



Web-Site

centralbranchrailroad.com



Membership

Individual Annual: \$40
 Family Annual: \$55
 Individual Life: \$100
 Family Life: \$150



Schedule a Ride

Call Ann at 785-363-2343 (H)
 → 785-799-4294 (C)
aw@centralbranchrailroad.com

Volunteer to Work

Contact Larry Moon
lm@centralbranchrailroad.com

Board Members

President → Randy Rundle
 Vice-Pres → Clinton Day
 Secretary → Ann Walter
 Treas → Dave Crawford
 Gene Harding
 Larry Moon
 Ray Petr
 Larry Springer
 Charlie Weickert

The Early Years of the MCRHS and CBRR

2016 marks the 16th year of operation of the Central Branch Railroad, owned by the Marshall County Railroad Historical Society. In 1999 it became clear that the Union Pacific Railroad was going to abandon the track running through Blue Rapids and Waterville. In the fall of 1999 several people interested in preserving the railroad as an important part of the history of Marshall County met in the Waterville Depot. At least informally, this was pretty much when the MCRHS began. Ann Walter (Waterville), Gene Lott (Blue Rapids) and Kenny Winkenwader (Waterville) would become the first officers of the newly formed organization. With the legal assistance of Ed Wieggers, an attorney in Marysville KS, the group would later become a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization.

On August 25, 2000, Kyle Railroad Company (KYLE) and Union Pacific Railroad Company (UP) jointly filed with the Surface Transportation Board a petition for UP to abandon and KYLE to discontinue service on a line of railroad known as the Frankfort Branch, between milepost 409.1 near Frankfort and milepost 472.0 at Ames (a rural unincorporated community in Cloud County). The Blue Rapids Depot is at milepost 425.6 and the Waterville Depot was at milepost 430.5.

As one might expect, the acquisition of abandoned railroad property is no simple or short task. Larry Parsons, a 1958 graduate of Blue Raids High School was very helpful in an advisory capacity. Larry is the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Wheeling and Lake Erie Railway in Ohio. The W&LE RR is a class II railroad and the largest railroad in Ohio and one of the largest regional railroads in the United States.



Charlie Weickert, Randy Rundle, Larry Springer, and Dave Crawford spent Saturday, November 26 riding the rails with personal crew cars owned by Randy and Larry and Charlie. Lunch was a picnic on the Big Blue River Trestle.

The Early Years of the MCRHS and CBRR (continued)

Charlie Weickert (Marysville) recalls that Ed Wiegers (Marysville) called him and asked if he would want to go with Gene Lott (Blue Rapids) and Ed to the Union Pacific headquarters in Omaha, NE and meet with Ray Alamong, a UP real estate representative. Charlie remarked "I had no idea what we were doing except it would be fun to see UP headquarters in Omaha!". They left the meeting with the understanding that in order to stop the abandonment, they would need to send a letter offering to buy the RR property. A Union Pacific contractor was already taking up rail East of Frankfort.

As president of the MCRHS, Ann Walter sent a letter to the National Surface Transportation Board indicating the intent to purchase a section of the track from 12th Road west to the Marshall-Washington County line. When the negotiations had reached an agreement, Ann Walter, a special education teacher at Valley Heights Jr-Sr High received a phone call from the National Surface Transportation Board. Ann recalls that personal phone calls were somewhat frowned upon during school hours but due to the nature of the call she was allowed to take the call. The MCRHS was given seven (7) days to raise \$45,000 dollars in order to acquire the rails from 12th Rd (4 miles East of Blue Rapids) to the Marshall-Washington County line (3.5 miles West of Waterville).

Raising \$45,000 in seven days was a huge task but 17 donors, including the Helvering Trust Fund, for which Ed Wiegers was the executor, contributed a total of \$48,850 and the MCRHS became owners of 11.98 miles of track and right-of-way in early 2001.

Additional MCRHS history will appear in future newsletters.

Pictured is Jim Dobbins and his grandson Conner Dobbins on the 2016 Fall Harvest/ Bonfire Ride. Conner is from South Coffeyville, OK.



Below is the new 2017 rate schedule for rides.

2017 Donation Fee Schedule (Special Rates May Apply)

Roundtrip Destination	Adults	Children Age 6-11	School Rate per Passenger Car	Trip Time (min)
Waterville to Somewhere	\$10	\$7	\$70	40
Waterville to Blue Rapids	\$10	\$7	\$70	40
Blue Rapids to Trestle	\$10	\$7	\$70	40
Waterville to Trestle	\$15	\$12	\$80	120

Shelter House Rental - \$15 plus cost of ride for family reunions, groups, birthday parties, etc. There is no shelter rental fee for school groups.

Events

- On-Line Calendar centralbranchrailroad.com/Calendar.html

Archives:

Past newsletters can be found on the MCRHS web Site

- centralbranchrailroad.com/Newsletters.html

Annual Dues: Are your dues paid up? If not please send the appropriate amount to Marshall County Railroad Historical Society, P.O. Box 242, Waterville Kansas 66548.

- As with all things, it is becoming more and more costly to operate the CBRR. Any donations are greatly appreciated. MCRHS is a 501 (C) (3) Nonprofit Corporation.
- **Want to become more involved? Contact any board member to find out how you can volunteer.**

MCRHS Newsletter Subscription and Renewal Form

Name: _____ Date: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: (optional): _____ E-mail: _____

In order to improve the communication with members, the Marshall County Railroad Historical Society is producing a monthly newsletter. In addition to printed newsletters that is mailed via the United States Postal System, extra copies will be printed for advertising purposes.

The MCRHS Board understands that most members paid a life membership but operation costs to maintain the railroad have and are increasing greatly. For the Central Branch Railroad to remain viable, MCRHS simply cannot absorb the cost of mailing newsletters without additional member support.

Please indicate your preference for the method of delivery of the newsletter and enclose an annual fee of \$20 to support this and other efforts for the continued success of the CBRR. This form and your payment can be sent to the address below.

I prefer to have my newsletter sent by _____ E-mail _____ Parcel Post Mail

Mail to:
Marshall County Railroad Historical Society
c/o Dave Crawford, Treasurer
905 Pomeroy ST
Blue Rapids, KS 66411-1220