



# MARKER LIGHTS

Published for Members & Friends by  
MIDWEST RAILWAY PRESERVATION SOCIETY

**November 2018**

## **Amazon Smile**

Everyone who does any shopping on-line is familiar with Amazon. The Amazon web site is the go to place for just about anything that you need or want, usually at a discounted price, and often with free shipping.

What many people don't know is that Amazon has a program called Amazon Smile which donates .5% of a qualified purchase to a designated charity or non-profit organization. Midwest Railway Preservation Society is one of the non-profit organizations that is on their list and we are now set-up to take advantage of those donations.

In order to access the program, after logging on to Amazon, type Amazon Smile in the search block and it will take you to the web page where it asks you to type in the name of the organization you wish to send the donations. If you type in Midwest Railway and hit enter, you can then select our organization and start shopping. It is important to note that you must go to the Amazon Smile home page before starting your shopping.

With the Christmas season fast approaching many of us will be filling our gift lists through on-line shopping. Please keep us in mind when visiting the Amazon web site. Not only will you be doing your shopping from the comfort of home, but your purchases will also help Midwest through their donations.



## **Open House with Santa**

If you haven't yet visited the roundhouse this year there is still time with one of our more popular events coming up later this month. Our annual Christmas open houses featuring Santa Claus are scheduled for Saturday November 24<sup>th</sup> and Saturday December 1<sup>st</sup>. Both are scheduled from 11:00 am until 4:00 pm with the last train ride departing around 3:30 pm. Take a ride on one of our vintage Nickel Plate passenger cars and visit with Santa. It's a great opportunity for you to take pictures of your kids or a family photo with him.

While you are there check out our gift shop that will be set up in the roundhouse. It's a

great opportunity to pick up a Christmas gift for kids and train lovers of all ages. There is a wide variety of items that include toy trains, t-shirts in all sizes, caps and an array of railroad memorabilia.

This will also be your last opportunity to buy a chance on winning the one of a kind electric guitar that was built by member Sid Workman using part of an original beam from the roof of the roundhouse. The tickets are \$25.00 each, available at the gift shop and the winning ticket will be drawn before the end of the open house on December 1<sup>st</sup>. Your patronage helps to enable Midwest to continue with its' mission of education and restoration.



**123 decorated for last year's open house with Santa.**

### **Wedding Ceremony on 62**

Over the years Midwest has hosted a wide variety of events in the roundhouse and on the grounds. Besides our open houses and paranormal nights, we have opened our doors to special groups for field trips and meetings, photo shoots, birthday parties and even motion picture crews.

One event that took place recently and to everybody's memory was the first of its' kind for us happened on Friday November 2<sup>nd</sup>. D. Eric Milligan and Shana Lee Dubois tied the knot in the railyard on our Nickel Plate passenger car number 62. Obvious rail fans, they approached us a few weeks ago about the possibility and offered a donation to the society if we would allow their wedding to take place here.

The ceremony took place as planned in the presence of a minister and witness. We are not sure whether the ghosts of the "death car" were in attendance, but if so, they did not disrupt the ceremony.

They couple is planning another ceremony in the spring for family and friends followed by a return visit to Midwest to take official wedding photos on the car.





## On-Site Clean-Up

Anyone that has not been on-site here at the historic B & O roundhouse lately will be greatly surprised when they do visit.

We have spent a lot of time and effort in cleaning up the property where roundhouse stalls 11 through 15 formerly stood as well as the ground between there and the turntable. This area was filled with piles of debris that included dirt and gravel, coal, rotted ties and bricks from the fallen wall. Although there is still more to remove, thus far 13 containers of dirt and gravel have been removed as well as five loads of coal.

When the clean-up has been completed we can start to construct the containment area for future sandblasting projects using the shipping containers acquired for this purpose. We can also start laying new track leading from the turntable to each of the former stalls. Although rebuilding of stalls 11 through 15 will not be accomplished in the near future, the track in the meantime will allow for more flexibility during



## Towpath Trail

The Cleveland Metroparks is nearing completion of the towpath trail that runs north and south to the west of and above Quigley Avenue. The trail includes a scenic overlook that faces east directly at the historic B & O roundhouse and railyard.



**Restored Railway Express baggage cart for the Towpath Trail exhibit.**

Midwest was awarded a contract from the Metroparks to construct displays and benches for the towpath trail. The displays include a lighted railroad crossbuck, a Railway Express baggage cart and graphic signage that is built on a platform atop an old set of trucks from a freight car that pertains to the history of roundhouses. The benches are constructed utilizing modified railroad wheelsets as supports.

Originally the displays were scheduled for delivery in mid-October but construction of the towpath trail had fallen behind schedule. The baggage cart has been completed and the other items are nearing completion and will be delivered for installation hopefully before year's end.



**Roundhouse graphic display and benches under construction for Metro-parks Towpath Trail.**



### **Application for Certification, 49CFR, Part 240**

The Midwest Railway Preservation Society and Cleveland Terminal & Valley Railroad (CTVX) are in the final stages to complete their application to the Federal Railroad Administration for the Qualification and Certification of Locomotive Engineers, 49 CFR, Part 240.

The required documentation for the application was written by a group spearheaded by Midwest President Steve Emling, and submitted to the board of directors for review prior to submission.

Approval of this application would allow Midwest to educate, train and certify previously non-certified candidates as train service engineers, yard service engineers and student engineers.

In order to qualify as a candidate, he or she must first serve as a student brakeman in our yard and in the passenger service of The Cleveland Terminal & Valley Railroad. They must then work through each of the following positions: brakeman, engine helper, student fireman and fireman. This ensures that each candidate has had several years of railroad experience and has qualified annually in all subordinate positions including written rules and examinations with passing scores of at least 85%.

The approval of this application will also include provision for continuing education for those individuals previously certified for train service, yard service and student engineers to assure that all maintain a requisite knowledge of personal safety, operating rules and practices, mechanical condition of equipment, methods of safe train handling and relevant federal safety rules and regulations.

All of the above classifications include classroom time with testing and performance skills examinations prior to certification.

The approval of this application by the Federal Railroad Administration will enable Midwest to continue in the development of certified train crew members for on site operations and eventual off site opportunities as well.

## **Newly Appointed Committees**

The officers of the Midwest Railway Preservation Society are overwhelmed on a daily basis with the day to day operations of the Society as well as overseeing what goes on in the historic B & O roundhouse and related properties.

In order to alleviate the officers workloads, the board of directors has appointed a number of committees to take the lead regarding certain aspects of the operation as well as specific projects or possible opportunities.

The first committee appointed is for researching and recommending definitive apparel to be purchased for Midwest staff during open houses and all society sponsored events. It has been brought to our attention that during these events visitors have had a hard time determining who the Midwest representatives are that can answer questions or direct them where they need to go. The committee, consisting of Mitch Karibinus, Charley Sedgley and Ken McCown, will research options for types of apparel available including cost comparisons and then present their recommendations to the board of directors for a final decision and implementation.

Another committee appointed concerns tenant relations and consists of Pete Stojasavljevic, Mitch Karibinus and Ken Yandek. The responsibility of this committee is to be the liaison between any of the entities that lease space from Midwest either in the roundhouse or on the grounds and would include American Steam and Horizon Rail to name a few. The committee will address any concerns or complaints brought to their attention and then present them to the board of directors along with their recommendations to resolve them in a fair and equitable manner for all parties involved. Also, in the future, all tenants will work with the committee for lease applications and renewals.

Recently there have been instances during the week when there has been no one present in the roundhouse or in the vicinity of the main gate to accept deliveries or visitors. Although the property is under video surveillance there are times when volunteers or workers may be on the property by the turntable or yard and are unaware that someone shows up without an appointment. To resolve this problem a committee has been formed to evaluate options including possibly the installation of an automatic gate and call button. This committee consists of Dale Pietrasz and Charley Sedgley.

The last committee recently appointed is for researching possible opportunities with The Haydite Company in Independence and associated rail grants that may be available for providing rail service to alleviate truck traffic from the highway. The rail service would be provided by The Cleveland Terminal & Valley Railroad, a wholly owned subsidiary of the Midwest Railway Preservation Society. Members of this committee are Ken McCown, Mark Billey and Bill O'Brien.

It is important to note that all of the committees appointed by the board of directors work as representatives of the board with the authority of the board. All decisions to be made in any circumstance are made by the board of directors prior to implementation or presentation to outside parties as applicable.

## **Film Shoot at Midwest**

What has become a pretty common occurrence here at Midwest is the presence of motion picture film crews on site. Once again, we were host to the cast and crew of a new production, "All the Bright Places", that filmed scenes in the rail yard and on the vintage ACL box car.



During their visit prior to production, they had determined where in the yard and which cars they wanted in the scenes. Train crews from Midwest spent a lot of time moving cars around on a Sunday prior to the shoot moving cars around on the storage tracks to get the desired cars in just the right position for filming. The scenes were filmed on Thursday November 1st during the evening and into the night. All told the cast and crew numbered around 80 people. It was a rainy but successful night for the production.

The roundhouse and railyard have become a popular site for film production because of its' location and the unique opportunities afforded with the historic buildings and rail cars. Advantageous to the film companies is the cost savings they realize since our personnel on site are volunteers and their donations to Midwest are tax deductible. We also offer rental to them at a discounted price for any of our heavy equipment that they may need.

Besides making a nice donation to Midwest, the film crew also covered the costs we incurred during performing all of the car switching for the movie shoot.

We can't go into detail about the film or cast at this time but hopefully we can fill in some of the details in a future newsletter prior to the film's release.



### **Call for Volunteers**

As mentioned in previous editions of this newsletter there is always a need for volunteers here at the roundhouse. It seems as if there is always more work to be done and never enough volunteers to handle the tasks at hand. In order to volunteer all that is needed is an MRPS membership and a willingness to get your hands dirty.

If you don't think that you possess any special skills that would be useful to our organization there is no need to fret. Volunteers are always paired with other volunteers or groups to accomplish the tasks. You will learn new skills along the way.

If you have a special interest, or would like to help out on something specific let us know and we will accommodate your wishes by putting you on the crew that you want.

Please try to schedule some time and lend a hand. You will be spending time with a group of people that share the same interests and at the same time help Midwest make progress on some of the many projects currently in process.

### **Help Needed**

Volunteers with skills and/or experience in the following areas are always needed. Please stop by and lend a hand.

Diesel Mechanics

Carpenters

Electricians

Project Managers

Masonry

Computer Technology

### **MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR 2018**

Dues are annual (1 year)

REGULAR \$35.00

FAMILY \$50.00

SENIOR (55 OR OLDER) \$30.00

#### **BENEFACTOR**

INDIVIDUAL \$100.00

BUSINESS \$100.00

PLATINUM LEVEL \$500.00

OR MORE PER PERSON PER YEAR.

EVERY DONATION MADE IS TAX DEDUCTIBLE.

## **Proud Sponsors of The Midwest Railway Preservation Society**



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### **Marker Lights Newsletter**

Editor and chief writer: Ken Yandek

Send comments and feedback to:  
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### **LIST OF TRUSTEES**

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Midwest Railway Preservation Society's mission is to collect, preserve, restore, display, and operate railway equipment for the education and enjoyment of the public. Members must be 18 years or older.



# OPEN HOUSE

## At the Roundhouse



**Open House dates**  
**Ride with Santa**  
**November 24<sup>th</sup>, December 1st**  
**11:00 Noon - 4:00 p.m.**

Midwest Railway Preservation Society.

**Historic B&O Roundhouse**

**2800 W. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street**

**Cleveland, OH 44113**

Get guided tours of the site

Learn how railroads helped make Cleveland an industrial giant

Climb on board an original, elegant "parlor coach" from the 1920s

Hear the history of the famous "4070" steam locomotive

Share in our vision to save the Roundhouse

Visit our gift shop

Suggested Donation for Admission: \$10 adults, \$5 children 12 and under

Free admission to all members in good standing

**All proceeds to be used for Roundhouse restoration efforts**

Please wear weather-appropriate clothing and closed-toe shoes as the site is still in rough condition.

Children must be under the supervision of an adult at ALL times. Visitors with disabilities are

Welcome but should know that the site and equipment are NOT ADA-accessible.

For more information, call (216) 781-3629

Or visit [www.midwestrailway.org](http://www.midwestrailway.org)