



# NORTHSTAR NEWS

This issue is an abbreviated edition as the editor is working for the NRHS Duluth Convention.



Southern Pacific 4449 brings its train into St. Cloud, MN July 16th. Photo by Dawn Holmberg

Contents	
Officer Contact Directory	P.2
Map to Jax Cafe	P.2
Minutes of the July 18, 2009 Meeting	P.2
Chapter Library Open House and Map	P.3
Synopsis of Railway Age Article: An Amtrak RFP by Fall?	P.4
From Trains Newswire	P.4

**Meeting Notice**

The Chapter's 40th Anniversary Banquet will be held Sunday August 9th at 4 pm at Jax Cafe, 1928 University Avenue NE, Minneapolis. Order off the menu with individual settlement. Following the dinner a combination slide and video show of Northstar Chapter activities over 40 years produced by your editor will be presented. Will you see yourself in the video? Come and see how some familiar faces have changed over the years.

Please RSVP to John Goodman, 952-854-6827, or email John at [jhgoodman2001@yahoo.com](mailto:jhgoodman2001@yahoo.com).

# Northstar Chapter Officers

## Board of Directors

Office	Name	Email	Phone
<b>President</b>	<b>Cy Svobodny</b>	<b>ctsvobodny@yahoo.com</b>	<b>651-455-0052</b>
<b>Vice President</b>	<b>Dawn Holmberg</b>	<b>dawn@dholmberg.com</b>	<b>763-784-8835</b>
<b>Past President</b>	<b>Mark Braun</b>	<b>mkbraun@hutchtel.net</b>	<b>320-587-2279</b>
<b>National Director</b>	<b>Bill Dredge</b>	<b>williamdredge@yahoo.com</b>	<b>952-937-1313</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Dan Meyer</b>	<b>treasurer@northstar-nrhs.org</b>	<b>763-784-8835</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Dave Norman</b>	<b>nevad11@hotmail.com</b>	<b>612-729-2428</b>
<b>Trustee</b>	<b>Doug Johnson</b>	<b>ddjoh322721@aol.com</b>	<b>612-825-6458</b>

## Staff

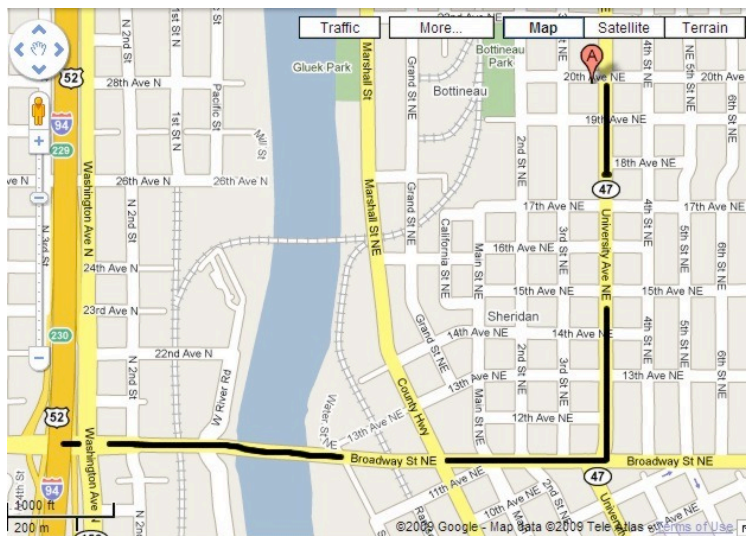
<b>Program Chairman</b>	<b>John Goodman</b>	<b>jhgoodman2001@yahoo.com</b>	
<b>Newsletter Editor</b>	<b>Russ Isbrandt</b>	<b>risbrandt@comcast.net</b>	<b>651-426-1156</b>
<b>Webmaster</b>	<b>Dan Meyer</b>	<b>Website: www.northstar-nrhs.org</b>	
<b>Chapter Mail Box</b>	<b>Northstar Chapter NRHS</b>	<b>PO Box 120832</b>	<b>St. Paul, MN 55112</b>

**NOTE: Consult the website for any announcements regarding chapter activities including cancellation of any meeting for any reason, including weather.**

## MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Dues are \$45 (\$33 for the National dues and \$12 for the local dues). Family memberships are \$5 per person additional. The student rate is \$22 (\$16 for the National, \$6 for the Northstar Chapter). If you want to join, an application is available at <http://www.northstar-nrhs.org/>. Print out this application and send it with a check made payable to "Northstar Chapter NRHS" to Northstar Chapter NRHS Membership Services, P.O. Box 120832, St. Paul, MN 55112.

### Map to Jax Cafe



### Minutes of the July 18, 2009 Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 pm by chapter president Cy Svobodny in the historic Como Park Streetcar Station with 16 members and guests present. Those present were asked to introduce themselves. Cy welcomed back John Skooglun, who had had surgery. Cy asked if there were any changes or corrections to the minutes of the June 20th membership meeting, as published in the July 2009 issue of Northstar News. No one had any, so the motion to approve the minutes, as published, was made, seconded, and carried. Treasurer Dan Meyer had no formal treasurer's report this month. He has opened Pay Pal and eBay accounts to handle sales of items in the Peterson collection which we are not keeping for the library. So far, sales of items from the library have been generating enough revenue to pay for rental and other expenses of the library, so we haven't had to tap any of the Certificates of Deposit, which total about \$30,000. Vice president Dawn Holmberg showed pictures of the old and new library rooms. Pat Perry suggested that the chapter thank everyone who has been working so hard on the library project. There was applause. The next sales of items will be in August at the

NRHS national convention in Duluth and in September at the fairgrounds flea market of railroad and model railroad items. John Goodman reported on trips and programs. The chapter picnic will be Saturday, August 1st at the Ironhorse Central. Concessions will be available. This will be the last year the steam engine will operate for a while as it will be out of service for several years while it gets a major boiler job. The first trip of the train is scheduled for 11 am. The event is also open to the general public. They are expecting about 800 visitors for the day. There will be no regular chapter meeting in August. The RSVPs for the banquet to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the founding of the chapter indicate that the planned room at Jax Cafe, which will accommodate 30 people, is adequate. People can order off the regular or Early Bird menus. All the past presidents of the chapter will be invited. In September, Richard Tubbesing will present the program. The question was asked if we need to worry about the program for the holiday party at this time. The answer was yes, we should be working on lining up a speaker for it. Byron Olsen has a program on the St. Paul Union Depot, but his slides are currently out on loan to someone who is working on a book about the depot. October and November are currently open. Bill Herzog volunteered to put on a program at the November meeting. We need to decide if we are going to keep on meeting at this location next year. It was suggested that we meet at the Jackson St. Roundhouse in June, July, and August of next year, as the light from outside makes it difficult to view images on the screen when sunset is so late in the evening as it is in the summertime. In October, maybe we can have a slideshow of this year's NRHS national convention in Duluth. Other suggestions for a program included inviting one of the speakers who will be giving a talk at the Duluth convention. As for trips, John said that the date for the start of the Northstar commuter rail service is not set yet. He noted that those chasing SP steam loco 4449 on its recent visit to the Twin Cities saw one of the cars for the Northstar service in the yard at Pigs Eye. Bob Clarkson said that, at recent garden railway open house, he met a woman who makes name badges for members of the garden railway group. He suggested that we have name badges made up for ourselves. They are large round buttons, They are two for \$5, mailed to your home. It was suggested that we give it some thought and bring the matter up again at the September meeting. John Goodman reported on the NRHS national convention, which will be held in Duluth in August. Some events are already sold out, but space is available on others. He reminded members about the August 1st picnic. It was noted that there will not be an issue of Northstar News before the picnic to remind members about it. Marty Swan said that he did not know of any members who had problems, so he did not have any report from the Cheer Committee. As for future programs, we have Richard Tubbesing lined up for September and have some possibilities for October. The subject of the Nominating Committee was brought up. As the slate of candidates must be ready by September 1st, this is the last meeting before that time, so members of that committee must be appointed tonight. Cy Svobodny appointed Bob Clarkson, Marty Swan, and himself to the Nominating Committee. Anyone who wants to run for any office should contact any member of the committee. Cy asked if there was any other business. He got no response, so a motion to adjourn the meeting was made, seconded, and car-

ried at 7:37 pm. It was announced that pop was available. Also, exchange newsletters were available at the front table. After a brief break, the program, which consisted of slides of the SP, UP, and Santa Fe from the Kurt Peterson collection, plus Dawn Holmberg's digital photos of the SP 4449 and the Disney Train.

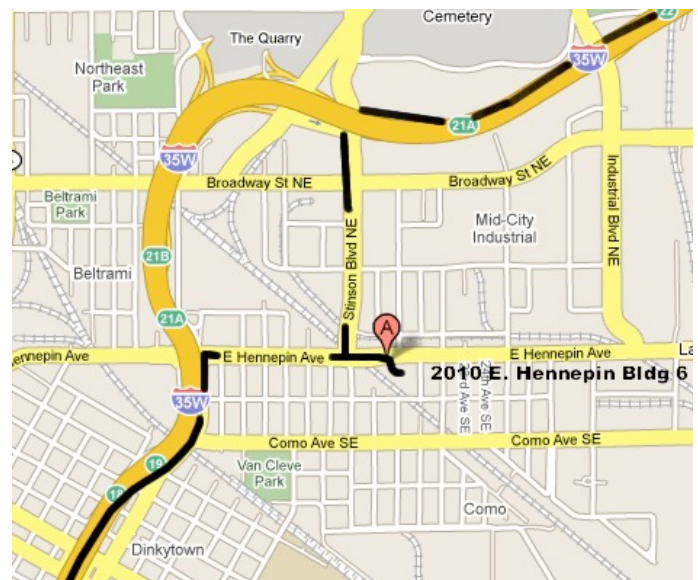
Respectfully submitted,  
 Dave Norman, Secretary Northstar Chapter NRHS

## Chapter Library Open House

You've seen pictures of the chapter library in Northstar News and at the recent membership meeting. Now you can see it in person. The Library Committee will be holding an open house at the chapter's library on Sunday, August 9, from 1:00 to 3:00 pm. Although there is a lot more work to be done before the library is ready to be open on a regular basis, after many months of work, things are far enough along that we can show off what we have already accomplished in organizing the library.

Please note that, even when the library is ready to be open on a regular basis, this will not be a circulating library. You will not be able to check books or other materials out and take them home. Instead, it will be a reference library. Library users will be able to read books, back issue magazines, old timetables, etc. in the library. They can take notes and we hope to add a flat-bed scanner so that images of the material can be e-mailed to themselves, so that they can make printouts at home (or at a public library, if they don't have a computer set-up at home.)

The library is located at 2010 E Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis. It's in Building 6. Look for the sign "RESEARCH LABORATORIES" over the door. A member of the library committee will be in the lobby of the building. Go up the stairs to the second floor and walk east about 75 feet; the door to the library is on the right. Take I-35W to the East Hennepin exit, then drive east on East Hennepin about half a mile. Just after passing under the BNSF bridge, turn right into the parking lot. An alternate route would be to take Highway 280 to the Como exit, then take Como west to SE 29th Ave. Take SE 29th Ave.



north to E Hennepin, then take E Hennepin west. Turn left into parking lot at 2010 (just before BNSF bridge.) Metro Transit Route 61 operates on E Hennepin.

## Synopsis of July Railway Age Article: An Amtrak RFP This Fall? By Douglas John Bowen

Amtrak is currently submitting its equipment wish list to its various political masters for review and will probably pull the purchase trigger by early fall.

Amtrak initially took a fix it first approach for equipment stored at Beech Grove, IN and Bear, DL. They've hired 52 new employees for Amfleet rehab. They will use part of their \$850 million in stimulus funds to rehab 60 Amfleet cars, 21 Superliners and 15 P-40 locomotives. Amtrak had to determine which of its needs were "shovel ready." They were unsure as to whether or not new equipment purchases would qualify, while equipment repair was sure to qualify. This prompted some rail advocates to voice some concern that Amtrak was mired in a "no can do" mindset.

Suppliers are not concerned though. Outside observers say major players such as Bombardier, Alstom, Siemens and perhaps Ansaldo and Talgo, are optimistic that Amtrak will be doing business with them fairly soon.

Amtrak is seeking up to four Viewliner prototypes, a sleeper, a dining car, a baggage car and perhaps a crew / sleeper or crew/ baggage combination. Amtrak plans to order a minimum of 125 cars. Amtrak's in-house publication *Amtrak Ink* specified 15 sleeper, 25 diners, and as many as 75 baggage cars for 115 cars as a starter.

Northstar News  
Northstar Chapter  
National Railway Historical Society  
4036 Birch Knoll Drive  
White Bear Lake, MN 55110

Address Correction Requested

Amtrak has reportedly been exploring an intercity version of the Bombardier multilevel car currently plying New Jersey Transit routes on the Northeast Corridor.

Outside the NEC the future equipment purchases may be determined by various state DOTs actively pursuing intercity rail. Amtrak is waiting to see what becomes of the \$8 billion infusion of high speed rail money. A Buy America provision may affect Amtrak's supplier pool. America doesn't have a design, build and deliver passenger car industry. There are assembly plants operated by various foreign manufacturers.

## From Trains Newswire

### Minnesota short line plans fall line reopening

Published: Wednesday, July 22, 2009

RUSH CITY, MN - St. Croix Valley Railroad plans to reopen its Snake River bridge at Pine City, MN this fall after repairs are completed, the *Pine City Pioneer* has reported. The line has been closed since May, when ice damage removed a concrete pylon jacket and revealed deterioration in the bridge pier [see TRAINS News Wire, May 21, 2009].

SCV General Manager George LaPray said he's hired an engineering contractor to fix the bridge. They've applied to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources for permits to conduct repairs. He hopes the contractor will be able to begin work by August 1 and finish by the end of October. It will likely cost \$700,000-\$800,000 to fix the bridge.

SCV operates the ex-Northern Pacific "Skally Line" between North Branch and Hinckley, MN. Its largest customer is a flour mill at Rush City, MN, which hasn't been able to receive railcars since the bridge was discovered to be unsafe in May.

LaPray said he hopes a federal grant will cover some or all of the repair costs.



**Left: 4449 from the Soo Line Soo Line Trail Overpass July 16th. Right: 4449 and train passing Big Lake. Both photos by Dawn Holmberg**



**4449 on its way to Chicago via the BNSF July 19th. Photo by Greg Smith**



**Steam up on the Ironhorse Central August 1st, site of the Northstar Chapter picnic. Photo by Dawn Holmberg**