



Semaphore



Minnesota Transportation Museum • Vol. 11 No.3 • March 2024

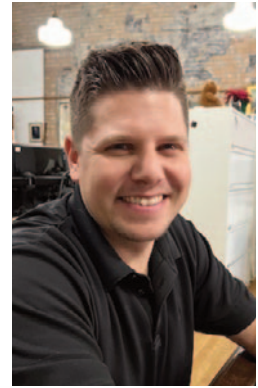


Josh's Perspective
Coming Events: Shamrocks,
Eggs, and a Potluck
Meaningful Work in the Archives
Get Ready for Osceola
Roundhouse Sale in Progress
NSP 5 Update on the 45 Tonner

Nick Edstrom Photo



Josh's Perspective



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Minnehaha Depot

Minnehaha Depot c/o MTM
193 Pennsylvania Ave E
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Newsletter Editor

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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:

105 and 559 on the turntable Wednesday February 22nd. 559 came in for its M92 inspection. If you look closely, GN 325 is in the background centered between the two engines.

Well it's officially been 90 days since I joined the MTM team, and what a pleasure it has been to lead alongside all of you. In the past 90 Days we have had some really great WINS to celebrate as a team and some exciting news for what's ahead.

At MTM I truly believe that if we keep these WINS at the forefront of our intentionality MTM will continue to grow as an organization and with new train enthusiasts. Our MTM WINS are;

- Have Unmatched Customer Service.
- Create Opportunities for People to Come Back and Invite.
- Create Opportunities for People to Participate.

The Love Train, in February (Feb 10th & 17th) we saw over 600 guests at the Museum. This was over 350 more guests than last year. I heard so many of our guests rave over the customer service of our Museum Tour Guides, Caboose Host's and Volunteers, thank you for your passion for MTM, it does not go unnoticed. We were very intentional at the Love Train to invite people back to the next two events in March; The Shamrock Express (March 16th) & The Round House Egg Hunt (March 30th). We also had ways for people to participate at the Museum by having scavenger hunts, tours, crafts and photo booths, as well as ways to participate after the event by partnering with Twin Cities Social Media influencers to broaden our reach for families looking for fun things to do in the Twin Cities. We have partnered with a few local influencers to host giveaways for family museum passes and grab bags. This is virtually free marketing to our target audience and people who may never have known the MTM was here.

In March, we are excited to host two large events at MTM. The Shamrock Express and the Round House Egg Hunt.

(Continued on next page)

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The Shamrock Express (March 16th)

Join us at MTM for our Shamrock Express as we celebrate St. Patrick's Day in Style. Join us for Cornbeef Sandwiches, Green Beer, Cabbage Toss, Family Crafts, Museum Tours, Photobooth and a ride on the Shamrock Express.



The Shamrock Express Volunteer Sign Up

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0B4CA5AE23A4F9C34-48100875-theshamrock#/>



The Round House Egg Hunt (March 30th)

Join us at MTM as we hunt the round house for Thousands of Easter Eggs! Come and enjoy: Train Rides, Gift Shop Discounts, Easter Egg Hunts, Visit from the Easter Bunny, Photo Booth, Museum Tours, The Teddy Bear Band, The Big Red Wagon Food Truck and more.



The Round House Egg Hunt Volunteer Sign Up

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0B4CA5AE23A4F9C34-48101148-roundhouse#/>

Note: Sorry the links are so small, have to fit on one line.

What to expect at MTM in the next month:

- Tickets for the OSR railway will be going on sale early March.
- Gift Shop updates (JSR & Train Shop)
- Google & Youtube Ad's starting March/April

Please sign up if you can. As always you are what makes this organization work.

Thanks everyone for all you do!

Thanks, Josh Hoaby



MTM To announce new board members!

Annual Members Potluck and Board Meeting

Tuesday March 19th at the Jackson Street Roundhouse

5:30 Potluck dinner.

Please bring a dish to share and contact Wayne Merchant at volunteer@trainride.org to notify what you will be sharing and any answer questions you may have.

7:00 Board Meeting

Agenda
Chair Discussion
Announce the new board members.
Executive Director Report
Adjourn

Here's what we're up to in Archives..

-Todd McGonagle

Curator John VanArsdale and the archivists have begun an organizational purge of items located under the public museum in bay D of the roundhouse. Up to now the work has involved much organizing and identifying objects. The objective is to identify interesting railroad artifacts from Minnesota railroads that can be rotated in, and out of public display. This is important because it keeps the customer experience fresh with different items from the collection. Items with little historical value, toys, and items not relevant to railroads that operated in Minnesota are being purged from the collection.

Disbursal of the items will manifest in several ways. We were able to spin off a large number of valuable Chicago & Northwestern documents to a newly formed Chicago & Northwestern research library in Illinois. This is the best way to make this material available to people looking for it. We consider this a big win for historical preservation! Art, toys, collectibles, and books are being sold for profit in the gift shop or at "garage sale" tables in the museum on days we are open. What is left will be items of local interest we can display and rotate.

Last week Eric K. located a Milwaukee Road lighted sign, which came up to the museum for display. I have started making brackets for hanging railroad lanterns from the I beams around the museum. It puts them on display where people can see them and it frees up space in the storage area for better organization of the collection.

Next month, a meeting of Executive Director Josh Hoaby, Museum Curator John Van Arsdale and Collections Committee chair Todd McGoangle will be held to discuss a common vision of what the Museum complex should look like and how best to achieve that goal.



April is get the depot ready month.

Keep an eye on MTM mailings for dates to spruce up the depot and prepare it for the 2024 season.

We need a group to:

- ✓ Bring out things stored in the depot -- barriers, benches, signs ...
- ✓ Install air conditioners, radios and lights.
- ✓ Dust and clean the interior.
- ✓ Mow and sweep the area.
- ✓ Other duties as assigned.

I will post a clean up day as we get closer to bringing the train back up from Jackson Street. We will also need folks to meet the train as it arrives to move things from the train to the depot.



There will be many jobs at the roundhouse to prepare the train, so be sure to check there in the coming weekends.

Contact me if you have any questions.
petittnoel47@gmail.com

Noel Petit

New Look for our Lobby Update

The Red Cedar & Western Railroad live steamer is undergoing a cosmetic shopping in Bay A. The engine is destined for display in the entrance lobby as part of a freshening up campaign to make a great first impression for our museum guests. This will also make a prime location for photo opportunities.

Painting of the tender since last month has been completed and Mike Affelby has finished relettering the tender.



Above, before and below, after.





Minnesota Transportation Museum
Members

Notable posts from the MTM members Facebook page.

-Eric Hopp

Photos given to MTM by Andersen Windows in 2001 when they donated 3110. SW1 3110 was originally Wabash 110. When the Norfolk and Western acquired the Wabash they prefixed every locomotive number with a '3'. NW2 451 was originally Great Northern 5303, later BN 451. Andersen Windows still has the other train



engine. The company gets plastic pellets that are delivered by rail. UP delivers them by a local train. The company tried to get the plastic pellets delivered by truck but that didn't work out.



Engine 451 spends a lot of time in its engine house that can't be seen by public roads.



-Jeff Braun

As I walk around the roundhouse shutting off lights and checking doors to see they're locked, I pause and look at the "faces" looking back at me.

I start to think about 100 years ago, what faces would I see?

Sooty faces, sooty coveralls. Black tenders with big mountain goats painted on the sides of some. Others a big rectangle with the words "Great Northern Railway" inside.



The smell of hot steam and valve oil, tallow, sulfur of coal smoke. Men bustling about, tending steam locomotives, performing inspections,
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changing journal brasses and journal packing, oiling around.

The stalls filled with E-classes of Ten Wheelers, H-classes of Pacifics, maybe a K-class Atlantic or two. Perhaps one of the queens of the road, the shiny, year old P-2 Mountain.

All waiting their turn at tomorrow's line up of name trains, the Oriental Limited and it's new all steel cars, the Alexandrian, the Winnipeg Limited. Trains with no names, just a number.

This was where it happened, this was where the GN serviced the power for their passenger trains. There were no freight hogs here, just the high stepping passenger power. The freight hogs called Minneapolis Junction home. No, only the glossy passenger power was found in these stalls.

If only for a Time Machine...

Back to turning out the lights and heading home, but I realize even these faces looking back at me have their own stories to tell. Stories for another time perhaps.

Feedback from our visitors:

Good Morning,

I just wanted to send a note of thanks to the MTM and specifically Garry Yazell, who provided my wife Marianne and I with an excellent tour of the roundhouse and specifically all of the interesting activities that are underway in the car/locomotive shop, as well as in the machine shop. We were really impressed with the range of activities being conducted and with the general buzz of positive energy that was being exuded by the volunteers. It was a really fun time. As a longtime railfan I was really impressed with the facility and opportunities for volunteering.

I am joining the MTM later this week and look forward to becoming more involved in the future.

-Brian Davis

Vol 11 No 3 March 2024

Roundhouse Sale Underway

For the next two weeks at MTM we are having our annual Roundhouse Sale! Swing by and snag some railway memorabilia and have a great experience at the Museum!

Proceeds from the sale will go towards our neurodiversity event on Sunday April 21st.



Letter from the Boy Scouts -

Dear MTM,

Thank you for scheduling and working to let the Scouts ride the historic train during the first week of summer camp (August 3rd Charter) last year! We all had a fantastic time and really appreciate all the work you did to let us ride the train. From what we heard from all the Scouts, some highlights were learning about the history of the various cars (especially the mail car) and the scenery along the way. I also heard great things about the trip from the Scout Troop from Askov, Minnesota.

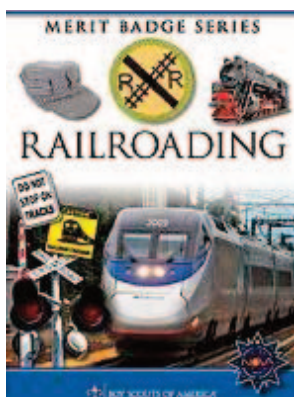
Additionally, thanks for help at camp to sign off on the Railroading Merit Badge. Thanks in part to the train ride, we all got an extra Merit Badge at camp that we normally wouldn't have gotten.

Sincerely,

Senior Patrol Leader Anno (and the rest of the Minneapolis and Askov Troop 187)

As a side note if any of you encounter Scouts who would like to do the Railroading Merit Badge, I would be happy to send them information and meet with them at either Jackson Street or Osceola to complete the Merit Badge requirement. If MTM wants to do that as a dedicated day, we can schedule a Merit Badge day and advertise it through the Scout District news letter. I would need a 3 month advance warning, but this may be a really good way to introduce another group of families to MTM.

Noel Petit



Noel Petit sent in this information if you are interested. MTM is a member.

Heritage Rail is hosting online auctions of items that may be of interest. For more information, the link is below:

<https://rarauctions.com/>



When you're out running errands and you hear the horn of a train coming up to a crossing. Can't help myself! Minnesota Commercial #44, GE B23-7, built 4/1979 for ATSF, leading a train of empty lumber flats from Hugo passing Roseville on February 22, 2024.
-Warren

NSP 5 Update

By Jeff Braun

It's been almost a year since little 45 ton GE diesel switcher, NSP5 returned to its past and present home of MTM's Jackson Street Roundhouse. NSP5 was built in May 1951 and is ten years newer than MTM's other 45 ton GE affectionately known as "General Ben".

Besides being ten years newer, it also features some other differences from the old General Ben. NSP5 has a more styled car body and fairing over its exhaust which isn't found on General Ben. A closer look at its drive system also reveals some differences. Both locomotives are powered by a single traction motor on each truck, but the similarity ends there. While General Ben uses external side rods to connect the drive axle to the second axle on each truck, NSP5 uses an inboard chain drive to connect the two axles.



Tracing NSP5's history has been a bit challenging, but it appears the locomotive was purchased new by Northern States Power in 1951, possibly for use at its Riverside plant in Minneapolis and later its Sherco plant, but it's not clearly documented these were its assignments. NSP donated the locomotive to MTM circa 1990 when it was retired by NSP. It was used around Jackson street during the 90s and repainted in the NSP5 paint scheme it wears today by MTM volunteers circa late 1990s. In the early 2000s, NSP5 was sold to Progressive Rail who used it first on a short remnant of Chicago Great

Western track in Faribault to service a customer at the end of the spur. Later PGR transferred it to Chippewa Falls where it was in use until PGR retired it and donated the locomotive to MTM once again in March 2023.



NSP5 appears to have endured a derailment during its tenure on PGR as its pilot is bent as is the traction motor cover and brake rigging. The derailment also appears to have damaged one of the traction motor brushes which cracked and ultimately broke off causing a short to flash over the traction motor and melt several brush holders.



Volunteers began work on NSP5 in May 2023 with the goal of making the locomotive as close to 100 percent operational and reliable as possible so General Ben can be taken out of service as the shop switcher and take its much needed turn in the diesel shop. Mike Janke, Paul Scheunemann, Tim Nelson, Bob Puelston and Jeff Braun have been the main crew working
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this project, with an additional hand from Nick Edstrom, Bailey, Lucas and a few Saturday volunteers as well whose names I don't have. Tim Grube also recently worked with a crew from Job Corps to strip paint and rust from the exterior.

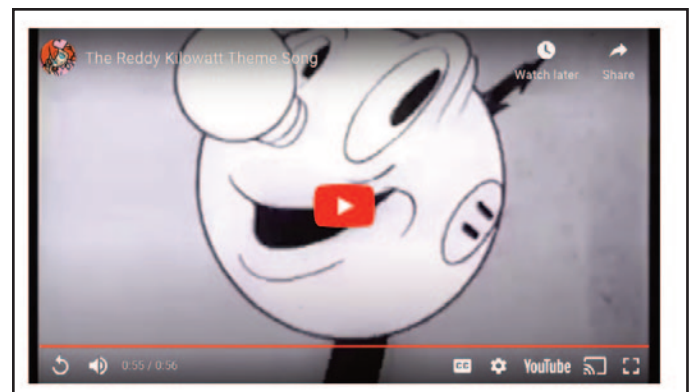
Since May 2023, the locomotive has had its brake rigging completely rebuilt with new shoes and bushings. The brake valves have been sent out for service and reinstalled. A worn air compressor has recently been removed for rebuilding. Mike and Jeff have been working to repair rust damage to the body the past couple months. Mike devised a way to replicate the curved corners of the hood by tack welding a sheet of steel to a steel pipe of similar radius and heating the flat sheet while carefully bending it to match the radius. The new part was then cut to fit and welded in place.

Bob and the Saturday crew have since removed all the fogged window plexiglass in preparation for body paint and new windows. Mike and Paul drilled additional drain holes in the engine compartment last fall to help prevent future rusting of the hood resulting from rain and snow collecting inside the hood compartment with nowhere to go. Jeff and others have been working to resurface the damaged traction motor and Tim Nelson was able to find a source for new traction motor brush holders.

If progress continues at its current pace, NSP5 should be repainted, have new window glass and be fully operational by sometime this summer 2024. There's still discussion as to what paint scheme it should be painted, although the consensus is it will definitely be an NSP5 paint scheme. Although it never featured the old NSP mascot, Reddy Kilowatt on its cab, Mike Alfveby is working on graphics for a Reddy Kilowatt - stay tuned...

Click on link below for the Reddy Kilowatt video!

<https://youtu.be/nLcAzYCueAY>





Upcoming

EVENTS



3/2 1030 JSR Harris b'day
1400 JSR GScale open house *Joe/Jeff*
3/6 1030 JSR T'nT
3/9 1100 JSR car club chili feed *Garry*
3/16 1000 JSR St Patrick's Day observance
3/19 1730 JSR **MTM ann'l meeting**
3/20 1030 JSR T'nT
3/30 1000 JSR Bunny festivities
1030 JSR Sansom b'day
1330 JSR Johnson b'day

4/3 1030 JSR T'nT
4/10 1230 *Barb to Menomonie, speaker*
4/17 1030 JSR T'nT
4/21 1000 **SUN** JSR Neurodiversity Day

5/1 1030 JSR T'nT
5/15 1030 JSR T'nT
5/16 1000 JSR Industrial Archeology 50a
5/18 *OSCV Scouts badge work (tent)*
5/29 **JSR \$5 on the 5th**

6/1-2 Train Days Union Depot
6/5 1030 JSR T'nT
1030 JSR AFSA gr2 12k, 3a
6/19 1030 JSR T'nT
6/20 *OSCV MLT 56 Box Lunch (tent)*

7/3 1030 JSR T'nT
7/17 1030 JSR T'nT
7/20 1030 JSR Mixon b'day
7/31 **JSR \$5 on the 5th**

8/1 *OSCV Milbank SD 56 coach (tent)*
8/7 1030 JSR T'nT
8/13 1730 JSR Mahtomedi CommEd 75 ttl (tent)

8/21 1030 JSR T'nT

9/4 1030 JSR T'nT
9/12 *OSCV Park Rapids 45 coach (tent)*
9/18 1030 JSR T'nT
9/19 *OSCV 1st Nat'l, 56 Box Lunch (tent)*

10/2 1030 JSR T'nT
10/10 *OSCV MLT 54 box lunch (tent)*
10/18 – 10/20 *OSCV Pumpkin Express*

10/16 1030 JSR T'nT
10/30 **JSR \$5 on the 5th**

11/6 1030 JSR T'nT
11/20 1030 JSR T'nT

12/4 1030 JSR T'nT
12/18 1030 JSR T'nT

Santa's Train Shop 12/6 – 12/22/24



Another in our "Things you find in the archives" series, this collection of Soviet era railway pins. Eric K believes the lower center pin is for food service.
- Warren