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American Short Line and  
Regional Railroad Association's

# VIEWS & NEWS



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## Upcoming Events

Norfolk Southern  
Short Line  
Partner Meeting  
July 11-13, 2010  
Roanoke, VA

[ASLRRRA Eastern  
Region Meeting](#)  
September 12-14, 2010  
Baltimore, MD

[ASLRRRA  
Central/Pacific Region  
Meeting](#)  
October 3-5, 2010  
Kansas City, MO

[ASLRRRA Southern  
Region Meeting](#)  
November 7-9, 2010  
Atlanta, GA

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Security Alert Level 2  
is in Effect

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## ASLRRA WELCOMES MORE NEW MEMBERS

We extend a warm welcome to **Railinc**, which has rejoined ASLRRA as an associate member. A longtime ASLRRA work partner, Railinc – quoting from their website – “supports business processes and provides business intelligence that helps railroads and rail equipment owners increase productivity, achieve operational efficiencies, and keep their assets moving. Railinc is the industry’s largest and most accurate source for real-time interline rail data.” Railinc may be reached at 7001 Weston Parkway Suite 200, Cary, NC 27513; their main number is (919) 651-5000 and their website is [www.railinc.com](http://www.railinc.com). Please contact Dan Gurley, Director of Industry Relations, at [dan.gurley@railinc.com](mailto:dan.gurley@railinc.com).

And we also welcome a new associate member, **BG Products**. BG Products manufactures and distributes a broad line of specialty lubricants, greases, chemical additives and cleaners throughout the world. BG’s high-quality, professional-use products are marketed through a network of independent distributors and are used extensively in automotive, heavy equipment, trucking and fleet applications. They may be contacted at 740 S. Wichita St., Wichita, KS 67213. Their phone number is (316) 265-2686, their fax is (316) 265-1082, and their website is [www.bgprod.com](http://www.bgprod.com). Please contact Marketing Director Mike Moen at [mmoen@bgprod.com](mailto:mmoen@bgprod.com).

**Are you aware of a company with different products or services than your own and interested in heightening their visibility to short line and regional railroads? Then let Cheryl Huyck know, so that she may acquaint them with the many benefits of becoming an ASLRRA associate member. Email Cheryl at [chuyck@aslrta.org](mailto:chuyck@aslrta.org) or phone her at (202) 585-3431.**

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## ASLRRA AND FRA HOLD FIRST HURRICANE CALLS OF 2010

The week of June 28 saw ASLRRA host its first hurricane calls of 2010. Undertaken in partnership with the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), the calls were scheduled to discuss the latest developments related to Hurricane Alex, the first named hurricane of the 2010 season, which by midweek had made landfall off of the Gulf of Mexico.

Joining ASLRRA’s Steve Sullivan, Tom Streicher, Dave Whorton and Dave Mears on the calls were representatives from the FRA, Transportation Security Administration (TSA), and Department of Agriculture (USDA), and from the railroads determined to be in the storm’s possible path: the Border Pacific, Brownsville & Rio Grande, and Rio Valley Switching. Although Alex in the end took a more southerly path and made landfall in Mexico, the calls affirmed the preparedness of all involved and ensured that those individuals and offices potentially needed for assistance were in touch with one another. During the calls, the FRA briefed about the emergency relief docket established to assist railroads impacted by the hurricane and, also, checked to see if any federal letters of transit were required to permit railroad personnel back into evacuated areas for the purpose of re-starting operations.

Should they be needed for future hurricanes – and the National Weather Service’s National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration has predicted the possibility of 14 to 23 named storms, 8 to 14 hurricanes, and 3 to 7 major hurricanes out of the Atlantic this year – ASLRRA will continue to host these calls, which are an integral part of its Disaster Response Plan. As part of this effort, we will sincerely appreciate your contacting Kathy Cassidy at [kcassidy@aslrta.org](mailto:kcassidy@aslrta.org) to ensure that we have your railroad’s most current emergency contact information on file, including appropriate names, titles and cell phone numbers.

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## **COURT CLEARS WAY FOR NEW NMB UNION ORGANIZING RULES**

On June 28, the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia upheld the National Mediation Board's (NMB) new rules that set new policy for union elections in the air and rail industries. The court's decision made the new rules effective on June 30.

As previously reported in Views & News, the new rules recognize a union if a simple majority of workers who cast ballots approve organizing. The previous rules, in place for the last 76 years, required a majority of a company's entire workforce to favor unionizing, meaning that workers who did not vote were counted as "no" votes.

In a special edition of ASLRRRA's **Legal Tracks** publication, authors Jack Lambremont and Chip McWilliams examine the new rules in detail. Mr. Lambremont and Mr. McWilliams are both with the Atlanta, GA office of the ASLRRRA member firm, Littler Mendelson. In this special edition, they refer to the new rules as "...a sea change in the delicate and time-tested interplay between carriers, unions and the [NMB] Board in representation elections." **Legal Tracks** is available free of charge to interested persons of ASLRRRA member companies. If you are with one and would like to receive this and future editions, please email ASLRRRA's Kathy Cassidy at [kcassidy@aslrra.org](mailto:kcassidy@aslrra.org), who can arrange to add you to this publication's distribution list.

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## **RAILROADS URGED TO START RADIO FREQUENCY RE-LICENSING PROCESS**

Steve Friedland of the Morristown & Erie Railway has reported back from the recent meeting of the industry's Wireless Communication Committee, which is navigating the industrywide change in radio operation from wideband (25kHz) to narrowband (12.5kHz) over the next two-and-one-half years. Railroads are now in the process of upgrading or replacing locomotive-mounted, hand-held, and base station radio devices to accommodate this change, which will see a migration from wideband to narrowband beginning on or about January 1, 2011 and continuing through January 1, 2013, after which date the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) will no longer permit wideband radio operation.

Mr. Friedland, who may be reached at [sfriedland@merail.com](mailto:sfriedland@merail.com), reports that there is particular interest at this time in beginning to get radio licenses renewed for narrowband. He reports that this work is being handled by the AAR Spectrum Management Group at the Transportation Technology Center in Pueblo, CO; prime contacts there are Jim Reimer, who may be reached at (719) 584-0578 and [james\\_reimer@aar.com](mailto:james_reimer@aar.com), and Dorothy Cornwell, who may be reached at (719) 584-0514 and [dorothy\\_cornwell@aar.com](mailto:dorothy_cornwell@aar.com). He suggests that short line and regional railroads reach out as soon as possible to Mr. Reimer and Ms. Cornwell to discuss re-licensing and helpfully notes that, "if a license is renewed to include narrowband, there is no requirement to emit on the new license before being required to changeover [to narrowband operation.]"

Also and as related information, the list of Class I radio contacts published in our last edition included one incorrect email address, that of CSX's contact, Rich Bitting. His correct email address is [richard\\_bitting@csx.com](mailto:richard_bitting@csx.com). The complete list of those individuals, including this correction, is as follows:

- **BNSF:** Robert Leedham, [robert.leedham@bnsf.com](mailto:robert.leedham@bnsf.com)
- **Canadian National:** Carlos DaRoza, [carlos.daroza@cn.ca](mailto:carlos.daroza@cn.ca)
- **Canadian Pacific:** Rob Cardwell, [rob\\_cardwell@cpr.ca](mailto:rob_cardwell@cpr.ca)
- **CSX:** Rich Bitting, [richard\\_bitting@csx.com](mailto:richard_bitting@csx.com)
- **Kansas City Southern:** Kerry Klassing, [kklassing@kcsouthern.com](mailto:kklassing@kcsouthern.com)
- **Norfolk Southern:** Will Danielson, [will.danielson@nscorp.com](mailto:will.danielson@nscorp.com)
- **Union Pacific:** Ed Hollingsworth, [elhollin@up.com](mailto:elhollin@up.com)

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### **LATEST SHORT LINE TAX CREDIT DEVELOPMENTS**

Adam Nordstrom of ASLRRRA's allied firm, Chambers, Conlon & Hartwell, reports the latest developments in the push to renew the Short Line Tax Credit. In his report, he notes Congress being in recess this week and reflects on the June 28 passing of U.S. Senator Robert Byrd (D-WV), Age 92, the longest-serving U.S. Senator ever (51 years, 5 months, 26 days):

“The U.S. House and Senate are both in recess this week for Independence Day. With the passing of Senate President Pro Tempore Robert Byrd (D-WV), the process to extend the Section 45G railroad tax credit by passing H.R. 4213 – “The Extenders Bill” – is on temporary hold.

“The Senate tried four times in June to pass H.R. 4213. Disputes over cost and provisions unrelated to tax credits held up progress. The logjam on H.R. 4213 prevented the Senate from passing a single bill by recorded vote during June. Votes on H.R. 4213 were procedural votes that required 60 votes to be successful.

“The bill has come closer to the 60 vote mark on each try. On June 30, the Senate tally was two votes shy of 60. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV), a strong supporter, voted against the motion to keep alive a Senate parliamentary option that allows an opponent of a motion to bring it back up for reconsideration. Counting Sen. Reid, the motion would have had 59 votes. The passing of Sen. Byrd may have denied the opportunity to pass this legislation in addition to depriving the upper chamber of its longest serving member, unofficial historian, and fierce defender of legislative prerogatives.”

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## **NEW RTA TIE SURVEY DEADLINE EXTENDED; APPEAL MADE FOR MORE RESPONSES**

The deadline date to take the Railway Tie Association (RTA)'s annual survey of crosstie usage and demand **has been extended to Thursday, July 15!**

The RTA reports that, regrettably, the number of responses received so far for the tie survey has been low. While the survey information is important for the tie industry, it has proven invaluable to short line and regional railroads, as the data is constantly referenced in lobbying for the short line tax credit. It is the most credible evidence to show to Congress as to how many more ties are being purchased because of the tax credit.

ASLRRA and RTA sincerely ask to complete the survey. You may do so directly by linking to <http://www.rta.org/Portals/0/Documents/SLSurvey%20Form%202010-2.pdf>. The survey does not take long at all to complete and the benefit it gives is well worth your time.

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## **NEW EDITION OF ASLRRA FACT BOOK RELEASED**

ASLRRA has now published a new edition of its acclaimed booklet, "Short Line And Regional Facts And Figures." This booklet, which includes data through the year 2008, is published every other year.

"Short Line and Regional Facts And Figures" is a comprehensive listing of facts and statistics covering the short line and regional railroad industry. Among the data topics included are industry overview, traffic, employment, customer base, infrastructure and equipment, finance, role in the national freight network, public benefits, and safety. It also includes a matrix detailing short line and regional railroad statistics by state.

ASLRRA will be sending complimentary copies to those of its member railroads who furnished statistical data that was then amassed into the book. For any other ASLRRA members wanting a copy, the cost is \$5 per book. For non-ASLRRA members, the cost is \$15 per book. For ordering information, contact ASLRRA's Dave Whorton at [dwhorton@aslrro.org](mailto:dwhorton@aslrro.org) or (202) 585-3430.

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## **USDA CROP REPORT: CORN AND SOYBEAN PLANTING UP, WHEAT DOWN**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has now distributed their mid-year report of national crop plantings. The report, dated June 30, states that corn and soybean planting has increased over last year, while wheat planting has decreased.

The report notes that corn acreage planted for all purposes in 2010 is estimated at 87.9 million acres, up 2 percent from last year. The largest increases in planted acreage compared to last year are reported in Illinois and Kansas, both up 600,000 acres from 2009. Other notable increases were shown in Indiana, up 400,000 acres; Missouri, up 300,000 acres; and Ohio, up 250,000 acres.

The report also noted that soybean acreage planted is at a record high 78.9 million acres, up 2 percent from last year. Area for harvest, at 78.0 million acres, is also up 2 percent from 2009, and will be the largest harvested area on record, if realized. Record high planted acreage is estimated in Kansas, Nebraska, New York, and Pennsylvania, and planted area will tie the previous record high in Minnesota and Oklahoma.

However, all wheat planted area is estimated at 54.3 million acres, down 8 percent from 2009. This is the lowest U.S. total since 1971. The 2010 winter wheat planted area, at 37.7 million acres, is 13 percent below last year.

Further information concerning 2010 crop progress is available from the USDA website at [www.usda.gov](http://www.usda.gov).

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## **NATURAL GAS FUELS NEW SHORT LINE BUSINESS**

Last month saw groundbreaking for a new industrial site in Williamsport, PA on the site of a former public housing project. The site, to be known as “Moran Industries Natural Gas Park,” will host facilities that will support natural gas drilling. Todd Hunter, the Director of Marketing of the North Shore Railroads, reports that the Lycoming Valley Railroad will serve the site and that Moran Industries will receive inbound shipments in boxcars, tank cars, and pressure differential covered hoppers.

These new facilities in Williamsport are just some of the economic development brought about by the vast initiative to drill a multi-state geological formation known as the Marcellus Shale. The Marcellus, which extends from the Finger Lakes region of New York State down through Pennsylvania and West Virginia, has been determined to contain huge deposits of natural gas. Initial estimates have suggest that enough natural gas can be drilled out of the Marcellus to supply all domestic needs for the next fourteen years, and some estimates say that there is enough to sustain drilling for close to one hundred years.

This drilling has been a particular boon to several short line and regional railroads serving the region. A process known as hydraulic fracturing is used to shatter the shale and release the natural gas; this process requires large amounts of sand, which is most economically brought into the region by rail car. Among the railroads working to accommodate this new demand is the Reading & Northern, which has redeveloped its Pittston, PA rail yard into a state-of-the-art transloading facility for inbound sand. This initiative was recognized earlier this year when R&N was voted a 2010 ASLRRA Marketing Award winner.

Another railroad atop the Marcellus is the Wellsboro & Corning Railroad, owned and operated by the Myles Group. In an interview earlier this year, CEO Tom Myles said that the need for inbound sand has resulted in the tripling of the W&C’s carload business in the last two years. The railroad and its new success were the subject of a front page story in a recent edition of the Philadelphia Inquirer newspaper, which also posted an in-depth video with Mr. Myles on the newspaper’s website. To view this video, link to <http://www.philly.com/philly/video/88634027.html>.

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## **AAR INTERACTIVE MAP ALLOWS RAIL SNAPSHOT BY STATE**

The Association of American Railroads recently debuted a new interactive map on their website, “Railroads and States: A Snapshot of the U.S. Freight Railroad Industry.”

The map gives an informational summary related to U.S. freight rail business in each state. By clicking on a particular state on the national map, one can see key freight rail information for that state, including the number of freight railroads, freight railroad mileage, freight railroad employees, average wages plus benefits per freight railroad employee, and the number of railroad retirement beneficiaries. The display also includes the tonnage totals and percentage ranking of commodities originating and terminating in the state.

Link to this interactive map at <http://www.aar.org/incongress/railroadsstates.aspx>.

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## **KANSAS CITY SOUTHERN HAS TIES FOR SALE**

Kansas City Southern Railway, which recently contacted ASLRRA to express interest in disposing of their surplus assets in a manner helpful to short line and regional railroads, has advised that the first such opportunity appears at hand.

KCS has surplus approximately 12,000 untreated crossties; about 7,000 of these are hardwood and about 5,000 are mixed wood. They are surplus because KCS has determined them not suitable for their main track needs, but they believe they may still be suitable for short line yard and industrial tracks.

**KCS would like to give sale preference to ASLRRA member railroads.** They advise that the sale price and light preservative treatment are negotiable, and that the ties would be available beforehand for inspection. Once sold, they will be shipped FOB Vivian, Louisiana, which is near Shreveport.

For more information, please contact Michael Runge of KCS's Purchasing & Materials Department. He may be reached at (816) 983-1402 or [mrunge@kcsouthern.com](mailto:mrunge@kcsouthern.com).

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## **MORE QUALITY SHORT LINE MARKETING INITIATIVES: PART 4 OF 5**

We present the fourth in a series of reports detailing the achievements of the slate of nominees for the 2010 ASLRRA Marketing Awards. There were 19 nominations altogether for these awards; the three winners were the Greenville & Western Railway, the Lycoming Valley Railroad, and the Reading & Northern Railroad. Presentation of the awards took place at the concluding ceremonies of the ASLRRA Annual Convention on May 4.

Kel MacKavanagh, who was one of the judges of the competition, has 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 is the fourth set of the 16 runners-up, with the final set to follow in the next edition of Views & News:

**Sacramento Valley Railroad:** The Sacramento Valley Railroad (SAV) recognized the scope of California's ethanol needs after the passage of a law requiring gasoline to consist of a minimum of 10% of the biofuel. Anticipating this demand, SAV developed a marketing plan to obtain more ethanol business. The railroad increased track space in its McClellan Business Park, enabling Interstate Oil Company to transload 200 carloads of ethanol monthly and Carson Oil Company to transload 140 cars per month. SAV provides two or three switches per day as needed.

**South Carolina Public Railways:** For several decades, South Carolina Public Railways (SCPR) operated almost entirely under the radar as a division of the state's Department of Commerce. This changed after a Department trip to Dubai, United Arab Emirates, to discuss development of the Global Logistics Triangle in Orangeburg County, South Carolina. Per the development plan, SCPR has completely rebranded itself, introducing a new logo, website, and marketing materials, and building a following on Facebook and Twitter. President Jeff McWhorter also has his own blog. As a result of these efforts, business at the Port Terminal Railroad increased 195% from 2008 to 2009.

**Southern Railway of British Columbia Limited:** The Southern Railway of British Columbia (SRY) operates rail service for the Island Corridor Foundation, composed of island municipalities, regional governments, and First Nations, on Vancouver Island. To provide customers with access to four Class I railroads, SRY replaced two existing facilities with a new rail-marine terminal. This was accomplished with the cooperation of BNSF and CPR, operators of the existing terminals. The result has been a “win-win” situation for the customers and the railroads involved, and has helped the railroads to retain business and realize new operational efficiencies.

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## **NEW RRB JOBLESS AND SICKNESS BENEFITS EFFECTIVE JULY 1**

A new benefit year for jobless and sickness benefits under the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act begins July 1, 2010.

Administered by the Railroad Retirement Board (RRB), this law provides two kinds of benefits for qualified railroaders: unemployment benefits for those who become unemployed but are ready, willing and able to work; and sickness benefits for those who are unable to work because of sickness or injury. Sickness benefits are also payable to female rail workers for periods of time when they are unable to work because of pregnancy and childbirth.

Effective July 1, almost all employees will qualify for the new maximum daily benefit rate of \$66, which increased from \$64 under indexing provisions reflecting the growth in average national wages. Benefits are generally payable for days of unemployment or sickness in excess of four in biweekly claim periods, which yields \$660 for each two full weeks of unemployment or sickness. However, sickness benefits resulting from other than on-the-job injuries are subject to Tier I Railroad Retirement payroll taxes for the first six months after the employee last worked.

For more information on jobless and sickness benefits under the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act, including a helpful question-and-answer document, link to the RRB website at [http://www.rrb.gov/opa/qa/pub\\_1006.asp](http://www.rrb.gov/opa/qa/pub_1006.asp).

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## **STB RELEASES RAIL COST ADJUSTMENT FACTOR FOR 3RD QTR., 2010**

The Surface Transportation Board recently published the Quarterly Rail Cost Adjustment Factor (RCAF) for the Third Quarter of 2010. These factors are calculated by the STB based on statistical data furnished by the Association of American Railroads.

The STB determined that the **Third Quarter RCAF (unadjusted) is 1.068**, an increase of 0.8% from the Second Quarter RCAF of 1.060. The **RCAF (adjusted) is 0.479**, an increase of 0.4% from the Second Quarter (adjusted) of 0.477. The **RCAF-5** is 0.454, an increase of 0.4% from the Second Quarter 2010 of 0.452.

For further information, link to the full notice on the STB website, [www.stb.dot.gov](http://www.stb.dot.gov), under “Decisions & Notices” for June 18, 2010.

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## **GOT AN EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER OR MAGAZINE? LET'S SWAP**

It is always a pleasure to send you this newsletter and we likewise appreciate any and all we receive from ASLRRA member companies in return.

To those railroad and associate members who regularly send us their employee newsletter and magazines – which include the Alaska Railroad, the Arkansas & Missouri Railroad, and several others – we thank you. We read them here with interest, as they always provide good information about business initiatives, employee achievements, and other notable happenings at your company.

If you would like to send us your employee newsletter or magazine, and you distribute it via postal mail, please send it to:

**Richard F. Timmons, President**  
**American Short Line And Regional Railroad Association**  
**50 F Street NW Suite 7020**  
**Washington, DC 20001**

If you distribute it via e-mail, please send it to:

[rftimmons@aslrta.org](mailto:rftimmons@aslrta.org)

Once received and read by Mr. Timmons, your newsletter or magazine will then be forwarded on for reading by the rest of the ASLRRA staff, and then placed on file. We sincerely thank those of you who respond affirmatively to this request.

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### **MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES COMING UP**

ASLRRA 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](http://www.aslrta.org/meetings_seminars/index.cfm) for more information!

**July 11-13: Norfolk Southern Short Line Meeting:** To be held at the Hotel Roanoke in Roanoke, VA. All NS short line partners are invited to this meeting. For more information, visit Norfolk Southern's webpage for this event at <http://www.nscorp.com/nscportal/nscorp/Customers/Shortline/>.

**July 19 & 20: California Short Line Railroad Association (CSLRA) Annual Meeting:** To be held at the San Diego Westin Hotel in San Diego, California. Speakers will include representatives from Union Pacific, BNSF, CPUC, CARB and more. To make reservations, call (619) 239-4500 and mention CSLRA for the group rate of \$147. CSLRA's website is <http://www.cslra.org/>.

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

**October 3-5: ASLRRA Central Pacific Region Meeting:** To be held at the Intercontinental Kansas City at the Plaza, in Kansas City, MO.

**October 11-15: Railroad Track Inspection and Safety Standards Workshop:** To be held at the California State Railroad Museum in Sacramento, CA. Presented by the Center for Transportation Research of the University of Tennessee. For more information, call Jenny Jones at (865) 974-6549 or email [gohjones@utk.edu](mailto:gohjones@utk.edu).

**November 1-5: Railroad Track Inspection and Safety Standards Workshop:** To be held at the Tennessee Valley Railroad Museum in Chattanooga, TN. Presented by the Center for Transportation Research of the University of Tennessee. For more information, call Jenny Jones at (865) 974-6549 or email [gohjones@utk.edu](mailto:gohjones@utk.edu).

**November 7-9: ASLRRA Southern Region Meeting:** To be held at the JW Marriott Buckhead in Atlanta, GA.

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## MEMBERS IN THE NEWS



*(photograph by Amy Smotherman Burgess, Knoxville News-Sentinel)*

The Claussen family, pictured above, was the subject of an article in a recent edition of the Knoxville News-Sentinel. The article, entitled “RR Connects Father And Children,” discusses how the family – Pete Claussen at left, his daughter Karen C. Bishop in the middle, and his son Pete “Doc” Claussen at right – work with each other to successfully manage the operation of the **Gulf & Ohio** family of railroads, which Pete Claussen has headed since with 1985. Reflecting on his son’s training as a radiologist and his own training as an attorney, the senior Claussen comments that the company includes both “a recovering doctor and a recovering lawyer.” You can read the entire article by linking to <http://www.knoxnews.com/news/2010/jun/19/railroad-connects-father-and-children/>.

Dave Buccolo of **Central California Traction** recently received an award from the Transportation Community Awareness and Emergency Response organization (TRANSCAER). Mr. Buccolo was one of two recipients of the TRANSCAER Chairman’s Award, which it said was presented to “recognize the achievements of individuals...that have exceeded the call of duty when it comes to being a leader in hazardous materials incident-response training.” ...**Montana Rail Link** is scheduled to receive the benefits of a grant recently made by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The grant, which was made to the Missoula Metropolitan Planning Organization for this purpose, will allow 334 MRL locomotives to be retrofitted with Auxiliary Power Units (APUs). According to MRL Chief Mechanical Officer Claude VanWinkle, an APU will allow a locomotive diesel engine to shut down while still keeping the oil and water in it circulating and warm ...Representatives from **Finger Lakes Railroad, North Shore Railroads,** and **SMS Rail Lines** were among the guests at the recent Customer Appreciation Day held at the GE Railcar Repair Facility in Sayre, PA. According to SMS’s John McCreavy, who was among the attendees, the day allowed these representatives to see how GE manages and undertakes car repairs at the facility. GE has similar shops in Regina, SK and Waterloo, IA, as well as smaller repair facilities in Laporte, TX, Mounds, IL, Omaha, NE, and Texarkana, AR ...**Helm Financial Corporation** announced with sadness the passing of Dave Burns on Friday, June 11. Mr. Burns had been with Helm since January, 2008 and had over 30 years’ rail industry experience, including with Union Pacific Railroad, Power Parts, and Magnus-Farley ...**Anacostia & Pacific’s Pacific Harbor Lines** recently announced the following appointments: Andrew Fox, promoted to managing director, a new position; Mike Stolzman promoted to president, succeeding Mr. Fox; and Otis Cliatt promoted to vice president, succeeding Mr. Stolzman. PHL provides rail switching services at the Ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles and also dispatches all BNSF and Union Pacific trains within the ports.

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## CLASS I RAIL TRAFFIC

**For the week ending June 26, 2010**, U.S. carload rail traffic totaled 284,716 carloads, up 11.4 percent from the comparable week last year. Carloads were up 14.5 percent in the East and up 9.2 percent in the West. Notable traffic increases included metallic ores up 172.2 percent, metals and metal products up 75.4 percent, and motor vehicles and equipment up 55.2 percent. Also for the week, U.S. intermodal rail traffic was up 20.5 percent, Canadian carload rail traffic was up 18.1 percent, Canadian intermodal rail traffic was up 22.4 percent, Mexican carload rail traffic was up 20.2 percent, and Mexican intermodal rail traffic was up 61.7 percent.

**For the period January 1 through June 26, 2010** and ranked with the comparable period last year,, U.S. carload rail traffic was up 7.4 percent, U.S. intermodal rail traffic was up 12.1 percent, Canadian carload rail traffic was up 21.4 percent, Canadian intermodal rail traffic was up 13.5 percent, Mexican carload rail traffic was up 22.3 percent, and Mexican intermodal rail traffic was up 37.1 percent.

(Canadian traffic totals also includes that traffic on the U.S. operations of the two Canadian-based Class I railroads, Canadian National and Canadian Pacific Railway.)

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## 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 341 such railroads. This index is calculated weekly. The **below data is as of the week ending June 26, 2010**, the 25th week of 2010. Special thanks to RMI's Cheri Denton for this valuable statistical information.

	Week Ending June 26			Year-To-Date		
	2010	2009	% Change	2010	2009	% Change
<b>CARLOADS HANDLED</b>						
Coal	10,866	13,886	-21.75%	277,107	326,161	-15.04%
Grain	10,753	9,759	10.19%	314,737	271,216	16.05%
Farm & Food (Exc. Grain)	4,306	4,807	-10.42%	114,775	120,852	-5.03%
Ores	2,237	1,740	28.56%	82,639	37,640	119.55%
Stone, Clay, Aggregates	12,129	10,144	19.57%	272,985	239,390	14.03%
Lumber/Forest Prods.	3,753	3,809	-1.47%	91,616	86,587	5.81%
Paper Products	6,325	6,005	5.33%	150,687	149,632	0.71%
Waste & Scrap Materials	5,161	4,479	15.23%	128,628	104,569	23.01%
Chemicals	15,138	13,827	9.48%	386,122	366,106	5.47%
Petroleum & Coke	5,103	4,069	25.41%	121,498	104,456	16.32%
Metals & Products	8,889	5,751	54.56%	202,811	151,291	34.05%
Motor Vehicles & Equip.	1,296	915	41.64%	27,227	22,742	19.72%
Intermodal	6,535	5,586	16.99%	155,604	178,184	-12.67%
All Other	2,045	1,075	90.23%	54,549	34,726	57.08%
<b>Total</b>	<b>94,536</b>	<b>85,852</b>	<b>10.12%</b>	<b>2,380,985</b>	<b>2,193,552</b>	<b>8.54%</b>

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## **FORWARD US YOUR PRESS RELEASE**

Don't forget to send us your press releases! We will either post them in the Hot Tracks section of our website, [www.aslrra.org](http://www.aslrra.org), or include them in the "Members In The News" section of the next edition of Views & News – or both! Please make sure to add the ASLRRRA to your press release distribution list, sending them to Cara Lione at [clione@aslrra.org](mailto:clione@aslrra.org). The press release should include a link back to the news listing on your company's website.

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## **BE SURE TO CHECK OUT ASLRRRA HOT TRACKS**

As mentioned above, we are pleased to include member press releases and other late-breaking news on the Hot Tracks section of the ASLRRRA website, [www.aslrra.org](http://www.aslrra.org). Each week, the ASLRRRA staff selects several matters of notable interest for posting to Hot Tracks – so be sure to check it once a week for matters of importance to short line and regional railroads.

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## **FOLLOW ASLRRRA ON FACEBOOK AND 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](http://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](mailto: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](http://www.twitter.com/aslrra). And if you sign up for a free Twitter ID at [www.twitter.com](http://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](mailto:dmears@aslrra.org).

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## **HELPFUL LINKS**

The U.S. Occupational Safety & Health Administration's Hispanic Task Force recently released web-accessible English-to-Spanish and Spanish-to-English dictionaries. The dictionaries include over 2,000 general OSHA, general industry, and construction industry terms. Phonetic pronunciation guides are included in the dictionaries for frequently used general industry and frequently used construction industry terms. To reference the dictionaries, link to [http://www.osha.gov/dcsdp/compliance\\_assistance/spanish\\_dictionaries.html](http://www.osha.gov/dcsdp/compliance_assistance/spanish_dictionaries.html).

The U.S. Department of Labor has constructed a web page that provides substantial information on the new health care law, formally known as the Patient Protection & Affordable Care Act. To view it, link to <http://www.dol.gov/ebsa/healthreform/>.

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, 2009. If you have not yet done so, please contact ASLRRRA's Steve Sullivan at [sullivan@aslrro.org](mailto:sullivan@aslrro.org) as soon as possible.**

To reach the Railinc homepage, link to [www.railinc.com](http://www.railinc.com).

To reach the ASLRRRA public website, link to [www.aslrro.org](http://www.aslrro.org). To reach its members'-only website, link to [members.aslrro.org](http://members.aslrro.org).

To check the Railroad Retirement Board's Railroad Jobs Vacancies page, link to <http://www.rrb.gov/PandS/Jobs/rjjobs.asp>.

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*Dave Mears, Editor*  
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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 [aslrro@aslrro.org](mailto:aslrro@aslrro.org)

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