

## Chair's Message



I am happy to report that the Rail Transportation Division is doing well. This is a reflection of the overall health and activity of the rail industry. Freight railroads are currently hiring new employees and calling back furloughed workers in order to keep up with increasing demand at a time when employment is stagnant or declining in many industries.

There is widespread interest and support at the state and federal government levels for many varieties of passenger rail. Throughout the country there are plans for new and expanded commuter and intercity passenger rail service.

RTD's heartening condition is also a reflection of the key role we play in the industry, and our effectiveness in that role. RTD serves to promote the advancement of mechanical engineering in the rail industry. It does this primarily by organizing and participating in technical conferences. These conferences allow for the exchange ideas, facilitating application of fruitful ideas and weeding out less effective ideas. Advances in mechanical engineering allow the rail industry to provide its services to the country in an increasingly safer, more efficient, and more cost effective manner.

RTD organizes two technical conferences each year: the Fall Technical Conference (FTC) and the Joint Rail Conference (JRC). These two conferences have distinct personalities. The FTC is tightly focused on mechanical engineering aspects of the rail industry and serves mainly domestic participants. The FTC is smaller than the JRC, usually with about 30 presentations and about 100 attendees, and is organized by just RTD. The JRC encompasses all engineering aspects of the rail industry, including civil and electrical engineering as well as

mechanical engineering. Participants travel from around the world to attend the JRC. At JRC 2010 there were nearly 200 presentations and more than 500 participants. JRC 2010 was organized with the IEEE, ASCE, TRB, and AREMA. For JRC 2011, APTA will also help organize the conference. The JRC is larger and growing. RTD also awards scholarships to mechanical engineering students pursuing railroad-related fields of study. Student papers are sponsored, including travel expenses.

The RTD Executive Committee is the most effective volunteer organization that I have had the honor and pleasure to serve on. My fellow members of the Executive Committee are good citizens of the railroad community, applying their sophisticated knowledge, skills, and abilities to help assure a bright future of our community and industry. I am particularly indebted to Cameron Lonsdale for inviting me to participate in the RTD Executive Committee, and to Jerry Anderson for leaving me the smooth-running machine that is the EC. Sam Williams serves as Manager of Divisional Affairs, and with an even matter-of-fact manner, Sam keeps everything running smoothly.

And so I look forward to an exciting year, and the upcoming Fall Technical Conference and Joint Rail Conference. If you are working on something that advances technology, I urge you to write a paper and share your hard-earned knowledge. If you are working on something that is susceptible to an engineering solution, or if you are just curious and wish to further your knowledge, I urge you to attend the conferences and ask questions and engage the presenters and other audience members. If you can help organize, then I urge you to participate in the RTD Committees. Above all, I urge you to engage in the RTD community.

David Tyrell,  
Senior Engineer,  
Volpe Center/US DOT

## FUTURE MEETINGS

**2011 JRC Pueblo** – 1:00 pm March 16 through  
Noon March 18

**2011 RTD Fall Technical Conference**,  
Minneapolis, MN: September 21-22  
Same week as RSI, AREMA and Signal

**2012 JRC** – Open

**2012 Fall Conference** – Omaha, Nebraska

**2013 JRC** – Philadelphia, **June** (with AREMA),  
Tentative

**2013 Fall Conference** – November, Altoona, PA

## Past Chair's Message



It is hard to believe how fast the past year has gone. Summer is almost over, kids are getting ready to go back to school, and business is picking up (at least for some). My year as Chairman of RTD was both exciting and meaningful, working with great people and culminating in the largest Joint Rail Conference I had ever been involved in.

The Rail Transportation Division is in good hands and experiencing successful conferences that offer real benefit to our industry. The rail industry is recognized today more than ever for its efficiency and increasing ability/capacity to handle intercity freight. In spite of the recent tough economic times I am encouraged about the future of rail, and hope that we at RTD transmit that enthusiasm to the next generation.

My deepest thanks to all the volunteers who made this year a pleasure, and who make these conferences a reality year after year. I am especially indebted to Sam Williams, our Manager of Divisional Affairs whose efforts keep us all on time and on target. My warmest wishes to our new Chairman, David Tyrell, who is already quite busy planning for our upcoming Fall Conference in Roanoke, VA, and doing a great job.

Let me close by urging you all to continue to participate in RTD conferences and activities. If you can attend or prepare a paper who will be enriched I am sure. The RTD continues to support student participation, hoping that many will decide to seek employment in our industry. They are, after all, our future.

**IN MEMORIAM  
ROBERT WILLIAM RADFORD  
JUNE 17, 1928 - MAY, 24, 2010**

We are saddened to announce the passing of an ASME Fellow and a longtime friend and supporter of RTD, Bob Radford in Kingston, ON, Canada.

Bob served as Chair of the Rail Transportation Division, 1975-76, and was a frequent contributor of technical papers. His engineering expertise and service to ASME were recognized when he was advanced from Member grade to Fellow, which recognizes exceptional engineering achievements and contributions to the engineering profession, and is the highest elected grade of membership within ASME.

Born in Providence, RI, Bob graduated from Liverpool University (England) in 1946. His career included working for English Electric Co., Ltd. as Senior Service Engineer and Canadian Vickers Ltd. as Boiler Sales Engineer. He moved to the Canadian National Railway Company and advanced to Chief Mechanical and Electrical Engineer, retiring in 1967. Also, Bob served in the Royal Canadian Air Force, 1951-53, as 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant.

In addition to his engineering contributions to the rail industry, Bob will always be remembered for his keen sense of humor. He always had an amusing story whenever he gathered with colleagues.

Bob Radford will be sadly missed by his many friends in the rail industry.

**MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT  
ACTIVITIES**

ASME Rail Transportation Division (RTD) provides education, information and technology advances for the International Rail Industry to advance productivity, reliability and safety of rail systems. RTD members are railroad operators, suppliers, academia and government. As of July, 2010, RTD's current primary membership stands at 705 and total membership stands at 2317, 6% increase from 6 months ago.

RTD conferences offer a benefit that non-members who pay the full non-member conference registration fee are eligible for one year free ASME Membership. After the 2010 Joint Rail Conference at Urbana-Champaign 27-29, we had 23 people signed up for the memberships. Welcome, New Members! Hope you find your active participation with RTD is very rewarding.

To help RTD to grow, please share your thoughts and RTD newsletters with your peers who would be interested.

in participating and contributing. Or just simply mention RTD to the railroad people who have not heard about us. Membership requirements and application forms are available on-line.  
[http://www.asme.org/Membership/Dues\\_Service\\_Charges.cfm](http://www.asme.org/Membership/Dues_Service_Charges.cfm)

**Amy Bolling leaving RTD General Committee for Grad School**

Amy Bolling, Engineer Car Design at CSX is returning to school at North Carolina State University to earn a masters in mechanical engineering. We wish Amy success in this endeavor.

RTD thanks the following list of companies for their generous support. These supporters make our technical conferences successful

**2009 RTD SUPPORTERS:**

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**2010 JRC Supporters:**

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**-- FEATURED UNIVERSITY --**  
**Railway Technologies Laboratory at**  
**Virginia Tech aims to advance railroad**

The Railway Technologies Laboratory (RTL) at Virginia Tech was established in 2004 as an Association of American Railroads (AAR) affiliated laboratory. Prior to 2004, rail dynamics activities were performed at Virginia Tech in the Advanced Vehicle Dynamics Laboratory (AVDL). Dr. Mehdi Ahmadian, professor of Mechanical Engineering, became the director of RTL in 2004. RTL is currently part of the Center for Vehicle Systems and Safety (CVeSS) at Virginia Tech. CVeSS is a multi-disciplinary center with a variety of research related to transportation applications (<http://www.me.vt.edu/cvess>).

The Railway Technologies Lab's missions are to:

1. explore and help implement technologies that will enable the U.S. railroads become more efficient and competitive in their day-to-day operation, technologies, products, and market share; and
2. create a productive environment for educating students to better serve the U.S. rail industry.

The funding provided by AAR supports 5 to 6 projects annually. The main thrust of these projects, which commonly span over 3 years, is to evaluate the application of advanced technologies (commonly 5 – 10 years away from operational implementation) for railroad applications. Most projects at RTL are performed in close coordination with one of the U.S. railroads, their suppliers, and/or the AAR Technology Transportation Center in Pueblo, CO. The scope of projects cover most engineering discipline, commonly ranging from mechanical engineering, to electrical and computer engineering. Some of the projects that have been pursued at RTL during the past three years include:

- Vibration-based Electromechanical Energy Harvesting Devices for Railroad Applications
- Isolating Defects in Rolling Stock with Ultrasonic Signature Analysis
- Speech-based Crew Alertness Monitoring System for Railroad applications
- Modeling the Dynamics and Wear of Friction Wedges
- Design, Fabrication, and Mechanical Strength Evaluation of a New Un-bonded Insulated Joint Concept
- Self-Healing Bolted Joints
- Online Wheel/Rail Defect and Irregularity Diagnosis Using Limited Bogie Data

- Advanced LIDAR Sensors for Accurate Measurement of wheel-rail dynamic interface
- ‘Smart’ RFID Tagging to Create Automatic Switch Lists
- Accurate Train Braking Distance Estimation

CVeSS and RTL occupy more than 10,000 sq. ft of office and laboratory spaces in Blacksburg, Virginia. The Center benefits from a vast array of test facility that supports its missions and research projects.

More information on the RTL activities can be obtained from Dr. Mehdi Ahmadian, Professor and Director, Mehdi Ahmadian, Center for Vehicle Systems & Safety (CVeSS), Railway Technologies Laboratory (RTL), Virginia Tech, MC-0901, Blacksburg, VA 24061, 540-231-1408, 540-231-0730 (Fax), [ahmadian@vt.edu](mailto:ahmadian@vt.edu).

### **History of the RTD Historic Equipment**

At the Lake Shore Railway Museum in North East, PA, there are a number of pieces of rolling stock that may qualify for historical status. They are:

- Little Joe – GE originally built for Russia but US government stopped shipment during cold war and they were later converted from Russian gage (60”) to US standard and three sold to Milwaukee Road, this is one of them.
- Ford Motor Co. – GE built 140 ton switcher with automobile radiator grille styling.
- Heisler fireless cooker – Steam locomotive used in switching operations where use of a conventional steam locomotive would be unacceptable. Fireless cookers ran on a charge of steam and water until pressure became too low to operate and then would need to be recharged.
- Ore Dock Shunt – Used to push rail cars on the coal and ore docks on Great Lake ports. I don’t know who built this piece of equipment.
- PRR Hi-capacity Flat car with Buckeye trucks – Supposed to be one of only a few ever made to this design.
- NYC GE U25B – The highest horsepower single engine locomotive for its time, incorporating many unique features. The locomotive on display was the first U25B delivered to the NYC RR in 1964.

If any Rail Transportation Division member has thoughts or recommendations regarding which pieces of equipment should be recommended for historical status please let me know by email.

I’m open to suggestions of individuals I could interview for this activity. Please email your suggestions.

Al Bieber

[abieber@velocity.net](mailto:abieber@velocity.net)

**RTD Fall Technical Conference  
October 12-13, 2010  
Roanoke, VA  
Rail Transportation Success through  
Research and Technology**

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2010**

**CONFERENCE BREAKFAST:**

7:00 am - 7:45 am – Breakfast (Tuesday Author's Orientation in Breakout Room)

**RTD TECHNICAL SESSIONS:**

8:00 pm - 9:45 pm – Operations & Standards  
10:00 pm - 11:45 pm – Locomotive Safety & Operations

**CONFERENCE BUFFET LUNCHEON & PROGRAM:**

12:00 pm - 1:30 pm  
Keynote Speaker - Gerhard Thelen, Vice President Operations Planning & Support, Norfolk Southern  
"Norfolk Southern, a Railroad that Grows Through Research and Technology"

**RTD TECHNICAL SESSIONS:**

1:45 pm - 3:15 pm – Passenger Car Safety  
3:30 pm - 5:00 pm – Applied Vehicle Dynamics & Research  
5:15 pm - 6:30 pm – Railcar Research & Technology

**CONFERENCE RECEPTION (with hors d'overs - No Program):**

6:45 pm - 9:30 pm - Virginia Transportation Museum

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2010**

**CONFERENCE BREAKFAST:**

7:00 am - 7:45 am – Breakfast (Wednesday Author's Orientation in Breakout Room)

**RTD TECHNICAL SESSIONS:**

8:00 am - 9:45 am Vehicle Dynamics Simulation Advances  
10:00 am - 11:45 am Track Research & Development

**CONFERENCE BUFFET LUNCH (Hotel Roanoke - No Program):**

12:00 pm - 1:00 pm

**TECHNICAL TOUR – NORFOLK SOUTHERN:**

1:30 pm - 5:00 pm - NS Locomotive Shop and 2 Track Geometry Cars

**V. Terrey Hawthorne Memorial Scholarship  
Fund Activity Report**

The ASME RTD is proud to be able to be a strong supporter of academic professors and students involved in the rail industry through our scholarships.

For 2010 the ASME RTD has continued its support of the AAR Affiliated Laboratories (University of Chicago at Urbana – Champaign, Virginia Tech, & Texas A&M). Their continued contribution to the industry with innovative research has shown to be a great asset.

We are also proud to announce that a new scholarship is now available and will start for the 2010 ASME RTD Fall Technical Conference in Roanoke, VA. Termed "The ASME RTD Student Conference Scholarship Award" is \$1000 USD to be paid to the university to fund expenses for a student to travel to and present a published paper at an ASME RTD conference. The scholarship may be used to pay for airfare, train, rental car, taxi, hotel, meals, etc. In addition, the student will have full registration fees waived for the conference. This scholarship will be available to 10 students per conference. There are multiple goals to this scholarship. 1) To foster student engineers involved in rail research to present their publications at a peer reviewed industry conference. 2) To have those students meet and network with industry leaders at the conferences and hopefully consider a career in the rail industry. 3) To have high quality academic research presented at ASME conferences and help utilize those efforts for the improvement of the industry. The ASME RTD feels that this will be a positive move to help foster young engineers into our growing industry.

Should you have interest in The ASME RTD Student Conference Scholarship Award or know someone that would, please feel free to contact Matthew Dick with any questions you may have. [dick.matthew@ensco.com](mailto:dick.matthew@ensco.com) 703-321-4515



2011

# CALL FOR PAPERS & PRESENTATIONS

## Joint Rail Conference - 2011

### **SHARED CORRIDORS, SHARED INTERESTS**

### **Pueblo Convention Center, Pueblo, Colorado, USA**

### **March 16 – 18, 2011**

**JRC 2011** will be the major, multidisciplinary North American railroad conference encompassing all aspects of rail transportation and engineering research. The conference is a cooperative effort of the six co-sponsoring organizations and will be held March 16-18, 2011 at the Pueblo Convention Center in Pueblo, Colorado, 115 miles, (184 km) south of Denver.

Papers and presentations are being solicited on railroad civil, mechanical, electrical, and systems engineering, as well as safety, planning, design, operations, maintenance, and management. The conference theme is *Shared Corridors, Shared Interests* and will cover freight and passenger rail, encompassing commuter, regional and intercity systems. Topics include, but are not limited to:

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#### **Railroad Infrastructure Engineering**

Track systems and components, railbed substructure engineering, bridge engineering, electrical network, and best maintenance practices

#### **Rail Equipment Engineering**

Motive power technology, vehicle/track interaction, wheels, couplers, components, rolling stock design, manufacturing, and maintenance

#### **Signal & Train Control Engineering**

Systems integration, track and wayside components, equipment components, positive train control, interoperability, and microprocessor control

#### **Service Quality & Operations Research**

Service availability, capacity, reliability, passenger communication, information systems, transport mode integration, and fare collection

#### **Planning and Development**

Project management, planning & financing, new start and expansion development, service planning, environmental impact, and workforce development.

#### **Safety and Security**

System safety, risk analysis, accident avoidance, accident mitigation, human factors, hazmat handling, emergency management, and security

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### **Abstracts due October 1, 2010**

Additional information about abstract submission and JRC 2011 is available at:

<http://www.asmeconferences.org/JRC2011/>

Companies and organizations interested in **sponsorship and exhibit opportunities** should contact Steven Dedmon, (717) 242-4972, [sdedmon@standardsteel.com](mailto:sdedmon@standardsteel.com)

To be placed on the mailing list to receive further information about JRC 2011, send an e-mail to: [sdedmon@standardsteel.com](mailto:sdedmon@standardsteel.com) with the subject **JRC Info**. Include your **Name, Affiliation** and **E-mail address**.



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