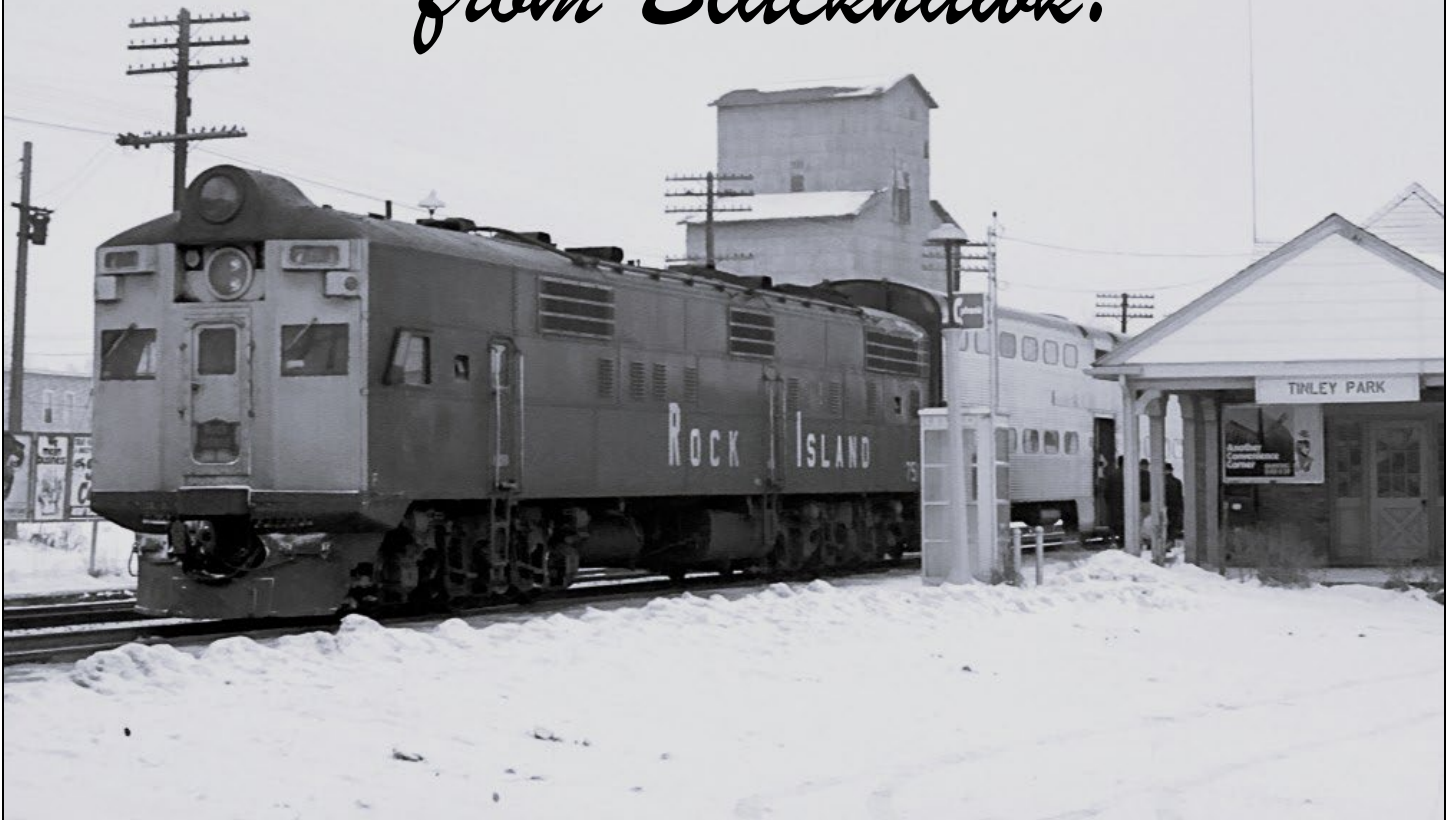


November–December 2025



HAPPY HOLIDAYS

*from Blackhawk!*



**IN THIS ISSUE:**

- Joliet Caboose & Box Car Update
- Indiana Depot Looks Toward Future
- Blackhawk & NRHS Renewal Info
- 2026 Officer Elections Announcement



## BENEFITS OF JOINING THE NATIONAL RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

### TAKING AN ACTIVE ROLE IN RAIL PRESERVATION

What is the one thing every member of the NRHS has in common? We love trains. And whether we love the history and romance of the rails or the actual, practical feel of steel and iron, of steam locomotives and diesel electric engines, there's something else we all have in common: what we love is in danger of becoming just a memory.

By adding membership in the NRHS along with your Blackhawk membership, you get to make a difference in rail preservation. Along the way, you may just get some opportunities that the public will never get, including exclusive member discounts and free admission to hundreds of railway attractions nationwide.

### LOCAL CHAPTERS: THE HEART AND SOUL OF THE NRHS

From the beginning, when two railfan organizations combined to become the first two local chapters of the Society, the NRHS has only been as strong as our Chapters make us. Individual chapters like Blackhawk are where we meet to share our love for the rails. Chapter activities include monthly meetings, field trips to historic rail sites, and rail excursions. Local Chapters even have their own newsletters exclusively for their members.

Local Chapter members have full voting rights in the National Society and full participation in all National events and receive subscriptions to National publications and advanced ticket purchase for the annual NRHS railroad convention.

### MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

- Issues of the NRHS Bulletin as published each year.
- 6 issues of the NRHS News
- Membership Card
- Discounts to various rail attractions around the country
- Advanced ticket purchase to the NRHS Convention
- An, organized, safe, international network of railroading; an excellent opportunity to meet and socialize with other people who have similar interests in railroads, rail preservation, photography, writing, operations, restoration, and/or history.
- Recognition for continuous membership in our Membership Awards Program.
- Opportunities to contribute time and energy to local projects or national efforts that protect, educate, preserve, and promote the past, and present, and future of railroading.

NRHS's **Chapter Membership** is Affiliation with the National Society and one Chapter and costs \$50.00 per year (which does not include Blackhawk membership or Blackhawk's \$25 membership fee.) Additional family members living in the same household may also become NRHS members for just \$7.00 per year.

A discounted **Student Membership** at \$16 per year is offered to individuals who are 13 to 24 years of age (on January 1) and is intended to introduce the NRHS to the many young people who have an interest in one or more aspects of railroading, rail history and rail preservation. Does not include Blackhawk Chapter fees. The Student Membership has voting rights in the NRHS, and a parent or legal guardian's signature is required for membership.

Join or renew your NRHS membership here: [nrhs.app.neoncrm.com/forms/join-and-renew](https://nrhs.app.neoncrm.com/forms/join-and-renew)

# Blackhawk

RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## Membership Application

Blackhawk Railway Historical Society membership includes:

- Informative twelve-page “**Spike & Tie**” newsletter, published in January, March, May, July, September, and November, and distributed via first-class mail to all current members.
- One free 8’ vendor table at each of our **railroad swap meets** in January, April, and October at American Legion Post 66 in Griffith, Indiana.
- Our **monthly meetings and programs**, held at 7:30 PM on the first Friday of the month (except July & August) at the Gladys Fox Museum, 231 E. Ninth Street in Lockport, Illinois. The doors are open by 7:00 PM and free parking nearby. Meetings include presentations by railroading historians, photographers, and railroad industry experts.

For further information about Blackhawk, or to join/renew online, go to  
**[blackhawkrailwayhistoricalsociety.org](http://blackhawkrailwayhistoricalsociety.org)**

Membership dues for 2026 are \$25.00 for the year. All memberships run for the calendar year – January to December. Additional family members can join for \$3 each. Additional family members do not receive the newsletter or swap meet table.

To join, tear out and fill out the application form, attaching your check or money order, and send it to:

**Blackhawk Railway Historical Society**  
**4644 E. 9000N Road**  
**Manteno, IL 60950-3111**

Yes, I’d like to join the **Blackhawk Railway Historical Society, Inc.**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE # \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

# Blackhawk

RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## 2025 REMAINING MEETING DATES

November 7  
December 5

## 2026 PROPOSED MEETING DATES

January 2	April 10	September 11
February 6	May 1	October 2
March 6	June 5	November 6
		December 4

Monthly in-person meetings are held at **7:30 PM on the first Friday of the month** (except July and August) at the **Gladys Fox Museum, 231 East 9th Street in Lockport, Illinois.**

Limited free parking on Washington Street. PLEASE DO NOT PARK IN THE SPOTS DESIGNATED FOR THE NEIGHBORING HOUSES.

Meetings are open to the public and refreshments are available. No admission fee. A raffle of donated items is held at each meeting to help defray the cost of the hall.

## Fall Railroad

## Swap Meet

**October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

**10:00 AM – 2:00 PM (Chicago Time)**

**at American Legion Post 66**

**132 N. Wiggs Street**

**Griffith, IN 46319**

**For information, call or email:**

**John Eagan 219-322-0997**

**or [hoosierhobbies@aol.com](mailto:hoosierhobbies@aol.com)**

**Sponsored by the**

**Blackhawk Railway Historical Society**

**a chapter of the National Railway Historical Society**

**<https://blackhawkrailwayhistoricalsociety.org>**

**Free Admission - \$2.00 donation suggested**

**8' Vendor Tables - \$20.00 each**

***It's not just another toy train show!***

## CONTACTING BLACKHAWK

- E-mail: [blackhawknrhs@outlook.com](mailto:blackhawknrhs@outlook.com)
- Website URL:  
**[blackhawkrailwayhistoricalsociety.org](http://blackhawkrailwayhistoricalsociety.org)**
- Social media:  
**[facebook.com/BlackhawkRailwayHistorySociety](https://facebook.com/BlackhawkRailwayHistorySociety)**

## MEMBERSHIP

- **Regular - \$25:** Includes newsletter and one free vendor table at swap meets.
- **Additional - \$3:** For immediate family members. Does not include publications or swap meet table.

Mailing address for membership applications or renewals ONLY:

**Blackhawk Railway Historical Society  
4644 E 9000N Rd.  
Manteno, IL 60950-3111**

Join/renew through the **Store** on our website:  
**[blackhawkrailwayhistoricalsociety.org](http://blackhawkrailwayhistoricalsociety.org)**

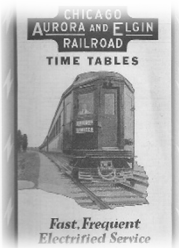
## BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS

- **Bill Molony** - President
- **Dave Daruszka** - Vice-President, National Representative
- **Mike Riha** - Treasurer, Webmaster, Editor
- **Bruce Haffner, John Eagan** - Directors at Large
- **Peter Viall** - Membership Chair

Special thanks to **Andrea Zoelle** for handling the refreshments at our monthly meetings.

**NRHS**  
National Railway Historical Society

The Blackhawk Railway Historical Society serves as the Blackhawk Chapter of the National Railroad Historical Society (NRHS) and Blackhawk members are encouraged to join. To join or renew with the NRHS, go to **[nrhs.com/membership/](http://nrhs.com/membership/)** for more information.



# Area Event Calendar

OCT/NOV/DEC 2025-JAN 2026

*Blackhawk makes no endorsement or guarantees for non-Blackhawk events, providing this information solely as a public service.*

**OCTOBER-DECEMBER:** Operating railroad museums begin offering holiday-based (Halloween/Fall/Santa) trips and events aimed at families and their local communities. These provide important revenue for the museums and their projects. If able, volunteer for and/or support your favorite railroad museums during this time of the year.

**OCTOBER 26: BLACKHAWK RY. HIST. SOCIETY INDIANA SWAP MEER - 10 AM-2 PM**

American Legion Post 66, 132 N. Wiggs Street, Griffith, IN

**November 1: Friends of the Rock Island Chicagoland**

**Meeting, 6:30-9pm.** Grace United Methodist Church, 300 E. Gartner Rd., Naperville, IL

[jamessuhs@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jamessuhs@sbcglobal.net) 815-588-1504

**November 1-2: Trainfest, 9am-5pm (Sat), 9am-4pm (Sun).**

Baird Center, 400 W Wisconsin Ave, Milwaukee, WI

[trainfest.com](http://trainfest.com) [trainfest@nmra.org](mailto:trainfest@nmra.org)

**November 2: Great Midwest Train Show, 9am-3pm.**

DuPage County Fairgrounds, 2015 Manchester Rd,

Wheaton, IL [trainshow.com](http://trainshow.com)

**NOVEMBER 7: BLACKHAWK RY. HIST. SOCIETY MONTHLY MEETING - 7:30 PM**

Gladys Fox Museum, 231 East 9th Street in Lockport, IL

PROGRAM: **Mike Blaszak**, American railroading in 1985

**November 8: Soo Line 1003 Santa Train, 10:45am-2:15pm.**

Main St. & Wisconsin Ave, Hartford, WI

[steamlocomotiveheritage.org](http://steamlocomotiveheritage.org)

**November 9: "West Suburban Interurbans"**

**presentation by David Sadowski, 11am.**

The Historic Knickerbocker on the Lake,

1028 E Juneau Ave, Milwaukee, WI

[allevents.in/milwaukee/west-suburban-interurbans/](http://allevents.in/milwaukee/west-suburban-interurbans/)

**November 15: Lake Shore Model Railroad Open House,**

**11am-4pm.** Calumet Park Fieldhouse, 9801 South Avenue G,

Chicago IL [lakeshoremodelrr.org](http://lakeshoremodelrr.org) [cwgreg@yayoo.com](mailto:cwgreg@yayoo.com)

**November 15: C&NW Historical Society Chicago Area**

**Get Together, 3-8pm.** Normandy Banquets at

American Legion Hall, 310 W Butterfield Road, Elmhurst, IL

[cnwhs.org/wp1/conventions-meets/](http://cnwhs.org/wp1/conventions-meets/) (630) 254-6826

**November 21: Railroad and Shortlines Club of Chicago**

**meeting, 7:30-9:30pm.** Chicago Union Station,

500 W. Jackson, Room 107A, Chicago, IL

(Enter at 500 W Jackson between Clinton and Canal.)

**November 23: LaPorte County Swap Meet, 9:30am-2pm**

**(Chicago time).** LaPorte County Fairgrounds

Community Building, 2581 IN-2, LaPorte, IN

**(219) 778-3195 [train86@myyahoo.com](mailto:train86@myyahoo.com)**

**November 23: CPKC Holiday Train, 5:30-6pm.**

South side of Ruby Street railway crossing, north of Franklin Avenue,

Franklin Park, IL [cpkcr.com/en/community/HolidayTrain](http://cpkcr.com/en/community/HolidayTrain)

**November 28: Central Electric Railfans' Association**

**meeting, 7-9pm.** 400 E Randolph St, Room 700, Chicago, IL

[ceraoffice@gmail.com](mailto:ceraoffice@gmail.com)

**November 29: Ron Jackson's 35<sup>th</sup> Model Railroad Swap &**

**Sell Meet, 9am-2pm.** St. Bridget Parish Center,

102 Center St, Hobart, IN

**DECEMBER 5: BLACKHAWK RY. HIST. SOCIETY ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING, OFFICER**

**ELECTIONS, AND HOLIDAY PARTY - 7:30 PM**

Gladys Fox Museum, 231 East 9th Street in Lockport, IL

**December 6: Will County Model RR Assoc. Swap Meet,**

**9am-1pm.** Stone City VFW, 124 Stone City Drive, Joliet, IL

**815-485-8977 [swap@wcmrra.org](mailto:swap@wcmrra.org)**

**December 6: Will County Model RR Assoc. Open House,**

**10am-4pm.** 2175 Oneida St., Joliet, IL

**815-485-8977 [swap@wcmrra.org](mailto:swap@wcmrra.org)**

**December 7: Great Midwest Train Show, 9am-3pm.**

DuPage County Fairgrounds, 2015 Manchester Rd,

Wheaton, IL [trainshow.com](http://trainshow.com)

**December 9: CPKC Holiday Train, 5:15-5:40pm.**

4460 Old Grand Avenue, Gurnee, IL

[cpkcr.com/en/community/HolidayTrain](http://cpkcr.com/en/community/HolidayTrain)

**JANUARY 2: BLACKHAWK RY. HIST. SOCIETY MONTHLY MEETING - 7:30 PM**

Gladys Fox Museum, 231 East 9th Street in Lockport, IL

PROGRAM: TBD

**January 4: Great Midwest Train Show, 9am-3pm.**

DuPage County Fairgrounds, 2015 Manchester Rd, Wheaton, IL

[trainshow.com](http://trainshow.com)

**JANUARY 18: BLACKHAWK RY. HIST. SOCIETY INDIANA SWAP MEER - 10 AM-2 PM**

American Legion Post 66, 132 N. Wiggs Street, Griffith, IN

**January 24: Chicago Terminal Chapter PRR Technical &**

**Historical Society, 2 -5pm.** Historical Pullman District

Visitors Center, 11141 S. Cottage Grove Ave, Chicago IL

[ld\\_mlc43@comcast.net](mailto:ld_mlc43@comcast.net)



## Observations

Blackhawk Chapter NRHS  
News and Business



## Freight News

### **BLACKHAWK ANNOUNCES END OF YEAR BUSINESS MEETING, OFFICER ELECTIONS**

The Blackhawk Railway Historical Society announces that it will be holding their annual business meeting and officer elections for 2026 as part of their regular monthly meeting and Holiday Party on Friday, December 5, 2025, at 7:30 PM at the Gladys Fox Museum, 231 E 9th Street, in Lockport, Illinois.

Nominations will be accepted, and elections will be held for the following positions:

- President (open)
- Vice-president (Dave Daruszka)
- Secretary (open)
- Treasurer (Michael Riha)
- Directors at Large (Bruce Haffner, John Eagan)

The President and Secretary positions are open and will need to be filled. The Directors at Large position can be held by as many people as are interested. Other staff positions (Membership Chair, Newsletter Editor, Swap Meet Manager, and National Director) are appointed, but any member interested in serving should talk to the Officers.

Only current members (enrolled through the end of 2025) can nominate candidates and vote. Non-members who join Blackhawk before December 5 would be eligible to vote and run for office. Blackhawk will also be accepting membership renewals and new memberships.

If any member has any proposal they would like to have considered for the annual business meeting, please contact a current officer BEFORE the December 5 meeting or email us at [blackhawknrhs.org](mailto:blackhawknrhs.org)

After the meeting and elections, the Holiday Party and videos from Blackhawk's collection will finish the evening's activities.

*Spike & Tie*

### **BNSF CALLS PROPOSED UP-NS MERGER ANTI-COMPETITIVE AND BAD FOR ECONOMY**

BNSF Railway strengthened their position against the proposed Union Pacific-Norfolk Southern merger by releasing a position paper saying the merger would cause chaos on the national rail network and negatively affect shippers.

BNSF states “No customer is asking for a UP-NS merger to happen. It’s driven by Wall Street on the promise of a big shareholder payout. BNSF does not believe a merger is necessary at this time, when we can deliver immediate benefits to our customers while preserving competition.” A combined UP-NS would hold 45 percent of the total U.S. freight tonnage, including 50 percent of the market share for chemicals, metals, and lumber.

Most of BNSF’s arguments are aimed directly at their largest competitor in the West, Union Pacific, stating less competition means fewer alternatives and higher rates, as well as reduced capital investments across the rail industry.

BNSF also pointed out historic issues with UP allowing access as conditions of previous mergers, as well as “service meltdowns” when UP had problems when taking over certain routes.

BNSF also said they do not believe an appropriate competitive response would be to acquire CSX, as that would result in a duopoly controlling over 90% of the nation’s rail traffic. Instead, BNSF believes customers want increased collaboration among railroads and shared customers, greater technological innovation, and strategic investments.

The full paper is available on BNSF’s website at [bnsf.com/bnsf-resources/news-media/customer-notifications/pdf/2025-09-29%20BNSF%20Merger%20Position.pdf](https://www.bnsf.com/bnsf-resources/news-media/customer-notifications/pdf/2025-09-29%20BNSF%20Merger%20Position.pdf)

*Spike & Tie*

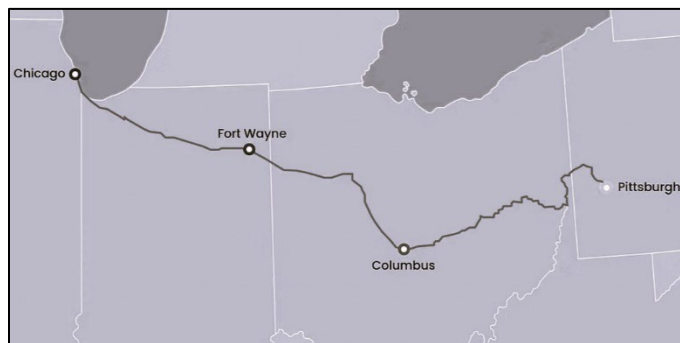


## Passenger Rail News

### MIDWEST COMMUNITIES COMMIT FUNDING FOR PASSENGER ROUTE

The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC), the City of Ft. Wayne, Indiana, and the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission are all committing \$650,000 in local funds toward the development of a passenger rail corridor connecting Chicago and Pittsburgh via stops in Columbus, Ohio, and Ft. Wayne.

All the participants have submitted the commitment to the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) for the Midwest Connect Passenger Rail project, with Ohio communities picking up most of the tab.



“Once built, this project would provide a valuable transportation connection and bring new economic development opportunities for residents along this route,” said Chris Amorose Groomes, Mayor of the City of Dublin, Ohio, and Chair of MORPC’s Executive Committee

Central Ohio is the fastest growing region in the Midwest and will top three million residents by 2050, projections show – but it remains one of the largest metropolitan areas without passenger rail service.

This funding commitment, made up of investments from more than half a dozen local communities in Ohio and Indiana, is critical to advancing into Step Two of the FRA’s Corridor ID program, which will shape routes, station planning, and position the region for future federal investment.

*Adapted from Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission press release*

### CHICAGO-ROCKFORD PASSENGER RAIL ON TRACK FOR 2027, BUT VILLAGE OF HUNTLEY BOWS OUT

The Chicago-Rockford passenger rail service has been years in the making, and a series of Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) meetings were held in late September to answer questions.

The project is still on track for service to start by the end of 2027. Much of the progress made has been behind the scenes, and IDOT plans to begin construction in the Spring of 2026 including upgrading tracks and adding crossings.

The service is scheduled to start with two round trips a day between Rockford and Chicago Union Station operated by Metra. However, Huntley will no longer have a stop, because the village has backed out.



Village Manager Dave Johnson said Friday that Huntley notified IDOT that the village isn’t interested in having a station because of concerns about how the stop might affect its downtown, especially regarding traffic and parking. Uncertainty with ridership numbers and village financial commitments also factored in the decision.

An IDOT spokesperson confirmed that Huntley has informed the agency it no longer wants the train station. “Service to Rockford will not be impacted. We anticipate construction beginning in 2026, with trains tentative to start running by the end of 2027,” IDOT spokesperson Guy Tridgell said.

City officials in Marengo have expressed interest in having a stop on the new passenger line there.

*Adapted from WREX, Shaw Media, and chicagotorockfordrail.org*

## PEORIA'S EFFORTS TO BRING BACK PASSENGER TRAINS MOVING AHEAD AND COSTING MORE

Peoria's effort to restore a passenger rail service to and from Chicago is requiring more money than originally planned.

The project currently is in an initial phase of schedule planning, scope and budgeting. The next phase is where spending will need to increase when the city selects between Amtrak and Metra to be the service operator. The city had originally estimated it would cost \$4 million to complete the second step, but it will now cost about \$6.4 million. The federal government will cover 90% of that cost and the city and other partners will need to match about \$640,000 of funding. There may also be state money available.

Step three, which would include pre-engineering and environmental clearances, carries an estimated cost of \$25 million. A route over the former Rock Island (now used by Metra, CSX, and Iowa Interstate) is the current focus. Peoria will have to match 20% of those costs.

Last year, the city was awarded a \$500,000 federal grant to fund the initial step, which the city then used to hire an engineering firm out Chicago to do the required work.

Peoria Mayor Rita Ali has made passenger rail a major focus point of her time as mayor. Former U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood has helped Ali and Peoria reach key milestones in the process. Most of Peoria's city leaders agree that bringing passenger service to the city will be a net benefit in the long run.

Peoria has been without direct passenger rail service of any kind since October 4, 1981, when Amtrak's *Prairie Marksman* on a Chicago (Union Station)-to-East Peoria routing using ICG (ex-GM&O) and TP&W trackage ended a 14-month test run. Before that the Rock Island's *Peoria Rocket* ran from Chicago (La Salle Street Station)-to-Peoria until the last day of 1978 after over a century of continuous service. Amtrak service to nearby Chillicothe on the Santa Fe lasted until 1996, when BNSF rerouted those trains onto former Burlington trackage.

*Adapted from Peoria Journal Star*

## FOR SECOND YEAR IN A ROW THE CHICAGO UNION STATION POLAR EXPRESS CANCELED

A popular Chicago-area holiday event once again won't take place this holiday season due to extensive city street reconstruction above Chicago Union Station.

Based on the popular children's book by Chris Van Allsburg and movie "The Polar Express," the ride in and out of Chicago Union Station using Amtrak equipment gave passengers the chance to relive the classic story on a one-hour train trip to meet Santa.



*A frame from the 2004 Warner Bros. animated film adaptation of "The Polar Express"*

Over the last five years, the popular event has been cancelled several times, including in 2020 for the COVID pandemic, and for a shortage of railroad crews in 2022.

While a "Polar Express" event won't take place in the immediate Chicago area, other tourist railroads and railroad museums across the country will be holding events based on the popular children's book and movie.

Numerous tourist railroads and museums that can't secure rights to the movie also offer their own Santa-themed rides, taking advantage of the high demand for the family-friendly Christmastime activity.

For several years, Blackhawk's website has maintained a page keeping track of holiday-themed railroad events. Consult our current listing at [blackhawkrailwayhistoricalsociety.org/midwest-santa-trains.html](http://blackhawkrailwayhistoricalsociety.org/midwest-santa-trains.html)

*Adapted from NBC5*



## Chicago Area Commuter Rail News

### **METRA "RAILS, TRAILS, AND ALES" EXCURSIONS NOT RUNNING IN 2025**

After running on select fall and summer weekends from 2021 to 2024, Metra said in a September 8 social media post that the "Rails, Trails, and Ales" excursion service on the weekday-only Heritage Corridor would not be operating in 2025. No reason was given.



*A 2022 "Rails, Trails, and Ales" train, with first two cars modified to carry bicycles, at Willow Springs.*

With the encouragement of online municipalities and groups promoting local tourism, Metra ran the "Rails, Trails, and Ales" excursion service on the former Alton/GM&O/ICG line on Saturdays, starting in the fall of 2021 with two trains in each direction making all stops between Chicago Union Station and Joliet, Illinois. Online and printed advertising materials encouraged riders to bring their bicycles and to explore area bike trails, craft breweries, and local festivals. Tickets were priced the same as Metra discounted weekend fares.

Since Metra normally runs their six Heritage Corridor trains Monday-Friday, there was capacity for the extra runs on weekends, along with the dozen daily Amtrak trains, and a handful of Union Pacific and CN freight trains. Metra did have to get permission from CN (which dispatches the route) to run the special weekend trains.

*Spike & Tie*

### **METRA'S PROPOSED 2026 BUDGET HAS FARE INCREASE, AVOIDS SERVICE CUTS**

On Friday, October 10, Metra unveiled a \$1.1 billion budget for 2026 that includes an RTA-mandated fare increase and other measures to cover a projected \$68 million shortfall, but no service cuts are anticipated.

Metra also proposed a \$575.3 million capital plan that continues major investment in bridges, stations, and new and rehabilitated rolling stock.

Like CTA and Pace, Metra expected to be facing a larger funding shortfall next year, with the exhaustion of federal COVID-era relief funds. All three transit agencies have been using these relief funds to cover the drops in fare revenue due to lower ridership.

Metra will now be able to get through most of 2026 before those relief funds are fully spent and expects to be able to cover the smaller shortfall. The commuter rail agency still expects significant shortfalls in both 2027 and 2028, and service cuts and other actions will still be needed unless there is increased funding.

The Regional Transportation Authority required Metra, CTA, and Pace to raise fares by a minimum of 10 percent in 2026 to address deficits brought on by the exhaustion of the federal relief funds. It would be the first system-wide fare increase since 2018.

Public hearings about the budget will be held throughout the region on Nov. 5 and 6, and one hearing can also be attended virtually via Microsoft Teams.

Details of the budget, proposed fare increase, and instructions for attending the virtual hearing, along with submitting budget comments via mail, email, or voicemail can be found through the link to the press release "Proposed 2026 Budget Includes Fare Increase" on Metra's website at [metra.com/news](https://www.metra.com/news)

Further resolution of Illinois' public transit funding problem is in the hands of the Illinois State Legislature, which has proposed a \$1.50 fee on most deliveries to homes.

*Adapted from Metra*



## South Shore Line News & History

### ORGANIZATIONS JOIN FORCES TO ENSURE INSULL-ERA DEPOT'S FUTURE

The iconic pink stucco station at Beverly Shores, Indiana, should be protected for future generations thanks to a 100-year lease between the Northern Indiana Commuter Transportation District (NICTD) and Indiana Landmarks, a non-profit historic preservation organization. The Beverly Shores Depot Museum and Art Gallery will remain as a tenant, continuing a multi-decade stewardship for the community landmark.



The Spanish Colonial (or Mediterranean) Revival-style depot is one of two surviving depots, out of 11 originals, built in this style built in the mid-1920s along the North Shore and South Shore electric interurban lines when they came under the common ownership of utility magnate Samuel Insull.

The Beverly Shores depot was slated for demolition before supporters rallied to save it and secure its listing in the National Register of Historic Places in 1989. The 2025 agreement will ensure the depot remains serving the local community as both an art gallery, community center, and a flag stop for the South Shore line.

*Adapted from MySouthShoreLine.com*



## Area Rail History & Preservation News

### N&W 300 GROUP RECEIVES GRANT FROM NORFOLK SOUTHERN FOR SLEEPER RESTORATION

The Norfolk and Western Business Car 300 Preservation Society is thrilled to announce that they have been selected to receive a \$7,500.00 grant from Norfolk Southern's Thriving Communities Grant Program in support of their #SaveTheHollinsCollege campaign.

This generous funding will provide a major boost to our efforts:

- \$2,500.00 will cover essential air brake work required before the “Hollins College” can be moved to North Judson, Indiana.
- \$5,000.00 will jump-start the restoration of this significant piece of Norfolk and Western history.

“Hollins College” is a 12-4 Sleeper built by the American Car & Foundry in January 1950 for the Wabash, initially named “Western Sunset.” The car was acquired by Norfolk & Western in the Wabash lease in 1964 and operated in revenue passenger service until 1969.

In 1972, N&W assigned the car to Business Train Service and renamed it “Hollins College” after a private university in Virginia.

Before the grant can be fully put to work, the group must first move “Hollins College” the 968 miles from New Jersey to Indiana. Thanks to supporters, 129 miles have already been adopted as of September 26, 2025, leaving 839 miles still available.

For \$14.51 per mile, donors can cover the transportation costs and bring “Hollins College” one step closer to restoration. Donations can be made, and more information about the project can be found on their website at [nw300.org/hollinscollege/](http://nw300.org/hollinscollege/)

*Adapted from Norfolk and Western  
Business Car 300 Preservation Society*



### **JOLIET WATER PARK EJ&E CABOOSE AND BOXCAR STILL AVAILABLE**

With the Joliet Park District being unable to solicit sufficient bids in an auction held earlier this year, a member of the Joliet Park Foundation announced to those in attendance at Blackhawk's October 3, 2025, meeting said that both cars are available to anyone who can haul them away.

The shuttered water park, named "Splash Station," displayed 50-foot steel boxcar 62029 and caboose 539 were donated by the Elgin, Joliet & Eastern Railway and displayed on a hill at the entrance to the water park.



*EJ&E caboose 539 in service on a southbound Illinois River Line train crossing Lockport Street in Plainfield, IL*

With demand for new warehouses and data centers exploding around Joliet, the land that hosted the water park (which has been closed since 2020) is now being redeveloped.

It has been reported that other municipalities and museums have expressed interest in these classic examples of EJ&E rolling stock. Anyone interested in one or both cars should contact the Joliet Park District directly.

*Spike & Tie staff*

### **FOX RIVER GROUP RESTORES 1913-BUILT INTERURBAN TO ORIGINAL GLORY**

To anyone familiar with South Elgin's Fox River Trolley Museum, you know they have been hard at work for years improving their property and restoring the priceless pieces of equipment in their collection.

2025 has been no different, with one of their latest accomplishments being formally revealed at the end of September on Member's Day. Chicago, Aurora & Elgin 316 was one of three wood CA&E cars saved from scrap by Fox River's predecessor RELIC, and has recently been restored to its 1920s appearance, including the coffee-and-cream paint scheme that predated the blue and red paint variations that the interurban's fans are more familiar with.



*Pre-restoration CA&E 316 in 2007.*

Photos of the restoration, with its recreated arched windows, stained glass, and gold leaf lettering, can be found on Fox River Trolley Museum's Facebook page and on their website [foxtrolley.org](http://foxtrolley.org)

The project included a complete rebuilding of the 112-year-old car, including electrical system, interior, and exterior.

Having completed 316, the Fox River's restorers will turn their attention to their other 1913 Jewett coach, 317, along with other ongoing projects.

*Adapted from [foxtrolley.org](http://foxtrolley.org)*





**Blackhawk Railway Historical Society**  
Newsletter Office  
1927 S Hamilton Street  
Lockport IL 60441-4323

## *Blackhawk's next events...*

**INDIANA SWAP MEET – 10 AM TO 2 PM (CHICAGO TIME)  
AMERICAN LEGION POST 66, 132 N. WIGGS STREET, GRIFFITH, IN 46319**

- October 26, 2025 (All tables sold out!)

**MONTHLY MEETINGS – FIRST FRIDAY OF THE MONTH - 7:30 PM  
GLADYS FOX MUSEUM, 231 E 9TH STREET, LOCKPORT, IL 60441**

- November 7, 2025 -  
Program: Mike Blaszak on American railroading in 1985
- December 5, 2025 -  
Annual Meeting, Officer Elections & Holiday Party

