

Rail Transportation Division Newsletter



Editor: Tom Guins

Spring 2010

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS



I trust that you all are surviving an unusual winter, especially in the East, and are looking forward like I am to spring. It seems that our Fall Conference was just a short time ago, but here it is March already. We at RTD have been quite busy over this winter planning the Spring Joint Rail Conference in late April at the University of Illinois

in Urbana. We expect that this will be one of the largest, if not the largest, Spring Conference we have held in recent memory.

Although we will have the usual array of topics at the JRC, we are focusing on High Speed and Intercity Passenger Rail, a timely and interesting topic. We will have over 180 papers and presentations as well as over 50 posters at a special poster session. There will be several invited speakers and panel discussions within the varying paper tracks. We will have an exhibit area with a number of companies showing their wares. Stay tuned to the website and emails for announcements. I hope you have registered or will soon to take advantage of the technical information and discussions to be held.

I have been involved in the rail industry since I graduated from college with my BSME in 1973. I have been privileged to have seen much and participated in more. Our industry appears stronger than ever, weathering this downturn in our economy in a position for further growth in the future. These are exciting times for many, tough times for some, but as we all pull

together we can share in a bright tomorrow.

Not long after the JRC2010 my term of office as RTD Chair will come to a close. It has been and continues to be an exciting time for me. The year is moving quickly, our dedicated volunteers on the Executive and General Committees are a great group, and with our new Chair for 2010-2011, David Tyrell, we will be in excellent hands. My deepest thanks to all the volunteers who make this work 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.

Let me close by urging you all to participate in the RTD conferences and activities. If you can attend or prepare a paper, you 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.

Gerald Anderson
Sr. Principal Investigator
TTCI

FUTURE MEETINGS

- 2010 JRC, Urbana-Champaign, IL: April 27-29**
(University of Illinois)
- 2010 RTD Fall Technical Conference, Roanoke, VA: October 12-13** (Virginia Tech.)
- 2011 JRC Pueblo – Date TBD**
- 2011 RTD Fall Technical Conference, Minneapolis, MN: September**
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**
Note that all dates and locations are subject to change as

**Call for Papers
RTD Fall Conference
October 12-13, 2010
Roanoke, VA**

The 4th annual ASME Rail Transportation Division Fall Conference will be held in Roanoke, VA on Wednesday and Thursday, October 12-13, 2010.

Roanoke, VA has had a long history with the rail industry and is currently the headquarters of the Norfolk Southern Railroad Research and Test Department. It is also near the campus of Virginia Tech, in Blacksburg, VA which is also an AAR affiliated laboratory.

You are invited to submit technical papers for presentation and discussion at the 2010 ASME Rail Transportation Fall Conference. Papers are solicited from members of the railway supply industry, rail transportation companies and transit agencies, governmental agencies, consulting/engineering firms, academia, technical organizations and others. Papers should cover a topic of current industry interest. Topics may include:

- Positive Train Control / Communications-Based Train Control
- Track and Equipment Health Monitoring
- ECP Brakes
- Advanced Risk Reduction Data Analysis
- Passenger Equipment Crashworthiness
- Innovations in Tank Cars
- Heavy Axle Load Performance Issues
- Materials and Failure Analysis of Track and Equipment Components
- Locomotive and Freight Car Improvements
- New or Improved Mechanical Components
- Vehicle Dynamics
- System Safety and Emergency Preparedness
- Infrastructure and Capacity Enhancements

Abstracts are due May 14, 2010. Advanced conference registration is required for the lead authors of papers, before final acceptance of papers for publication. For specific details and questions regarding submission of papers, please contact Matthew Dick at dick.matthew@ensco.com

**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
703-321-4515

2009 Fall technical conference 21st Century Rail, Looking to the Future

The Fall RTD Conference was held on October 20-21, 2009 at the Renaissance Worthington Hotel in Fort Worth, Texas. There were seven technical sessions held over the 2-day event with 24 presentations. We had a great tour on Tuesday morning to a Trinity Industries rail car shop and then to the BNSF Railway Network Operations Center. In spite of the economic downturn and some fourth quarter travel restrictions for some, attendance was 55, and financially we were able to break even.

In addition to the technical sessions, we were fortunate enough to have presentations given by experts throughout the industry. Salvatore DeAngelo of Trinity Rail Express and Tim McKay of DART provided introductory speeches and sessions to kickoff the entire event. Dr. Gary Fry of Texas A&M (Texas Transportation Institute) was our keynote speaker and presented during our Dinner Banquet.

Our special thanks to Tony Hiatt at Trinity and Mike Kennelly at BNSF for arranging the tour. We, of course, want to thank the conference sponsors, listed below, and those volunteers who made arrangements, reviewed papers, and planned meals and meeting rooms. Last, but not least, thanks to the authors for their papers and presentations. If you were not able to attend, but would like a copy of the papers, the CD is available on the ASME website for a nominal fee.

Please thank the following companies that helped make this conference a success by sponsoring the reception and program:

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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 membership consists of railroad operators, suppliers, academia and government. As of February, 2010, RTD's current primary membership stands at 642 and total membership stands at 2193. Compared to August, 2009, we saw a 5% decrease in membership, mainly due to the economic downturn. But the encouraging news is that there is more international participation, thanks to the active promotion of our members. The upcoming Joint Rail Conference at Urbana-Champaign 27-29 April will have participants from six continents and over 20 different countries.

RTD conferences offer a benefit to non-members who pay the full non-member conference registration fee. By doing so, they may apply for a free first-year ASME Membership. We hope more non-member attendees of the upcoming JRC conference will choose to become members.

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

2010 Joint Rail Conference
Urbana, Illinois
April 27-29, 2010
High Speed and Intercity Passenger Rail

Preliminary Program: (The complete program can be viewed at: <http://tinyurl.com/yg9ugfc>)

JRC 2010 Conference Tracks:

- 1 - Railroad Infrastructure Engineering
- 2 - Rail Equipment Engineering
- 3 - HSR Experience & Development
- 4 - Shared Corridors
- 5 - Planning, Management & Operation
- 6 - Safety, Security & Environment

Track Leaders:

- Track 1 - Riley Edwards - University of Illinois
Track 2 - Michelle Muhlanger - Volpe Center
Track 3 - Chris Barkan - University of Illinois
Track 4 - Lamont Ward - Amtrak
Track 5 - Avery Grimes - Steel River
Track 6 - Bob Dorer - Volpe Center

Tuesday, April 27th, 2010

- 7:00am - 9:00am – Continental Breakfast
8:00am - 12:00pm – Concurrent Technical Sessions
12:00pm - 1:25pm – Luncheon
1:25pm - 5:15pm – Concurrent Technical Sessions
5:00pm - 6:30pm – Reception/Poster Presentations

Wednesday, April 28th, 2010

- 7:00am - 9:00am – Continental Breakfast
8:00am - 11:35am – Plenary Presentation Sessions
11:35pm - 1:00pm – Luncheon
1:00pm - 5:00pm – Concurrent Technical Sessions
5:00pm - 6:30pm – Reception
7:00pm - 9:00pm – **BANQUET**- Illini Union
Ballroom - 2nd Floor

Thursday, April 29th, 2010

- 7:00am - 9:00am – Continental Breakfast
8:00am - 12:50pm – Concurrent Technical Sessions
1:30pm – Technical Tour - University of Illinois Research Centers

**ASME RAIL TRANSPORTATION DIVISION
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