



Journal

American Association of Railroad Superintendents

Issue 53

<http://www.railroadsuperintendents.org>

Fourth Quarter 2009

AARS - join a rich tradition

Founded in 1881 as the Association of Railway Superintendents, today's AARS is an organization for fostering interchange of knowledge and building connections for those in railroad operations, transportation, mechanical, engineering and management.

Member benefits

- Quarterly newsletter
- Annual meetings
- Winter meetings
- Seminars
- Scholarships
- Networking forums

Members include

- CEOs
- AVPs
- Presidents
- Superintendents
- Trainmasters
- Terminal Managers
- Engineers
- Operating managers
- Training managers
- Government leaders
- Division managers
- Administration managers
- Safety managers
- Railroad vendors
- And many more...

Winter Conference:

Focus on rail growth and regulation

The world's second richest man and most successful investor, Warren Buffett, has demonstrated his confidence in rail growth via the purchase of BNSF by Berkshire Hathaway.

Buffett thinks railroads are a key economic indicator because of the amount of retail and manufactured goods they haul across the country.

"They do it in a cost-effective way and extraordinarily environmentally friendly way," he told CNBC. "I basically believe this country will prosper and you'll have more people moving more goods 10 and 20 and 30 years from now, and the rails should benefit."

The key to making that growth profitable lies in effective rail operations and management, and the ability of railroads to operate efficiently under increasing regulation. That is why the AARS 37th Winter Conference will focus on growth and regulation as key themes. The conference will be held near the nation's capital in historic Alexandria, Va.

While at the center of the country's leading governing bodies, meeting attendees will hear from industry leaders who work to manage growth driven by the American Reconstruction and

Recovery Act, including Joseph Boardman, president and CEO of Amtrak, as the charge speaker.

Edward Hamberger, president and CEO of the American Association of Railroads, will share his insights on the outlook of rail growth and regulation as the luncheon speaker.

To assist those in rail operations and management with regulatory and compliance issues, an educational session from the National Railway Labor Conference regarding "Negotiating the Railway Labor Act" also is on the agenda.

The AARS 37th Winter Conference brings together all involved in the

Continued on Page 4



VEOLIA an outside-the-box company

Veolia Transportation specializes in the management and operation of bus, bus rapid transit, rail, paratransit, shuttle and taxi operations under contract to 200 cities and transit agencies in North America.



Within the rail division, the company is a leader in all types of passenger rail operations in the U.S. and Europe, managing some 60 million rail passenger trips per year in the US and 400 million worldwide. Veolia's rail services cover the entire spectrum including operations, customer care, railcar and train-set maintenance, track infrastructure maintenance, scheduling, dispatch, ticket sales and integration with

bus, taxi and other modes.

In the U.S., Veolia Transportation manages operations in several leading cities, and is the largest private-sector operator of rail services. The rail networks Veolia manages for cities and transit agencies include MBCR in Boston, which is currently the fifth largest commuter rail network in the U.S and the largest that has contracted its operations to a private company; TriRail commuter service in Miami, Fla.; Sprinter commuter rail services in North San Diego County,

The world's population has reached a unique tipping point. In 2008, for the first time in human history the global population became comprised of more urban dwellers than rural dwellers.

-VEOLIA Transportation Web site, Vision For Cities

Continued on Page 6

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF RAILROAD SUPERINTENDENTS
37th Winter Conference and Technical Showcase Registration, Feb. 7-9, 2010
Holiday Inn Historic District Alexandria, Virginia 877-504-0047

(Only one registrant and spouse/guest per form please)

Name _____ Title _____
 (PRINT NAME AS IT IS TO APPEAR ON BADGE)

Company _____ Address _____

City _____ State/Province _____ Zip/Postal Code _____

Phone _____ E-mail Address _____

Spouse/Guest(s) name(s) to appear on badge(s) _____
 (Business associates may not register as a spouse/guest)

	Exhibit Fee	Member	Non-Member	Spouse/Guest
Non-member Exhibitor Registration	\$750			
Member Exhibitor Registration* (includes tabletop exhibit and registration for one meeting attendee)	\$675			
Additional Exhibitor Representative Registration	\$295			
Attendee Registration	--	\$295	\$370	\$150

Please check all events you and your spouse/guest(s) plan to attend:

Sunday, February 7

Technical Showcase/Reception

Washington D.C. Tour

Monday, February 8

Continental Breakfast

Annual Luncheon

Spouse/Guest Tour & Lunch

Monday evening dinner

Tuesday, February 9

Continental Breakfast

Amount enclosed

Non-Member Exhibitor Registration		\$750 (includes exhibit table and registration for one company representative)
Member Exhibitor Registration		\$675 (includes exhibit table and registration for one company representative)
Member registration		\$295 (includes reception, breakfasts, lunch, dinner)
Non-member registration		\$370 (same as member plus one year's membership)
Spouse/Guest activities		\$150 (includes reception, tour/lunch, dinner)
Total Amount Enclosed	\$	

37th Winter Conference Registration Information:

Registration for 37th Winter Conference & Registration Payment can be made in two ways:

Method 1: Print and fill out a winter meeting registration form.

Mail completed form and check (U.S. funds) to AARS, PO Box 200, LaFox, IL 60147.

Method 2: Register online through the AARS Event Calendar.

Registration form cannot be accepted without accompanying payment either via online registration or in the form of a check. If registering by mail, send completed form and check in U.S. funds to AARS, PO Box 200, LaFox, IL 60147. All reservations must be received in the AARS office by Monday, Jan. 25, 2010. After that date, reservations will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. All cancellations are subject to a \$75 service charge.

Hotel reservations must be made directly with :

Holiday Inn Historic District, 625 First Street, Alexandria, VA 22314 877-504-0047

To obtain the special AARS rate of \$129/night, specify your attendance at the AARS 37th Winter Conference and make your reservation by Jan. 20, 2010. If you find it necessary to cancel your hotel room prior to the meeting, you must cancel your reservation 48 hours prior to your scheduled check-in date.

AARS Winter Meeting Program Schedule

Alexandria, Virginia - Feb. 7-9, 2010

Sunday, Feb. 7, 2010

1 p.m. Tour of Amtrak High Speed Rail Facility
to 4:30 p.m. and Washington D.C. attractions
5:30 p.m. Registration/Reception
to
7:30 p.m. Exhibitor Recognition

11:15 - Noon **CREATE and PTC Update**

AAR representative

Noon **Annual Luncheon**

Edward Hamberger, president and CEO, American Association of Railroads

1:15 - 5 p.m. **Presentations and Business Session**

National Railway Labor Conference: Negotiating Under the Railway Labor Act -- Issues and Case Studies

More details to come.

6:00 p.m.

Reception and Dinner

Dinner cruise along the Potomac aboard The Odyssey. Dining and dancing with views of Washington, D.C., monuments for meeting attendees, exhibitors and guests

Monday, Feb. 8, 2010

7 a.m. Technical Showcase
Continental Breakfast

8 a.m. **Opening Remarks**
AARS Second Vice President Earl Wacker, vice president, Rail URS Corporation

Safety Briefing

AARS Third Vice President Dan Kelley, transportation superintendent, Indiana Harbor Belt Railroad

Invocation

AARS Immediate Past President, Ron Batory, president and COO, Consolidated Rail Corporation

President's Address

James Bender, director of Interline, retired Canadian Pacific RR

8:15 a.m. **Charge to Superintendents**

Joseph Boardman, president and CEO, Amtrak

9 a.m. **NTSB Insights**

to 9:45 a.m. *Deborah Hersman, Chairman, National Transportation Safety Board*

9:45 a.m. **Technical Showcase/Break**

10:15 a.m. **High Speed Rail Panel**

to 11:15 a.m. *Amtrak, DOT and legislative representatives*

SPOUSE/GUEST PROGRAM

Monday, Feb. 8, 2010

8:45 a.m. Day tour and lunch at Mount Vernon
to
4 p.m. with guided tour and presentation by historic characters

Tuesday, Feb. 9, 2010

8 a.m. Technical Showcase
Continental Breakfast

9 to 9:45 a.m. **Operation Lifesaver Update**

Helen Sramek, President

9:45 a.m. **More Presentations, Details to Come**

to 10:30 a.m.

AARS sponsors Financing HSR conference

To foster the progress of high speed rail in the U.S., the AARS is sponsoring a conference held by the Financing High Speed Rail U.S.A. group "Identifying Effective Business Models for Financing and Developing High Speed Rail in the U.S.A.," Feb. 23-24 in Chicago.

This conference is for those interested specifically in the finance and public support aspects of enabling high speed rail projects. Railroad industry leaders will gather to discuss public support of high speed rail and how the long-term projects will be funded – whether state, public or private.

The cost of high-speed rail remains the biggest barrier to successful HSR project development.

The Financing High Speed Rail U.S.A. currently has the only summit planned to dissect project costs for both incremental and new-build high-speed rail projects.

The speaker panel includes approximately 30 industry experts from the U.S. and abroad.

For more information visit, www.financing-high-speed-rail-usa.com.

Speakers include:



MSU Railway Management Program Scholarship

Early interest in railroad fuels desire for continued learning

The AARS is pleased to announce that Steve Hoye, director of the agency and customer service-Belt Railway Company of Chicago and AARS member, was recently awarded the AARS Scholarship for the Michigan State University Railway Certificate Program. This \$15,000 scholarship is awarded once a year by AARS and is fully funded by MSU.

Hoye joined a diverse group of 10 from companies such as Amtrak, CSX, Michigan Technological University and The Alaska Railroad in the program Nov. 8.

"People in the class come from all different backgrounds and from all over the country," he said. "I am hoping to learn a little from everyone. They all have such a great wealth of knowledge; it's quite an impressive class when you deal with folks from Alaska to Fort Worth and from passenger to freight."

Hoye was attending management classes at DePaul University in Chicago when he received notification of his scholarship award in October. The MSU Railway Management Program includes four weeks

training in railroad history, operations and business practices including labor and negotiations, railroad customers and how other transportation methods operate with the railroad and as its competitor.

From November to March, students visit one location per session month, including Michigan State University in East Lansing, Mich.; the Transportation Technology Center Inc. in Pueblo, Colo.; Chicago; and rail systems in Jacksonville, Fla.

"It gives me a 10,000-foot view of how customers look at the transportation industry and how they see the cost and the benefits," Hoye said. "I look forward to learning how to better serve my customers and bring back an overall view of how different railroads and carriers do different things to please their customers."

Hoye, originally from Normal, Ill., grew his interest in railroading from the stories his grandfather passed along while working for Norfolk Southern as an engineer and switchman in Decatur, Ill.



From left, Steve Hoye, Belt Railway of Chicago; Barry Hall, CSX; and Chris Mazur, United Shortline Insurance Services, are all participating in November 2009 through March 2010 session of the Michigan State University Railway Management Program.

"He always instilled that sense of pride in working for the railroad," Hoye said. "As a kid I would play with the train sets and he would show me things like the couplers and boxcars and things like that. I always really enjoyed it."

Hoye began his railroad career with CSX Intermodal in 1993, where he worked five years. In 1999, he transferred to CSX Transportation as a terminal trainmaster. He returned for a stint to CSXI in 2002, just before he accepted his current position with the Belt Railway Company of Chicago in 2003.

Death of Mel Turner mourned

The AARS mourns the loss of former president Mel Turner Jr., who died Nov. 12 at age 65. Turner held the presidential office from 1993-1994.

Turner earned his bachelor of arts in business administration in 1966 from Grove City College in Pennsylvania.

His railroad career spanned 36 years, beginning with the U.S. Steel Railroads. He went on to serve as superintendent of both the Bessemer and Lake Erie Railroad in Pittsburgh and Elgin Joliet

and Eastern Railway in Illinois. He retired as general manager of the EJ&E in 2002.

Turner's many accomplishments included two Harriman Awards for safety while working for the EJ&E. A junction near Joliet, Ill., is named in his honor.

He is survived by his wife of 34 years, Ruth A. Turner; his daughter, Natalie; son, Jeffrey; sisters, Carole and Jeannette; brother, Steve; and many nieces and nephews.

Winter Conference focuses on rail growth, regulation

Continued from Page 1

safe and productive operation of North America's railway system, connecting executives, operating managers, supervisors, planners and designers with analysts, regulators, educators, suppliers and consultants.

The conference will be held Feb. 7-9 at the Holiday Inn Historic District in the heart of Old Town Alexandria, just 15 minutes from downtown Washington DC. In addition to insightful presentations, meeting attendees will be treated to a Sunday evening reception and technical showcase where they can network and gain information about the latest technology and services from leading industry suppliers.

Monday evening, conference attendees, exhibitors and guests will enjoy a dinner cruise along the Potomac aboard "The Odyssey." During the day, spouses and guests will tour and lunch at President George Washington's home, Mount Vernon.

Featured speakers

- Charge speaker of the conference: Joseph Boardman, president and CEO of Amtrak
- Edward Hamberger, president and CEO of the American Association of Railroads
- Educational session: National Railway Labor Conference

Register for the conference today at www.railroadsuperintendents.org.

About Alexandria

The AARS Winter Conference will be held in the heart of Old Town Alexandria.

Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, Alexandria combines a rich history with cutting-edge attractions. Alexandria is second to none when it comes to beautiful 18th- and 19th-century architecture.

Old Town has been bustling with activity since it was founded by Scottish merchants in 1749. Today, the colonial spirit is alive in the culinary creations created by renowned chefs attracted to Alexandria for the freedom of expression. Shopping enthusiasts enjoy the charm of the boutiques of all types housed in historic buildings. The free King Street Trolley takes people to all of the antique shops and contemporary art galleries that line the cobblestone streets of this neighborhood once home to George Washington and Robert E. Lee.

Landmarks within the city include the George Washington Masonic National Memorial (also known as the Masonic Temple) and Observation Deck, Christ Church, Gadsby's Tavern, John Carlyle House, Little Theatre of Alexandria, Lee-Fendall House, City Hall, Market Square, the Jones Point Light, the south cornerstone of the original District of Columbia, Robert E. Lee's boyhood home, the Torpedo Factory Art Center, and the Virginia Theological Seminary. Other sites of historical interest in the city include Alexandria Black History Resource Center, Fort Ward Park and Museum, and the Alexandria Canal lock re-creation at Canal Office Center. Interesting sites with Alexandria addresses but outside of the city limits include River Farm, Collingwood Library & Museum, Green Spring Gardens Park, Huntley Meadows Park, Pope-Leighey House (designed by Frank Lloyd Wright), Woodlawn Plantation, Washington's Grist Mill and Mount Vernon Estate.

Of course, all the sites of Washington, D.C., are just minutes away via the King Street Metrorail.

Alexandria is located just south of Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport in Arlington County. As with other Washington suburbs, Alexandria also is served by Washington Dulles International Airport in Sterling, Virginia and by Baltimore-Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport near Baltimore, Maryland.

Alexandria Union Station, the city's historic train station, is served by both Amtrak intercity and Virginia Railway Express regional rail service. The station is directly adjacent to the King Street Metrorail station, at the convergence of the Blue and Yellow Lines. Three other Metrorail stations that lie within the city limits are Braddock Road, Van Dorn Street, and Eisenhower Avenue. The traditional boundary between Old Town and the latterly annexed sections of the city followed the railway now owned by CSX Transportation.

The city government operates its own mass transit system, the DASH bus, connecting points of interest with local transit hubs. Metrobus, Washington Metro, and the Virginia Railway Express better

known as the VRE also serves Alexandria. The City also offers a free trolley service on King Street from the King Street Metro Station to the Waterfront and a water taxi to and from the National Harbor development in Prince George's County.

Photos: Clockwise from top left: National Museum of American History, Washington Monument from the Lincoln Memorial, National Museum of the American Indian, Downtown Washington, DC, Southbound Amtrak train at Alexandria's Union Station, and the Lincoln Memorial.



Renew your AARS membership now!

Continue enjoying the education and networking benefits of your AARS membership by paying AARS 2010 dues now either online at www.railroadsuperintendents.org or by mailing to AARS, P.O. Box 200, LaFox, IL 60147.

Active (railroad) and associate (supplier) annual membership dues are \$75. Lifetime (retired with 10 years membership to AARS) annual membership dues are \$15. To best support AARS, please pay your dues by January 30, 2010. Please also update your profile

online and make sure to provide your current email address.

Most members have not yet paid their 2010 dues, but if you would like to check whether your 2010 dues have been paid, visit the AARS Web site, enter user name and password (or you can enter your e-mail address), click on My Profile and then Accounts to view when the next payment is due.

If you need a reminder of your username and password, email Carrie Foor at aars@railroadsuperintendents.org.

Updated Web site launched

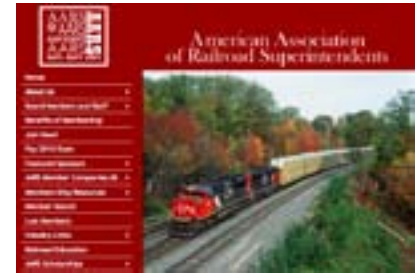
AARS launched its new Web site in September, which offers new sources and services for AARS members.

The Members Only section of the site, www.railroadsuperintendents.org, includes meeting content, AARS Journal links and resources by company, name and topic. The site allows all AARS members to create a personal profile that only other members are given ac-

cess to via the Member Search section.

AARS hopes the new site will add another networking opportunity and grow industry communication by providing a network to connect.

If you have questions or are interested in becoming a member, e-mail Carrie Foor, AARS administrative manager, at aars@railroadsuperintendents.org.



www.railroadsuperintendents.org
AARS Web site photos by Mark Hinsdale

VEOLIA an outside-the-box company

Continued from Page 1

Calif.; and Capital MetroRail, a new commuter rail service launching soon in Austin, Texas. Veolia Transportation also is helping design and will manage four new corridors of Houston's light rail service, set to open within 4 years.

Around the world, Veolia Transport is one of the world's largest operators of light rail and streetcar services (e.g. Dublin, Barcelona, Nice), of metro services (e.g. Seoul and Mumbai), and of regional and intercity rail services (e.g. including multiple cities in Germany, The Netherlands).

Don Saunders, Chief Operating Officer of Veolia's Rail Division in the US, joined the company in July of 2009, bringing over 35 years of railroad experience. He stated that what attracted him to Veolia Transportation was its commitment to customer care, and to ensuring that safety is deeply embedded into every process and initiative. The company is rigorous about measuring its safety performance and using the resulting data and indicators to continually strengthen its safety culture.

"Everything that we do has safety and passenger care at the core," said Saunders. "We are committed to delivering safe, timely service in a friendly and courteous way. We are helping our clients achieve their vision for superior rail operations that meet the public's needs and expectations."

Veolia Transportation is the North American business unit of Veolia Transport, which in turn is one of four subsidiaries of



Veolia Environnement, one of the largest environmental companies in the world. The company ranks No. 1 worldwide in water, waste management, and multimodal transportation, is listed on the New York Stock Exchange, and has revenues of over \$50 billion.

Veolia Environnement provides essential environmental services to cities around the world, many of which are facing unprecedented challenges due to population growth. More than 50 percent of the world's population now lives in cities, and the world's population is projected to grow from its current 6 billion to 9 billion by 2075. The company is dedicated to helping cities by providing safe and sustainable solutions to meet the challenges caused by such dramatic growth.

Don Saunders, VEOLIA Rail Division chief operating officer

Saunders began his railroad career in the 1970s as a locomotive engineer with Gulf Mobile & Ohio Railroad in Illinois. Prior to joining Veolia Transportation, Saunders had a long career in various executive positions at Amtrak. In 2007 his division won Amtrak's company's safety achievement award with an injury frequency ratio of 1.0.

Saunders is passionately committed to leading Veolia's rail division in achieving world-class recognition in safety and operational excellence. He concluded our interview commenting "...when every Veolia employee feels personally responsible for safety in everything he or she does, then our safety culture will be engrained, from top to bottom, and we will have taken an important step toward world-class safety status."

For more information, visit www.veoliatrtransportation.com



Don Saunders

Railroad growing pains manufacture memories

Bill and Lou Dempsey, 28-year AARS members, consider meetings a priority and do what it takes to attend each one – even if it means taking a flight just weeks after a surgery.

Bill started at the Grand Trunk Railroad, now a division of Canadian National, at age 17 and remained there 44 years before retiring. Not long into his railroad career, Bill's general manager, Jerry Maas, recommended Bill join AARS for the networking and educational opportunities. Bill continued with the organization because he loved it.

"The people and ever-changing environment I've always enjoyed," he said. "And developing relationships with other people in the industry to learn from and vice versa has always been helpful."

Of AARS, Lou first remembers the friendliness of the organization and said it's the same now.

Bill's personality and work ethic fit right in with railroad operations. Starting as a telegraph operator, he has seen the railroad grow and change. He once had the opportunity to assist President Gerald Ford with a campaign special train. Bill and his Grand Trunk Railroad employees ensured safe travel for President Ford from Flint to Battle Creek, Mich. Bill later received a thank you note from President Ford for the special care taken with his train.

In his career, Bill also worked as a train dispatcher, assistant chief dispatcher, chief dispatcher, assistant super-

intendent in Indiana, Illinois and Michigan. He concluded his career as superintendent of planning and administration with the Grand Trunk Railroad.

"It's been interesting to see the development of new procedures and equipment such as steam, diesel, to bigger diesel, better equipment and new ways to move trains with through operations from one railroad to another," Bill said.

One summer, Bill had his own run-in with a steam locomotive and learned his boundaries.

He worked a block job, laying and restoring rail, and was responsible for handing train orders to an engineer on a passing train. This was a tricky job, but Bill was up for it, especially because a trainmaster had promised to show him the ropes on his first go at the job. The supervisor didn't show. When notice came from the telegraph that the train was approaching, Bill grabbed the train orders and waited at the line to hand it off. The diesel train approached; Bill held up the papers and the engineer grabbed it. The next train was pulled by a steam locomotive.

"I stood at the same place as the first train," Bill said. "Well, steam engines stick out farther than a diesel and my pant leg got caught in the eccentric rod. My pants were torn, but the engineer still

got his train order. After that, I always knew where to stand for steam and diesel locomotives."

"Bill's railroad career has been challenging, but we've learned to go with the flow," Lou said.

"I enjoyed it because I knew how much it meant to Bill," she said.

Bill and Lou, now Mesa, Ariz., residents, met through her college roommate and have been married 55 years. The couple have two sons, Mike and Doug, and four grandchildren.

After Bill's retirement, the couple began traveling the world – Australia, Singapore, China, Malaysia, Alaska and many more countries.

"We've had a great life together," Lou said.



From left, Lou and Bill Dempsey, have been active members of the AARS for approximately 25 years.

AARS Frank J. Richter Scholarship Program

The American Association of Railroad Superintendents is pleased to announce the availability of \$1,000 annual scholarships for eligible college or university students enrolled at an accredited college or university in the United States or Canada.

To be eligible:

Be enrolled at the time of application as a full-time undergraduate or graduate student at an accredited college or university. Preference will be given to those applicants enrolled in the transportation field. All applicants will be considered. Demonstrate successful completion of the previous year's study by maintaining at least a 2.75 accumulated grade point average on a scale of 1 to 4 with an "A" equal to 4.

Accumulate enough credits from accredited schools in time for the fall semester to have obtained at least a sophomore level standing at the college or university of enrollment.

Scholarship funds, awarded annually, are sent to the financial aid office at each recipient's institution at the beginning of the fall term of his/her second year of study.

Applications must be sent to the president of the AARS and postmarked no later than July 1 for consideration for the following fall term. Applications are available through the AARS Web site: <http://www.railroadsuperintendents.org.>, or the AARS Office at P.O. Box 200, LaFox, IL 60147 331-643-3369.

OUR MISSION: To be a professional and educational association for persons engaged in the planning, design, management, supervision and/or regulation of, or the training of persons for, operations of the North American freight, passenger and metropolitan transit railroad systems. The Association shall gather, develop, evaluate and disseminate information for promoting railroad safety, reliability and efficiency by enhancing the knowledge, skills and professionalism (and thereby the effectiveness) of each member.

President: Jim Bender, Director of Interline Management (Ret.), Canadian Pacific RR

First Vice President: Don Orseno, Chief Customer Service Officer, Metra

Second Vice President: Earl Wacker, Vice President Rail, URS Corp.

Third Vice President: Dan Kelley, Superintendent Transportation and Mechanical Operations, Indiana Harbor Belt RR

Fourth Vice President: Joe Garofolo, Superintendent of Operations East, Consolidated Rail Corporation

Treasurer: Jim Ford, Superintendent CTCO (Ret.), Belt Railway Company of Chicago

This is your newsletter

AARS Journal appears under the direction of the board and administrative manager Carrie Foor. For news coverage, contact News Link newsletter office at 402-475-6398, fax 402-475-6398 or mail 1845 S. 11th Street, Lincoln, NE 68502-2211. E-mail jamie@newslink.com. This material is intended to be an overview of AARS news. In the case of discrepancies between this newsletter and official documents, those documents govern. AARS reserves the right to alter, suspend plans and programs described in this newsletter.

114th AARS Annual Conference
June 27-29, 2010
Lake Superior Railway Museum and the
Radisson Harborview
Duluth, MN



American Association of
Railroad Superintendents
PO Box 200
LaFox, IL 60147

PRSR STD
U.S. Postage
PAID
MAIL USA
68502

Return Service Requested

History detailed in drawings

Andy Fletcher, 34, has enjoyed trains since a young age. Watching the lumber trains go by his home in California from Oregon, which read Land of Cheese, Trees and Ocean Breeze, remains a warm pastime for Fletcher.

"I hold a pencil the way I hold a paintbrush," Fletcher said. "I think I learned how to paint before I learned how to write."

He began sketching trains from his own photos at age 6 and later turned his love to

"If I didn't do this, an area I would have studied is history. It feels like, outside of academic circles, history is a hard sell. In a way, there is something in the package of the train drawings that is historic – when someone comes up and says my grandpa worked for that railroad or I rode that train when I was six. It's all about the way you present history."

-Andy Fletcher, Andy Fletcher's Custom Trains

a career when he started Andy Fletcher's Custom Trains, a train artwork merchandising company that sells magnets, posters and will work with customers on almost any request.

A lot of people ask Fletcher, why draw trains?

"I think the funny thing is at a young age, maybe three or so, I could see things like symbols and names to the point that when we were driving down the highway it annoyed my family. I would point something out and remember the name for the symbol. I could see that the symbols were from all these distant places and they had all these dramatic names, times and places; and to see that all going by at that age, it left an impression on me."

Similarly, Fletcher enjoys history



From right, Andy Fletcher and his mother, Lynda Fletcher, market his 1,600 train drawings at the AARS Meeting in Portland, Maine.

and geography.

"In a train, you kind of smash history and geography together in one place," he said. "Especially when it is rolling by and you hear the thunder and the whistle, and see the names and the places both present and gone with many colors old and new."

His artwork is displayed in magnet form at Steam Town National Park, the Virginia Department of Transportation, the Illinois Transportation Museum and several U.S. railroads.

See www.customtrains.org or e-mail Fletcher at andyfletcherartist@gmail.com to place an order.



Andy Fletcher railroad U.S. map and BNSF drawing for the SD70MAC. Fletcher's drawing served as the example paint scheme for all BNSF's SD70MACs until the company colors were changed to orange and black.