

The Work Has Just Begun



The weather is starting to turn favorable and the 2014 construction and maintenance season is off to a good start. NRC members around the country are seeing many opportunities to offer proposals for capital improvements, general maintenance, and new construction. There is a lot of work being let for bid, just as we were informed there would be by our customers at our conference in January. The opportunities for track work are welcome, but at the same time we must also keep an eye out on the political and regulatory climate in Washington, so that our industry can continue to grow.

On March 13 in Washington DC, we participated in "Railroad Day on The Hill", and we saw that there is, in fact, strength in numbers. In partnership with the ASLRRA and AAR, we had a record crowd of 450 people attend over 360 meetings with Congressmen, Senators, and their staff. NRC members made a strong showing.

We expressed to Congress our support for extending the short line railroad rehabilitation tax credit, preserving the current balanced economic regulatory system for freight rail operations, and maintaining the existing size and weight limits on heavy trucks. At the end of the day, gains were made and our time was well spent. We picked up some additional short line tax credit cosponsors and reminded our friends of the benefits of extending the credit sooner rather than later, shored up our already strong support from both sides of the aisle and both sides of the Capitol on avoiding re-reg, and we also got great feedback on our truck size and weight limits arguments.

I would like to thank everyone that made the trip and spent the day in support of the railroads and the rail industry as a whole. NRC contractors and suppliers attending this event show our Class 1 and short line customers that we are in their corner and are willing to provide resources in support of them reaching their goals. Great job everyone!

The next NRC event is our rail construction and maintenance equipment auction, set for May 1 in Austinburg, Ohio. We are asking our membership to do some spring cleaning in their yards and shops by sending items they no longer need or want to replace to the auction this year. The success of the auction depends heavily on the involvement of our membership companies. If your company has equipment, trucks or tools that you would like to consign or donate to the

auction, please call Paul Laurello or Steve Pratt with Quality Track Equipment, a division of Delta Railroad Construction, at 440-992-2997 to coordinate your deliveries. You can also email 2014auction@qualitytrackequipment.com.

Beside the fact that this event is a great opportunity to pick up useful rail construction and maintenance equipment at a good price and is a good networking opportunity for all in attendance, the proceeds go to the NRC Safety, Training and Education Fund, which is used to support the production of our series of NRC Safety DVDs and our scholarship program. These are both good programs and are worthy of your support.

The auction will be held on Thursday, May 1 at Quality Track Equipment, a division of Delta Railroad Construction, at 2950 Industrial Drive, Austinburg, OH 44010. The auction will run from 9am until completion, which is approximately 2pm. Equipment inspection is available all day from 9am-5pm on Wednesday, April 30.

For sleeping arrangements, there is a block of hotel rooms available for \$95/night at The Lodge & Conference Center at Geneva-on-the-Lake (www.thelodgeatgeneva.com) at 4888 North Broadway (State Route 534), Geneva, OH. 44041. To make your reservations, call 1-800-801-9982 and refer to the Delta Railroad Group #4G72ZF.

There will also be a Happy-Hour / Social Event the night of Wednesday, April 30 from 5pm until close at the Lodge & Conference Center at Geneva-on-the-Lake, which is always an enjoyable event.

For additional information regarding the equipment auction as well as other NRC upcoming events, please visit www.nrcma.org. Delta has also added an auction-specific page to its website at <http://www.deltarr.com/2014-nrc-auction>.

Have a safe day.

by Bill Dorris,
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