



WISCONSIN & SOUTHERN RAILROAD

MAKING TRACKS

May 2008

A Newsletter designed to inform interested people on new developments that are taking place on the Railroad that serves their Communities

SERVING THE FOLLOWING COUNTIES

Columbia, Crawford, Dane, Dodge, Fond du Lac, Grant, Green, Green Lake, Iowa, Jefferson, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Richland, Rock, Sauk, Sheboygan, Walworth, Washington, Waukesha, Winnebago

WSOR BIDS FAREWELL TO THE SD20 UNITS

An era has officially drawn to a close in Wisconsin & Southern Railroad Co. locomotive power history. As 2007 ended, only one SD20 locomotive out of a fleet that once numbered six, remained in service. Four have been sold and one other remains at Horicon in retirement with a broken crankshaft, serving as a parts source. Recently, WSOR president and CEO William Gardner announced to WSOR employees that six "used but relatively new" MP15's were being purchased to replace the SD20's. *"The SD20's have been on property for over ten years and have done their job well for us, stated Mr. Gardner. These units were the first six-axle units that pulled many trains to Chicago over the past years when train sizes grew to where they are now"*, he added. The SD20's will be remembered by line-side observers and employees alike as they ushered in a new page in WSOR's varied motive power history.

It was in 1995 that WSOR first began using SD20 locomotives as a 60-day trial period and as additional power to WSOR's fleet of GP38's. The very next year, WSOR leased two more units that were brought online in February 1996. To fully cover two trains operating between Chicago and Janesville seven days a week, six engines were needed, so the SD20 fleet was filled out to six total with the addition of two more SD20's in May 1996. While all six were initially leased, the units were eventually purchased and became the primary fleet that serviced the Chicago-bound traffic throughout the rest of the 1990s.

Tonnage and car sizes continued to increase, and the SD20's soon were in need of relief. In 2002, WSOR purchased six SD40-2's to replace the SD20's in Chicago service. The SD20's were then moved to locals and switching service out of Janesville and Madison. A pair of SD20's could easily handle 25 grain loads plus commercial traffic on any of the jobs working from these two terminals to such places as Monroe, Prairie du Chien, or Elkhorn. To provide further efficiencies, the WSOR invested in a new fleet of GP38's and its first fleet of MP15's to provide yard terminal switching and some line haul movements. As a result, the SD20's became obsolete and were eventually phased out of locomotive service. **And so it is farewell to another WSOR legend: the SD20.**

Story by Paul Swanson



SD20 2054 leads a unit coal train at McFarland, WI, destined for Madison, WI in 2006. Jason Nates photo.



WSOR 1848 displays a Sesquicentennial paint scheme. Later renumbered to 2051, this was the last SD20 in service. Robert Eineke photo taken at Mazomanie, WI July 28, 1999.

WSOR RECEIVES NATIONAL HONORS TO COMMEMORATE EMPLOYEE SAFETY

“2007 JAKE AWARD” as presented by ASLRRRA

On April 25, 2008, it was announced that WSOR received the 2007 American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association “Jake” Award for keeping frequency and severity of injuries under the industry average. Each employee’s commitment to safety has been recognized collectively as a distinguished company striving to make the railroad industry the safest means for transporting freight across our country. In a prepared statement, WSOR President Bill Gardner stated *“It’s an honor to be nationally recognized by the ASLRRRA as a recipient for the 2007 Jake Award. The entire Wisconsin & Southern organization worked hard for to improve our employee safety record in 2007 and we are pleased to accept this prestigious award”*, he added.

The American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association (ASLRRRA) is a non-profit trade association that represents the interests of more than 400 short line and regional railroad members in legislative and regulatory matters. Today, short line and regional railroads operate and maintain 29 percent of the American railroad industry's route mileage, and account for 9 percent of the rail industry's freight revenue and 11 percent of railroad employment across the United States.

“Certificate of Commendation” as presented by E.H. Harriman Memorial Institute

On April 23, 2008, the E.H. Harriman Memorial Institute Board of Directors announced the recipients of “Certificates of Commendation” for being most improved in terms of employee safety from 2006 to 2007 among railroads containing more than 250,000 man-hours but less than 4,000,000 man-hours. Wisconsin & Southern was amongst those receiving this honor. Wisconsin & Southern will officially accept its awards at an awards luncheon to be held in Washington D.C. on Wednesday, May 14th, 2008.

Certificates of Commendation are awarded to railroads with continuous gains in employee safety improvements over a three-year period and showing the most improvement between 2006 and 2007. The Harriman Awards was founded by the late Mrs. Mary W. Harriman in memory of her husband, Edward H. Harriman, an American legend in railroading. Today, certificates and awards are administered under the auspices of the E.H. Harriman Memorial Awards Institute, with support from the Mary W. Harriman Foundation.

WSOR CONDUCTS EMERGENCY RESPONDER TRAINING

Spring Grove, IL – On March 15, 2008, WSOR participated in a training exercise for local emergency responders from McHenry, Lake, and Cook Counties, Illinois. This mock training exercise was to familiarize emergency responders with railroad equipment and how to communicate with other emergency responders in the event a real life situation were to occur involving railway equipment and a motor vehicle. The mock crash scenario included the extrication of two injured passengers from a wrecked vehicle that had recently collided with a northbound freight train. The train’s crew including the locomotive engineer was also extricated from the locomotive cab. Wisconsin & Southern’s Bob Witzack stated the following: *“The firefighters and emergency responders showed a high level of professionalism. It was a very creditable and successful exercise that will give them practical experience to deal with an actual emergency, if it should occur.”*

Over fifty emergency responders and four volunteers (who posed as injured parties) participated in the exercise, which lasted for over four hours. Previous to the event and as preparation for the exercise, WSOR hosted classroom training at the Spring Grove firehouse. Each year, the WSOR works with local and regional emergency response agencies throughout Wisconsin and Northern Illinois as part of our commitment to safety of our employees, the public, and the communities we serve.



WSOR KICKS-OFF NEW SAFETY PROGRAM

To commence the second quarter of 2008, the WSOR kicked off a new Employee Safety Program that will run from April 1 to November 30, 2008. The “Pot of Gold” Safety Program was given a starting balance of \$100,000. Each week there are no human error incidents or reportable injuries the value of the pot will remain in tact. At the end of November, all remaining proceeds in the “Pot of Gold” will be shared equally amongst all full time employees of the WSOR.

The National Awards that WSOR earned in 2007 reflect the on-going commitment of our employees. The WSOR Safety and Health Committee would like to thank all employees for their efforts to make our workplace a safe one. Each employee’s dedication to safety is appreciated and we would like to take this opportunity to recognize all employees who have achieved over 5 years without a reportable injury.

5 YEARS AND UP

BIERMAN, DAVID J.
CESAR, DONALD J.
DALEY, SANDRA L.
DAVISON, ERIC D.
EINEKE, ROBERT L.
FALKNER, DOUGLAS J.
HAASE, JOSEPH A.
HASHEIDER, ROBERT H.
HEILGENTHAL, ROBERT J.
HENDERSON, LLOYD
HIMMELMANN, ROBERT A.
HOFFMAN, TIMOTHY A.
HUYBERS, JAMIE L.
IMMEL, SUZANNE M.
LOBERG, GILBERT J.
LOVELL, WILLIAM G.
MCCORMICK, GEOFF D.
MILLER, BRYAN A.
MUELLER, CATHERINE A.
PALMER, KERI L.
PINGEL, DONALD H.
POSTOTNIK, KEVIN J.
REINERT, JOHN
ROSE, BRIAN D.
SCHAALMA, ROGER P.
TATOR, JAMES F.
TILLMAN, ANTHONY
TORIS, CAROL L.
WALTMAN, MARSHA J.
WEBB, FRANK B.
WILLIAMS, ROBERT J.

BUECHEL SR., DAVID J.
CLARK, DUANE A.
COOLEY, DENNIS J.
COOLEY, GARY L.
COX, JUSTIN S.
DAENTL, BRIAN
FIGY, GARY Y.
GOEDEN, TIMOTHY W.
HACKBARTH, DAVID C.
HURDA, STACEY L.
IVERSON, TODD E.
JOHNSON, GREGORY O.
KARP, TIMOTHY J.
KESSLER, TROY A.
KINCADE, JEAN A.
KRAMER, JOSHUA W.
KRAUSE, MARK A.
LANG, STEVEN C.
LOMBARD, JAMES V.
MULROONEY, TODD C.
O’CONNOR, RICHARD G.
SAGE, LOUIS P.
SANDERSON, GARY
SCHWANKE, DONALD R.
SMET, JOHN M.
SWANSON, PAUL K.
TISLER, WALTER A.
WITZACK, ROBERT C.
WOLFF, MICHAEL
ZABEL, GUY R.
ZIRBEL, MICHAEL R.

GROTH, STEVEN R.
KAHLOW, GEORGE A.
MEIGHAN, BERNARD M.
TRAEEDER, RODNEY W.
HUSTON, LLOYD
OLSON, TODD D.
ASEN, KIT WAYNE
FOECKLER, ERIC R.
KUDICK, TERRY L.
MEYER, KARL R.
MORSE, MACAULLEY M.
RYAN, DONALD L.
TJEPKEMA, GERALD
WAGNER, JOSEPH F.
BEILFUSS, JOHN M.
BULLION, DAVID G.
CLOVER, BERT H.
COENEN, ROBBY J.
DIESTLER, MATTHEW J.
FALK, JOHN A.
HECKMANN, ROBERT A.
HESS, SEAN M.
LAU, KENNETH R.
LUCHT, KENNETH B.
MARTIN, TRAVIS L.
NOBLE, JERRY W.
ROSE, MATTHEW B.
TANK, DANIEL L.
TANK, DOUGLAS L.
WELKER, GREGORY A.
ZAVALA, EDUARDO

WSOR’S PAINT SHOP & LOCOMOTIVE DEPT.

What’s Happening?

The Horicon Paint Shop continues its reputation as a state-of-the-art paint shop facility. Recently, the facility fulfilled contracts to paint six new EMD locomotives in the Class 1 BNSF paint scheme and a bid has been submitted by WSOR to do an additional 16 units for both testing and painting through September of this year. This year yet, the car shop will paint five units for the Indiana Railroad along with eight for the DM&E Railroad. The paint shop will also satisfy contracts with other customers such as the EJ&E, CCS, and Illinois Railway Museum.



Despite the weather, the Horicon and Janesville Locomotive Shops have had a very challenging and busy winter. In addressing immediate and long-term personnel needs, the Locomotive Department at Horicon has put on a third shift focused primarily on servicing locomotives for next day early departure. On the equipment side, the locomotive shop continues to work on WSOR equipment to customize for our needs and to meet federal regulations. This year, our E-Unit Locomotives the 101 and 103 have had new ditch lights and pilots installed along with new paint. A complete conversion will be done this year on the 102 (B-unit) from a steam generator to a working B-unit. Six MP15’s have been added to our fleet and put into service. These six units will be going through WSOR’s car shop for body repairs before the new paint scheme is applied.

At Janesville, the extended cold season this year required extra maintenance of our existing fleet of 24 locomotives on the Southern Division. Extra time and effort was necessary to keeping the underside of truck assemblies maintained due to ice and snow conditions as well as keeping the locomotives themselves free of ice and snow buildup for crew safety. Additionally, spark arrestors continue to be installed on our blower equipped locomotives. The spark arrestors reduce the risk of hot carbon particles coming out of the stack and causing a fire. Janesville locomotive continues to turn wheels in Janesville. In the last year, we cut 158 wheels, requiring 1264 man hours. This maintenance is an important part of our Mechanical Department maintenance program. Maintaining proper wheel profile is critical to the wheel / rail interaction as well as reducing wheel wear and improving fuel economy.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MILWAUKEE WI, January 15, 2008— Wisconsin & Southern Railroad awarded thirty-two employees with employee anniversary pins for their accomplished years of employment. Employees reaching the following tenure were given anniversary pins: 5 Years, 10 Year, 15 Years & 20 Years. Special recognition goes to those employees working 20 Years: Dennis Cooley, John Smet, John Beilfuss, Duane Clark & Stefan Romanski. Those employees working 15 Years are: Brian Daentl, Ross Olson, Michael Wolff, Dave Hackbarth, John Falk, Walter Tisler & Jean Kincade. Congratulations to all employees for your hard work and dedication to safety!

JANESVILLE, WI, April 24, 2008— WSOR President Bill Gardner hosted a “barbeque” luncheon for employees of the Janesville Locomotive Department to congratulate them for working 1 year without a reportable injury. Bill Gardner handed out railroad watches to each employee to reward them for their safety record.

MADISON, WI, June 9-13, 2008—The Dupont “Tank Car Trainer” will be at Johnson St. Yard for education and demonstration purposes. Wisconsin & Southern Railroad and the Dupont Company will provide instruction on railroad tank cars in half-day sessions. All awareness and technical sessions will be available to rail shippers, emergency responders, governmental emergency officials, and railroad employees.



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