.com/d.p/2009-05-27-E9-12059>. They become effective July 6, with petitions for reconsideration accepted by FRA until June 16. Tom Streicher reports that ASLRRA's Safety & Training Committee will meet June 12 in Kansas City, MO to review the new regulations and consider best practices to assist in implementing them on short line and regional carriers.

ASLRRA HONORS SHORT LINE HARRIMAN WINNERS



(photo by Jennie Lam-Nagata)

ASLRRA hosted a special tribute May 20 to short line and regional railroaders who came to the nation's capital that day to accept E.H. Harriman Memorial Safety Awards. The awards are presented annually to railroads with the best safety record during the previous year. Endowed by the E.H. Harriman Memorial Awards Institute and administered by the Association of American Railroads (AAR), the award is considered to be among the most distinguished recognition a railroad can receive.

The ASLRRA tribute included a breakfast held at the Capitol Hill Liaison Hotel around the corner from ASLRRA's Washington, DC offices. Attending the breakfast – many of whom are pictured above, alongside ASLRRA President Rich Timmons – were Jim Benz, Tyrone James, and Mike Lundell representing Harriman Group C Gold Winner Genesee & Wyoming-Willamette & Pacific; Chris Andrews and Preston Claytor, representing Group C Silver Winner RailAmerica-Florida East Coast; Michael Baidy, Tony Bruns, Charles Campbell, Randy Gower, Denny Masek, Nathan Monroe, George Mueller, Carter Perry, Mike Putz, and Bruce Reno representing Switching & Terminal Gold Winner Terminal Railroad Association of St. Louis; and John Herron and Dan Priestas representing Switching & Terminal Silver Winner Birmingham Southern.

At the breakfast, Mr. Timmons was joined by ASLRRA staff in congratulating those present on their outstanding safety achievement. Also noted and congratulated were Group C Bronze Winner Wheeling & Lake Erie and Switching & Terminal Bronze Winner Conrail Shared Assets. Later that day, short line and regional Harriman winners joined their Class I counterparts and distinguished others involved with rail transportation at the awards presentation ceremony, which this year was held at the Newseum on Pennsylvania Avenue. The ceremony was chaired by Railway Supply Institute Executive Director Tom Simpson and keynoted by U.S. Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood. For the 20th year in a row, Norfolk Southern received the Group A Gold Award, with Kansas City Southern receiving the Group B Gold Award. Retiring NS Chief Operating Officer Steve Tobias was presented the first-ever Harriman Lifetime Achievement Award and BNSF Machinist Robert Johnson was presented with the Harold F. Hammond Awards for individual safety achievement.

COURT DENIES FURTHER DELAY OF USDOT DRUG TEST RULES

The U.S. Court of Appeals recently denied a petition filed by BNSF and nine rail labor unions that sought judicial review of the U.S. Department of Transportation's new "direct observation" drug testing rules.

The rules require employees in the rail, trucking, aviation and other transportation industries who fail or refuse to take drug tests to complete a treatment program before returning to work. The employees must then pass repeated drug tests observed by a same-sex party assigned to watch them produce a urine sample.

USDOT approved the direct observation rule last year in response to some transportation employees finding ways to cheat and provide urine samples that weren't their own. In issuing the denial, the court noted that, although direct observation is extremely invasive, the intrusion can be avoided altogether by employees simply complying with rules prohibiting drug use. The court did not set a date for the new USDOT rules to go into effect.

NEXT COOPERSTOWN CONFERENCE SCHOLARSHIP ANNOUNCED

Michigan State University's Railway Management Program has announced that scholarships have become available for two employees of Class III railroads. The next class will run for one week each month starting in November, 2009, omitting January, 2010, and concluding in March, 2010.

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

The Certificate Course in Railway Management is a comprehensive course, examining all aspects of the rail industry from a management perspective. The course is ideal for employees who want to grow and accept more responsibilities at their railroad. November 8-13 is devoted to the fundamentals of railroading. December 6-11 is spent at the Transportation Technology Center, learning how to manage operating functions. February 14-19 in Chicago covers customer service, sales and marketing, as well as the financial aspects of rail operations. March 14-19 focuses on leadership and management. More information on each week of the course can be found at www.raileducation.com

The Scholarship Committee of the American Association of Railroad Superintendents (AARS) will manage the application and initial selection process. Applicants should link to the AARS website at www.supt.org, click on the hyperlink that is entitled MSU Railway/Walter Rich Scholarship, and complete the application. Applications must be submitted by Friday, July 31, 2009. Questions should be directed to Bill Wick at the Railway Management Program via email wickw@msu.edu.

ADDITIONAL SHORT LINES ALSO JAKE WINNERS

ASLRRRA congratulates five additional winners of this year's Jake Awards for outstanding safety performance. A re-check of safety statistics indicated that these five railroads should also be so recognized.

Additional winners of the Jake Award With Distinction are the Buffalo & Pittsburgh Railroad, the Rochester & Southern Railroad, and the South Buffalo Railway. Additional winners of the Jake Award are the Palouse River & Coulee City Railroad and the Tazewell & Peoria Railroad.

Please link to http://www.aslrra.org/images/news_file/Safety_and_Jake_Awards_List_2008.pdf for a complete listing of Jake Award winners.

BOB BAILEY RECEIVES BEN FRIEDLAND AWARD



(photo by Kel MacKavanagh)

Pictured above is East Jersey Railroad's Bob Bailey receiving the 9th Annual Ben Friedland Award. Presenting the award is the late Mr. Friedland's son, Steve Friedland (at left), who is joined by New Jersey State Assembly Minority Leader Alex DeCroce (at right).

The award is presented for "meritorious service to the short line railroad industry." It was presented to Mr. Bailey, who is also an ASLRRA Regional Vice President, at the recent New Jersey Transportation Conference held in Atlantic City, held May 14-16.

A LOOK AT SHORT LINE MARKETING INITIATIVES: PART 1

At the suggestion of Kel MacKavanagh, we present the first of a series of reports detailing the achievements of nominees for the 2009 ASLRRA Marketing Award. There were fifteen nominees altogether for these awards and the three that won were the Bay Line Railroad, R.J. Corman Railroad-Memphis Lines, and the St. Lawrence & Atlantic Railroad. Award presentation was made at the general session of the ASLRRA Annual Convention on April 27.

Mr. MacKavanagh, who was one of the judges of this competition, recently commented that "...one of the criteria I use in judging an entry is whether or not another short line could develop the same type of business." He suggested that detailing the achievements of all those nominated might give other short lines and regionals ideas and insight as to how they might develop similar marketing initiatives. Accordingly and in alphabetical order, here are the first three nominations, with the rest to follow in future Views & News editions:

Arkansas Midland Railroad: To resolve a difficult operating situation and save the Jacksonville Branch for existing and future rail customers, the Arkansas Midland Railroad (AKMD) persuaded the Little Rock Air Force Base to deed the line, which was served by Union Pacific, to the city of Jacksonville, AR. These negotiations took six years. Since taking over the operation from Union Pacific, AKMD has rehabilitated the track and improved the interchange with the UP, all while keeping existing customers and attracting new ones with service superior to that provided at any time in recent memory.

Arkansas Southern Railroad: The Arkansas Southern Railroad (ARS) expanded its service offering by providing in-plant switching service at the OK Foods feed mill in Heavener, OK for inbound feed grain shuttle trains delivered by Kansas City Southern. OK Foods has only a 12-hour window in which the grain may be unloaded. This service opportunity has boosted ARS revenue by 15 percent and created two additional jobs at the railroad.

Austin Western Railroad: The Austin Western Railroad (AWRR), a Watco subsidiary, worked with Capital Aggregates, its largest customer; Capitol Metro, the Austin, TX regional authority and owner of the 155-mile line operated by AWRR; and Veolia, which is to operate forthcoming commuter rail service over the line. The parties together negotiated a contract to enable joint operation of passenger and freight trains over the line. This will reduce automobile traffic [by commuters using passenger rail] and keep an additional 168,000 trucks per year off Austin-area streets and highways.

FRA DISASTER FUNDING ANNOUNCED

The Federal Railroad Administration recently announced the award of \$15 million to nine states for emergency repairs to damaged railroad infrastructure resulting from natural disasters.

Funding from the FRA's Railroad Rehabilitation and Repair Program (RRRP) will go to state Departments of Transportation to reimburse short line and regional railroads for the cost of repairs. Funds awarded under the RRRP can cover up to 80 percent of the total cost of a selected project, with the remainder to be provided from non-federal sources. Grants may be used to repair bridges, signals and other infrastructure which are part of the general rail transportation system. The grant recipients are as follows:

Alaska: For flood repairs to the Alaska Railroad.

Arkansas: For emergency repairs to Missouri & Northern Arkansas Railroad.

Illinois: For flood control on the Indiana Harbor Belt Railroad.

Indiana: For flood damage repair on the Indiana Southern Railroad.

Iowa: For flood damage restoration to rebuild a bridge and repair signals on the Cedar Rapids & Iowa City Railway.

Kansas: For repair of flood damage on the South Kansas & Oklahoma Railroad.

Missouri: For flood damage repair on the Missouri & Northern Arkansas Railroad.

North Carolina: For repair of washouts and debris removal on the Carolina Coastal Railway.

Wisconsin: For repair of flood damage on the Wisconsin & Southern Railroad.

Under the Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance, and Continuing Appropriations Act of 2009, FRA was authorized to make \$20 million available for grants to repair and rehabilitate railroad infrastructure damaged in areas declared by the President as a major disaster.

The FRA intends to issue another solicitation for the remaining \$5 million in funds through a Notice of Funding Availability to be published in the Federal Register that will be available on a competitive basis.

IOWA, OHIO MAKE RAIL FUNDING GRANTS

The Iowa Transportation Commission recently approved the release of \$5 million in federal stimulus funds for four freight rail projects. These include \$2 million to the Iowa Interstate Railroad to upgrade a Council Bluffs intermodal facility and \$764,200 to the D&W Railroad to upgrade up to nine rail bridges between Dewar and Oelwein to enhance safety and allow for increased weight capacity.

The Iowa DOT said that it received 33 applications from railroads, local businesses and governments, and regional agencies for funding assistance totaling more than \$48 million. It said that it evaluated the projects to be funded based on “their level of construction readiness, potential for economic development and freight traffic benefits.”

Also, the Ohio Rail Development Commission (ORDC) recently approved a plan to administer a package of 22 rail projects funded through federal stimulus dollars. The projects will receive more than \$77 million of the more than \$700 million in American Recover and Reinvestment Act proceeds received by Ohio DOT for stimulus-funded transportation projects.

COLORADO CREATES NEW RAIL AND TRANSIT DIVISION

On May 20, Colorado Governor Bill Ritter signed legislation that created a new Transit and Rail Division within the Colorado Department of Transportation. The new division will be tasked with planning, promoting and implementing new rail and transit services statewide.

In signing the legislation, Mr. Ritter noted that it will “help [Colorado] create an integrated and multi-modal transportation system for the future. It is critical that our 21st Century transportation system be diverse and sustainable. Our economy depends on it, our energy future depends on it, and our aging population depends on it.”

JUNE 1-7 IS CPR/AED AWARENESS WEEK

This week begins National CPR/AED Awareness Week. As many are aware, CPR stands for Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation and AED stands for Automatic External Defibrillator.

The American Red Cross reports that thousands of lives – from infants to grandparents – are saved every year because someone took a CPR class and also learned how to use an AED. CPR and AED are familiar terms to ASLRRRA staff, more than half of whom are CPR/AED certified. It maintains a portable AED at its Washington, DC offices, donated by the late Walter Rich, which it also has on hand at ASLRRRA national, regional and local meetings.

The Red Cross suggests that, if more persons knew CPR and AED skills, more lives would be saved. It encourages those interested to link to <http://american.redcross.org/cpraedevents> to find out more about CPR/AED training in their own community.

CONFERENCES COMING UP

June 6-10, 2009, American Railway Development Association's Annual Meeting: To be held in Annapolis, MD at the Annapolis Marriott. For further details, link to www.amraildev.com.

June 14-16, 2009, RMI Annual User's Group Meeting: To be held in Atlanta, GA, at the Westin Buckhead Hotel. With the theme of "Maximizing Your RMI Investment," this year's meeting will emphasize further ways of automating RMI user processes to reduce expenses and increase revenue. For more information, click the link to the RMI Events [page](#) or contact Jennie Baker at jennieb@railcarmgt.com.

June 17-19, 2009, League of Railway Industry Women's 12th Annual Spring Conference: To be held in Tacoma, WA. Events include a train tour of the Port of Tacoma, the Pierce County Intermodal Terminal, and the Tacoma Rail yards and facilities. For more information, link to www.lirw.org.

June 23-25, 2009, FRA/ASLRRA Drug & Alcohol Program Manager Training with Signs & Symptoms Training and Accident/Incident Reporting Training: To be held in Baltimore, MD, at the Holiday Inn BWI. Details will be emailed on June 2, or for more information, contact ASLRRA at aslrta@aslrta.org

June 24-25, 2009, FRA Region 4 Short Line Safety Seminar: To be held at the University Plaza Hotel, 3001 Northwestern Avenue in West Lafayette, Indiana 47906. The two-day conference will open with a presentation by Railroad Bridge Safety Specialist Steve Krause. Mr. Krause will be focusing on the pending Bridge Regulation and the ASLRRA Bridge Committee's progress. Regulatory training workshops will be offered in the following areas: track; motive power and equipment; hazardous materials; operating practices; and signals and grade crossings. There is no registration cost for the two-day FRA seminar. The hotel room rate is \$87. per night, plus tax. When calling for your reservations, be sure to reference: FRA's Shortline Seminar. The University Plaza Hotel's telephone number is: (765) 497-8721; their e-mail address is: www.universityplazahotelwl.com. Room availability is not guaranteed, so be sure to make your reservations early.

June 29-July 1, 2009, AAR Annual Damage Prevention & Freight Claim Conference: To be held at the Westin Mission Hills in Rancho Mirage, CA, approximately 15 miles from Palm Springs, CA. This year's conference theme is "A Summit in the Desert – Evolutionary Challenges in Rail Transportation." The agenda will highlight the industry's major changes during the past ten years and the ever-growing challenges facing railroads, their customers and suppliers to further advance the quality and damage-free transportation of freight via the rail network. The conference also includes a trade show, displaying quality products and services to increase damage protection and reduce claims. For further information, link to the AAR website at <http://www.aar.org> or contact AAR's Gary Held at gary.held@railinc.com.

July 6, 2009, 6th AARS Derailment Seminar: To be held at the Holiday Inn by the Bay, Portland, ME (the AARS annual meeting will also be held at that location later in July, see below). For further information on this derailment seminar, contact Carrie Foor at aars@railroadsuperintendents.org or call her at (331) 643-3369.

July 14-15, 2009, FRA Region 7 Short Line Safety Seminar: To be held at the Westin Emerald Plaza San Diego, 400 West Broadway, San Diego, CA, in conjunction with the meeting there of the California Short Line Railroad Association (CSLRA), which follows the conclusion of the FRA seminar. Registration for the two-day FRA seminar is \$75 per person, while registration for the CSLRA annual meeting that follows the FRA program is \$140 per person; registration for the combined meetings is \$175 per person. For more information, contact Irene Hernandez at irene.hernandez@dot.gov or call her at (909) 937-7240.

July 15-17, 2009, Railroad Claims & Liability Seminar: To be held at the Sheraton Boston in Boston, MA, and hosted by the Massachusetts Bay Commuter Railroad. This seminar is targeted to short line and regional railroad staff working in the areas of accounting, insurance, legal departments, human resources, risk, and claims representatives. For program and registration information, including sponsorship opportunities, contact Michael Morningstar at mike.morningstar@mbcr.net or call him (617) 222-8034.

July 16-18, 2009, American Association of Railroad Superintendents (AARS) Annual Meeting: To be held at the Holiday Inn By The Bay, Portland, ME. This will be the 113th annual meeting of this organization. For further information, link to the AARS website at www.railroadsuperintendents.org.

NEW RAILROADS

A new railroad is the Stourbridge Railway. Utilizing Reporting Mark SBR and AAR Rule 260 Code 703, the railroad will operate approximately 25 miles of line in Pike and Wayne Counties in northeast Pennsylvania. It will interchange with the Central New York Railroad at Lackawaxen, PA. They may be reached by contacting Mr. Steve Friedland, Director-Operations, Stourbridge Railway, PO Box 2206, Morristown, NJ 07962, P: (973) 267-4300, F: (973) 267-9010, E: sfriedland@merail.com. (Note: AAR Rule 260 Code 703 was previously assigned/coupled to Reporting Mark SO.)

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

Canadian National recently announced agreements to sell three Mississippi line segments to Grenada Railway and Natchez Railway, both affiliates of **A&K Railroad Materials** and V&S Railway, which operates short lines in Kansas and Colorado. The agreement transfers ownership of 252 miles of track and preserves rail service on the two longest of these lines for at least the next two years **Buckingham Branch Railroad** recently filed with the Surface Transportation Board to change operators of the Keysville Line in Virginia from the Northern Carolina & Virginia Railroad to the Buckingham Branch. The line extends from near Keysville to near Burkeville The rebuilding of the Union Pacific bridge over the Cedar River in Waterloo, IA is expected to get underway later this month. Contracts are to be awarded later this month to rebuild the bridge, which is used by the **Iowa Northern Railway**, but was washed away by Cedar River flooding last year. Work is scheduled to be completed by September **Loram Maintenance of Way** was recently honored with a Minnesota Governor's International Trade Award. Award winners were selected for developing and continuing to grow a significant portion of their business in foreign markets. Loram's international sales grew from 24 percent of revenue in 2006 to 31 percent of revenue last year **Railroad Development Corporation** Chair Henry Posner wrote an Op-Ed commentary that was published in the May 10 edition of the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette. In his commentary, Mr. Posner championed the development of a high-speed rail corridor through western Pennsylvania. Mr. Posner commented that "...for the first time in history, we have a president focused on rail as an environmentally friendly, fuel-efficient alternative to congested highways, for both freight and passengers" **RailRunner**, a developer of container intermodal systems, recently announce that Bo Leslie had joined their company as chief marketing officer. Mr. Leslie was last with Quality Distribution Inc., the largest transporter of bulk commodities in North America by truck and rail **UBM Global** announced new enhancements to their RailResource.com website. The new features include new search functionality for looking up railroad industry contacts; new capabilities for suppliers to upload and display white papers, product literature, new product flyers and annual reports; and improved site navigation and drill-down capabilities. Link to the website at www.railresource.com.

MORE INDUSTRY NEWS

Sen. Jay Rockefeller (D-WV) and Sen. Frank Lautenberg (D-NJ) co-introduced a Senate bill on **May 15**, “The Federal Surface Transportation Policy and Planning Act of 2009.” Among the bill’s proposals are to increase the total usage of public transportation, intercity passenger rail services, and non-motorized transportation on an annual basis; and increase the proportion of national freight transportation provided by non-highway or multimodal services by 10 percent by 2020. On **May 20**, Rep. Jerry Nadler (D-NY) introduced a House bill, “The Freight Rail Development Act of 2009.” The bill would provide for capital grants for freight rail economic development projects around the country, especially in areas hard hit by the current economic downturn. Both bills were referred to appropriate committees for initial consideration Former Norfolk Southern CEO Arnold McKinnon passed away **May 18** at Age 81. Mr. McKinnon joined NS predecessor Southern Railway in 1951, was NS chairman, president and CEO from 1987 to 1992, and served on its board of directors until 2000. NS’s Norfolk Southern headquarters building in Norfolk, VA is named for Mr. McKinnon West Virginia officials announced **May 19** that agreement had been reached for new ownership of the Greenbrier Resort in White Sulphur Springs, WV, which had been owned for over 100 years by CSX and predecessor railroads. Under the agreement, the Justice Family Foundation based in West Virginia will own the resort, with the Marriott hotel chain participating in its marketing. Marriott had earlier reached tentative agreement to buy the Greenbrier from CSX, but Justice purchased it in the interim Union Pacific announced **May 19** that they had moved their 200,000th loaded coal train out of Wyoming’s Powder River Basin since the line accessing the coal fields opened in 1984. The line was constructed by BNSF predecessor Burlington Northern. BNSF and UP continue joint use of the line, access that UP inherited from predecessor Chicago & North Western On **May 21**, the Illinois Legislature approved \$300 million for the Chicago Region Environmental & Transportation Efficiency (CREATE) project. Interest in CREATE, which proposes to modernize key Chicago rail infrastructure, has recently rejuvenated concurrent with the election of President Obama, who was previously a U.S. senator from Illinois, and the appointment of Chicago area notables to key U.S. Department of Transportation posts A special train was debuted **May 21** in Los Angeles to promote a new 3D movie version of Charles Dickens’s “A Christmas Carol”. The train will make a 16,000-mile, 36-state, 40-city tour in support of the movie, which is being produced by Walt Disney Studios and stars Jim Carrey, and is scheduled to be released in early November Chuck Wehrmeister announced his retirement from Norfolk Southern effective **June 1**. Mr. Wehrmeister, who began his career at NS predecessor Norfolk & Western, was the longtime head of NS’s Safety Department, later heading its Environmental & Safety Department, and continued NS’s “Harriman gold streak” under his tenure.

CLASS I RAIL TRAFFIC

For the week ending May 23, 2009, the Association of American Railroads reports that U.S. rail volume grand totaled 27.4 billion ton-miles, down 20.3 percent from the comparable week last year. Also for the week, U.S. carload rail traffic was down 21.5 percent, down 28.0 percent in the East and down 16.4 percent in the West. All 19 carload commodity groups were down from last year, ranging from 4.8 percent for non-grain farm products to 59.7 percent for metallic ores. Also for the week, U.S. intermodal rail traffic was down 19.1 percent, Canadian carload rail traffic was down 33.5 percent, Canadian intermodal rail traffic was down 18.9 percent, Mexican carload rail traffic was unchanged, and Mexican carload rail traffic was down 18.8 percent.

For the period January 1 through May 23, 2009, U.S. rail volume grand totaled 562.0 billion ton-miles, down 18.2 percent from the comparable period last year. Also for this period, U.S. carload rail traffic was down 19.3 percent, U.S. intermodal rail traffic was down 16.8 percent, Canadian carload rail traffic was down 23.4 percent, Canadian intermodal rail traffic was down 14.5 percent, Mexican carload rail traffic was down 12.3 percent, and Mexican intermodal rail traffic was down 19.8 percent.

(Note: Canadian railroad traffic includes both the Canadian and the U.S. operations of Canadian National and Canadian Pacific Railway.)

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 343 such railroads. This index is calculated weekly. The **below data is as of the week ending May 23, 2009**, the 20th full week of this year. Special thanks to RMI's Cheri Denton for this valuable statistical information.

| | Week Ending May 23 | | | Year-To-Date | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------|----------------|----------------|------------------|------------------|----------------|
| | 2009 | 2008 | % Change | 2009 | 2008 | % Change |
| CARLOADS HANDLED | | | | | | |
| Coal | 13,283 | 13,939 | -4.71% | 269,692 | 304,283 | -11.37% |
| Grain | 11,515 | 14,364 | -19.83% | 248,661 | 310,596 | -19.94% |
| Farm & Food (Exc. Grain) | 5,382 | 5,947 | -9.50% | 104,599 | 116,723 | -10.39% |
| Ores | 1,415 | 3,155 | -55.15% | 30,539 | 56,986 | -46.41% |
| Stone, Clay, Aggregates | 12,087 | 14,455 | -16.38% | 199,109 | 241,571 | -17.58% |
| Lumber/Forest Prods. | 3,697 | 4,964 | -25.54% | 69,796 | 95,418 | -26.85% |
| Paper Products | 5,107 | 7,198 | -29.05% | 115,254 | 152,603 | -24.47% |
| Waste & Scrap Materials | 4,229 | 7,181 | -41.11% | 87,129 | 128,391 | -32.14% |
| Chemicals | 14,048 | 17,716 | -20.70% | 307,701 | 354,114 | -13.11% |
| Petroleum & Coke | 3,012 | 5,750 | -47.62% | 74,193 | 116,210 | -36.16% |
| Metals & Products | 5,721 | 11,523 | -50.35% | 119,182 | 223,291 | -46.62% |
| Motor Vehicles & Equip. | 984 | 2,151 | -54.25% | 19,503 | 39,357 | -50.45% |
| Intermodal | 6,112 | 13,298 | -54.04% | 133,694 | 262,623 | -49.09% |
| All Other | 1,087 | 3,260 | -66.66% | 30,275 | 61,421 | -50.71% |
| Total | 87,679 | 124,902 | -29.80% | 1,809,327 | 2,463,587 | -26.56% |

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.

And speaking of helpful links, have you checked out the new ASLRRRA website? If not, do so! Additional to an exciting new look, the site is packed with a host of new and improved features and tools. Check it out at its customary location on the World Wide Web: www.aslrra.org.

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