



THE GATEWAY RAILLETTER

St. Louis Chapter NRHS --- www.stlouisNRHS.org

Volume 41 Number 10 - OCTOBER 2024

Established October 2, 1963

Editor: Wayne Rovig - newsletter.exchange@stlouisnrhs.org

President: David Huelsing - dhuelsing@stlouisnrhs.org

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Long time VP Membership Mary Birdsell has had to resign due to personal reasons. I would like to extend a big Thank You for her many years serving on the St. Louis Chapter Board. Per the bylaws, I have appointed Eileen Weber to fill her position for the remainder of this term, and she will be sending out the dues renewal notices (the Chapter dues has been reduced for 2025).

Our annual election will be in November, all positions are open for election. Many officers have been serving in the same position for many years. This is your club, and we welcome any member in good standing to serve on the board. It is always good to have new ideas. If interested, please contact a member of the nominating committee (Al Weber, Cliff Kierstead, or Kelvin Wilke). The current slate of candidates and positions should be in this issue of the newsletter.

At this point, there is no scheduled holiday party. However - if anyone would like to sign up to bring something to the December Chapter Meeting, please let me know.

UPCOMING CHAPTER MEETINGS

Wednesday, October 2, 2024, 7:00pm
The National Museum of Transportation
Lindburgh Automobile Center, 2nd Floor

MEETING MINUTES from September 4, 2024

The President called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. We will be meeting at The National Museum of Transportation for the foreseeable future.

New members & guests: None

Need to approve the August Minutes. A motion to approve the August meeting minutes was made by Kelvin Wilke and seconded by Rick Sprung. The motion was approved.

OFFICER REPORTS:

VP Program Director – Andy Sisk: Tonight, we will show a film on electric freight railroading up east. The October meeting program will be by David Huelsing presenting a program on the Rio Grande Valley Railroad. The November program will be by Bill Heger on Mo Pac passenger decline.

VP Trip Director – Rick Sprung: Did the Kansas City trip. Did the triangle trip. It is harder to run trips.

VP Membership – Mary Birdsell: Not present.

Treasurer – Steve Siegerist: We have money. See the treasurer's report.

Ron Gawedzinski (Investment fund): We received a donation last month. Dividend is holding steady. The Investment committee will meet in October.

Secretary – Bill Heger: No report.

National Advisory Committee Representative - Ron Gawedzinski: 200 people attended the NRHS convention in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. The next convention will be in Toledo, Ohio. The fall conference will be in Wilmington, Delaware in October.

Historian – Jean Myers: Not present

Railletter Editor – Wayne Rovig: Not present.

Internet Media Administrator – Steve Binning: No report.

Librarian: Vacant.

Parliamentarian - Ron Zimmer: Nothing to report.

President-David Huelsing: Steve Binning not present to receive 25-year pin.

Old Business: From August meeting motion made by Steve Siegerist: The Executive Committee has proposed a change in the Chapter dues. The bylaws require a presentation of a proposal to change the dues be made at one meeting and a vote to be at the next meeting. Therefore, I am making the motion at this meeting, after which someone will second the motion and there will be discussion. Then there will be a vote to table the motion until the September meeting, at which time a vote on the original motion will take place. The motion is, as recommended by the Executive Committee, that the annual St. Louis Chapter, NRHS, dues be revised to \$14.00 per year, starting with the 2025 calendar year. Payment can be made by check or cash to the Treasurer. If payment is made by PayPal, a \$1.00 convenience fee will be added. The initial motion was seconded by Ron Gawedzinski. A motion to table was made by Al Weber. The table motion was seconded by Ron Zimmer. The motion was tabled. Ron Zimmer made motion to unstable, seconded by Fred Blank. Steve Siegerist pointed out that we do not need the amount of money we once did. Rick Sprung added that the reduction may help to get new members. The motion to reduce the chapter dues was passed.

New Business: None.

News Items:

Ron Gawedzinski: He is trying to arrange a joint tour of Continental Fabricators. They are currently working on PRR T1.

Kelvin Wilke: Asked about the Big Boy. It will be going down the C&EI and Oak Hill line and to Desoto.

Rick Sprung: Union Station. All private cars are out. Tracks 7 and 8 will be cut at the fence. Ex Milwaukee storage cars are scrapped. Power added to the stubs. Only keep polar express and Union Station cars. November 15 will be the start of the Polar Express. Rick worked with BNSF in Seattle. He worked on the car *Glacier View*. The power car went out. One more trip, to Fort Worth.

Cliff Kierstead: Ran into former Kirkwood Mayor, Art McDonald. It looks like they have a viable bid for the Kirkwood Station renovation.

Andy Sisk: Tom Konisky passed. Val Dascho called and said he says he has a brief time to live.

Bill Heger: Mentioned Creve Coeur Branch photos. He talked about the grade crossing work on Brentwood Boulevard. Andy Sisk mentioned there was one grade crossing wreck on highway 40.

Andy Sisk: Boeing Train show coming up. The Wabash Railroad Historical Society annual meeting will be in Mexico, Missouri on the last Saturday in September.

We had a 50/50 drawing.

The motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Ron Gawedzinski and seconded by Fred Blank. The meeting adjourned at 7:19 PM.

Submitted by: Bill Heger
Secretary, St. Louis Chapter
National Railway Historical Society

A VISIT TO INTRAMOTEV

Joint Group Tour of Intramotev Co.

On Thursday, August 22, 2024, a joint group of rail fans from the Gateway Division NMRA and the St Louis Chapter NRHS toured Intramotev Co.

Intramotev is a startup company developing autonomous, battery-electric, self-propelled freight cars. It targets carload freight by retrofitting conventional equipment with autonomous, battery-electric propulsion systems that also can be operated by remote control, a railcar with the heart of a locomotive.

Intramotive has two primary products, TugVolt and ReVolt.

TugVolt can provide three modes of operation. First, it can run in a train just like any other freight car. Second is point-to-point operation, that combines conventional operation for the long-haul and autonomous or remote control operation for short-haul regional and local delivery. Third is using it like an autonomous or remote-control locomotive in local service.

ReVolt can recapture waste energy in traditional trains via regenerative braking and reduce locomotive diesel fuel consumption

Ken Vaughan of Intramotev Co. acted as our Tour Guide and gave us an extensive tour of the site, providing excellent explanations of what was going on.



Unfortunately we were not allowed to take pictures or videos due to confidential issues, the exception being the attached photos approved by Intramotev.

Tour arranged by Ron Gawedzinski, Outside Activity Coordinator, Gateway Division NMRA and St. Louis Chapter NRHS.



Ken Vaughan, Intramotev, on left, having safety meeting for tour attendees.

Confidential


Solutions


Remote or autonomous freight and material movement via railcar retrofitting


TugVolt: A self-propelled, battery electric freight railcar retrofit kit

- Applies to any car or commodity type (hopper, box, intermodal, flat, tank, autorack, etc.)
- Electric motors for propulsion and regenerative braking
- Battery energy storage
- Sensors and logic for autonomous or remote operation
- Onboard charger and air compressor
- Automated dump or load mechanisms available
- Needs required railcar components – air brakes, couplers, handbrakes


Operating modes:

- Independent autonomous or remote movement
- In a traditional train cooperating with locomotives
- Pulling up to 5 traditional railcars


Key Benefits:





30% to 80% reduction in total transportation cost versus trucking or traditional rail



Fully battery-electric = zero tailpipe emissions



Increased safety – humans physically removed from dangerous operations

The TugVolt system explained.

Solutions Confidential **ReVOLT.**

Recycling waste energy in traditional trains with distributed ReVolts


ReVolt: A self-propelled, battery electric freight railcar retrofit for creating hybrid unit trains

- Applies to any car or commodity type (hopper, box, intermodal, flat, tank, auto rack, etc.)
- Electric motors for propulsion and regenerative braking
- Battery energy storage
- Communications system to coordinate and integrate with locomotive
- Onboard charger and air compressor
- Keeps required railcar components – air brakes, couplers, handbrakes



ReVolt train at the Cumberland Mine in Western Pennsylvania

Key Benefits:

-  20% to 50% reduction in diesel cost
-  20% to 50% reduction in GHG emissions
-  Eliminate locomotives for distributed propulsion on high grade routes

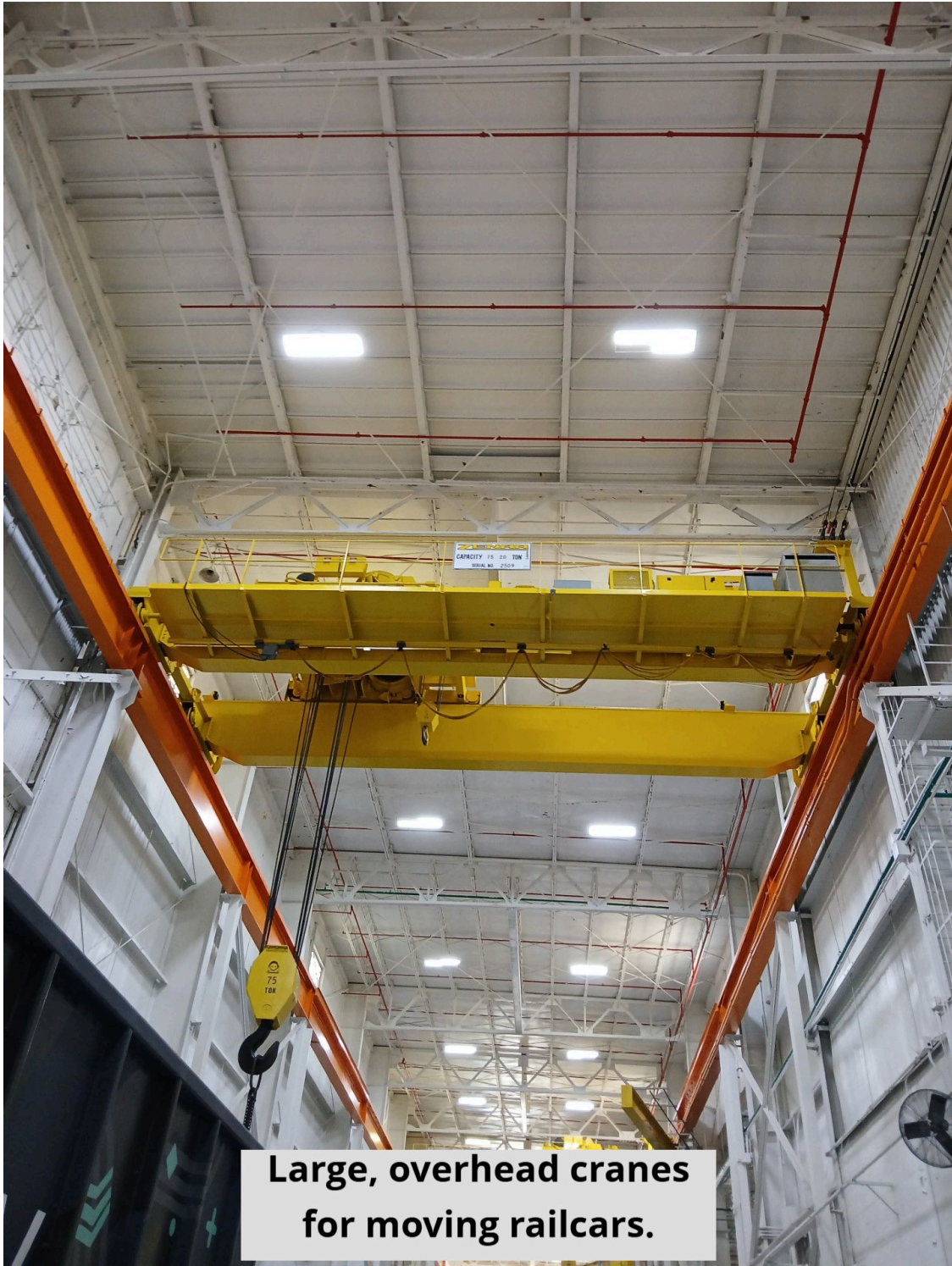
The ReVolt System Explained.



Performing demonstration of TugVolt system.



Test Hopper.



Large, overhead cranes for moving railcars.



Group photo, Gateway Div.--NMRA, St. Louis Chapter--NRHS and Intramotev Co. folks.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Arrangements have been made to have a Joint Group Gateway Division NMRA and St. Louis Chapter NRHS tour of Continental Fabricators, 5601 W Park Avenue, Saint Louis, Missouri, on **Friday, November 8, 2024, Time 3:45 PM to 5:30 PM.**

Continental Fabricators fabricates pressure vessels, towers, drums, etc. They also have special expertise in fabricating, restoring and rehabbing steam locomotive boilers. Presently, they are working on new additions to the pressure vessel, a 3-½ course boiler, and smoke box of Pennsylvania Railroad T1 No.5550 4-4-4-4 steam locomotive; also, a new boiler for Gulf & Ohio RR No. 112, 2-truck, 60 ton Shay, built in 1923. In the past, they have also completed 3-4 miniature boiler repairs for Wabash, Frisco and Pacific RR, a new boiler for Mid-Continent Railway Museum former Chicago & North Western No.1385 4-6-0, restored a boiler for U.S. Sugar Co. 4-6-2 No.148, furnished a boiler course with flue sheet and smokebox for Grapevine Tourist RR No. 1344.

We will tour the fabrication shop under actual working conditions. Attendance is limited to 30 people. PLEASE NOTE, the tour is on a weekday, Friday, in the late afternoon.

Safety Requirements: Tour of a Fabrication Shop under Actual Working Conditions! Safety is paramount! A safety meeting will be scheduled before tour starts, usually 5-10 minutes.

- Safety goggles – if you have them, bring them; regular eyeglasses with safety lens are acceptable.
- Earplugs are suggested as arc welding and other fabrication machinery can get loud.
- Not required -- safety shoes. No open-toed shoes. Wear a good pair of walking shoes.
- The facility is NOT ADA accessible in the shop areas as floor is rough and uneven. Floor is neither wheelchair nor walker friendly.
- General Rules: No high heels, no sandals or flip-flops, no weapons, no strollers, no back packs, duffel bags or cases. Shirts are required. Tour is conducted in a shops' environment where dust, dirt and noise will be encountered. Dress appropriately.
- Breaking into smaller groups, tours will visit many interesting areas of the site.
- Photos and videos from a distance will be OK, HOWEVER, no close or detailed photos of anything in process (example -- partial welds, pieces not fit-up 100%, etc.)

NOTE: This is a Group-Guided Tour. Tour attendees must drive their cars to the tour site. You should plan on arriving at the tour site at least 10 minutes before the tour start time. Tour will start promptly. **WE WILL NOT WAIT FOR LATECOMERS.**

More information will be coming later as to directions, parking, etc.

Sign-up sheets will be available at upcoming meetings, or you may contact Ron Gawedzinski, rwgawed@yahoo.com, or cellphone 214-675-6987.



SAINT LOUIS CHAPTER NRHS
PO BOX 220168
KIRKWOOD, MO 63122-0168

Dear St. Louis Chapter Member,

The Chapter starts its renewal cycle each year in October. We have lowered our Chapter dues to \$14.00 per family this year. We would like to have you as a member again in 2025.

Please fill out the attached form and return it to the address indicated. You may also return it at the Chapter meeting.

Thank you for your consideration

Eileen Weber
Vice President, Membership Services



St. Louis Chapter National Railway Historical Society Membership Form

Please type or print legibly, fill in all applicable data, sign and date with check or money order

Name		
Address		
City	State	Zip Code
Country, if not USA	Additional Family Member Name (if joining)	
Referred for Membership in St. Louis Chapter NRHS by:		
Have you previously been a Member of the National Railway Historical Society? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
Telephone	Cell	E-Mail
Occupation or Special Talents		

Regular Membership (\$14.00 Chapter + \$50.00 National) \$64.00

-Additional Family Member (\$7.00 National only)

Student Membership (\$10.00 Chapter + \$16.00 National) \$26.00

*****It is necessary to be a member of NRHS National to also join a Chapter****

****If you are already a National Member or paid National dues online (www.nrhs.com) you can just send Chapter Dues*****

*****PLEASE SEND SEPARATE CHECKS FOR NATIONAL AND LOCAL DUES*****

Remit To:
 St. Louis Chapter NRHS
 Membership VP
 PO Box 220168
 Kirkwood, MO 63122

Signature: _____ Date: _____
I agree to abide by the Constitution and By-Laws of the National Railway Historical Society

St. Louis Chapter NRHS 2025 Annual Membership Renewal

You will receive a renewal notice from NRHS National separately. National offers online renewal or mail in options. You are encouraged to process your National Membership online at <https://nrhs.com/membership/membership-renewals/>

National renewals can be processed by the Chapter. If you wish to mail them together, Include the **National form & Chapter form** with your payment(s). The Chapter will forward your check and National membership form to them.

SEPARATE CHECKS ARE REQUIRED FOR NATIONAL AND CHAPTER.

****CHAPTER RENEWALS CANNOT BE DONE ONLINE:**

<https://www.stlouisnrhs.org/ContactUs.html>

An additional \$1.00 fee is charged for this service.

It is necessary to be a member in good standing with NRHS National to also be a Chapter Member.

Regular **National** membership is \$50.00 [Additional members of your family & individuals living in the same household may also become members for just \$7.00 per year]

Student **National** Membership is \$16.00

Regular **Chapter** Membership is \$14.00 (does not include National Membership)

Student **Chapter** Membership is \$10.00 (does not include National Student Membership)

For chapter membership, please include \$1.00 extra if paying by credit card.

Make check(s) payable to:

Chapter Check - St. Louis Chapter NRHS

National Check - NRHS

Please fill out and include the included membership form(s) and mail to"

St. Louis Chapter NRHS

Membership VP

P.O. Box 220168

Kirkwood, MO 63122-0168

****RENEWALS ARE DUE BY DECEMBER 31 2024**

END OF AN ERA

Photo and text by Rick Sprung



The last three private cars stored at St. Louis Union Station were switched out on Wednesday, September 4. On the left, the Royal Street and Cimarron River have been set out for Amtrak to pick up for a private charter to Chicago, Washington DC, New York and Philadelphia then back to Chicago. On the right, the station's SW1 switcher has set out Hollywood Beach for pickup by the Terminal Railroad Association to deliver to Gateway Rail in Madison, IL. Union Station is shortening two of the four tracks to expand their entertainment area by The Wheel, thus only Union Station's five cars and power car plus any cars associated with Polar Express will remain.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN CONTRIBUTING TO **THE GATEWAY RAILLETTER**, THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING CONTENT IS THE 20TH OF THE MONTH TO BE INCLUDED IN THE FOLLOWING MONTH'S ISSUE. **THE GATEWAY RAILLETTER** IS PUBLISHED MONTHLY ON OR BEFORE THE 25TH OF THE MONTH.

[View email in browser](#)

[update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe](#)

