I am excited and honored to inform you that the year 2020 marks the centennial anniversary of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) Rail Transportation Division (RTD), and the Joint Rail Conference (JRC), the advocate for the application of the art, science and practice of mechanical and multidisciplinary engineering and allied sciences to railroading.

The first ASME-IEEE Joint Rail Conference was held in St. Louis in 1920. The Conference is returning to St. Louis on April 19-22, 2020 and it is being held at the historic St. Louis Union Station Hotel, Curio Collection by Hilton Hotel. The St. Louis Union Station will provide a historical glimpse of the past in railroading with a touch of elegance. Please join us to celebrate.

The RTD is one of the original eight Divisions founded in 1920 as the Railroad Division promoting application of the art, science and practice of mechanical and multidisciplinary engineering and allied sciences to railroading. It later became the Rail Transportation Division to reflect its broad focus on rail rapid transit as well as conventional, intercity, freight and passenger railroading around the globe.

Over ten decades, the Rail Transportation Division and its members have been at the forefront of technological developments that have shaped railroading—the development of super power steam locomotives and their eclipse by the diesel—elecrtics; experiments with turbine and other new locomotive types; the first streamlined passenger trains of the 30's; the MetroLiners and TurboTrains of the 60's; high speed trains; and more recent Positive Train control (PTC); the development of larger, heavier freight cars, unit bulk commodity trains, intermodal trains, and the solutions to technological problems they have brought.

As the world becomes more conscious of the value of railroads in the dawning era of energy scarcity and high cost, interest in the Rail Transportation Division is growing. The Division encourages technical research and development to improve safety and productivity of railroad operations and rolling equipment designs, publishing technical papers dealing with this work, and provides a forum where railroad mechanical engineers can exchange ideas and discuss common problems and their solutions.

To find out more about this event, feel free to contact me.

Giuseppe Sammartino, PE

Chair
The conference provided a challenging transportation problem as there was a significant snowstorm to greet the early arrivals. The snow was a great boon to the skiers at the resort, but not so much for the conference attendee.

JRC registration - the Snowbird access road's morning shutdowns for avalanche control of the mountain snow (using explosives) slowed early registration.

- Looking down at the Snowbird complex (conference center is on the right) from the gondola car ride to the Summit mountaintop (11,000 foot elevation) restaurant for the Banquet.

Another morning at Snowbird at the 2019 JRC, with another foot of snow.

Mary Jakubowski prepares tickets for the Banquet.
The 2019 JRC was a gathering of over 115 practicing engineers from the rail transportation profession. This provided an outstanding opportunity to meet our peers in the profession. There were over 90 presentations providing insight into ongoing projects and advancements in railway engineering.
Call for Papers!

JRC 2020 is the major, multidisciplinary railroad conference encompassing all aspects of rail transportation and engineering research.

Go to: https://www.asme.org/events/joint-rail-conference

Abstracts are limited to a maximum of 400 words. Paper submittal is encouraged but not required. Interested authors will be notified of abstract acceptance and conference papers will be peer-reviewed. Publication of papers in conference proceedings requires attendance and presentation at the conference please. The ASME Rail Transportation Division is offering a limited number of conference scholarships for both undergraduates and graduate students. For specific details and questions regarding the scholarship program, please contact Mr. Jeffrey Gordon, ASME RTD Scholarship Committee Chair, at ASME.RTD.Scholar@gmail.com.

TOPICS

**Railroad Infrastructure Engineering**
Design, engineering, and construction of track, bridge structures and grade crossings; Geotechnical engineering of track substructure and right-of-way; Best practices and advances in technology for the inspection and maintenance of the railroad infrastructure.

**Rail Equipment Engineering**
Motive power technology; vehicle/track interaction; wheels, couplers, components, and other equipment; rolling stock design, manufacturing, materials, and maintenance.

**Planning and Development**
Project management, planning & financing; new start and expansion; transit oriented development; service planning; environmental impact; workforce development.

**Urban Passenger Rail Transport**
Investigations, insights, innovations, and implementations in all aspects of urban passenger rail transport.

**Signal and Train Control Engineering**
Systems integration; track and wayside components; equipment components; positive train control; interoperability, and microprocessor control.

**History**
Notable structures, equipment, facilities, events and people of historical interest to the railroad engineering community.

**Energy Efficiency and Sustainability**
Energy conservation, efficiency and storage; modeling; hybrid vehicles; emissions reduction and control; alternative energy sources.

**Service Quality and Operations Research**
Service availability and reliability; capacity models; impacts of aging equipment on service quality; transport mode integration, especially with high-speed rail; passenger information systems and reservation systems; freight railroad network optimization; asset planning; train scheduling.

**Electrification**
Catenary and third rail design; materials; efficiency; electrification approaches; design for high speeds; electromagnetic compatibility (EMC); corrosion control; load flow simulation; energy savings storage devices; regenerative braking; smart electrical supply.

**Safety and Security**
System safety approaches; safety data management; risk analysis approaches; accident avoidance, survivability, and investigation; operations safety; human-factors; informed safety improvements; hazmat risk management; security assurance; emergency preparedness and response.

**New Technologies**
System health monitoring, diagnostics, and prognostics; cloud technologies; data analytics, engines, mining, and management; business intelligence; autonomy; internet of things; machine learning; high-speed rail; and hyperloop.
Congratulations to Mr. William Blevins, Mr. Thomas Engle, Mr. Cameron Lonsdale, Mr. Michael Burshtin, and Mr. Harold Harrison to become the newest ASME Fellows!

Thank you, Fellow sponsors, your efforts have played an important role in honoring your colleague's significant lifetime engineering accomplishments.

ASME Fellow is a membership grade of distinction. ASME Fellows have been recognized for their outstanding engineering achievements. Currently there are 87,953 ASME members and 3,449 ASME Fellows. Here is the list of ASME Fellows: https://www.asme.org/wwwasmeorg/media/ResourceFiles/AboutASME/Honors%20Awards/Fellows/Fellows-All_180911.pdf

A Fellow candidate must have been an ASME corporate member for more than 10 years, and have more than 10 years of active practice in mechanical engineering field. For complete details, please visit: https://www.asme.org/about-asme/get-involved/honors-awards/fellows
Chair: Bryan Schlake  
  bws14@psu.edu
Secretary: Giuseppe Sammartino  
  gsammartino@ctlgroup.com
Chair Technical Program: Dave Schlesinger  
  dave.schlesinger@parsons.com
Chair Publicity: Mehdi Ahmadian  
  ahmadian@vt.edu
Mgr. of Divisional Affairs: Sam Williams  
  williams5759@gmail.com

ASME PROGRAM MANAGER
Mary Jakubowski - jakubowskim@asme.org

COMPLETE YOUR PROFILE ON ASME.ORG

Have you filled out your profile in ASME.org? If not, you should make this a priority as it allows you access to the Rail Transportation Division Group Page as well as your Technical Committee Group page. If you have a LinkedIn account, you can quickly import information to complete your ASME.org profile. Once you complete your profile, you can then participate in an existing online group or create your own group based on a specific engineering discipline, your interests, or even your university alumni. You manage group participation, content, tools, ASME.org functionalities make it easy for you to lead and grow your own group. It's a great opportunity to network, collaborate, and showcase your leadership skills to like-minded engineers.

SAVE THESE DATES

JOINT RAIL CONFERENCES

St. Louis Union Station Hotel, Curio Collection by Hilton. 100th Anniversary of RTD  
The first ASME-IEEE JRC was in St. Louis in 1920

2021 JRC: - Dates TBD. Baltimore, Maryland.

2022 JRC: - Dates TBD. Virginia Tech
IN MEMORIAM:
Keith L. Hawthorne
1947-2019

Keith L. Hawthorne, 72, of Pueblo West, passed away on Feb. 17, 2019. He was preceded in death by his parents, and brother. Keith is survived by his loving wife of 34 years, Cindy; son, John Wesley; siblings, Mark and Leslie; one sister-in-law, one nephew, numerous nieces, extended family and friends. Keith was a collector of live steam locomotives and loved spending time at the family cabin. He will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved him dearly.

Keith was a longtime member of ASME Rail Transportation Division. Keith served as Chairman of the Division as well as earning Fellow status in the organization. Keith also was awarded Fellow status in the Institution of Mechanical Engineers (UK). Keith was a registered Professional Engineer in Illinois also a Chartered Engineer in the UK.

Keith began his railroad career as a research engineer with the Association of American Railroads (AAR) at its headquarters in Washington DC in 1972. He was one of the first hires of Dr. William J. Harris, the Vice president of AAR’s Research & Test (R&T) Department. He retired in 2007 as Vice President - Technology, at the Transportation Technology Center Inc (TTCI).

His 35-year career with the AAR and TTCI included assignments such as Director-Safety Research and Applied Technology, Director-International Government-Industry Research Program on Track Train Dynamics, Technical Director, and Assistant Vice President, all at the AAR's Chicago Technical Center. He worked for the AAR and subsequently TTCI in Pueblo, Colorado from 1982 until retirement. He had overall responsibility for day-to-day management of the Transportation Technology Center as well as leadership in program management and technical resources.

Keith was an outstanding mechanical engineer and a fine researcher with great vision and drive. Throughout his career he was involved in the development and implementation of long-range plans, implementation of new laboratory capabilities in such areas as wheel and brake shoe performance testing and pneumatic brake system testing, passenger car crash testing and many other areas of applied research. He also provided senior leadership in the development and implementation of the AAR's Track Loading Vehicle.