

Rail Transportation Division Newsletter



Editor: Tom Guins

Fall 2008

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS



These are exciting times for the ASME Rail Transportation Division and the railroad industry! Our railroad industry, both freight and passenger, continues to be strong even with the headwinds of a troubled economy. High-energy prices are clearly focusing the public's attention on something we have known

for a long time – that railroads move things and people very efficiently and effectively. Even with our current enviable industry position (Who back in 1975, except for the very optimistic, would have thought that railroads would be this strong today?) it is incumbent upon engineers to continue working towards making railroads safer and more efficient.

The recent RTD Fall Technical Conference in Chicago was a great success, with more than 80 attendees, and papers on a wide variety of interesting technical subjects. This meeting was held during the same September week, and at the same hotel location, as the annual Railway Supply Institute Conference, thus allowing engineering professionals in our industry to get the most out of their travel dollar, and their precious time. I would like to again personally thank the conference organizers, session organizers, reviewers, authors, and our fine guest speaker, Lisa Stabler of BNSF Railway.

Going forward ASME RTD is focused upon 1) having excellent conferences with high quality technical papers on subjects of use to the railroad industry, 2) increasing railroad member participation, and 3) reaching out to younger engineers. In particular we are working to maintain close relationships with universities having AAR Affiliated Labs – Virginia Tech, Texas A&M and the University of Illinois. RTD has begun providing financial grants to these institutions to increase student participation at our events. This could include students attending conferences, writing technical papers, and performing the role of Session Organizer. Students from these institutions have participated in RTD conferences in recent years and they have set a high performance bar for the rest of us, I can assure you!

Upcoming RTD Technical Conferences include the ASME/IEEE/ASCE Joint Rail Conference in Pueblo, CO, to be held March 4-5, 2009, and the RTD Fall Technical Conference in Fort Worth, TX, in October of 2009. Also in 2010 conferences are being planned for the Philadelphia area and Roanoke, VA. It is no coincidence that two of these locations are close to Texas A&M and Virginia Tech, where many students are engaged in railroad research.

In closing, let's all take pride in helping our dynamic industry – the railroads – move forward through improvements in technology. As always, if you can think of a way we can make RTD better please let me know.

Cameron P. Lonsdale
ASME RTD Chair 2008-2009

FUTURE MEETINGS

2009 JRC Pueblo, March 4-5, 2009, Tour TTCI
(see more information in this Newsletter)
2009 RTD Fall Technical Conference, Ft. Worth, TX: Tentatively October 20-22, 2009
Tour Trinity car manufacturing facility and BNSF Network Operations Center
2010 JRC, Philadelphia area October 5-7, 2010
2010 RTD Fall Technical Conference, Roanoke, VA: October 5-7, 2010
2011 JRC Pueblo
2011 RTD Fall Technical Conference, Minneapolis, MN
Same week as RSI, AREMA and Signal

2009 Joint Rail Conference TTCI Pueblo, Colorado

PROGRAM SUMMARY

Wednesday, March 4:

7:30 am-11: 30 am -- TTCI TOUR (registration limited to space available, approx. 100)

11:30 am-12: 15 pm – BOX LUNCH at Hotel (no program)

12:30 pm- 2:30 pm – (1) PLENARY SESSION

2:45 pm- 4:30 pm – (2) TECHNICAL SESSION

4:30 pm- 4:45 pm – BREAK: Light refreshments.

4:45 pm- 6:30 pm - (3) TECHNICAL SESSION

7:00 pm CONFERENCE RECEPTION-DINNER-PROGRAM

Keynote speaker:

Michael Iden

General Director - Mechanical

Union Pacific Railroad

Subject: "Locomotive Technology and Fuels of the Future"

Thursday, March 5:

6:30 am- 7:15 am -- CONFERENCE CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST

7:30 am- 9:15 am – (4) CONCURRENT TECHNICAL SESSIONS

9:30 am-11: 15 am – (5) TECHNICAL SESSION

11:30 am- 1:00 pm – CONFERENCE BUFFETT LUNCHEON (NO PROGRAM)

1:15 Pm- 2:45 pm – (6) CONCURRENT TECHNICAL SESSIONS

3:00 pm- 4:45 pm – (7) TECHNICAL SESSION
4:45 pm- 5:00 pm – BREAK: Light refreshments.

5:00 pm- 6:45 pm – (8) CONCURRENT TECHNICAL SESSIONS

CALL FOR PAPERS

2009 JOINT RAIL CONFERENCE

March 4-5, 2009

Pueblo Convention Center & Marriott Hotel –
Pueblo, CO

*Rail Technology Improvements Through
Mechanical, Electrical and Civil Engineering*

ASME Rail Transportation Division, IEEE Vehicular Technology Society and ASCE Transportation Development Institute invite you to submit papers for presentation and discussion at the annual Joint Rail Conference. Papers are solicited from members of the supply industry, rail transportation corporations, rail transit agencies, governmental agencies, consulting/engineering firms, academia, technical organizations, and others. Papers should cover topics of current interest or new technology that may include but are not limited to:

- Positive train control
- Substation design
- Signal improvements
- Locomotive & vehicle performance including ride quality, crash worthiness, and
- Monitoring enhancements
- Design, maintenance, and reliability of rolling stock
- New electrical/electronic concepts for heavy rail/commuter rail/light rail performance
- And safety improvements
- Evolution in electrical/electronic rail products for more reliable service life or
- Safety improvements
- Electronic-controlled air braking systems
- Evolution in environmentally friendly designs for locomotives
- Improved AC/DC propulsion designs
- Computer simulations for improved railroad operations

Paper Schedule:

Abstracts Due: December 1, 2008

Author Notification of Acceptance: December 8, 2008

Draft paper due: December 31 2008

Review completed & author notified: January 20, 2009

Revised paper due: January 28, 2009

Final paper due: February 6, 2009

Abstracts and papers must be submitted through the ASME website which will be activated by November 5.

Check the RTD home page, <http://divisions.asme.org/rtd/>, and click "EVENTS" Or "CALL FOR PAPERS."

For questions, contact David Tyrell at david.tyrell@dot.gov or (617) 494-2687.

Note: Authors must be registered for the 2009 JRC by January 30, 2009, in order for a paper to be published. <http://www.asmeconferences.org/>

RTD Membership Development Activity

ASME RTD technical conferences offer a benefit to non-members who pay the full non-member conference registration fee making them eligible for a first-year free ASME Membership. From the 2008 ASME RTD Fall Technical Conference in Chicago, 8 people signed up for the memberships. Welcome to New Members! We hope you find your active participation with RTD very rewarding.

As of October 2008, RTD's current membership stands at 736 members indicating Rail Transportation as their primary interest. With secondary and other indications, the total members with an RTD interest is 2430. Primary membership is about a 12% increase from six months ago. Thanks to all the committee members who have worked to promote the RTD. Special thanks go to Mr. Paul Aspengren, who has served as the RTD Assistant Chair, Membership Development and helped in promoting RTD in Mexico. Due to his recent change in work responsibilities, Paul has had to discontinue this committee work.

To help RTD to grow, please share your thoughts and RTD newsletters with your peers who would be interested in participating and contributing papers. Or, just simply mention RTD to the railroad people who have not heard about us. For questions or more information, contact Li Cheng: chengl2@asme.org

CHARLES (CHARLIE) MORSE SMITH October 1, 1932 – October 4, 2008

It is with great sadness that we announce that Charles Morse Smith, 76, a resident of Strafford Wayne, PA, passed away on October 4, 2008, at Bryn Mawr Hospital, Bryn Mawr, PA, after an extended illness. "Charlie" as we all knew him, was a long-time friend and colleague to many in the railroad industry. Charlie impressed everyone as a rather private person who volunteered very little about his past career, although he was not secretive and would readily answer questions.

Charlie was born on October 1, 1932, and grew up in Wareham, MA, near Cape Cod. He graduated from Wareham High School in 1950, entered MIT in 1950 and graduated in 1954 with a Bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering. While at MIT he became president of the Model Railroad Club in his senior year, and was Secretary/Treasurer of a student chapter of the Electric Railroaders Association in his junior and senior years. Shortly after graduating he entered service with the New York Central Railroad in the Engineering Department. His career at the New York Central was interrupted by two years in the Army, during which he was stationed in Japan. By 1960, he had become the New York Central's Mechanical Engineer- Locomotives, with system-wide responsibilities. After the merger forming Penn Central, he was transferred to the Philadelphia area and became Penn Central's Senior Mechanical Engineer- Locomotives. As has often been related, the Penn Central in reorganizing the merged railroads adopted a policy of intermixing ex-New York Central and ex-Pennsylvania RR people in the same departments, and there ensued a cultural split referred to as the "Red Team (ex-PRR) versus the "Green Team" (ex-NYC), with many ex-PRR people adopting a condescending attitude toward ex-NYC people. Charlie once said this did not concern him, and he took pride that an ex-PRR official once said to him "You think like a PRR man."

Following the demise of Penn Central, he continued to work for Conrail, leaving in 1980 to join LTK Engineering Services, where he became a Senior Engineer. He was involved with locomotives, cars, subway equipment, light rail vehicles and various activities associated therewith. Charlie was still active at LTK Consulting Services, Inc. as Senior Consultant.

He joined Railway & Locomotive Historical Society (R&LHS) in 1952 and became active in the New York

Chapter, becoming its Secretary and then Chairman. As chair of the New York Chapter, Charlie published a monthly newsletter, which included very thorough summaries of the New York area and national rail industry news, and no doubt was a major factor in maintaining a high membership level in the Chapter across the country.

Charlie was one of three people who in 1970 formed the New York Central System Historical Society. He became president of the organization in 1974 and served until 2002. He also edited the organization's quarterly publication the "Headlight" from 1982 until his death.

He joined the American Society of Mechanical Engineers in 1962 and became a Life Member. He chaired ASME's Design Progress Committee in 1990-1991, and served the Rail Transportation Division as Chair of the History and Heritage Committee from 2001 until his death. Charlie was a wealth of railroad lore and regularly contributed interesting history articles to the ASME Rail Transportation Division newsletter.

We express our sincere condolences to his wife, Patricia, and his many friends.

Frank Heller had a long career with Phillips Petroleum

Frank Heller

1917 - 2008

Company in Bartlesville, OK. He represented Phillips Petroleum on many industry committees, including the Compressed Gas Association (CGA), the Manufacturing Chemist Association (MCA), the American Petroleum Institute (API), and the Tank Car Committee (TCC) of the Association of American Railroads (AAR).

Frank was recognized as a prominent figure in the design of pressure relief devices for pressure vessels and railroad tank cars. He was a contributor to ASME, including his 1970 paper entitled, "Evolution of Tank Car Design through Engineering", which provides a comprehensive summary of the history of the industry.

As the CGA member on the AAR Tank Car Committee, Frank led many efforts that improved the safety of hazardous materials transportation. He was a long-time chairman of the TCC's Sub-committee 1, responsible for the industry specifications relating to the design of tank cars, valves and pressure relief devices. Frank was one of the few non-railroaders who were privileged to

serve as the chairman of the TCC.

Frank graduated from Oklahoma University in 1940 with a B.S. in Chemical Engineering. He served his country in the US Army-Air Force during WW 2. He was an amateur radio operator and an avid bridge player. He was a noted photographer and directed President Eisenhower's People-to People program in photography.¹ Frank was an avid collector with a collection of over 30,000 beer cans, campaign buttons, beer mugs, bricks, fruit labels, cigar bands, stamps, and coins.

Frank passed away October 3, 2008 at the age of 91. At the time of his death, he was living in College Station, Texas, close to his sons. Frank is survived by his sons, Page and Scott, and five grandchildren.

RTD Initiatives for Students

RTD will soon be providing a 2009 grant of \$2,000 to each the following Universities to increase student participation in RTD conferences :Texas A&M, Virginia Tech and the University of Illinois. It is hoped that these funds will be used for student engineers to attend RTD conferences, author technical papers and perform the role of Session Organizers.

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