



Newsletter

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Board of Directors Changes

Michael Jack was elected to a position on the Board of Directors at the groups August meeting. Michael is a long time railroad aficionado who has accumulated a large collection of railroad artifacts and memorabilia, a number of which are on loan to the museum.

He joins three other additions to the board since the museum's opening.

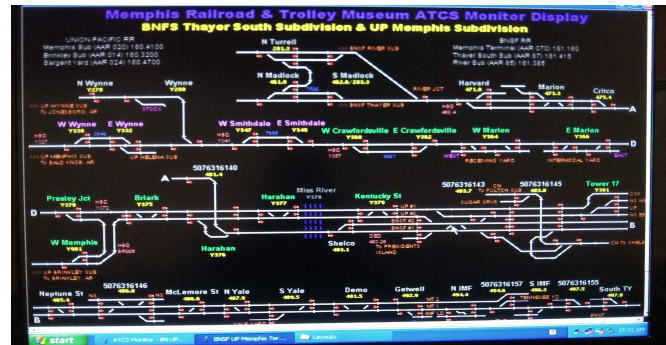
Bill Strong joined the Board of Directors last fall. Bill is Vice President of the Tennessee Association of Railroad Passengers and Southeastern Director of the National Association of Railroad Passengers. He is also a noted railroad historian and has made a number of presentations on railroad history to local groups.

In June Cynthia Grawmeyer and Doug Cupples were added to the Board. Cynthia, a minister, restaurateur, business woman and President of the South Main Association, adds a wealth of knowledge and expertise to the organization. Doug is a former history instructor at the University of Memphis and Adjunct Professor of History at Christian Brothers University. His talents will be invaluable as we chronicle the history of Memphis Railroad at the Museum.

The original Board consisted mainly of members of the model railroading community in Memphis. The addition of the above four members reflect the recognized need to broaden the talents and experiences of the board members.

Leaving the board is Jerry Michnewicz. "Jerry Mitch" was one of the founding members of the museum and is resigning from the board due to relocating to Atlanta. The door is always open, Jerry. Visit us whenever you can.

Storm KO's ATCS Monitor & Scanner



A catastrophic event the afternoon of August 5th incapacitated our equipment located in the penthouse of Central Station and temporarily put the Memphis ATCS Monitor and railroad radio broadcast off the air.

It was first thought that the culprit was a bolt of lightning, but board member Steve Albers, who was at the museum at the time reported that Central Station suffered a power outage around noon and there were no storms in the area while he was there. Consequently it is more likely a surge when power was restored was the culprit.

Regardless of the cause, the computer, a power supply, two radios and three radio to computer interfaces were taken out by the event. Mark Loewe of the Midwest ATCS Monitor Group provided his expertise in analyzing the damage and replaced computer and one radio. The museum replaced one radio, the interfaces and power supply. Our thanks also goes out to Travis Taylor who evaluated two of the radios and calibrated one of the the replacement radios.

As information, ATCS Monitor software is available for installation on your computer at home. With it installed, the same screen on display at the museum can be watched on your home computer. For information visit atcsmon.com. Sorry, ATCS Monitor works on PC's only, not Mac's.

You can also listen to our railroad radio scanner at home. Just go to:
<http://www.broadcastify.com/listen/feed/12896> .

Special Board of Directors meeting honors Jerry Michnewicz



Jerry "Mitch" receives his "Class 100 Trainmaster" plaque from Vice President Mike Fleming at the special BOD meeting.

On August 25th a special Board of Directors meeting was held at the request of departing member Jerry Michnewicz.

Jerry was a little tight lipped about what the meeting was about, some thought he just wanted a last get together before he left for Atlanta. His mission soon became evident when he presented MRTM Vice President Mike Fleming a check for \$25,000 from Memphis Businessman Charles McVean. Mr. McVean donated \$25,000 to the Museum in 2011 and issued a challenge: "If the museum raised an additional



MRTM Vice President Mike Fleming displays \$25,000 check from Charlie McVean which was presented to the museum by Board Member Jerry "Mitch".

\$25,000, he would match it. " We were up to the challenge and surpassed the goal several month ago. Thank you Mr. McVean!

Individual and Family Memberships Available

If you are a frequent visitor to the museum our Individual or Family memberships might make sense for you. The Individual Membership for \$25.00 or the Family Membership for \$40.00 entitles you to free admission to the museum for 12 months from the date of purchase and other benefits such as gift shop discounts. These prices are good until December 31st and they will be increased next year, so buying yours before the end of the year is a good idea.

Gift Shop News

We have installed a new cash register system at the museum . Named "Shopkeep" it integrates the cash drawer, credit card scanner and receipt printer for a more efficient operation. More importantly, we will be able to keep better track of our inventory. By assigning all our merchandise a UPC code and scanning it when it's sold, the system will keep track of our inventory. We have greatly increased the number of item in the gift shop recently and now we will be able to see what's selling and reorder items before they sell out.



We have entered into an agreement with Mattel to become a dealer for Thomas the Tank Engine toys. While we have had Thomas the Tank Engine HO train layouts in our gift shop for a good while, patrons have been looking for Thomas toys. The first shipments have been received and are now available in our gift shop.

The West Tennessee Central Railroad Preservation Project



The MRTM has been afforded the greatest opportunity/challenge in the museum's short history. The West Tennessee Central Railroad is the creation of Lois Ertz and is presently housed in a twenty four by fifty seven foot addition Mr. Ertz had built on his residence in 1980 for the specific purpose of housing his model train layout.

Mr. Ertz passed away in 2007. Since then his widow, Bettye, assisted by some of Louis' model railroad buddies has preserved and maintained the layout and kept it accessible to the public on a limited basis.

Mrs. Ertz has decided to put her house on the market and wants to have the train layout moved before she does so. She contacted the museum to see if we could possibly move the layout to the museum and make it available to the public on a permanent basis. We have accepted the challenge.

For more information visit our web page at : <http://mrtm.org/wtcrr> .

The story of the WTCRR in Louis Ertz own words can be found in the October 2002 issue of "O Scale" magazine. [CLICK HERE](#) to read the article

A Few Pictures of the W.T.C.R.R.

