



Eagle Point Dispatch

April 2025
CSME Newsletter
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Upcoming Events:

April 5 Annual Meeting and Work Day

April 11-13 Work Weekend

April 25-27 Work Weekend

From the President-

Our Road to Recovery

On Sunday, March 23, a fire raced up the canyon just below the railroad and burned most of the railroad's property. The Education Center, Car Barn, Roundhouse, and Larry's Shop survived. Eight smaller buildings did not survive, and a lot of member's equipment perished. We thank the firefighters who helped control the fire. Luckily, nobody was injured.

On Saturday, March 29, the club convened to begin the process of recovery and assess the damage to the railroad. We surveyed every foot of the railroad. With the Property Manager, Amanda Murphy, we have developed a plan for the rebirth of the railroad. All our efforts will be placed on restoring the track from the Eagle Point Loop along the main line to Cumberland. Once that section is complete, we will work on the Low Line from Cumberland to Mill Pond and on to the Crowder Creek Bridge. Lastly, we will work on the Mountain Branch which sustained the most bridge and trestle damage. Our goal is to have the track to Cumberland open for the Hot Summer Nights weekend if not sooner.

After the Annual meeting, April 5th 2025, we will have many projects for members who are ready to work. An email will be sent out mid-

week with details and we will coordinate after the Annual Meeting. If you would prefer to work during the week, please contact Barry as he will be organizing weekday work parties.

All events in April have been cancelled and we have proposed workdays each Saturday. Events scheduled for May will be revisited by the officers in late April and the calendar on the website will be updated to show the organization's plans.

Thank you for your help getting our railroad back on track.

See you at the track.

Stephen Wassell, President

Election

On April 5th we will be having our Annual Meeting. This also coincides with the biannual election of the President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary. Currently we have a slate of the following members.

President – Stephen Wassell
Vice President – Glenn Williams
Treasurer – Allison Mattox-King
Secretary – Dale King

As we don't have more than two members running for an officer position, we will not be mailing out ballots. I would like to thank the

new officers for volunteering their time.

Bylaws Vote

At the annual meeting on April 5, we will be voting on the new bylaws. To comply with the state, we have proposed bylaws that establish a Board of Directors that is composed of seven members. The first four are the officer positions that we currently have: President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. Once approved, the current officers will become part of the Board. In addition, we will have three more directors. All seven positions will be voted on by the membership at the annual business meetings as their terms expire. All business matters will be voted on by the Board. The four officers will be elected every two years like we currently do, and the three directors will be elected on a three-year cycle with a new director each year. If the proposed bylaws are approved in April, we will need to then elect the three director roles. Currently, the following members are running for the director positions:

Andy Morrison
Nick Porter
Mark McAllister
Brandon Waters
Howard Warren
Dan Watson
Paul Boberg
Al Green

If you are interested, please let me know.

Thanks.

See you at the track.

Stephen Wassell, President

Editor's Note:

There are other articles that were written for this newsletter that will be included in the next one. Decision was made to make sure all information got out to the membership about all that is currently being dealt with.

Also, we are in need of a new newsletter Editor, if you are interested please reach out to an officer.

Upcoming Events:

April 5th:
Annual Business Meeting
Work Day

April 11 - 13:
~~Spring Card Order~~
Work Weekend

April 25-27:
~~Spring Meet~~
Work Weekend

May1-3:
MidSouth Live Steamers
Spring Meet

Please watch your emails for upcoming work days and volunteer opportunities.

With all that has happened in the past 10 days or so, rebuilding the railroad in phases, similar to how the railroad was built, will be starting April 5th.

Let us know if you are able to give us a hand. Remember, CSME is a completely volunteer run organization, it takes all of us to keep it going.

CSME also has a large responsibility in maintaining the railroad on which we run. There is always an area that needs work done on it. Now more so than ever.

REMINDER:

Please be aware of your surroundings while working on the Railroad and be aware of all working in the woods near you.

Appropriate Safety Gear: closed toe shoes, gloves, tic spray (Yes they are still around), knee pads are all good ideas.

News of the Past:



5 years ago: All solid fuel steam locomotive owners/operators:

Please remember to be vigilant with your ashes and embers. Club rules state that all solid fuel fired steam locomotives have their ash pans closed and spark arrestors in place.

10 years ago: Squirrels

Squirrel, tree rat or bushy tail, whatever we call them, they are everywhere and our railroad is no exception. Squirrels are part of the family Sciuridae that includes small and medium sized rodents such as tree squirrels, ground squirrels, chipmunks, flying squirrels and prairie dogs. All of these animals have four front teeth that continue to grow so that they don't wear down from the constant gnawing. Unfortunately, some of these squirrels have been gnawing on our structures.

15 yrs ago: Dedications for Two more Milestones

First up was the CSME Roundhouse with two steamers turned around just for the photo. The ribbon was held by the roundhouse designer and project manager Hank Roberts and railroad owner Larry Taylor as CSME President Ron Newlon made the ceremonial cut.

Next, about 20 plus members took a ride on several trains out to Cumberland Yard for a second dedication and demonstration of the yard operations. At the yard's turntable, Larry Taylor held one end of the ribbon while yard designer and project manager Ron Newlon held the other end. VP Howard Warren had the honor of cutting the ribbon while Marti Newlon, the chief assistant for the project observed.

20 yrs ago: Call For Box Cars

The recent operations articles by Hank Roberts have brought attention to the fact that we have precious few boxcars available for operations; only two at last count. While all of the cars other than bench cars would be used, the majority of cars on a railroad are typically boxcars.

Many of the cars in 7½" gauge are multi-functional work and riding cars. Gondolas, hoppers and flats can be converted quickly into riding cars with the addition of a seat such as a crate or simple board to sit on. That is why there are so few boxcars in 7½" gauge, they simply are not useable as riding cars, which is what we need the most with visitors.

25 yrs ago: EAGLE POINT R.R." GETTING VERY CLOSE!

"Work is progressing on several fronts on Larry Taylor's Eagle Point R.R." (C.S.M.E.'s "home track'). Survey triangulation points have been established throughout the entire balloon loop and shop / yard area. Some loop track-center stakes have been placed and the locations of the unloading ramp and the steaming bay turntable have been staked out. In early February, the shop floor slab was almost ready for pouring.

The C.S.M.E. Track Layout Standard compiled last year while we were looking for a site on public property has been revised to suit our private location and, us.