



IOWA RAILS

IOWA ASSOCIATION OF RAILROAD PASSENGERS

AUGUST 2006

IARP to meet in Ottumwa

Our next meeting is Saturday, September 9, 2006, Sirloin Stockade, 2645 Northgate Avenue, Ottumwa, Iowa 52501. The phone number is (641) 682-8731.

Attendees may enjoy an optional lunch at 11:30 a.m. The program and business meeting will begin at 1:00 p.m. Meals will be paid for by each individual participating in the lunch.

The program includes:

Pat Hendricks, President, IARP
Passenger rail update

Topics:

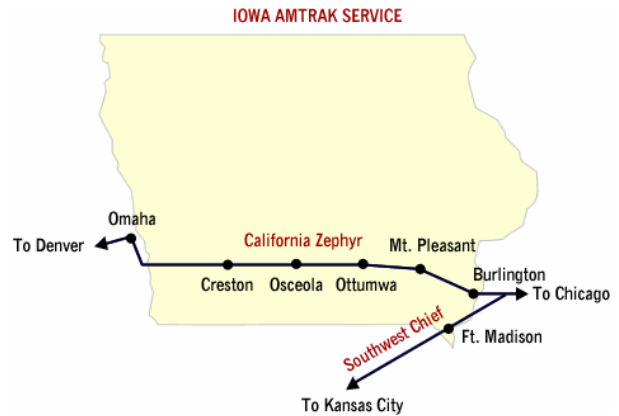
Federal legislation supporting the national rail passenger system

The public is invited and welcome and encouraged to attend the program and meeting.



After the meeting, we will be able to visit the Wapello County Historical Museum that is located on the 2nd Floor of the Amtrak Depot.

The museum is open from noon to 4:00 pm and is located five miles (10 minutes) from our meeting location.



Ottumwa is one of Iowa's six Amtrak station stops.

California Zephyr schedule for Ottumwa is
East Bound 9:39 am
West Bound 6:43 pm

There were 10,840 riders at the Ottumwa station in Amtrak fiscal year 2005.

Ottumwa FACTS

The first railroad came to Ottumwa on September 1, 1859. Ottumwa was soon to become a center for the railroads as well as a manufacturing and wholesale center. In 1860 Ottumwa has a population of 1,632 that grew to more than 5,000 people by 1870.

At one time, there were 57 passenger trains on seven lines crossing Wapello County every day. In its heyday, the Burlington Railroad alone handled 40,360 freight cars each month through its Ottumwa terminal.



Imagine the above rail car in University of Iowa Hawkeye colors. Imagine the above rail car full of passengers riding from Coralville to a football game at Kinnick Stadium.

For the past two years, The Hawkeye Express provided train service leasing the 11-car Ski Train. An average of 3,000 passengers per game rode the train.

This year the Hawkeye Express will use ex-Chicago North Western/Chicago METRA bi-level commuter cars. These commuter cars and a bi-level commuter cab car were purchased by Dan Sabin, president of The Iowa Northern Railway. An Amtrak F-40 678 locomotive was also purchased. More passengers will be able to ride in fewer cars.

Four cars in the paint scheme shown above will be used in the Montana game – Saturday, September 6, 2006. Another car is being painted in the Iowa Hawkeye colors. When it is finished being painted, it will be added to the train. Another car will be removed from the train. The cars will be painted one by one. Eventually, all the cars will be in the Iowa Hawkeye Colors.

The bi-level commuter cab-controlled car (also to be painted in Hawkeye colors) will be part of the Hawkeye Express later.

The University of Iowa has signed a five-year contract for the equipment to run The Hawkeye Express.

If you go to the Iowa Northern website, you see the following message

Welcome to
the Iowa Northern
Railway Company

Home of the Hawkeye Express

Why imagine – ride the Hawkeye Express and see for yourself.

*Information was obtained from IARP member Kenneth May (Iowa DOT “Iowa Railroad Times”, July 2006) and the Hawkeye Express Volunteer Car Host Training/Safety Class held in Waterloo, Iowa.

IARP members promote rail at the Iowa State Fair

IARP President Pat Hendricks and Excursion Chair Eliot Keller promoted rail at the Iowa State Fair. They helped staff the Iowa Department of Transportation Office of Rail Transportation Booth. IARP brochures and Iowa Office of Rail Transportation brochures were distributed to the public.

Iowa DOT has sent IARP the following *thank you* for helping with their booth:

I'm sending each of you a **BIG** thank you for helping staff our State Fair Booth this year. We would not be able to have a State Fair booth without the help of you folks. It is quite a commitment to have it staffed from 9:00 AM to 9:00 PM for ten consecutive days. This year went smoothly and everyone was able to work their shift or found a replacement. We received positive comments from fair goers. The safety aspect we added to the display brought positive comments from teachers and firefighters. Of course, the little kids always love watching the video showing the trains.

Any comments you have regarding our booth would be appreciated. We encourage feedback from you volunteers to help make a decision if the effort is worthwhile and you thought it was beneficial.

Once again.....**THANK YOU** for making my job of getting volunteers to work the fair easier. Without you, the Rail Office couldn't have done it!!

Mary Jo Key
Program Manager
Office of Rail Transportation



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Cedar Rapids Light Rail Initiative

The Cedar-Iowa River Rail Transit Project hired R. L. Banks & Associates of Washington, D.C. to conduct a feasibility study of the proposed project connecting Cedar Rapids, Iowa City and Amana. Their work began in December. This feasibility study is not yet complete. The results should be available in November.

*Celebration of the 150th year of the First Railroad
Bridge Over the Mississippi River
Davenport, Iowa/Rock Island, Illinois*

September 14-17, 2006

This celebration will host special attractions, including:

- ✧ Steam locomotive day trips and dinner excursions
- ✧ Steam boat trips on the Celebration Belle River Cruise
- ✧ A hologram of the original bridge over the Mississippi River
- ✧ Themed railroad exhibits at various venues
- ✧ Mississippi Adventure Race, 1st Annual Taming of the Slough
- ✧ Group discounts on train rides, boat rides, hotel rooms, museums and more
- ✧ Story telling events at ten venues
- ✧ Metrolink bus shuttles to various venues
- ✧ Education materials distributed to schools

The excursions will be powered by two Chinese built QJ locomotives, #6988 and #7081. The locomotives were built in China in 1985 and 1986 respectively. Locomotive #7081 finished its career by having the honor of pulling the world's last regularly scheduled steam powered passenger train. This event occurred on December 7, 2005 on the run between Daban and Chabuga, China. Locomotive # 6988 finished its career powering the last steam revenue freight train over the same route on December 8, 2005.

Thursday, September 14	Dinner Train – Great to see Hologram of the original bridge First Class \$129 Premium Class \$179
Friday, September 15	Rock Island to Iowa City/Homestead round trip Coach \$79 First Class \$169 Premium Class \$259
Saturday, September 16	Rock Island to Bureau Junction round trip Coach \$99 First Class \$199 Premium Class \$299
Sunday, September 17	Rock Island to Muscatine Celebration Cruise River Boat – one way Train the opposite direction Coach \$99 First Class \$149 Premium Class \$199

For additional information, visit the website www.visitquadcities.com or call 1-800-747-7800.

Mount Pleasant, Iowa AMTRAK Depot

At the last IARP meeting, Cathy Johnson proposed that IARP paint lines in the parking lot. By doing so, cars will be able to park closer and allow more cars to park in the lot.

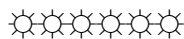
A motion was made, seconded and approved by the membership in attendance at the meeting that IARP would pay up to \$150 to paint these lines. President Pat Hendricks would find out who is the owner of the parking lot.

IARP President Pat Hendricks was able to learn that the city of Mount Pleasant is the owner of the parking lot. We are still waiting on permission from the city.



The Omaha Streetcar commission has been holding public meetings in the Omaha area to create more support for the streetcar.

We will try to have information from the August 30, 2006, public forum at the IARP meeting.



In addition to Omaha, the following cities have proposed streetcar or trolley lines

Atlanta, GA	Fairfax VA (Washington DC area)
Columbus Ohio	Dayton, Ohio
Issaquah, Washington	Little Rock Arkansas
Los Angeles CA	New York, NY (Brooklyn Historic Railway Assoc) (Village Crosstown Trolley Coalition)
Philadelphia, PA	Rochester, NY
Salt Lake City, UT	San Diego CA

In addition to the Cedar Rapids/Coralville area, several cities have proposed light rail stems.

Columbus Ohio, Chicago, Illinois, Cincinnati, Ohio, Madison Wisconsin, Milwaukee, WI and adding to the Minneapolis line. These are only a few of the cities on the proposed list.

Information on light rail & trolley systems (existing and proposed) can be found at the American Public Transportation website. www.apta.com

TEXAS ASSOC. OF RAIL PASSENGERS ELECTS NEW PRESIDENT

Former IARP president, Henry Wulff was recently elected president of The Texas Association of Rail Passengers.

IARP CONTACTS

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Director: [Judy Risvold](#),
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