

The Central Suffolk Dispatch

A News Service for the Central Suffolk Operations Group

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Tonight's session had in attendance Mike, Howard, Jeff, Ron, JJ, John, Carl, Bruce and Byron. Howard and Mike switched their usual assignments. Howard was the "Chief" Dispatcher, and possibly his first attempt on the JCRR, and in our humble opinion did a great job directing traffic. That's why he's the "Chief!" Mike was the Jerome Yard Master and Jeff was his able Assistant Yard Master. Our reporters had time to make only one excursion to the yard and reported that they were very pleasant and helpful. He actually witnessed them reverse the caboos on the Clarkdale Turn! The rest of the crew operated the trains. Our staff was so busy that we didn't get too much information on who ran exactly what train. It was clear that Bruce operated the primary passenger trains, with everyone else operating freights or freight/passenger combines. The first half hour or so of railroad time was rather hectic with a lot of train activity but, all-in-all, it was a great operating session with no major foul-ups being observed.

As our readers may remember, in Issue #58, August 25, 2016, it was reported that a number of the Central Suffolk Operations Group (CSOG) operators received NMRA Achievement Program Awards in May 2016. Among that group, Mike, owner of the Jerome Central Rail Road, received his Golden Spike Award. The NMRA Golden Spike Award is designed to demonstrate familiarity with different areas of the hobby, rather than expertise in a particular area. It covers three areas of construction: Rolling Stock (Motive Power & Cars), Model Railroad Setting (Structures & Scenery), and Engineering (Civil & Electrical).

During tonight's session Mike was honored by the CSOG by being presented with a HO scale golden spike for placement on the layout. The following is a close up view of the actual spike.



The "Golden Spike"

After speeches, back slapping, and a rousing round of applause, the Editor of the Central Suffolk Dispatch presented Mike with the "Golden Spike" for insertion into the layout.



The Presentation Ceremony, the CSD Editor on the right presents Mike with the "Golden Spike"

The placement of the "Golden Spike" represents a significant enlargement of the Jerome Central Rail Road. If we understand correctly (this was well before the creation of the Central Suffolk Dispatch), the original layout went from Jerome eastbound to Kidsmet, Colls Corner and Imagination. Later, a wall was removed and the mainline was re-routed from Jerome eastbound to Ashfork, Prescott, Clarkdale and back onto the original line at Kidsmet. In addition to the mainline extension, the enlargement allowed for the creation of other areas along the mainline such as the Santa Fe yard, Lupo Landing, Mount Dwyer and New River. The placement location of the spike on the mainline between Ashfork and Prescott signifies the completion of this extension, which probably more than doubled the size of the layout.

The attendees then escorted Mike to the layout for the insertion ceremony. On arrival the group was treated to a scene reminiscent of the completion of the First Transcontinental Railroad at Promontory Summit, Utah. The overall scene shows a pair of throwback steam locomotives from the early days of the JCRR, opposing one another. On the left, traveling eastbound from Jerome, we have JCRR locomotive number 32, representing Central Pacific #60, Jupiter. On the right is JCRR locomotive number 94, traveling westbound from Imagination, the far eastern terminus of the JCRR, representing Union Pacific #119. Citizens came on the trains from both ends of the layout to observe this historic event. The celebrants were in tears. It might also help, primarily from Byron's prospective, to point out that Byron's Campaign Train somehow mysteriously ended up on the Mount Dwyer spur exactly behind the ceremony. How do you think that happened?



East and West bound trains meet at East Ashfork

And now for the big event everyone was waiting for in wild anticipation. Mike, owner and president of the JCRR, climbed down from the President's Car on train JCRR 32 and proceeded to the insertion point. The following photograph shows President Mike inserting the "Golden Spike."



President Mike inserting the "Golden Spike"

At the bottom of the picture you may observe what appears to be a Platoon of Infantry heading into the *Rail Lady Saloon*. This is exactly why you should read the CSD to get the true facts.

They were not, in fact, going into the bar. They were on stand-by in case any unruly demonstrations broke out. However, no one can explain why the saloon was out of beer by 11:00 PM!



A close up of the "Golden Spike" installed (Photo by John F.)

Check out the girl standing on the locomotive on the right wearing white sneakers, green slacks and a tight yellow shirt. Yep! That's the Rail Lady. Who knows how she comes and goes, but she shows up all over the CSOG for any big event. Howard thinks she is running for mayor of Clarkdale on the Democratic ticket using the alias Ms. Belle R. Inger.

Bruce filled out a Clarkdale City Election Headquarters Party Affiliation Form (CCEHPAF) tonight and is now qualified to vote in the upcoming Clarkdale elections. That brings the total count of qualified voters up to eleven. Not bad for a town with a gross population of 4,165 people according to the 2014 census.

Letters to the Editor:

The following is our most recently received letter.

Dear CSD readers,

CSD #60... "It appears to us here at the CSD and hopefully to all our loyal readers, that in Mr. Rotolo's Letter to the Editor we are seeing an unwarranted attack on the reporters of the CSD, and the CSD itself."... This is quite a statement from a publication that has a reputation of manufacturing "news items" when there are not any current events worthy of print. Then again, when the said publication boasts a circulation of 16 subscribers, it's easy to see why they will say anything to boost readership.

Forgive me for a second excerpt from the Letters to the Editor section of the latest issue of the CSD, but the excerpts will be necessary (there will be more) to explain my position and to show that it was the CSD who initiated the attack.

CSD #60... "However, we don't make the news, we just report what our reporters see."Trolls anyone? When reporters are humored, and actually encouraged, by their editors and allowed to put such rubbish into print, it certainly gives the reporters license to fabricate all manor of nonsense to the end of increasing circulation.

CSD #59... "Carl was the Dunton Yard Master. He claims he was overworked in the yard. To reduce his load, he made the engineers put their cabooses away on the caboose track and tie-down their locomotives in the maintenance facility at their end-of-run. (Ward doesn't make the engineers do that, does he?)"... This is where it began folks. The sentence, "He claims he was overworked in the yard."... infers that whether or not Carl was overworked is debatable and maybe even that Carl is not capable of performing the function of yard master effectively. This was, and still is, construed by me as the initial attack. Not looking any further than his windshield wiper, the whinny engineer failed to notice that in addition to sorting in and out bound cars in a relatively small yard, I was also 1) receiving, turning, and dispatching in coming and out going trains from two mainline towers, 2) swapping motive power on several trains, and 3) switching two nearby towns. So while I was busily, and happily I might add, performing my duties, the whinny engineer shows up and expects to be able to just drop his train in my lap and go off somewhere to get a pat on the ass (I've been corrected on the cookie matter), regardless of what I was in the midst of."If someone doesn't want to help out a fellow engineer and park his caboose, that's what we witness, the act itself, not whether it is correct or not."... the CSD goes on to say. Why does that only apply to the whinny engineer? Why didn't the CSD reporter report the whinny engineer for complaining about making engine and car moves? Isn't that exactly what the function of a railroad engineer is? And if saying that... "Ward doesn't make the engineers do that (sniffle), does he?"... isn't whining, what is?

You know, in the past I've tried to help them out over there at the CSD. I even sent them car loads of meat and potatoes figuring they must be starving with 16 subscriptions. (Not to mention the symbolism that the paper could use a little beefing up) (ok, I will mention it). And how do they say thanks? They complained to my superiors. What's all the noise about printing supplies anyway? With the amount of papers they print, they've probably have two years worth of supplies on hand.

Dunton Yard Master,
C.P.Rotolo

In response, the CSD has this to say; "Plitttttt!" Yes, we boast about our circulation of 16 subscribers, but we could make it 15!

Trolls are a known commodity on the CSOG. Three of the layouts are infested with them, albeit, three different kinds, with photographic evidence to back up that statement!

Okay, okay, Byron is a whiny engineer. However, we will be sure to tell Howard that you called the Dunton Yard "a relatively small yard." Right, Howard!

And finally, man does not live on meat and potatoes alone. One must also have love, vegetables and freedom to print newspapers, but without "just-in-time" paper deliveries, all else is lost!

Now let's get to the real source of our revenue, advertisements! The following is a paid political announcement and doesn't necessarily reflect the views of this newspaper (But it could if the price was right).

The "Clarkdale for Byron Election Committee" is sponsoring the following list of Special Events in Clarkdale and the local vicinity. Mark down the dates. If all y'all are planning to be in the area, stop in and listen to the music from some of the locals like Hank Erwin, P. K. Gregory and Keith Okie. And don't forget to bring along your Texas-Two-Step and have a foot stomping good time!

Election Special Events Calendar

~~Hank Erwin will be appearing at the Spirit Room, Jerome, AZ on September 23, 2016 at 8:00 PM.~~

Keith Okie will be appearing at Four Eight Wineworks, Clarkdale, AZ on September 30, 2016.

Keith Okie will be appearing at the Clarkdale Clarktoberfest, Clarkdale, AZ on October 1, 2016.

Hank Erwin will be appearing at the Spirit Room, Jerome, AZ on October 27, 2016 at 8:00 PM.

Keith Okie will be appearing at Four Eight Wineworks, Clarkdale, AZ on October 28, 2016.

Hank Erwin will be appearing at the Spirit Room, Jerome, AZ on November 5, 2016 at 2:00 PM.

Political Announcement Paid For By the "Clarkdale for Byron Election Committee."
Don't forget to vote on election night.



I am Byron and I approve this message!