

ARKANSAS RAILROADER  
ARKANSAS RAILROAD CLUB NEWS LETTER  
VOL. 5 NO. 7 JULY 1974

JULY MEETING: There will be no regular business meeting this month. An informal gathering will be at the regular meeting time of 2:00 p.m. Sunday July 14th at the Missouri Pacific Building, 1000 West 4th St., North Little Rock. Bring your slides, movie film or what have you.

SCOTT & BEARSKIN LAKE R.R. On Thursday, July 4th, the Scott & Bearskin Lake R. R. will operate on a regular weekend schedule from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the regular price of \$1.00 per passenger per trip.

Beginning at 4:00 p.m. and lasting until 9:00 p.m. there will be an Independence Day Celebration. Two engines will be available and there will be no limit to the number of rides on each ticket. The price after 4:00 p.m. will be 2.50 for adults and 1.75 for children. A Family fare for families of four or more will be 2:00 for adults and 1.50 for children.

In addition to train rides, the after 4 p.m. entertainment will include the Rackensack Folk Singers, Bozo the Clown, a Civil War re-enactment by the 1st Arkansas Infantry, and a fireworks display to end the day.

Concessions will be on the grounds for the sale of Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, Cold Drinks etc.

Additional track is being laid at this writing and the switches for the turning wye at the far end have been laid out and hopefully will be operational by the 4th.

CLUB BUILDING PROJECT: It is reported that the site preparation for the club museum building is complete. The floor forms have been assembled, plumbing roughed in and gravel spread. The concrete slab floor should be poured within the next few days and the erection of the building should start this month.

M&NA MODELING & HISTORIC GROUP: The M&NA fan group is off & running with its organizational meeting being held in conjunction with the Arkansas Valley Model Railroad Club's Clinic which was held in April. For further information contact the secretary; Jim Bennett, 1602 Strait Place, Stuttgart, Ark. 72160.

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MORE SOUTHERN STEAM:

Saturday Sep. 14 : Memphis, Tenn to Corinth, Miss & return Engine 4501 MEMPHIS NRHS  
Sunday Sep. 15 : You missed Saturdays Run. Come today  
Saturday Oct. 12 : Atlanta, Ga to Toccoa Ga & Return. Engine 750. ATLANTA-NRHS  
Sunday Oct. 13 : Onemore time.  
Saturday Oct. 19 : Chatanooga Tenn to Crossville Tenn & return. Engine 4501. TVRM  
Sunday Oct. 20 : Again To crossville  
Saturday Oct. 26 : Birmingham Ala to Montgomery Ala & return. Engines 722 & 750 via L & N RR HEARTOF DIXIE NRHS

LATE ADDITIONS:

Saturday July 20 : Alexandria to Front Royal Va &  
Sunday July 21 : each day. Engine 4501. POTOMAC-NRHS and WASHINGTON-NRHS. Alexandria Bicentennial-Virginia Festival of Independence. (Sunday trip is "Photographer's Special" with extra photo run-bys)

SOUTHERN CRESCENT DERAILS: Friday, May 17th the north-bound "SOUTHERNCRESCENT" derailed near Tuscaloosa, Ala. on a 75bfoot embankment, sending several cars down the hill. All ten cars left the rails and some 133 people were injured. The cars on the rear appeared to be the worst damaged, and their condition is unknown. The dome parlor car used on the train between Atlanta and New Orleans was normally on the rear of the train and may be heavily damaged. Spūthern owns only one other dome car, the dome coach on the "Asheville Special" to Salusbury. (From the R.P.O of Old Smokey Ry Museum)

AMTRAKINGS: Ridership continues to increase on the "INTER AMERICAN" at Little Rock. Reservations are now necessary for coach travel and travel agents report that they cannot guarantee sleeper space for several months.

Newport has been approved as a trial stop for the "INTER AMERICAN". It will become a stop on a temporary basis of approximately ten months as soon as "suitable" station facilities become available. This is predicted to be in mid-September.

Word has it that member John Mills will return to Little Rock as Station Manager for Amtrak. John has been holding down a similar job at San Antonio, Tex. and we welcome John home.

WHEN MULE CAR MET THE STEAMCARS

Clifton E. Hull

In the early 1920's there were 2 passenger motor cars, a mixed train and a full fledged passenger train daily EACH WAY on the White River Division, or portions of it at least. The motor cars ran only from Little Rock to Batesville, the mixed train operated between Newport and Cushman. The passenger train made daily runs from Little Rock to Kansas City.

All these 8 trains made regular stops at Sulphur Rock, just 20 miles north of Newport and 10 miles south of Batesville.

As was often the case with small towns, the tracks were laid out at the edge of town, and it was several blocks to the business section.

There was a bit of unusual arrangement at Sulphur Rock. Travelers debarking from the train were a bit surprised to see a little four-wheeled, duck-bill-roofed car rolling along a track of very light weight rails toward the depot. At the head end of the car was a patiently plodding old gray mule.

This was the motive power and rolling stock of the Sulphur Rock Railway Company

This company was organized in 1887 by a stock company and was capitalized at \$4,000.00. When the rails of the White River line of the St. Louis, Iron Mountain & Southern were laid in about 1903, the little car began meeting the trains..

The old mule soon was taught to work by signals, as a good "railroader" should. These signals were given with a bell..One tap of the bell started him moving, and two taps would bring him to a stop at any place a passenger wanted on or off. When he was turned loose to graze, three taps of the bell would call him to work.

He was even taught to meet the trains, even if the driver was not on the car. When the mule heard the train come into the station he would start in that direction. The car was in charge of J. C. "Skipper" Huddleston/