



Flood Rides I and II

On Wednesday, May 29 we took two rides east out of Blue Rapids to view the flood waters. At that time Vista RD was covered with water both north of the tracks west of the Vista RD crossing and south of the Vista RD crossing. At that time the lake elevation was 1135.08 ft and the Flood Control Storage space was 97.4 % full. That morning the Corps of Engineers had begun releasing 15,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) and a high water advisory had been issued for some locations in Manhattan. At 2pm the release was increased to 20,000 cfs and at 7pm it was increased to 27,500 cfs and an evacuation advisory was issued for parts of Manhattan. The next morning the release rate was increased to 30,000 cfs through the Outlet Works or "the tubes".

That Wednesday evening, the Big Blue River gauge at Blue Rapids was 60.65 ft (34.65 ft above flood stage). While we were on the bridge, we measured the depth down to water as about 15 ft. This is pretty consistent with the bridge elevation being 1150 to 1151 ft.

Both the Big Blue River and Tuttle Creek Reservoir crested at about 11am on Friday, May 31. The lake reached 1135.82 ft, just below the top of the spillway gates at 1136 ft. At that time the Flood Control Storage space was 99.49% full. The Big Blue River topped out at 61.3 ft.

On Sunday, June 2, we took 3 more rides out over the flood waters. By this time they had been releasing 30,000 cfs for several days. The lake was at an elevation of 1135.06 ft and the Flood Control Storage space was 97.3% full. The Big Blue River was at 60.38 ft.

Again our crude measurement down to water was consistent with the known lake levels. We did a Facebook live broadcast on both rides. The first one had 898 views and the second one 897 views.

The picture below was taken on Sunday, May 26 when the lake elevation was about 1132.8 ft. The bottom of the bridge girders are about 9 ft below the tracks so the clearance would have been about 8 to 9 ft.



Blue Rapids Community Foundation Circle of Giving Match Day

The BRCF held their first annual "match day" on Tuesday, June 4. With some rules or guidelines, 50% of the donations made to an organization were matched with grant money. MCRHS had 14 gifts totaling \$1,645.



MCRHS Booth at the BRCF Match Day

MCRHS Blog

We have added a blog to our website. The two main purposes of doing so are so that people who are not on Facebook can see the same information and to make it easier to put things on the web site on a more temporary basis, such as promoting the Whistle Stop History Ride. There is a link to the blog on the main page of our web site but the address otherwise is centralbranchrailroad.blogspot.com.

If you would like to receive an email notification of new blog posts there is a place in the right margin where you can sign up for email notification. You will not be inundated with email notifications.

Girl Scout Bridging Ceremony

On Saturday, June 8 a group of Girl Scouts from Troops 622 and 1616 from the Waterville, Blue Rapids, and Marysville area rode the rails west from Waterville to "Somewhere" for a bridging ceremony. Bridging is a ceremony to recognize a girl scouts progression from one age level to the next.

Photo Credit: Girl Scouts of NE Kansas and NW Missouri.

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Secretary: Ann Walter
Treasurers: Georgena Lindquist/Dave Crawford
Gene Harding
Larry Moon
Larry Springer

MCRHS is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization

2019 Ride Donation Schedule

Adults: \$10 Children ages 6-12: \$7 Children 5 & under: Free

- Waterville west to "Somewhere" (45 minutes)
- Blue Rapids east across the Big Blue River (60 minutes)
- Between Blue Rapids & Waterville (60 minutes)
- Waterville east across the Big Blue River (2 hours - \$5 added fee)
- Rental of "Somewhere" for picnics, cookouts or celebrations - \$15 plus ride fare

