

You have been sent the ASLRRRA newsletter, *Views & News*, in HTML format. If your e-mail viewer will not accept this format, you can view *Views & News* online at: http://www.aslrra.org/news_publications/Views_News/

American Short Line and
Regional Railroad Association's

VIEWS & NEWS



VOLUME 78

NUMBER 14

July 15, 2009

Upcoming Events

2009 Central/Pacific
Region Meeting
August 15-18, 2009
Seattle, WA

2009 Eastern Region
Meeting
October 11-13, 2009
Indianapolis, IN

2009 Southern Region
Meeting
November 8-10, 2009
Panama City Beach, FL

2010 Annual
Convention
May 1-4, 2010
Hilton Bonnet Creek
Orlando, FL

Click the link below to
visit the ASLRRRA
Classified Ads



Make sure to forward
Views & News on to your
colleagues and staff!

[Click here to unsubscribe
from Views & News](#)

Currently, Railroad
Security Alert Level 2
is in Effect

IN THIS ISSUE

[ASLRRRA Welcomes More New Members](#)
[Hours Of Service Update, Including Latest On Waiver Filing](#)
[Track And Bridge Inspection Training Class Added To
Central/Pacific Meeting Program](#)
[Elliott Nominated To Chair STB](#)
[Umler Cutover Schedule Finalized](#)
[Court Lifts Stay Of Direct Observation Urine Testing](#)
[Kentucky Enacts State Tax Credit For Its Short Lines](#)
[RRB Releases Five-Year Plan, Asks For Comment](#)
[Need For Correct Transborder Billing Emphasized](#)
[FRA Releases Preliminary Safety Stats For Jan-Apr, 2009](#)
[Rail Safety Act Crossing Mandates Approaching](#)
[FRA Safety Research Paper Available On ASLRRRA Website](#)
[CN Completes EJ&E Absorption](#)
[Second Half Gateway Performance Meeting Schedule](#)
[AAR Updates About Relocation, Retirement](#)
[Last Look At Short Line Marketing Initiatives](#)
[U.S. Crop Plantings Down Slightly In 2009, USDA Reports](#)
[Word On Wellness: Diet And Nutrition](#)
[Conferences Coming Up](#)
[Members In The News](#)
[More Industry News](#)
[Class I RR Traffic, Through Second Quarter, 2009](#)
[RMI RailConnect Short Line Traffic Index](#)
[Helpful Links](#)

ASLRRRA WELCOMES MORE NEW MEMBERS

ASLRRRA's Cheryl Huyck and Eileen Keane report on companies that have recently joining the association:

With great pleasure, we welcome the following new Railroad Members:

Bay Coast Railroad: Bay Coast Railroad operates 70 miles of track in Virginia and Maryland. The railroad interchanges with CSX, NS and NPBL. The railroad can be contacted at P.O. Box 312, 202 Mason Avenue, Cape Charles, VA 23310 and their main number is (757) 331-1094. Bay Coast Railroad's website is www.varail.com/baycoast.htm and their fax number is (757) 331-2772. Please contact VP-Operations Larry LeMond at llemond@baycoastrailroad.com.

Cimarron Valley Railroad, LLC: Cimarron Valley Railroad operates 259 miles of track in Kansas, Oklahoma and Colorado. The railroad interchanges with BNSF. The railroad can be contacted at P.O. Box 1444, Ogden, UT 84402 and their main number is (801) 621-5311. Their fax number is (801) 393-7733. Please contact Executive Vice President Greg Kissel at greg@thewesterngroup.net.

Dakota Northern Railroad: Dakota Northern Railroad operates 65 miles of track in North Dakota. The railroad interchanges with BNSF. The railroad can be contacted at P.O. Box 705, Crookston, MN 56716 and their main number is (218) 281-1750. Their fax number is (218) 281-4705. Please contact General Manager George LaPray at mnn@rrv.net.

Grand Elk Railroad: Grand Elk Railroad operates 123 miles of track in Michigan and Indiana. The railroad interchanges with NS and six other railroads. The railroad's office is located at 75 Mills Street, Kalamazoo, MI 49048 and their main number is (269) 553-0716. Their website is www.watcocompanies.com and their fax number is (866) 288-8103. Please contact General Manager Rodney Gordon at rgordon@watcocompanies.com.

Ohi-Rail Corporation: Ohi-Rail Corporation operates 44 miles of track in Ohio. The railroad interchanges with NS and WLE. The railroad's office is located at 916 Vine St., Connersville, IN 47331 and their main number is (765) 825-0316. Their fax number is (765) 825-1237. Please contact Vice President Rich Delatore at rdelatore@schappaandcompany.com.

St. Croix Valley Railroad: St. Croix Valley Railroad operates 35 miles of track in Minnesota. The railroad interchanges with BNSF. The railroad can be contacted at P.O. Box 705, Crookston, MN 56716 and their main number is (218) 281-1750. Their fax number is (218) 281-4705. Please contact General Manager George LaPray at mnn@rrv.net.

Vermilion Valley Railroad: Vermilion Valley Railroad operates 8 miles of track in Indiana and Illinois. The railroad interchanges with CSX. The railroad's office is located at 916 Vine St., Connersville, IN 47331 and their main number is (765) 825-0316. Their fax number is (765) 825-1237. Please contact President Powell Felix at ibcx@webworks2000.net.

Youngstown & Southeastern Railroad: Youngstown & Southeastern Railroad operates 37 miles of track in Ohio and Pennsylvania. The railroad interchanges with NS, CSX, and the MVRV. The railroad's office is located at 916 Vine St., Connersville, IN 47331 and their main number is (765) 825-0316. The fax number for Youngstown & Southeastern Railroad is (765) 825-1237. Please contact President Powell Felix at ibcx@webworks2000.net.

And with equal pleasure, we also welcome the following new Associate Members:

Clayton Railroad Construction: Clayton Railroad Construction specializes in bridge construction and repair. They also work in general construction and contracting for the railroad industry. They are located at 500 Lane Rd., West Union, OH 45693 and their main number is (937) 515-1644. Clayton Railroad Construction's fax number is (937) 549-8812. Please contact Superintendent & Risk Manager Jim McAdams, Jr. at jmcadamsjr@claytonconstructionsite.com.

EI Systems Corporation: EI Systems provides rail yard management solutions to the industrial shipper market using RFID/AEI technology in fixed and handheld scanners to document inbound and outbound railcar traffic and to record car status and locations within a client's rail yard. EI Systems is located at 17625 El Camino Real, Suite 180, Houston, TX 77058 and their main number is (281) 286-8000. Their website is www.eisystemscorp.com and their fax number is (281) 286-8003. Please contact VP of Sales and Marketing Clif Twaddle at clif.twaddle@eisystemscorp.com.

Gordon Redd Lumber Company, Inc.: Gordon Redd Lumber Company is a fully-integrated manufacturer of high grade creosote treated southern pine bridge timber, ties, lumber, and piling, produced to order. Gordon Redd Lumber can be contacted at P.O. Box 654, Brookhaven, MS 39602 and their main number is (601) 833-2311 or 601-833-6524. Their fax number is (601) 833-7365. Please contact President Gordon Redd at gredd1@bellsouth.net.

Tioga Applied Concepts, LLC: Tioga Applied Concepts provides high value solutions to low density markets, specifically focusing on FRA compliance requirements as they apply to small railroads. They can be contacted at P.O. Box 225, Owego, NY 13827 and their main number is (607) 761-3022. Tioga Applied Concept's website is www.tiogaappliedconcepts.com and their fax number is (866) 302-5461. Please contact Operating Manager Tom Clark at tc@tiogaappliedconcepts.com.

Correction concerning Insurica Kansas: Insurica Kansas is a new associate member mentioned in our last edition.; however, we incorrectly listed their fax number. Their correct fax is (913) 888-4699.

Are you aware of a company with different products or services than your own and interested in heightening their visibility to short line and regional railroads? Then let Cheryl Huyck know, so that she may acquaint them with the many benefits of becoming an ASLRRRA associate member. Email Cheryl at chuyck@aslrra.org or phone her at (202) 585-3431.

HOURS OF SERVICE UPDATE, INCLUDING LATEST ON WAIVER FILING

The following hours of service update, including the latest on ASLRRRA's filing of a petition for waiver and pilot project, is provided by its VP & General Counsel, Keith Borman:

THE HOURS OF SERVICE PROVISIONS CONTAINED IN THE RAIL SAFETY IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2008 BECOME EFFECTIVE ON JULY 16, 2009 AND EACH RAILROAD MUST COMPLY WITH THEM ON THAT DATE. KEY PROVISIONS INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

- No train service employee may exceed 276 hours of total service (including non-train "co-mingled" service hours such as training or 'limbo' time) during any calendar month.
- No train service employee may remain or go on duty for a period in excess of 12 consecutive hours.
- No train service employee may remain or go on duty unless the employee has had at least 10 consecutive hours off duty during the prior 24 hours.
- No train service employee may remain or go on duty for six consecutive days unless the employee has had at least 48 consecutive hours off duty (unless the employee completed the sixth day of work at an away-from-home terminal in which case the employee may work a seventh consecutive day).
- Except as noted above concerning a sixth work day at away-from-home terminals, no train service employee may remain or go on duty for seven consecutive days unless the employee has had at least 72 consecutive hours off duty at the home terminal and there is a collective bargaining agreement or a pilot program such as the one proposed in ASLRRRA's Waiver Petition that provides for such a schedule.

- The employee must maintain a personal log of his daily hours. The railroad may maintain the log for the employee based on information given to the railroad by the employee, but the employee must sign the log at the end of the month certifying its accuracy.

ASLRRA is in the process of filing a Petition for Waiver and Pilot Project seeking relief from the 276 hour limitation and the provisions limiting six and seven day work schedules. The FRA is required to publish the Petition in the Federal Register and give the public an opportunity to comment, so it will not grant or otherwise rule on the Petition before the new statutory hours of service laws go into effect. You should take necessary steps to comply with the new law beginning on July 16, 2009. While ASLRRA has learned that FRA will not commence training inspectors about enforcement of the new hours of service requirements until mid-August and ASLRRA in its Petition is asking FRA to grant its Waiver request effective as of July 16, the effective date of the new law, there is no assurance of what FRA will do in either instance and compliance with the new law is the appropriate response.

This is meant to serve as a reminder of the effective date and to highlight the provisions which will most affect Class II and Class III railroads. There are other requirements covering topics such as limbo time and hours of service limitations on signal employees which are not enumerated here because they primarily affect class I operations.

TRACK AND BRIDGE INSPECTION TRAINING CLASS ADDED TO CENTRAL-PACIFIC MEETING PROGRAM

The ASLRRA has added a two-day track and bridge training session covering 49 CFR Parts 213 and 214 to the upcoming Central/Pacific Region Meeting lineup, August 16-18.

Led by FRA Track Specialist, Kenneth Rusk, Monday morning's training will cover the minimum safety requirements for railroad track that is part of the general system of transportation. This seminar is designed to teach the Track Safety Standards - CFR 213, while recognizing the special needs of short lines and contractors and will outline the responsibilities and qualifications required for compliance with FRA regulations, including the designation of supervisory personnel whose responsibilities oversee the renewal and inspection of all classes of track.

In this session, attendees will go over the particular aspects of the right of way and the areas immediately adjacent to it. Areas of focus will cover the track structure, including ties, tie plates, ballast, bars spikes, and clips. You will gain an understanding of the various types and frequency of inspections on conventional bolted rail or continuous welded rail. Corrective actions and preventive maintenance will be covered for both types of track structures. Special emphasis is placed on: Excepted Track; Drainage; Defective Ties; Vegetation; Gage; Curve Theory; Rail & Joint Bar Defects; and Turnout Inspections.

Monday afternoon and Tuesday morning, FRA Structural Engineer David Killingbeck will address the essential elements of a bridge management program. The ASLRRA Bridge Committee has finalized its recommendations for bridge management and inspections for the short line industry. The topics covered in this session will include development of a bridge inspection and management program, when and how to engage the services of an engineer, typical bridge problems and some solutions, and some indicators that a non-engineer can use to detect signs of potential trouble. We will also discuss current FRA policy regarding railroad bridges and tunnels, as well as cost. The presentation is intended for operating officials of short line and regional railroads who have maintenance of way functions as part of their responsibility. The structural portion will center on ways to avoid train accidents or serious damage to bridges that could be caused by neglect, overloads, natural conditions, or improper repair work. It will also include general information that should be useful in extending the useful safe life of the bridges owned by the railroad. Timber, steel, and masonry bridges will be included.

The session will close out on Tuesday with Mr. Killingbeck covering Bridge Worker Safety. This portion will center on practical application of fall protection for bridge workers, and how to assure compliance with FRA Bridge Worker Safety regulations in 49 CFR 214.

Attendees will be provided a certificate of attendance. In addition to this educational session, seminar attendees will have access to all of our social events such as the receptions, breakfasts, and lunch. The registration fees start at \$219 per person. A discounted room block has been set aside at the Westin Seattle, and the hotel room cut-off date is July 24. For more information or to register, visit the ASLRRA registration website at: https://members.aslrra.org/mtg_list.asp.

ELLIOTT NOMINATED TO CHAIR STB

The Obama Administration has nominated Daniel Elliott to be the chairman of the Surface Transportation Board.

If approved by the Senate, Mr. Elliott will join Commissioners Frank Mulvey and Charles Nottingham on the three-seat board. Mr. Mulvey is currently serving as acting chairman. Mr. Nottingham had served as chairman, but stepped down earlier this year to take a regular board seat, and has said that he would continue on the STB through the remainder of his term, which concludes in 2010. Mr. Elliott will take the place of Douglas Buttrey, who left the STB in March following the conclusion of his term.

Mr. Elliott was most recently an associate general counsel of the United Transportation Union, a position he has held since 1993. Prior to joining the UTU, Mr. Elliott was an attorney with law firms in Cleveland, OH and Washington, DC.

Mr. Elliott is the second UTU official selected by the Obama Administration for a senior transportation post. Earlier this year, former UTU Illinois State Legislative Director Joe Szabo was nominated, and later confirmed by the Senate, to be the Chief Administrator of the Federal Railroad Administration.

UMLER CUTOVER SCHEDULE FINALIZED

Railinc has announced that the cutover to the New Umler System will occur **between 1:00PM ET Friday, July 24, 2009 and 6:00PM ET Sunday, July 26, 2009.**

Umler, Umler/EMIS 3.1 Umler/EMIS 3.2 will ALL be unavailable during this period. All Umler TRAIN II messaging inputs submitted during this period will be held for processing until after the completion of the Release 3.2 deployment. Customers are asked to please defer any large updates on Friday, July 24th, 2009, until Umler/EMIS is in production.

TSUM functionality will no longer be available after 1:00PM ET Friday, July 24, 2009. Following deployment by 6:00PM ET Sunday, July 26th, all web-based transactions will use the New Umler System, available via Railinc Single Sign-on at www.railinc.com. TSUM users can find complete training information for the new system on the Railinc website at www.railinc.com/umler.

EHMS functionality will remain active but users will be unable to perform Air Brake Test (ABT) reporting during the Umler/EMIS maintenance outage and will resume at 6:00PM ET Sunday, July 26, 2009.

LRB functionality will remain active but users will be unable to perform Locomotive Inspection reporting during the Umler/EMIS maintenance outage and will resume at 6:00PM ET Sunday, July 26, 2009.

Users of the equipment verification features of EHMS, LRB, Circular OT-5, Embargoes, RAMP-ED, SCO-90 and SCRS may experience intermittent connection time-out between 1:00PM ET and 6:00PM ET on Friday, July 24, 2009.

Railinc has provided a broad range of training materials and useful resources to help users adapt to the new system including:

- A short Umler overview video
- Four training modules
- Task-specific Web demos
- "Ask the expert" webinars (and two more of these are scheduled before the cutover – one on July 17 and a final one on July 24)
- The Umler user guide and data specification manual
- An online "sandbox" where users can learn to use the new system.
- There is also special information for Query 87 users, and much more.

All of the above information may be found on the Railinc website at www.railinc.com/umler.

Finally, if you have any remaining questions, or if you need one-on-one assistance, please contact the Railinc Customer Support Center at 1-877-RAILINC (1-877-724-5462) or csc@railinc.com.

COURT LIFTS STAY OF DIRECT OBSERVATION URINE TESTING

On July 1, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit issued its decision in the matter of BNSF Railway vs. U.S. Department of Transportation (U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit, Docket No. 08-1264). The decision lifts the stay on direct observation drug testing rules applicable to return-to-duty, safety-sensitive transportation industry employees who have already failed or refused to take a prior drug test.

A USDOT spokesman has said that the department will issue a Final Rule in the Federal Register that provides a start date for mandatory direct observation collections for the aforementioned follow-up and return-to-duty tests. Until then, direct observation for these tests will remain an employer's option.

KENTUCKY ENACTS STATE TAX CREDIT FOR ITS SHORT LINES

During a recent special session, the Kentucky state legislature passed its House Bill 3. This bill has since been signed into law by the governor. It contains four separate provisions benefiting Kentucky railroads, as follow:

1. Section 54 of the Bill contains a provision that authorizes the use of industrial access road funds for rail improvement projects needed for an economic development project. Until this provision was adopted, the funds could only be utilized for roadways.
2. Sections 70-72 provide a state income tax credit for short line railroads similar to the federal tax credit. The credit is limited to 50% of expenditures for track maintenance and repairs, capped at \$3,500 times the number of miles owned or leased by the railroad as of January 1, 2008.
3. Section 71 establishes a new tax credit designed to encourage investment in rail upgrades or expansions to serve shippers that own fossil fuel or biomass resources that can be used for fuel production. The credit equals 25% of the total expenditure. All railroads are eligible for this credit that is capped statewide at \$1million. (A provision in the Bill applicable to both tax credits permits the shipper to earn the tax credit if it financed the improvements or expansions. However, either the railroad or the shipper (not both) is eligible for the credit.)

4. During the 2009 regular session, both chambers approved the creation of a Shortline Assistance Fund to help rehabilitate and improve facilities operated by Class II and Class III railroads; however, the legislation was not enacted into law. Section 73 of the Bill establishes this Fund; however, no appropriation was made at this time. The Association has made it clear to our legislators that we oppose the use of a tax on diesel fuel to provide funding. Although, there was no appropriation at this time, we feel it to be an important accomplishment to have the Fund established and we remain hopeful that future legislators will provide funding.

In a letter to members of the Kentucky Railroad Association, Tony Reck, the Association's chairman, comments that, "All of our member railroads unanimously endorsed our proposal and worked for its passage. We also had strong support from the Transportation Cabinet, the Economic Development Cabinet, and many individual legislators. The legislative agents for our various companies worked tirelessly to see that this legislation was approved. On behalf of our Association, I would like to extend our sincere appreciation to all those who supported and worked for our cause."

RRB RELEASES FIVE-YEAR PLAN, ASKS FOR COMMENT

The Railroad Retirement Board recently released its proposed five-year plan strategic plan, covering Years 2009-2014. The plan's introduction states that its intent is to "reflect input and feedback from our stakeholders, including customers in the railroad community, Congressional committees, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and other federal agencies. We believe this plan reflects an updated focus on our commitment to providing outstanding customer service in the most effective, efficient ways possible."

The plan may be reviewed its entirety by linking to http://www.aslrra.org/images/news_file/RRB_Five_Year_Plan_2009.pdf

The RRB is encouraging comments about the plan and has established an email address (strategicplan2009@rrb.gov) for them to be sent to. Please provide any such comments to the RRB by August 10.

NEED FOR CORRECT TRANSBORDER BILLING EMPHASIZED

The industry's Transborder Working Committee (TWC) has asked all short line and regional railroads to work with their shippers to improve the quality of billing of shipments crossing international borders.

The committee notes that railroads, large and small, need to "educate [international] rail shippers on what they need to provide to railroads in order to generate shipping instructions to create bills of lading and transportation waybills. The contents of these EDI messages are used by U.S. Customs and Border Protection, the Canadian Border and Security Agency (CBSA) and Mexican Customs (Aduana) in their respective border clearance electronic systems to clear or hold shipments at the two borders. The three agencies and other government agencies require transparency for identification of the origin shippers, the carriers involved in the movement, and the ultimate consignee. Identification of the lading, conveyance, etc. is also critical and mandatory."

ASLRRRA has put on its website a brochure earlier prepared by the TWC to assist in the electronic billing of transborder shipments. Link to it at http://www.aslrra.org/images/news_file/Transborder_Shipping_Brochure.pdf. Future editions of this newsletter will include additional recommendations and references to assist in quality transborder billing.

FRA RELEASES PRELIMINARY SAFETY STATS FOR JAN-APR, 2009

The Federal Railroad Administration released preliminary safety statistics for the first four months of 2009. Compared with the first four months of 2008, and possibly related to the drop in train operations attendant to the economic downturn, total accidents and incidents declined 20.2 percent. Of this, total train accidents declined 31.0 percent.

Also for the first four months, crossing accident fatalities decreased 5.6 percent, but trespasser fatalities increased 2.3 percent. Also, on-duty employee fatalities for this period totaled seven, compared with six in 2008 and three in 2006.

For more information, link to the FRA website at www.fra.dot.gov or contact FRA's Stan Ellis at stan.ellis@dot.gov.

RAIL SAFETY ACT CROSSING MANDATES APPROACHING

Last year's Railway Safety Improvement Act included several provisions related to highway-rail grade crossings. The following article, authored especially for Views & News by Tom Woll of the Federal Railroad Administration, gives an overview of those provisions and their related timelines:

The Rail Safety Improvement Act of 2008 (RSIA 2008) enacted by Congress on October 16, 2008, has several important provisions, one of which makes updating the National Crossing Inventory mandatory on all Railroads and States. Title II, Section 204 of this Public Law 110-432 requires Railroads and States to update the US DOT National Crossing Inventory File on a regular basis for all existing open crossings, including the inventorying and numbering of any existing unreported or new crossings that are not currently in the National File, and the transfer of crossings to a new Operating Railroad when rail lines are sold. Railroads are responsible for public, private and pedestrian crossings, while States are only responsible for public crossings, which currently includes pedestrian crossings.

Congress also established specific dates for when certain updating had to be completed. The first important date is October 16, 2009, when all Railroads and States must inventory any new or previously unreported crossing, assign an Inventory Number to the crossing, and send the completed Crossing Inventory Form to the FRA for inclusion in the National File. Crossings established after April 16, 2009, have 6 months to be reported to FRA to be included in the National Inventory. Current policy requires Railroads to initiate the process.

The Law clearly states that the current existing *Policies, Procedures, and Instructions* of the Crossing Inventory Program, which were in effect when the Law was passed, apply and may be enforced without the need for separate regulations. Every crossing, public, private, and pedestrian, both at-grade and grade-separated (RR under and RR over) must have a crossing number assigned and be in the National Inventory File. That includes crossings in a railroad yard and those in a private company's rail yard, plus crossings in port and dock areas. However, in these locations, only one number is required for all the crossings in such a facility and they are inventoried as private crossings.

A crossing is a location where (1) a public highway, road, street, or a private roadway, including associated sidewalks and pathways, intersects railroad tracks either at-grade or grade-separated, or (2) a pathway that is dedicated for the use of non-vehicular traffic, including pedestrians, bicyclists, and others, that is not associated with a public highway or roadway, and intersects railroad tracks either at-grade or grade-separated, and is explicitly authorized by a public authority or a railroad carrier.

FRA is granted Rulemaking Authority to implement the requirements of this statute and to change or modify provisions of Section 204. "National Crossing Inventory" of the Act through the Rulemaking process."

Mr. Woll may be contacted at tom.woll@dot.gov. ASLRRRA's Steve Sullivan is covering RSIA crossing matters for the Association and in assistance of its member railroads. Steve may be emailed at sullivan@aslrra.org or phoned at (202) 585-3432.

FRA SAFETY RESEARCH PAPER AVAILABLE ON ASLRRA WEBSITE

The Federal Railroad Administration has recently released a research paper of its Safety Through Employees Exercising Leadership (STEEL) initiative. The study on which the paper is based was conducted at Union Pacific's Avondale Yard in Texas.

The paper indicates that the STEEL initiative may have resulted in improved switching yard practices, including a reduction in human factor-related derailments. According to the paper, "results provide promising evidence that the labor and management efforts of STEEL in Avondale Yard are effective in promoting safe practices, improving labor-management relations, and better safety outcomes."

A copy of the research paper may be linked to at http://www.aslrra.org/images/news_file/FRA_Safety_Research_Paper.pdf.

CN COMPLETES EJ&E ABSORPTION

Canadian National has announced that, effective July 1, it has completed the merger of the former Elgin, Joliet & Eastern Railway into the CN system. Related to this, Railinc has announced that ISS settlement for June has been completed, and that any new business for CN on the old EJE line will be sent to CN. Further information and documentation related to the absorption of the EJE by CN is available on the CN website at www.cn.ca.

SECOND HALF GATEWAY PERFORMANCE MEETING SCHEDULE

The Association of American Railroads reminds of scheduled gateway performance improvement meetings for 2009.

For the second half of the year, meetings will be held for the following gateways on the following dates: Chicago, IL on July 20-21; Birmingham, AL on September 22; Kansas City, MO on October 20; St. Louis, MO on October 22; New Orleans, LA on October 27; Memphis, TN on October 29; Chicago, IL on November 16-17; Detroit, MI on December 1; and Buffalo, NY on December 23.

AAR has in the past encouraged short line and regional railroads operating in these gateways, or that have service issues related to traffic flowing through these gateways, to attend and participate at these meetings. If unable to attend, relevant matters may be forwarded on for attention and follow-up. For additional information, contact ASLRRA's Dave Mears at dmears@aslrra.org.

AAR UPDATES ABOUT RELOCATION, RETIREMENT

The Association of American Railroads recently advised that it will soon relocate out of its current offices at 50 F Street NW in Washington for new offices several blocks south of that location.

Effective August 31, the AAR will be relocated to 425 3rd Street SW. AAR has advised that current telephone numbers and email addresses will remain as they are.

AAR has also advised of the retirement of Tom White, familiar to many as a longtime AAR public affairs principal. The AAR has said that, past Mr. White's retirement, media inquiries should go to Holly Arthur at harthur@aar.org and any inquiries about the weekly rail traffic report should go to Lauren Sandberg at lsandberg@aar.org.

LAST LOOK AT SHORT LINE MARKETING INITIATIVES

This is the last of a series of articles detailing the achievements of the nominees for the 2009 ASLRRR Marketing Award. There were fifteen nominations altogether for these awards and the three that won were the Bay Line Railroad, R.J. Corman Railroad Company/Memphis Line, and the St. Lawrence & Atlantic Railroad. Award presentation was made at the general session of the ASLRRR Annual Convention on April 27.

These are published at the suggestion of Kel MacKavanagh. One of the judges of this competition, he recently commented that "...one of the criteria I use in judging an entry is whether or not another short line could develop the same type of business." He suggested that detailing the achievements of all those nominated might give other short lines and regionals ideas and insight as to how they might develop similar marketing initiatives:

Michigan Shore Railroad: To develop the growing rail market for use in recharging old oil and natural gas wells, the Michigan Shore Railroad suggested to Sargent Sand that they contact Nugent Sand, a former Sargent competitor, and ask them to process sand. As a result, sand from Ludington, Michigan is now processed at Muskegon, Michigan, and is then shipped in CSX covered hoppers to various end users. The project volume of new business exceeds 3,000 carloads annually.

Northern Plains Railroad: The Northern Plains Railroad operates 483 miles of track in Minnesota and North Dakota, connecting with both BNSF and Canadian Pacific Railways. NPR originates grain for export through the Pacific Northwest ports, wheat for milling companies, and malt barley for breweries. NPR continually adjusted their operations to meet customer needs and, as a result, has been recognized by the State of North Dakota for receiving the highest scores in customer satisfaction of the six railroads operating within the state.

Watco Companies (Anniversary Promotion): Watco celebrated its 25th anniversary in 2008 by creating a silver anniversary logo and branding various items with it. In 1983, Watco was the first company to offer industrial contract switching, performing this service for Boise Cascade in DeRidder, LA. Watco opened its first repair shop in 1985 and its first short line, now the South Kansas & Oklahoma Railroad, began operations in 1987. Watco presently operates 19 short lines, 22 switching locations, and various shops, transload locations, and warehouses.

Watco Companies (Thanksgiving Feast Promotion): To illustrate how railroads directly benefit the public, Watco prepared a brochure listing all of the commodities its railroads haul that help people to enjoy Thanksgiving. These range from building materials for their homes, paper bags for groceries, the coal and fuel to generate the electricity for heating and cooking, poultry and vegetables, flour for the rolls and pies, beverages, and many more. Last but not least, came the paper towels and trash bags for cleaning up!

U.S. CROP PLANTINGS DOWN SLIGHTLY IN 2009, USDA REPORTS

Total U.S. crop area is down 1.2 percent from last year, but soybean acres are up 2.3 percent and corn acres are up 1.2 percent according to a report recently released by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS).

Overall, farmers planted 320.9 million acres to principal crops in 2009. This is 3.9 million acres less than last year, but 3.9 million acres more than they indicated in the March 2009 report of national prospective plantings. The most significant acreage declines were in North Dakota, down 2.1 million, and Texas, down 570,000 acres.

Despite the overall decline in planted area, farmers sowed a record-high 77.5 million acres to soybeans, up 1.8 million acres from last year and up 1.5 million acres, or almost 2 percent, from March. Compared with 2008, soybean area is up more than 200,000 acres in five states: Kansas, Mississippi, Missouri, North Dakota and South Dakota.

Farmers planted 87 million corn acres in 2009, up 1 million acres from last year. This is the second-largest corn acreage in more than 60 years, behind 2007. Despite wet weather in many growing areas, farmers reported that 97 percent of intended corn acreage was planted by early June, compared with the 10-year average of 98 percent.

A crop production report, to be released on or about August 12, will contain the first 2009 estimates of corn and soybean yield and production. All NASS reports are available online at www.nass.usda.gov.

WORD ON WELLNESS: DIET AND NUTRITION

The following is excerpted from a recent edition of "Healthy Living: A Monthly Newsletter About Wellness," an Amtrak publication:

Thoughtful diet and nutrition can help protect and prosper your health. Here are some tips for meal planning:

- **Make half your grains "whole":** Get a whole grain start with oatmeal or whole grain cereal. Make your sandwich with 100% whole heat or oatmeal bread. Snack on popcorn or whole grain crackers.
- **Vary your vegetables:** Add dark green to your meal; add frozen chopped spinach, collard greens, and turnip greens to your diet.
- **Focus on fruits:** Bag some fruit in the morning for the entire day. Never be fruitless! Stock up on canned or frozen peaches, pears, and apricots so they are always on hand.
- **Get your calcium-rich foods:** Use fat-free or low-fat milk instead of water when you make oatmeal, hot cereals, or condensed cream soups, such as cream of tomato. Snack on low-fat or fat-free yogurt.
- **Go lean with protein:** Eat lean or low-fat meat, chicken, turkey and fish. Also, change your diet with more cooked dry beans and peas. Bake, broil, grill, roast, or poach meat, poultry or fish, instead of frying.
- **Know your fats:** Use vegetable oil instead of butter for cooking and baking. Toss salads with olive oil and flavored vinegar.
- **Don't sugarcoat it:** Choose foods and beverages that do not have added sugar or list a caloric sweetener as one of the first ingredients. Choose water, diet or low-calorie beverages instead.
- **Reduce the sodium:** choose low, reduced sodium or no-salt-added versions of foods and condiments.

CONFERENCES COMING UP

July 28-August 1, 2009, U.S. Army Transportation Corp Conference: To be held at the U.S. Army Transportation Center and School, Fort Eustis, VA. Most conference events will be open to the public. Veterans of Military Railway Service (MRS) are especially encouraged to attend. For more information contact Mark Metz at m-m-e@comcast.net or (717) 597-2636.

August 2-4, 2009, 23rd Annual RTA Tie Grading Seminar: To be held in Roanoke, VA, with fieldwork taking place at the Koppers Corporation plant in Salem, VA. The seminar will include three full days of instructions, centering on the practical aspects of tie grading. RTA has reserved a block of rooms for attendees at the Holiday Inn Tanglewood in Roanoke; attendees should call (540) 774-4400 to reserve rooms from this block by July 1. For further seminar details, contact Debbie Corallo of RTA at dcorallo@rta.org or (770) 460-5553. A complete meeting agenda is available on the RTA website at www.rta.org.

August 15-18, 2009, ASLRRA Central/Pacific Region Meeting: To be held at the Westin Seattle, 1900 Fifth Avenue, Seattle, WA, <http://www.westinseattle.com>. New to the regional meeting educational lineup will be simultaneous training sessions covering the areas of Track Safety Standards and New Regulations Covering Continuous Welded Rail, Bridge Safety Standards, and the Essential Elements of a Bridge Safety Program (see above for more details on this special session.) Topics on the main program will include the Economic Outlook, Railroad Re-regulation, Updates on Hours of Service, Routing Rules and Handling of TIH, The ABCs of PTC, The Outlook for Ethanol and the Emerging Wind Turbine Market, and Putting the FUN in Safety FUNDamentals. We will be working on another Habitat for Humanity event on Saturday, August 15, and we have a limited number of tickets available for the Mariners v. Yankees baseball game on Sunday afternoon. The conference will close out Tuesday with an optional tour of the operation at the Port of Seattle. The room rate is \$149 and rooms may be reserved by calling 800-228-3000 (800-228-1212 from Alaska or Hawaii) and mentioning ASLRRA to receive our discounted room rate. Registration is now open and can be accessed by clicking here: https://members.aslrra.org/mtg_list.asp.

August 26-28, 2009, National Rail Employer Training Seminar: To be held at the Wyndham Chicago, 633 North St. Claire St., Chicago, IL. This seminar is sponsored by the Railroad Retirement Board and is designed for those persons who work in, or manage, the subject areas of service, compensation, and contributions reported to the RRB, and related areas. A special guest speaker will be Eric O'Neill, ASLRRA's Chief Financial Officer, who will discuss payroll and related changes affecting short line and regional railroads, including new payroll accounting and reporting opportunities now available. Register for this seminar by July 27. For more information, link to <http://www.rrb.gov/AandT/pl/pl0904.asp>.

September 16-18, 2009, Global Railway Tech 2009: To be held at the Hilton Chicago & Towers Hotel, Chicago, IL. Sponsored by the Railway Supply Institute. For more information, link to www.rsiweb.org.

September 23, 2009: Railroad Insurance Management Association (RIMA) Annual Meeting: To be held at the Marriott in Colorado Springs, CO. For more information, link to http://www.aar.org/NewsAndEvents/UpcomingEvents/2009-RIMA_AnnualMeeting.aspx.

October 11-13, 2009, ASLRRA Eastern Region Meeting: To be held at the Hyatt Regency Indianapolis, Indianapolis, IN. More details forthcoming, be sure to check back at www.aslrra.org.

October 19-20, 2009, Railway Age's 16th Annual Passenger Trains On Freight Railroads Conference: To be held at the Washington Marriott, Washington, DC. For more information, contact Jane Poterala at jpoterala@sbpub.com or (212) 620-7209.

November 2-6, 2009, Railroad Track Inspection & Safety Standards Training Workshop: To be held at the Center for Transportation Research, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN. For more information, contact Jenny Jones at gohjones@utk.edu or (865) 974-6549.

November 8-10, 2009, ASLRRA Southern Region Meeting: To be held at the Marriott Bay Point Resort, Panama City Beach, FL. More details forthcoming, be sure to check back at www.aslrra.org.

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

The **Cedar Rapids & Iowa City Railway** has completed a nearly \$9 million rebuilding of their bridge across the Cedar River in Cedar Rapids, IA. The bridge was destroyed in the June, 2008 flooding of the Cedar River. CRANDIC had received \$6.96 million in funding from the Federal Railroad Administration to rebuild the bridge and replace signals damaged or destroyed by the flood ...the Port of Moses Lake recently received \$2 million in Washington state funding for the project to improve rail access in the northern Columbia Basin area near Moses Lake, WA via the **Columbia Basin Railroad**. The railroad plans to establish a 12 mile line by building one track segment and rehabilitating another ...**RailAmerica** has notified emailers that the earlier **Florida East Coast** email domain, feci.com, will cease to function on July 31, 2009. Delivery attempts after that date will fail. It recommends that the applicable party at FEC or RailAmerica be contacted for their new email address, and that contact details can be found at <http://www.railamerica.com> ...**Pacific Harbor Lines** was recently the subject of an in-depth article in the Los Angeles Times. Referring to their role switching trains for the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach, PHL CEO Andy Fox likened the railroad to the "valet parking for the harbor." The article went on to mention that, with help from the ports and California's south Coast Air Quality Management District, PHL has acquired 22 locomotives, each no more than two years old and all with low or ultra-low diesel emission capability ...**RailSoft Systems's** Tom Howie was recently featured in the Abbeville, South Carolina newspaper, the Press & Banner. The paper reported on Mr. Howie's recently completed achievement of having played 18-hole golf in all 50 states. Mr. Howie has separately related to Views & News that he "played in a lot of these states, probably 20 or so, as part of or in conjunction with ASLRRRA annual, regional, and committee meetings, and also joint ASLRRRA-FRA seminars." ...**U.S. Rail** recently announced the appointment of Marion Hall as superintendent of its Kokomo Division. He will also remain the superintendent of the Jackson-Hamilton Division. Mr. Hall succeeds Dale Pape, who has been promoted to the position of Mgr-Commercial Relations & Project Development ...the Milwaukee Business Journal recently reported that the **Wisconsin & Southern Railroad** and Canadian Pacific Railway will share \$571,107 in stimulus funds for the installation of devices to reduce diesel locomotive emissions. The devices will control the start and stop of locomotive idling, and are expected to help significantly reduce both emissions and diesel fuel consumption.

MORE INDUSTRY NEWS

CSX recently announced their commitment to reduce their carbon dioxide emissions by 8 percent per revenue ton-mile by 2011. CSX said that it made the commitment as part of its participation in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Climate Leaders Program and that it was the first Class 1 railroad to do so**BNSF**, in partnership with Vehicles Projects Inc. of Denver, recently debuted what it said was the nation's first hydrogen-fuel-cell switcher locomotive. A BNSF spokesman said that the locomotive was of experimental design. The spokesman added that the locomotive would next go to the Transportation Technology Center in Pueblo, CO for further testing and then into service at a BNSF terminal in Southern California ...The **Renewable Fuels Association** has noted that approximately 70 percent of all U.S. ethanol traffic moves via rail. An association spokesman said that, "Rail has access, control terminals, and is cheaper than anything else right now." The Association of American Railroads earlier reported that U.S. railroads transported approximately 120,000 carloads of ethanol in 2007 ...The Chlorine Institute and the American Chemistry Council filed suit July 2 in federal court against **Union Pacific**. The suit opposes changes recently made by UP in its tariff for chlorine shipments such that shippers are held responsible for all losses, damages, and liabilities arising from an accident. On June 11, the Surface Transportation Board directed UP to quote rates for chlorine shipments it had earlier said it did not want to quote, because chlorine for some requested origin-destination pairs could be obtained from nearer origins. A UP spokesman said that the railroad "was still evaluating the material and cannot comment on the lawsuit at this time." ...The **National Mediation Board** recently announced that Elizabeth Dougherty has been named to her second term as chairman. Ms. Dougherty has served on the NMB since December, 2006 ...**Norfolk Southern** recently appointed David Julian its VP-Safety & Environmental. Mr. Julian, who has been with NS and its predecessor railroads since 1971, most recently headed its automotive and supply chain services subsidiary. He succeeds Chuck Wehrmeister, who retired on June 1.

CLASS I RAIL TRAFFIC, THROUGH SECOND QUARTER, 2009

For the week ending June 27, 2009, U.S. rail volume grand totaled 27.1 billion ton-miles, down 21.4 percent from the comparable week last year. Also for the week, U.S. carload rail traffic was down 22.3 percent, U.S. intermodal rail traffic was down 17.9 percent, Canadian carload rail traffic was down 24.9 percent, and Canadian intermodal rail traffic was down 19.9 percent.

For the month of June, 2009 compared with June, 2008, U.S. carload rail traffic was down 19.7 percent, U.S. intermodal rail traffic was down 18.2 percent, Canadian carload rail traffic was down 25.7 percent, and Canadian intermodal rail traffic was down 19.2 percent.

For the Second Quarter, 2009 compared with the Second Quarter, 2008, U.S. carload rail traffic was down 22.4 percent. Notable traffic decreases included coal down 12.5 percent, grain down 25.7 percent, and motor vehicles and equipment down 49.4 percent. Also for the quarter, Canadian carload rail traffic was down 27.9 percent and Canadian intermodal rail traffic was down 18.5 percent.

For the First Half, 2009 compared with the First Half, 2008, U.S. carload rail traffic was down 19.5 percent, U.S. intermodal rail traffic was down 17.0 percent, Canadian carload rail traffic was down 24.1 percent, and Canadian intermodal rail traffic was down 15.5 percent. (ffd: AAR)

(NOTE: Canadian traffic totals include those of the U.S. operations of the Canadian National and Canadian Pacific Railways.)

RMI RAILCONNECT SHORT LINE TRAFFIC INDEX

The RMI Railconnect Index is waybill-based and totals shipments billed by non-Class I railroads using RMI billing products. For this report, this totals 341 such railroads. This index is calculated weekly. The **below data is as of the week ending June 27, 2009**, the 25th full week of this year. Special thanks to RMI's Cheri Denton for this valuable statistical information.

	Week Ending June 27			Year-To-Date		
	2009	2008	% Change	2009	2008	% Change
CARLOADS HANDLED						
Coal	14,104	12,138	16.20%	335,958	370,277	-9.27%
Grain	11,190	12,039	-7.05%	307,850	377,299	-18.41%
Farm & Food (Exc. Grain)	5,221	5,317	-1.81%	130,136	143,749	-9.47%
Ores	1,740	2,666	-34.73%	37,290	71,607	-47.92%
Stone, Clay, Aggregates	10,589	13,846	-23.52%	253,644	312,524	-18.84%
Lumber/Forest Prods.	3,856	5,324	-27.57%	88,029	121,584	-27.60%
Paper Products	5,533	7,295	-24.15%	142,884	189,900	-24.76%
Waste & Scrap Materials	4,704	7,256	-35.17%	106,125	161,416	-34.25%
Chemicals	14,573	16,855	-13.54%	380,192	439,201	-13.44%
Petroleum & Coke	3,339	5,301	-37.01%	89,611	145,030	-38.21%
Metals & Products	5,403	10,823	-50.08%	145,188	277,741	-47.73%
Motor Vehicles & Equip.	940	2,587	-63.66%	24,197	51,034	-52.59%
Intermodal	5,586	11,264	-50.41%	165,754	321,315	-48.41%
All Other	1,053	3,196	-67.05%	36,187	76,994	-53.00%
Total	87,831	115,907	-24.22%	2,243,045	3,059,671	-26.69%

HELPFUL LINKS

To use the Railinc Embargo & Permit System, including open & prepay station (OPSL) notes, link to <https://aarembargo.railinc.com/epdb/public.do>

Members wanting to review ASLRRRA recommended emergency preparations may link to <http://members.aslrra.org>, enter email and password, click on the word “Documents” at the top of the page, then click on “ASLRRRA Emergency Plans” on the left side. Contact ASLRRRA’s Dave Whorton at dwhorton@aslrra.org, P: (202) 585-3430 if you need further assistance.

To reach the Railinc homepage, link to www.railinc.com.

And speaking of helpful links, have you checked out the ASLRRRA website? If not, do so! Additional to an exciting new look, the site is packed with a host of new and improved features and tools. Check it out at its customary location on the World Wide Web: www.aslrra.org.

Views & News is published by...

American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association
50 F Street, N.W., Suite 7020, Washington, DC 20001
(202) 628-4500 FAX (202) 628-6430 aslrra@aslrra.org

For More Information on the ASLRRRA’s benefits and services, please visit our website at:
www.aslrra.org

[Click here to unsubscribe from Views & News](#)