

Chair's Message



Great things continue to happen at the Rail Transportation Division of ASME. A few months ago we held our Joint Rail Conference in Pueblo, Colorado. We took advantage of the great turnout for the AAR Annual Review by holding it the same week and at the same venue. The conference had joint participation with ASCE, IEEE, AREMA, TRB, INFORMS and APTA which allowed for a great exchange of technical information. The event had 64 papers which drew a crowd of 207 registrants, the second largest JRC by attendance ever.

We believe this healthy attendance and exposure of the JRC is largely due to the additional incorporation and involvement of AREMA, TRB, INFORMS, and APTA in recent years. The support of these additional organizations draws a larger attendance since the technical papers are much more interdisciplinary and truly cover the full spectrum of research within the industry. We have also made great strides in expanding the reach of our Publicity. We are promoting our conferences in more magazines and publications than ever and are coordinating with other conferences for additional exposure and participation.

A factor playing a role in rising attendance is the recovering of the economy. This already growing and competitive industry is rebounding ahead of the economy in general and it seems like the future is bright. Industry growth allows budgets for research and development which is quite often the source of these technical papers and presentations. Technology is driving the way for the competitive edge that rail has over other forms of transportation. Research in new materials, processes and designs are all directed toward lower operating costs, energy savings, increased safety and longer lasting equipment. With the continuing trends in the global economy regarding commerce and fuel costs, the papers and information exchanged at our conferences will only continue to strengthen our advantage.

The health of the industry and this division has allowed RTD to be able to continue its scholarship program. This program is geared to involving undergraduate students; it provides them exposure in the industry and experience in developing technical papers. Students awarded scholarships are offered funds to travel to and participate in the conference with the purpose of presenting their papers. To me, this program truly hits home with the mission and goals of RTD. It endorses student and university technical research in the industry and also provides an avenue of exposure and interest for graduating engineers.

Beyond all other factors, the success of our conferences and the success of this division should be directly credited to the volunteers of the group. The Rail Transportation Division is operated entirely by volunteers. Personal time is offered to review papers, plan events and obtain approvals, just to name a few. Outgoing Chairman David Tyrell has been an incredible help with the transition and assistance as I take over as Chair. Of course nothing of this division would be possible without the talent of Sam Williams, our Manager of Divisional Affairs. I consider Sam the 'glue' that holds this whole thing together and I appreciate his endless support. I personally admire the drive and dedication of the entire group as it certainly reflects in the operations of the division and I thank them for their support.

Our upcoming Fall Technical Conference will be in Minneapolis; it will be held at the same venue and during the same week as the Railway Interchange conference in September. I look forward to another excellent exchange of ideas and information and hopefully will see many of you there.

Jason Reiling
Chairman, ASME-RTD 2011-2012
Director – Design Engineering
Strato, Inc

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE
RTD FALL TECHNICAL CONFERENCE
Minneapolis, Minnesota September 21-22, 2011

For more conference information and registration, go to: <http://www.asmeconferences.org/RTDF2011/>

Check the printed program at registration for the final conference schedule.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2011:

8:00 am - 11:30 am Tour of MTS -- Headquartered in Eden Prairie, Minnesota, MTS Systems Corporation designs and manufactures advanced testing systems. These systems are designed to test and/or characterize a wide variety of specimens. Everything from simple material samples to biomedical devices to complex systems such as automobiles and airplane are tested on MTS test equipment. In Rail, MTS has designed and manufactured complete systems for evaluating durability and characterizing bogies. We have also built a system for evaluating high-speed pantographs.

11:45 am - 1:00 pm Box Lunch & Authors' Orientation

1:15 pm - 3:15 pm Session 1- Rail and Infrastructure

3:15 pm - 3:30 pm Refreshment Break

3:30 pm - 5:30 pm Session 2 – Vehicle and Track Interaction

6:15 pm - Conference Reception, Banquet and Program at Conference Center

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2011:

7:30 am - 8:00 am Authors' Breakfast & Orientation

8:00 am - 9:30 am Session 3 – Brakes and Traction

9:30 am – 9:45 am Refreshment Break

9:45 am - 11:15 am Session 4 – Wheels and Bearings

11:30 am - 1:00 pm Conference Luncheon – No Program

1:15 pm - 2:45 pm Session 5 – Rolling Stock Design

2:45 pm – 3:00 pm Refreshment Break

3:00 pm - 4:30 pm Session 6 - Rail Crashworthiness

5:30 pm - 8:00 pm Closing Conference Reception – Minnesota Transportation Museum with Hors d'oeuvres

FUTURE MEETINGS

2011 FTC: Minneapolis, MN, September 21-22

2012 JRC: Philadelphia, PA, Temple University; April 17-19, 2012

2012 FTC: Omaha, NE

2013 JRC: Knoxville, TN, University of Tennessee

2013 FTC: Altoona, PA

2014 JRC: Pueblo, CO

Note that all dates and locations are subject to change as planning progresses.



2012

CALL FOR PAPERS & PRESENTATIONS

Joint Rail Conference - 2012

TECHNOLOGY TO FUEL THE FUTURE OF RAIL TRANSPORT

Temple University, Philadelphia, PA, USA
April 17 – 19, 2012

JRC 2012 will be the major, multidisciplinary North American railroad conference encompassing all aspects of rail transportation and engineering research. The conference is a cooperative effort of the seven co-sponsoring organizations shown below, and will be held April 17-19, 2012 on the campus of Temple University in Philadelphia, Pa.

Papers and presentations are being solicited on railroad civil, mechanical, electrical, and systems engineering, as well as safety, planning, design, operations, maintenance, and management. The conference theme is *TECHNOLOGY TO FUEL THE FUTURE OF RAIL TRANSPORT* and will cover freight and passenger rail and transit, encompassing urban metro, light rail, commuter, regional and intercity systems, as well as all forms of freight rail. Topics include, but are not limited to:

Railroad Infrastructure Engineering

Track systems and components, railbed substructure engineering, bridge engineering, electrical network, and best maintenance practices.

Rail Equipment Engineering

Motive power technology, vehicle/track interaction, wheels, couplers, components, rolling stock design, manufacturing, and maintenance.

Signal & Train Control Engineering

Systems integration, track and wayside components, equipment components, positive train control, CBTC, interoperability, and microprocessor control.

Service Quality & Operations Research

Service availability, capacity, reliability, passenger communication, information systems, transport mode integration, and fare collection.

Planning and Development

Project management, planning & financing, new start and expansion development, service planning, environmental impact, and workforce development.

Safety and Security

System safety, risk analysis, accident avoidance, accident mitigation, human factors, hazmat handling, emergency management, and security.

Abstracts due October 19, 2012

Additional information about abstract submission and JRC 2012 is available at:
<http://www.asmeconferences.org/JRC2012/>.

Abstracts will be accepted starting on or about June 15, 2011.

Companies and organizations interested in **sponsorship and exhibit opportunities** should contact Steven Dedmon, (717) 242-4972, sdedmon@standardsteel.com.

To be placed on the mailing list to receive further information about JRC 2012, send an e-mail to: sdedmon@standardsteel.com with the subject **JRC Info**. Include your **Name, Affiliation** and **E-mail address**.



MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

ASME Rail Transportation Division (RTD) provides education, information and technology advances for the International Rail Industry to advance productivity, reliability and safety of rail systems. RTD members consist of railroad operators, suppliers, academia and government. As of January, 2011, RTD's current primary membership stands at 716 and total membership stands at 2298.

RTD conferences offer a benefit that non-members who pay the full non-member conference registration fee are eligible for one year free ASME Membership. At the 2011 JRC Conference in Pueblo on March 16-18, 15 people signed up for the memberships. Welcome, New Members! Hope you find your active participation with RTD is very rewarding.

To help RTD grow, please share your thoughts and RTD newsletters with your peers who would be interested in participating and contributing. Or just simply mention RTD to the railroad people who have not heard about us. Membership requirements and application forms are available on-line at http://www.asme.org/Membership/Dues_Service_Charges.cfm

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**RTD thanks the following list of companies for their generous support.
These supporters make success of our technical conferences possible.**

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V. Terrey Hawthorne Memorial Scholarship Fund Activity Report

The ASME Rail Transportation Division (RTD) continues to be a strong supporter of collegiate professors and students involved in the rail industry through our scholarships.

In preparation of the September 21-22, 2011 ASME RTD Fall Technical Conference in Minneapolis, MN, the ASME RTD invited fifty-four collegiate professors and students to respond to the 2011 ASME RTD Fall Technical Conference Call for Papers and also encouraged them to apply for the ASME RTD Student Conference Scholarship Award.

The scholarship amount of \$1000 USD is to be paid directly to the university to assist with student travel expenses to an ASME RTD conference to present a published paper. The scholarship may be used towards payment of associated airfare, train tickets, rental car fees, taxi fares, lodging, and meal expenses, etc. In addition, the student will have full registration fees waived for the conference. The scholarship will be available to 10 students per conference.

There are multiple goals to this scholarship:

- 1) To foster student engineers involved in rail research to present their publications at a peer reviewed industry conference.
- 2) To have those students meet and network with industry leaders at the conferences and hopefully consider a career in the rail industry.
- 3) To have high quality academic research presented at ASME conferences and helps utilize those efforts for the improvement of the industry.

The ASME RTD feels that the scholarship will assist in fostering entrance of new engineers into our growing industry. To date, a total of four students have completed and returned the ASME Conference Student Scholarship Confirmation Form indicating their eligibility to receive the ASME RTD Student Conference Scholarship Award.

If you, or anyone you know of, have an interest in the ASME RTD Student Conference Scholarship Award or have questions regarding the V. Terrey Hawthorne Memorial Scholarship Fund, please feel free to contact Monique F. Stewart, ASME RTD Technical Program Chair, at monique.stewart@dot.gov.

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