



RPI Newsletter for December 2010

By Leland Stewart - President

Please note; This is the first attempt at a newsletter for RPI. We hope to develop this as a regular feature of RPI membership. Over the next couple of months we will select a format and regular editor with contribution instructions. In the meantime, please direct comments, contributions, etc. to me and we will make every effort to make this successful.

As we close out the year, its worth reflecting on the accomplishments of the organization. RPI was founded for the purpose of preserving threatened or soon to be inactive railroad corridors for the purpose of keeping them viable for public transportation use. As motorcar hobbyists, we have a vested interest in securing venues for excursions and this organization dovetails perfectly with the preservation mission.

In just over two years, RPI has grown to over 50 members, has secured a lease of 28 miles of trackage, established motorcar excursions on 3 railroads, acquired tax exempt status, became Operation Lifesaver certified, and has developed a cadre of volunteers to carry out RPI's mission of preserving rail corridors, promoting rail safety and educating the public about the railroad's importance.

To demonstrate how effective RPI has been in achieving its goals, I have assembled some statistics derived from our excursion and work logs. I think you will see what belonging to and supporting RPI can do to improve the opportunities to operate our motorcars. These numbers also reflect the tremendous support and dedication of our members. You all should be very proud of your efforts and the role you play in growing this great hobby.

	2010	Since Inception
Total Hours Donated	776	1051
Miles Traveled	8889	26738
Number of Excursions	16	19
Excursion Miles	969	1299
O/L Presentations	13	32
RPI Public Displays	4	6

Note: The hours donated and miles traveled do not reflect the total as we have not been able to chronicle all of those expended. Whenever you attend a work session or perform volunteer activity for RPI, be sure to report the hours, miles, and expenses donated to Ed

or Leland. By logging these donations, we are able to justify or show as donations in kind when soliciting donation, grants, or access.

The public motorcar displays were to promote RPI and the speeder hobby in general. These displays are a good recruiting source and have produced opportunities for RPI by meeting people with similar interests and contacts. The public events attended this year were in Fredericksburg, New Braunfels, Flatonia, and Houston. Many thanks to Mike and Donna Harris for not only setting up and manning a weekend long show in Houston but also developing and purchasing display materials and flyers for RPI. If you haven't seen it yet, check out the article in the Nov/Dec Set Off showing the professional looking exhibit.

Ed Michal and Leland Stewart have displayed at the Fredericksburg Tractor Show and Ed set up at New Braunfels Train Show and conducted OL presentations.

Another way that RPI is helping to grow the motorcar hobby is by providing a venue for mentoring new operators. In the past year RPI has mentored 8 new operators and has a waiting list for more as we introduce new members and they purchase motorcars. On behalf of RPI, I would like to welcome the following mentored operators: Art and Susan Wilson (TX), Frank Hammaddock (TX), Don Stamper (LA), Bob King (TX), Steve Wanderman (TX), Hugh Summers (TX), and Alan Gobel (CA).

Tiered Contribution Program

The annual dues for members of Railroad Partners, Inc., will remain \$ 25.00 for 2011. Family membership dues have been set at \$ 40.00 (family includes spouse and children under 18). RPI, however, continues to face an urgent need to obtain a comprehensive liability insurance policy, as outlined at the recent Annual Meeting. Members at the Meeting voted in favor of obtaining such a policy. Annual premiums are anticipated to be approximately \$ 4000.00. Although RPI has the funds to pay the first annual premium, we will need additional resources to continue paying those premiums.

The Board of Directors is working to establish a contribution recognition program to encourage giving beyond dues. This program will include incentives so that persons donating at certain levels and above will receive something in return to show our appreciation. We will announce the program early next year. Contributions made in 2010 will also earn incentives.

Please keep in mind that donations made by the end of the year are potentially deductible as a charitable contribution on your 2010 tax return. Donations and dues payments can be made via the "Donate now" button on the RPI website, railroadpartners.com, or can be sent via check, made out to "Railroad Partners, Inc.," to Treasurer Ed Michal at 441 Blue Creek Dr., Dripping Springs, TX 78620.

Specific RPI goals for 2011 are to mow and spray the key parts of the Llano line; open up new trackage for motorcar operations; train new Excursion Coordinators; continue

exhibiting motorcars to recruit new members; maintain an active Operation Lifesaver presentation schedule on behalf of Capital Metro; and establish a monthly e-mail newsletter.

We greatly appreciate the support of all our members in achieving these objectives, which will help us accomplish RPI's Mission Goals. We hope all our members will have a safe and enjoyable holiday season, a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Fall Excursion on the Llano Branch

It was a Chamber of Commerce day on October 30, 2010 in Llano, TX as 12 motorcars were set on the tracks for a day of enjoying the Texas Hill Country. The morning was a little crisp but did not deter the camaraderie of good friends. The original plan was for a single RT to the end of Railroad Partners, Inc. (RPI) leased track but high weeds on the east end made a change in itinerary necessary. It was decided to make two round trips to Kingsland over the course of the day which actually lengthened the total mileage.

After some minor mechanical issues at the start, the group held the safety meeting and departed Llano. The rest of the day was trouble free and very relaxing. The overall pace made for great scenery watching and time to converse with fellow operators. Everyone did a great job in operating and crossing the highways. The highway crossings were much easier and safer this trip as a result of the last work session where, with the assistance of the Llano County Sheriff's Dept, we were able to clean the flange ways of the debris that had accumulated over the years.

The afternoon run was equally enjoyable and trouble free. Upon arrival in Llano in the late afternoon, we set off, loaded the cars and said our goodbyes for what will probably be the last run of the year for most of us.

The following pictures were provided by Don Kendal and Tom Kline.





Trip Announcements

Border Pacific RR Excursion

Winter Run - Railroad Partners, Inc. is pleased to announce a 2 day run on the Border Pacific Railroad (former Missouri Pacific) on Saturday February 12, and Sunday February 13, 2010. This will be our 2nd excursion on this railroad. Bring your car to warm south Texas and lose those winter doldrums. Participants will travel approx. 60 RT miles between Penitas, TX and Rio Grande City, TX each day. Track parallels the Mexican border along the Rio Grande River. Wildlife and migrating birds are in abundance. Mentoring will be allowed by permission only. Hyrails welcome. Trip fee of \$50.00 includes railroad fees. Additional details will be forthcoming. Trip information will be available at www.railroadpartners.com. For registration contact the excursion coordinator, Leland Stewart at 210-863-5397 cell or email to poppermaker@gmail.com.

Wichita, Tillman, & Jackson RR

This just in at press time. We're forwarding this for Drake Rice. See you in OK in January.

- Forwarded message -----

From: <drake.rice@cox.net>

Date: Fri, Dec 10, 2010 at 10:41 PM

Subject: WT&J

The trip is on. I just received the permission slip in the mail today. Will be getting the ride information out early next week. Leon has been a big help. Mark your calendars for Saturday, January 22nd. Burkburnett, Texas to Tipton, Oklahoma, approximately 95 miles round trip on the old MKT line now operated by the Wichita Falls, Tillman and Jackson Railroad. Drake.

Llano Branch

The Llano branch work schedule is currently in the planning process. As soon as it is confirmed we will notify everyone via email and this newsletter.

Member Request

I'm looking to buy a motorcar trailer to mount a garden tractor and mower deck. The plan is to use this transplant to mow weedy portions of the Llano branch for RPI excursions, as well as any other lines that may need such work. I am fixing up the tractor so that part is underway. Would like to know of any such trailer or frame in Texas, LA or OK. Would also be interested in any push car axles and wheels with hubs and pillow blocks in those states since my fallback is to build a frame and mount it to axle-wheel combinations. Many thanks for your help, Ed Michal. My email is edwardmichal@yahoo.com

Speeder For Sale

Jim McKeel, who is the Area 9 Narcoa Insurance Director, has a Canadian Pacific CR7 Fairmont speeder for sale. This car has been in indoor storage and is in good shape for a light restoration. I have seen this car in person as it was stored with the MT14K that I bought from Jim a couple of years ago.

The following message is from member Jim McKeel of Wichita, Kansas:

I have a Canadian built Fairmont CR-7 (US equivalent: M-14) with a Fairmont ROC motor for sale. The car was used on the Canadian Pacific Railway and they had added a fiberglass cab which is no longer with the car. The car has no wind screen or roof. The car is complete, but will need some TLC and other work (lights and horn added) to bring it up to NARCOA operation

standards. I have owned the car for approx. 10 years and it has been stored under cover that entire time. A photo is attached. If you would like additional photos of the car, send me an e-mail direct and I will send them. The car can be purchased for \$1950.00, as is, where is (Wichita, KS). (Delivery could be arranged within 200 miles or so of Wichita, KS.) If you have any questions about the car, let me know. Many thanks!!!

*Jim McKeel Wichita, KS cp2123@cox.net
316-721-4378*



Request for help Restoring Speeders in Temple.

When RPI held its annual meeting on November 20th at the Railroad and Heritage Museum in Temple, it was noted that the speeders on display outside the Museum are in a state of disrepair. One of the Museum representatives inquired as to the possibility that someone from our group might be interested in cosmetically restoring one, or all three. If you might be interested in offering your services, please let me know and I will put you in contact with RHM. This would be a great way to get into speeder restoration and at the same time contribute to a good cause.

Railroad Partners, Inc. is a Texas based non-profit corporation dedicated to the preservation and restoration of historic rail corridors.

