



The Voice of the Railroad Construction Industry

NRC Bulletin - August 19, 2015

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2016 NRC Conference Registration

Please register now and make your travel plans for the **2016 NRC Conference & NRC-REMSA Exhibition - January 6-9, 2016 at the Hotel del Coronado in San Diego, California.**

The NRC will be holding its 38th Annual Conference on Wednesday, January 6, 2016 through Saturday, January 9, 2016 at the Hotel del Coronado in San Diego, California. **Please visit the 2016 NRC Conference webpage at www.nrcma.org/2016nrcconference to register and for detailed conference information.**

***This year we have a new online registration process.** All registrations, including conference registration, golf and sailing tournament registration, golf club rentals, and spouse program registration can be completed together through the [online registration process](#). In addition, you can register fellow employees at your company within the same online registration process.*

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Concord Railroad

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Issue

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Product Development

New Member

Ogborn Consulting Group,
LLC



www.ogbornconsultinggroup.com

V3 Companies



www.v3co.com

NRC Toolbox Talks

The NRC Safety Committee has revised and updated the NRC's Toolbox Talks. They are available for download at:



Registration: Registration for the 2016 NRC Conference can be [completed here on the NRC website](#), or by completing and [mailing in this form](#). Completed forms should be sent to our office at 500 New Jersey Ave NW, Suite 400, Washington, DC 20001. Checks may be made payable to: NRC. NRC accepts Visa, MasterCard and American Express for credit card payments. If you have any questions, please contact Matt Bell by email at mbell@nrcma.org or by phone at 202-715-1264.

Hotel Information: The conference will be held at the [Hotel del Coronado](#), conveniently located on Coronado Island about a 10 minute drive from downtown San Diego. NRC has secured a discounted rate for attendees of the Annual Meeting. **For hotel reservations, call Hotel del Coronado at 800-468-3533 or [go to our hotel event page at this link](#).**

Scam alert: The phone number and link above are the only ways to book into the NRC room block. If any "housing company" or "travel agent" calls you directly about a hotel room, that is a scam and should be ignored. It will cost you more money than necessary and may or may not result in you actually having a room.

<http://www.nrcma.org/safety>.

A version is available in PDF format as well as in Microsoft Word so that NRC member companies can make company or job specific changes.

Member-Get-A-Member Campaign

Help Grow the NRC and Strengthen our Voice

Three options to help recruit new members:

1. Reply to this email with names and contact information of potential members and we'll send them a membership information package.
2. Make a quick introductory call, email the potential member and CC mbell@nrcma.org.
3. Direct a potential new member to www.nrcma.org where they can learn more about the NRC and join online.

Visit the NRC Bid Notifications page on the NRC website at:

www.nrcma.org/bids

Publicize your Rail Industry Event on

www.nrcma.org/industry_calendar

If you would like to submit an event for posting on the Industry Calendar,

Exhibition: Exhibit space for the 2016 NRC-REMSA Exhibition is on sale now. You may view the full [floor plan](#) and sign up for a booth online by [clicking here](#) and logging in with your company password. The Exhibition begins with a reception the evening of Wednesday, January 6 and concludes the morning of Friday, January 8. Please contact Urszula Soucie with REMSA at 202-715-2921 or soucie@remsa.org for all exhibition related questions.

***Please note that the exhibit hall this year will be held in a tent in the Hotel del Coronado parking lot. The 36,000 square foot tent will be constructed by Classic Party Rentals, the premier name in event tent rentals. This is apparently what happens when the size of a conference grows every year - we're running out of ballrooms that can fit us!

Event Sponsorships: The NRC offers its members the opportunity to sponsor a specific conference function. For certain functions, companies will be able to sponsor all or part of the event. Conference event sponsors will receive sponsor ribbons on conference badges, signage and oral recognition at the event, their logo imprinted on the 2016 NRC Conference Program front cover and space to distribute promotional literature or trinkets in the registration area. **2016 NRC Sponsorships will open in September.** Please contact Matt Bell by email at mbell@nrcma.org or by phone at 202-715-1264.

Golf Tournament: NRC's 2016 Golf Tournament will be held on Friday January 8 at the Sycuan Golf Course (3007 Dehesa Rd, El Cajon, CA 92019), located approximately 24 miles from the Hotel del Coronado. Sycuan plays host to the Junior World Golf Championships, US Public Links Qualifying, the San Diego Junior Amateur, the annual PGA Chapter Shootout, the US Junior Amateur, and has been named one of Golf Digest's Best Places to Play.

Golf play will begin at 12:00 pm with a shotgun start. The Tournament format is a four-person scramble, allowing players with varying ability the opportunity to

please email info@nrcma.org.

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play and have a great time. A box lunch will be provided prior to the Tournament. The Golf Shop offers rental clubs at \$50/set. The Tournament registration fee includes carts, green fees, lunch and refreshments, driving range, putting green and prizes.

To register for the tournament, [please sign up as a part of the 2016 NRC Conference registration process, fill out this form](#) or contact Matt Bell via email at mbell@nrcma.org.

Sailing Tournament: The first ever NRC Sailing Tournament will also be held on Friday, January 8th from 1:00pm to 5:00pm. Group transportation departs the hotel at 1pm, with expected return by 5pm.

The sparkling waters of the San Diego Harbor provide a perfect backdrop for the 1st ever (annual? only?) NRC sailing regatta! Each person will be fully interactive as an official "crew member" of their vessel, vying to push their team into the winner's circle. The teams will tackle an exciting two-mile course over a period of 2 hours.

Sailing boats come with a captain. Captains will brief the crew on strategy, techniques and sailing instructions before the race. The Tournament registration fee also includes a box lunch, snacks and beverages on the boat.

To register for the tournament, [please sign up as a part of the 2016 NRC Conference registration process, fill out this form](#), or contact Matt Bell via email at mbell@nrcma.org.

NRC Membership - Did we mention discounted conference registration and exhibit booths rates for NRC members? If your company is not already a member of the NRC, [you may join online by clicking this link](#).

For all 2016 NRC Conference information, please visit www.nrcma.org/2016nrcconference.

Please contact me if you have any questions regarding

the 2016 NRC Conference. You can also contact NRC President Chuck Baker at 202.715.2920 / cbaker@nrcma.org.

Thanks, and we look forward to seeing you all in January!

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NRC New Member Profiles

Ogborn Consulting Group, LLC (OCG) provides consulting services to the transportation industry including strategic advice and counsel, government relations, public relations, management labor advice, and arbitration services. OCG's Mike Ogborn is a former American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association (ASLRRA) Chairman, former Executive Vice President and Managing Director of OmniTRAX, Inc., and currently a member of the Rail-Shipper Transportation Advisory Council.

For more information contact Michael Ogborn, 303-618-0000, mogborn1@gmail.com.

V3 Companies offers a full complement of railroad engineering services, including expertise in planning, evaluation, design, maintenance and construction-related activities. Clients range from Class I railroads to private heavy rail users to transit systems. V3 recently expanded its rail-related capabilities with its acquisition of Niemeyer & Associates, P.C., an established firm comprised of rail-industry veterans. V3 is a multi-disciplined firm with in-house skills to address any number of tangential impacts that may affect your rail project such as environmental, stormwater and flood control, wetland, bridge and structural issues.

Headquartered in Illinois, V3 has offices in Canada and Haiti and has performed project work across the globe.

For more information contact Ted Niemeyer, 630-729-6203, taniemeyer@v3co.com.

Deadline August 31st: NRC Scholarship Program

The NRC scholarship program deadline is fast approaching.

ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for consideration, an applicant must:

- * be a son, daughter, grandson, or granddaughter of a current employee of an NRC member company; and
- * be enrolled at the time of application as a full-time college student at an accredited two-year college offering an associate's degree or an accredited four-year college or university offering a bachelor's degree, or as a recently graduated high school senior that is enrolled to start college this fall.

AMOUNT OF AWARDS

Three scholarships will be awarded as follows: the first place applicant will receive \$8,000, the second place applicant will receive \$4,000, and the third place applicant will receive \$2,000. Scholarship funds will be sent directly to the student at the beginning of the next term of study. Students must be in attendance for a full year following receipt of the award.

THE APPLICATION

[Please click here to view and download the 2015 NRC Scholarship Application.](#)

Please compile the completed application with all required materials and send directly via electronic mail to: mbell@nrcma.org with "2015 NRC Scholarship" in the subject line.

ALL MATERIALS MUST BE COMPILED IN ONE PDF AND EMAILED NO LATER THAN AUGUST 31,

2015.

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Request for NRC Member Companies to Sign on to Letter Supporting Short Line Railroad Tax Credit

While Congress is on their August recess and tumbleweeds blow through the streets of Washington DC, there is something easy that you can do to help advance the short line railroad rehabilitation tax credit, which of course benefits NRC member contractors and suppliers tremendously. It takes just a few seconds.

The Senate Finance Committee recently passed a two-year extension of the short line tax credit that included eligibility for investments made to railroad track created between 2005 and 2015. The House is expected to pass a similar "tax extenders" bill in the fall. Our supporters in Congress want a strong outpouring of support for a tax extenders bill. Our colleagues in the Broad Tax Extenders Coalition, led by the National Association of Manufacturers, have crafted a letter and they are seeking the signature of thousands of companies and associations to show Congress the importance of acting to extend expired tax provisions.

Here is how you can help: Add the name of your company to the letter by [clicking here](#). It takes about 20 seconds. About 150 railroads have signed on so far, so it'd be nice to add a big contingent of contractor and supplier company names to the list.

The deadline to sign this letter is September 3, but no need to wait, you can do it today.

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RT&S Highlights NRC Members Brandt, BTE, GREX, Harsco, Herzog, Knox Kershaw, Loram,

NMC, Nordco, Plasser American, Progress Rail & RCE in Ballast Maintenance Article

A recent RT&S article highlighted NRC members Brandt Road Rail Corporation, Ballast Tools Equipment (BTE), GREX, Harsco, Herzog Railroad Services (HRSI), Knox Kershaw, Loram, NMC Railway Systems, Nordco, Plasser American, Progress Rail, and Rail Construction Equipment Company (RCE).

The article highlights each company's ballast maintenance methods, equipment and current projects.

To read more of the article, [click here](#).

Source: RT&S

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CHSRA Issues RFQ for Environmental and Engineering Services

The California High-Speed Rail Authority (CHSRA) released a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for environmental and engineering services for the San Francisco to San Jose Project Section and the San Jose to Merced Project Section of the high-speed rail program.

CHSRA is seeking a qualified firm to provide the professional services required for the completion of the environmental documentation and preliminary engineering for these sections.

The contract is estimated at \$36 million for a three-year term, and Statements of Qualifications are due September 14.

The San Francisco to San Jose Project Section is approximately 51 miles between the 4th and King St. Station in San Francisco and Caltrain's Tamien Station in San Jose. The San Jose to Merced Project Section is approximately 84 miles and travels from the Caltrain San Jose Diridon Station to the western limit of the

Central Valley Wye at the intersection of Carlucci Road and Henry Miller Avenue, approximately nine miles northeast of Los Banos in Merced County.

Source: RT&S, Progressive Railroading

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FTA Proposes Rule to Establish New Safety Program for Transit Industry

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) proposed a rule to establish a Public Transportation Safety Program under FTA's new safety oversight authority established by the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21).

The proposed rule would create an overall framework for FTA to monitor, oversee and enforce safety in the public transit industry and is based on the principles and practices of Safety Management Systems (SMS).

The proposed rule would implement FTA's authority to conduct inspections, audits and examinations; testing of equipment, facilities, rolling stock and the operations of a public transit systems and for FTA to take appropriate enforcement actions, including directing the use or withholding of federal funds and issuing directives and advisories. The rule would establish SMS as the foundation for FTA's safety program, which focuses on organization-wide safety policy and accountability, proactive hazard identification and risk-based decision making.

The proposed rule also defines the contents of a National Public Transportation Safety Plan (National Safety Plan), which FTA expects to publish in a separate Federal Register notice for public review and comment in the next several months. The National Plan will include safety performance criteria for all modes of public transportation, minimum safety performance standards for transit vehicles used in revenue operations, the definition of "state of good repair," a Safety Certification Training Program and other content

determined by FTA.

Click [here](#) for the proposed rule.

Source: FTA, Railway Age, Progressive Railroading

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Mississippi Transportation Panel OKs Port Improvement Grants

The Mississippi Transportation Commission recently approved the Mississippi Department of Transportation's (MDOT) award of grants for port improvement and maintenance projects, including the extension of two existing rail spurs.

The Yellow Creek Port Authority in Iuka received \$612,832 to extend an existing rail spur at the Northeast Mississippi Waterway Industrial Park. Additionally, the Lowndes County Port in Columbus received \$504,296 to extend and upgrade an existing rail spur along the East Bank.

Other grants included \$950,000 to the Port of Pascagoula to repair the dock at Terminal 1-A; \$552,000 to Natchez-Adams County Port to replace the north wing warehouse roof; \$511,335 to Port Bienville, Bay St. Louis, to construct two heavy lift areas on the existing main dock structure; \$396,331 to Port of Greenville to upgrade and rehab the dock structure; and \$273,206 to Port of Rosedale to clear and prep port property for port expansion.

Source: Progressive Railroading

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Genesee & Wyoming to Acquire Claremont Concord Railroad

Genesee & Wyoming Inc. has reached an asset purchase agreement with Claremont Concord

Railroad to acquire its rail line in Claremont, NH and it lease to operate over a state-owned line in West Lebanon, NH.

Click [here](#) for a story with plenty of local detail from the White River Junction, VT's local newspaper the Valley News.

Source: Progressive Railroading, Valley News

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All Aboard Florida Unlocks \$1.75B Bond Issue

All Aboard Florida moved a step closer to completing financing for its Miami - Orlando service on August 5, 2015, when the Florida Development Finance Commission voted unanimously to allow the company to issue \$1.75 billion in tax-exempt bonds.

The first phase of the network from Miami to Fort Lauderdale and West Palm Beach is due to open in 2017. The project is being financed through a mix of debt and equity without federal or state grants. All Aboard Florida says operation of the network will be self-sustaining with no requirement for subsidies.

All Aboard Florida forecasts ridership of 5.3 million and farebox revenues of \$294 million by 2020. The project includes a \$1.5 billion investment in upgrading FEC's existing Miami - Orlando line and will reduce the journey time for passenger trains on the 235-mile corridor to around three hours with 16 services per day in each direction.

Source: Railway Age

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Whitmore Rail named Douglas Reid VP of Product Development

Whitmore named Douglas Reid vice president of product development. He has more than 20 years of experience in new business development, marketing and product management. In the new role, he'll focus on refining the company's strategy and streamlining product development to expand the company's presence in the global marketplace. Before joining Whitmore, Reid served as vice president of marketing and product management for MeadWestvaco's paperboard materials business.

Source: Progressive Railroading

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