



# Semaphore



Minnesota Transportation Museum • Vol. 10 No.9 • September 2023





# Scott's Perspective



**Minnesota Transportation  
Museum Corporate Office**  
193 Pennsylvania Ave E  
St. Paul, MN 55130-4319  
651-291-0074

**Osceola & St. Croix Valley  
Railway**  
PO Box 176  
114 Depot Road  
Osceola, WI 54020  
651-291-0074

**Jackson Street  
Roundhouse**  
193 Pennsylvania Ave E  
St. Paul, MN 55130-4319  
651-228-0263  
Barb@TrainRide.org

**Minnehaha Depot**  
Minnehaha Depot c/o MTM  
193 Pennsylvania Ave E  
St. Paul, MN 55130-4319  
651-228-0263

**Newsletter Editor**  
Warren Plaisance  
warren@trainride.org

Osceola & St Croix Valley Railway  
is a division of Minnesota  
Transportation Museum.

## Visiting information

**Wednesday** 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM  
Admission \$7 to \$11.

**Saturday** 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM  
Admission \$9 to \$15

Saturday activities feature 20 minute train  
rides which is included in the admission  
fee

**On the cover:**  
**General Ben hostles GN 325 out of  
the roundhouse before moving up  
to Osceola, Wisconsin.**

- **Warren Plaisance**

## Legislative Progress Towards Roundhouse Restoration

Last Tuesday MTM was visited by more than a dozen state senators who are members of the Senate Capital Investment Committee. Their visit was the direct result of your good work last year in advocating on behalf of MTM's request for state funding to replace the Jackson Street Roundhouse roof. So a super big 'thank you' to everyone who made the effort earlier this year!



## What are the next steps?

Some of the senators told us that MTM's appropriation was close to being approved last year, but they simply ran out of money in that part of the state budget. Those same senators also indicated that MTM is near the top of their list this year and there is a good  
*(continued on next page)*



chance of funding being approved to finally replace the roundhouse roof and fix the masonry.

The MTM board of directors has approved a second step to help get this project over the finish line. We have contracted with a legislative advocacy consulting firm to represent MTM during the 2024 legislative session. They will be there every day to speak with legislators on our behalf, to help craft legislative language, and to guide MTM staff and members in their advocacy efforts.

You did a great job in advocating in 2023. The Legislature approved \$100,000 for planning and design of the roundhouse project, and another \$100,000 in program funding which will be used for the GN-1096 restoration. And you helped get MTM on the legislative radar screen for 2024.

***Keep up the good work and be ready to do it all again this next winter.***

## **Jump Start on JSRH Restoration**

There is no question that the Jackson Street Roundhouse needs a lot of restoration – and soon! MTM has been working with Collaborative Design Group to get started on making some of the most critical repairs, possibly as early as this Fall. Collaborative Design was contracted to design the roof replacement project in 2018 and has a full construction plan that has already been approved by the State Historic Preservation Office.

With funds MTM has raised through various grants, donations, and insurance claims, work on replacement of the clearstory windows and siding can begin as soon as bids are approved and the project can be scheduled. “That alone will mitigate about 60-percent of the water penetration into the building,” said Scott Hippert, Executive Director.

MTM also has grant applications pending with several local foundations and with the Minnesota Historical Society. If those grants are approved, replacement of the roof could begin in Spring 2024.



Roundhouse clearstory windows may be replaced as early as this Fall

***Thank you all for what you do, what you bring, and for who you are!***

Scott



The highrail truck is back to active duty!

# MTM Executive Director Search

*The MTM search committee has received several applications for the position.*

*The status of the search as of this writing:*

- *The committee is now looking at the candidates submitted applications.*
- *The committee is not looking for new candidates at this time.*

With the retirement of Scott Hippert just around the corner, MTM has formed a search committee to identify and hire a new executive director. The following is the summarized job listing”

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Minnesota Transportation Museum is seeking a seasoned nonprofit leader to serve as its next executive director. This is the ideal opportunity for an individual to be all-hands-in on making significant advancements to a community institution that runs a museum listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and a fully operational passenger railroad. MTM operates the Jackson Street Roundhouse in St. Paul, the Minnehaha Depot in Minneapolis, and the Osceola & St. Croix Valley Railway with home-base in Osceola, Wisconsin. It may be the most unique leadership role you have had!

MTM is seeking someone with strong leadership, communications, strategic and interpersonal skills. You will lead a small paid staff and contractors, but a large volunteer staff. Acumen in fundraising and public policy are paramount. Salary is competitively modest, but negotiable as earned revenues grow. Benefits are negotiable. Job satisfaction and sense of accomplishment are almost certain!

# Billie's Appreciation Cookout August 20th



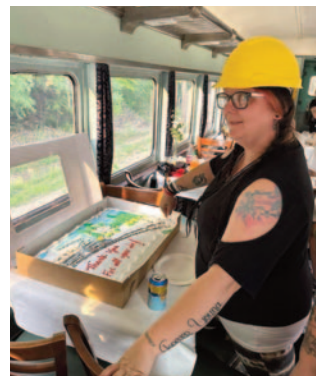
Thank you to all our Osceola volunteers for all you do. We came together today to celebrate each other. Jackson St. volunteers, your day is coming. Thank you too!

Thank you to everybody that made this event wonderful. Thank you to all the hard work from all of our volunteers at Osceola and Jackson Street Roundhouse that make MTM successful.

This was a great evening. Now let's get something fun planned for Jackson Street before the snow comes. Volunteer planners please step forward!

Good food, good company and a great time! Thank you to all the volunteers and thanks to everyone that made this event happen!

Thank you for all that you do! You are greatly appreciated!





## GN 325 and passenger car GN 1215 are migrating Sept. 4th

In preparation for the move up to Osceola, 2000 gallons of Diesel fuel were pumped into Great Northern SDP40 325. The Great Northern herald has been applied to the cab. The locomotive has had routine maintenance in the roundhouse and other prep work completed.



Eric Hopp photo

## Overhead Crane is ready for use at Jackson Street Roundhouse



The lifting capacity of the overhead crane is 25 tons according to the data plate it has been re-strung with new cable and has been inspected and is ready to go. A safety and information meeting was held by Sharrow Lifting Products for key volunteers.

## Trains magazine photo charter

Sept. 11 - 12



A special photo charter will take place Monday and Tuesday September 11 and 12. Monday will have GN 325 and matched set of passenger cars. Tuesdays line up will have 6234 with freight cars and BN caboose portraying a classic small freight train. 559 with our older rock cars and NP 1102. Trains will be out early morning and late afternoon to catch the "golden hours" when sunlight may be at it's most photogenic.

Volunteers qualified as engineers and brakemen are encouraged to sign up at crewsched. Crewmembers may appear in the magazine - no promises! MTM members are asked to respect this special paid private charter.



## NP 1264 Gets a Facelift



Mike Affelby adds his sign painting skill to the Northern Pacific herald. Work repairing wood siding and repainting have progressed to the lettering phase. This is so important as this caboose faces our parking lot and a first impression to the public.



Here is a photo found on the internet from the last time it was freshly rehabilitated.

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## Crew Training News

First off, a belated congratulations for Tom Edwards for being promoted to Brakeman-OSCV. It should have been announced last month.

We have a few brakeman instructors interested in helping for 2024 and we would like to have more. Are you a qualified brakeman (at either JSR or OSCV) and want to help students get more consistent training? Come join the brakeman instructor program for 2024.

Email [crewtraining@trainride.org](mailto:crewtraining@trainride.org) to say you're interested, or email us for any other crew training matters. (you can also email me directly if you're uncomfortable emailing the training team, [jrad@trainride.org](mailto:jrad@trainride.org))

Thank you for volunteering,

John Radimecky  
MTM Director of Training Department-Rail Operations,  
MTM Director of IT,  
& MTM Board Member  
<http://www.trainride.org>



The section truck and the Unimog are both operational. The end loader is getting there too.

Paul Scheunemann and Michael Janke work on changing oil filters, air filters, and tires to get it running and pumps working to see what else needs attention.

# Community Volunteers Assist With 6234 Battery Change

- Brian Rockholt

With help from two community volunteers, the 6234 is running with two new batteries. As each battery weighs in at 1,300 pounds, mechanical assistance was required to complete the work. Bob Puelston enlisted the help of two community volunteers, Tom Cody and Pete Clark of New Richmond, WI to help. Ward Gilkerson rounded out the team.

The team met at the Osceola Depot around 10:15 am on Tuesday, August 15<sup>th</sup>. Ward, using a rented trailer and his pickup, trailered in the new batteries from Independent Locomotive Service in Bethel, MN. Tom and Pete, trailered in Tom's John Deere tractor with front end loader from New Richmond. Bob and Ward separated the 6234 from the train and relocated it to the private grade crossing. Once the locomotive was shut down and secured, the team went to work.



The work location with Tom's tractor and the 6234.

Tom and Pete worked together like a well-oiled machine. Within 30 minutes both of the old batteries were removed and set out for return. By 11:30 am the team had retrieved the new batteries from the rented trailer and carefully placed them into their compartments.



Pete checks clearances between the battery and the compartment on the locomotive.

With the battery compartments opened and the leads disconnected, the delicate task of removing the 1,300-pound batteries began. Tom operated the tractor while Pete provided lifting direction via hand signals. With only a few inches of clearance between the battery and the compartment, there was little room for error.



Tom moves a new battery from the trailer.

With the hardest part of the job now complete, Tom and Pete prepped the tractor for the ride back to New Richmond. As the team discussed the mornings events, more and more questions  
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the operation of the locomotive in the cab. Each had the opportunity to see the engineers view as Bob explained the various controls and gauges.

After Tom and Pete departed with the tractor in tow, Ward and Bob connected the batteries and conducted various tests. Once complete, they started 6234 and reconnected it to the consist. After securing it they departed the depot pleased with the morning's accomplishments.

Pete directs Tom as they place the new battery into the compartment.

came up about the locomotive. To satisfy Tom and Pete's curiosity Bob provided them with a 'doors open' tour of the 6234, showing them it's prime mover and alternator. Both were impressed. They also enjoyed learning about

A tough task was made much easier with the help of two community volunteers. Thank You Tom Cody and Pete Clark for your invaluable assistance!

***Thank You Ward and Bob for your work on this project too.***



**The battery replacement team satisfied with a job well done!**



# Surplus Passenger Trucks Head to New Prague

- Jeff Braun



Old NP1370's trucks headed out to their new home today thanks to the help of Paul, Bob, Mike and the newly restored to service hy-rail truck.

The trucks are planned to be used in the restoration of StPM&M car Manitoba, (Pullman, 1880) now in New Prague at Gopher State Railway Museum.

The museum also has an aftermarket, Barney & Smith steel under frame salvaged from a wood bodied Great Northern coach scrapped by a museum in Colfax, WI.

It's hoped work will commence later this fall on restoring the under frame and placing it on trucks.

***The volunteers at GSRM wanted to thank Bob, Paul and Mike for their help loading up.***





# Spruce the Caboose 2.0

Bill Hawley has been working on new window frames and other trim work on Chicago Burlington & Quincy caboose with the help of Job Corps. Bill said, "I told Job Corps how I wanted it done and they did it perfectly."



The front end has new fascia board.



The back end with the old fascia board for comparison.



The front cupola has new fascia board. New window frame is underway in the wood shop.



The rear cupola has new fascia board as well.



A comparison of the weather beaten window frame and new milled stock for replacement.



The CB&Q 13500 is a workhorse of the MTM caboose rides. The interior has bench seating for passenger comfort.



# The Oktoberfest Express is selling out fast!

A promotional graphic for the Oktoberfest Express event. The background is a warm, orange-brown gradient. At the top, the title "Oktoberfest Express" is written in a large, white, serif font. Below it, the dates "Saturdays September 16th & 23rd - 3:30 PM" are written in a smaller, white, sans-serif font. On the left side, there are two logos: the "MINNESOTA TRANSPORTATION MUSEUM" logo and the "OSCEOLA & ST. CROIX VALLEY RAILWAY" logo. In the center, there is a photograph of a charcuterie board filled with various meats, cheeses, breads, and fruits. To the right of the board, there is a large, tall glass of beer with a thick head of foam. The bottom of the graphic features a wooden plank texture.

## Oktoberfest Express

Saturdays September 16th & 23rd - 3:30 PM

MINNESOTA TRANSPORTATION MUSEUM

OSCEOLA & ST. CROIX VALLEY RAILWAY

Travel in style aboard first class train trips boarding at Osceola, Wisconsin. Enjoy scenic views of the St. Croix as you experience a 90 minute rolling craft beer and cheese pairing. A host will guide you as you explore the delicious food and unique beer combined with great conversation and laughter with family and friends. Minimum of five locally brewed selections to pair with a variety of cheese, meat, and other tasty morsels.

Visit [trainride.org](https://trainride.org) for tickets. Seats are \$69 each in groups of 2, 4, or 6. Groups may be seated with other parties but will not be sharing charcuterie boards. Must be 21+ to participate.

We are very excited to bring you our newest premium excursion opportunity. Oktoberfest in Munich, Germany opens September 16th. The Osceola & St. Croix Valley Railroad will be inaugurating it's own Oktoberfest Express on the very same day. Our 90 minute trip to Marine and back will be celebrating the season in the same fashion.

Warren has been traveling all around the area to bring you the best in local craft beer and tasty treats. Sample the best from Oliphant Brewery in Somerset. Oktoberfest German style beer from

Brickfield Brewing. Club Credentials Hazy IPA, from Urban Growler in St. Paul and more! The Charcuterie board, made from repurposed old growth hardwood from Jackson Street Roundhouse and lovingly created in our wood shop. It will be overflowing with meats, cheeses, and all the trimmings. Most items were sourced from local producers.

Tickets for this unique event are available on our website:

<https://transportationmuseum.org/train-rides/>