

Chair's Message



Our 2014 Joint Rail Conference was a qualified success. But the conference was qualified in only one regard: attendance could have been better. We usually get between 40 and 50 walk in registrations at a typical Joint Rail Conference. That didn't happen this year for several possible reasons: The Annual AAR Research Review held at the same time and place did not draw a significant number of attendees to our conference. People intending to stay for both conferences would have had to commit an entire week away from work. Other meetings were scheduled for the day after the Annual AAR Technology Review and were held at Pueblo, not Colorado Springs. Many things went very well with JRC2014, too. The number of high quality papers and presentations was greater than in the recent past. We had almost 100 technical papers and about 30 presentations. And, we had a great tour opportunity at RTD in Denver. Colorado Springs is also the

home to The Garden of the Gods Park, The US Air Force Academy, the US Olympic Training Center and the Old Colorado City Historic District. Nearby are Pikes Peak (weather permitting, try the Cog Railway), Seven Falls, Royal Gorge Bridge, Manitou Springs and my favorite The Dinosaur Resource Center in nearby Woodland Park. Many other places are available to visit than these few I have mentioned. This city was truly a great place to have had a major conference.

Once again, we had eight organizations working together to bring you this year's Joint Rail Conference: APTA, AREMA, ASME, ASCE, IEEE, INFORMS, NuRail and TRB.

Straying a bit from past practices, we surveyed those attending our conference. We will have to figure out how to improve the number of responses on future surveys: 19 general surveys were completed out of over 250 attendees, and six student surveys were completed and returned. Still, the survey responses provided some interesting information:

- Seven of 19 responses were from people attending our conference for the first time.
- Most respondents either attended a prior JRC or heard about us from co-workers. Only four of 19 found out about the conference from a blast email, and only two from our website.
- The number of technical presentations was the most important consideration in attending; for first time attendees, publishing a paper was most important.
- When asked if the conference was worth attending, we received a score of 4.8 out of a possible 5.0. But, when asked if they would attend JRC 2015, we received a disappointing 3.8 out of 5.0.
- Seventeen respondents felt that a two to three day conference was adequate, but three would have liked the conference to run for four to five days.

These are the highlights of the survey. All things considered I believe we had a great conference!

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you as RTD Chair, and thank you all for the great support you have shown me during a very interesting year.

Steve Dedmon
Chair RTD 2013-2014

FUTURE MEETINGS

2015 - JRC: San Jose, CA, March 23-26, 2015-<http://www.asmeconferences.org/JRC2015/>

2016 - JRC: University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC, TENTATIVE, dates TBD

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

New RTD Appointments

Appointments to the General Committee:

- Anand Prabhakaran (Sharma & Associates) – Asst. Publicity Chair
- Mike Iden (Union Pacific) – Member at Large
- Michael Coltman (VOLPE) – Member at Large
- Brian Dick (Amsted Rail) – Member at Large

**RTD thanks the following list of companies for their generous support.
These supporters make success of our technical conferences possible.
2014 JRC Colorado Springs Colorado**

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Joint Rail Conference – 2015

CALL FOR PAPERS & PRESENTATIONS

Abstracts due by **July 7, 2014**
www.asmeconferences.org/JRC2015

Railroad Engineering Technology – Learning from the Past, Building for the Future

JRC 2015 is the major, multidisciplinary North American Railroad conference encompassing all aspects of railroad transportation and engineering research

Track 1: 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.

Track 2: Rail Equipment Engineering

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

Track 3: Signal and Train Control Engineering

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

Track 4: 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 passenger reservation systems, freight railroad network optimization, asset planning, and train scheduling

Track 5: Planning and Development

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

Track 6: Safety and Security

System safety approaches, safety data management, risk analysis approaches, accident avoidance, accident survivability, train and employee safety, human-factors-informed safety improvements, hazmat risk management, security assurance, emergency preparedness and response

Track 7: Energy Efficiency and Sustainability

Energy conservation and efficiency, energy storage modeling, hybrid vehicles, emissions reduction and control and alternative energy sources

Track 8: Urban Passenger Rail Transport

Investigations, insights, innovations, and implementations in all aspects of urban passenger rail transport

Track 9: Electrification

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

Abstract can be submitted to: www.asmeconferences.org/JRC2015. Please provide abstracts in English and limit size to 400 words. Paper submittal is encouraged but not required. Interested authors will be notified of abstract acceptance. Conference papers will be peer-reviewed and published in proceedings.

The ASME Rail Transportation Division is offering a limited number of conference scholarships. For specific details and questions regarding the scholarship program, please contact Monique Stewart, FRA-RSEC.PMO@dot.gov

Joint Rail Conference co-sponsoring & partnering organizations:



Featured University

Mineta Transportation Institute

The Mineta Transportation Institute (MTI) conducts research, education, and information transfer programs focusing on surface transportation policy and management issues, especially related to transit. MTI was established by Congress in 1991 as part of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act and won national re-designation competitions in 2002, 2006 and 2011. The Institute is funded by Congress through the US DOT Research and Innovative Technology Administration, by the California Legislature through Caltrans, and public and private grants. In 2006 the US Department of Homeland Security selected MTI as a National Transportation Security Center of Excellence. The internationally respected members of the MTI Board of Trustees represent all major surface transportation modes. MTI is the lead institute for the Mineta National Transit Research Consortium, an affiliation of nine university transportation research centers. MTI is affiliated with San Jose (CA) State University's College of Business. Visit transweb.sjsu.edu

MTI looks forward to hosting the 2015 Joint Rail Conference in San Jose, their Director, Rod Diridon will give the keynote speech.

V. Terrey Hawthorne Memorial Scholarship Fund Activity Report

The American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) Rail Transportation Division (RTD) continues to be a strong supporter of collegiate researchers, both professors and students, who play a vital role in the advancement of the rail industry. To this end, the ASME RTD offers the ASME RTD Graduate and Undergraduate Student Scholarships, which give students the opportunity to network with rail professionals, present rail research publications, and exchange ideas on rail technological innovations and solutions at the ASME Joint Rail Conference (JRC). Most importantly, the scholarships increase the awareness of the rail engineering discipline from both an academic and professional perspective.

Since 2011, the ASME Rail Transportation Division has awarded \$73,850.00 in student conference scholarships to 71 deserving undergraduate and graduate students with an interest in rail and enrolled in a U.S. colleges and universities.

In support of the 2015 Joint Rail Conference, application submissions for the Graduate and Undergraduate Student Conference Scholarships are encouraged. Please visit [www.asmeconferences.org/JRC2015] for application deadlines, forms, and guidelines.

Below are details on each student scholarship to fund RTD Conference attendance.

ASME RTD Graduate Student Scholarship

Purpose: Fund travel, lodging, and conference registration expenses for scholarship awardees selected to attend and present their research publication at the ASME Joint Rail Conference.

Award Amount: \$1,100.00 USD

Requirements:

- The student must be enrolled and attending a U.S. college or university as a graduate student.
- The student must submit an abstract and technical paper as the lead author for the ASME Joint Rail Conference. Both must be relevant to the rail industry and accepted through the publication process.

- The student must complete the application and Request for Taxpayer Identification Number and Certification Form (W-9) for their college or university by the deadline specified.
- The student must receive written notification from the ASME RTD Scholarship Program Chair indicating the award of the scholarship.
- The student must deliver an oral presentation of the technical paper in person at the ASME Joint Rail Conference.

ASME RTD Undergraduate Student Scholarship

Purpose: Fund travel, lodging, and conference registration expenses for scholarship awardees selected to attend the ASME Joint Rail Conference.

Award Amount: \$850.00 USD

Requirements:

- The student must be enrolled and attending a U.S. college or university.
- The student must be enrolled in an undergraduate engineering program at their college or university as a Junior or Senior.
- The student must complete the application, essay, and Request for Taxpayer Identification Number and Certification Form (W-9) for their college or university by the deadline specified.
- The student must submit a minimum 250-word essay outlining why he or she should be selected to attend the conference and what they hope to gain through attendance (or what the student could contribute to the rail industry). Or, alternatively, a minimum 250-word essay can be submitted that suggests a solution to a real-world rail industry problem. *Note: Undergraduate students who submit a technical paper for the conference are not required to submit an essay, but are required to submit an application to be considered for the undergraduate scholarship.*
- The student must receive written notification from the ASME RTD Scholarship Program Chair indicating the award of the scholarship.

In addition to the \$850.00 USD undergraduate scholarship award for reimbursement of travel-related expenses to attend the conference, one undergraduate student will be selected to receive an additional award for “Best Essay” based on the quality of his or her essay. Details of the award will be provided during the conference banquet where all awards will be presented.

Please note that additional scholarship details and requirements may apply.

If you, or anyone you may know, has an interest in the ASME RTD Graduate and/or Undergraduate Student Scholarship, or has questions regarding the V. Terrey Hawthorne Memorial Scholarship Fund, please contact Ms. Monique F. Stewart, ASME RTD Scholarship Program Chair, at FRA-RSEC.PMO@dot.gov.

Honors and Awards

There are various awards that ASME Society bestows to its members to recognize their dedicated services and their distinguished achievements in the engineering field. Rail Transportation Division also provides three awards at the division level. They are:

Distinguished Service Award: this decoration is bestowed for major, significant, and meritorious activity toward fulfilling the programs and ideals of the Rail Transportation Division and the advancement of mechanical engineering in railroad and mass transit fields.

Rail Transportation Award: this achievement is often referred to as “Best Paper Award,” recognizes an exceptional paper presented at an RTD technical conference within the previous year.

Dedicated Service Award: this recognition honors unusual dedicated voluntary service to the Society marked by outstanding performance, demonstrated effective leadership, prolonged and committed service, devotion, enthusiasm and faithfulness.

We are currently working on several applications for our RTD members. If you are interested and would like to make some recommendations, please contact Li Rose Cheng at lc@salientsystems.com.

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, and activities. The rich suite of ASME.org functionalities makes 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.

**ASME RAIL TRANSPORTATION DIVISION
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JULY 1, 2013 -- JUNE 30, 2014**

**RTD CHAIR & CHAIR GENERAL &
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES**

Steven L. Dedmon

Director – Technology and R & D
Standard Steel, LLC
500 North Walnut Street
Burnham, PA 17009

Phone: (717) 242-4972
Cell: (717) 348-8499
FAX: (717) 242-4680
Email: sdedmon@standardsteel.com

SECRETARY-TREASURER

Robert Irving

Staff Engineer
Kelso Technologies (USA), Inc.
1430 Texas Ave.
Bonham, TX 75418

Phone: (903) 583-9200
Cell: (630) 380-4947
E-mail: irving@kelsotech.com

CHAIR TECHNICAL PROGRAM

Michelle Muhlanger

Deputy Regional Administrator, Region 1
Federal Railroad Administration
U.S. Department of Transportation
John A. Volpe National Transportation Systems
Center
55 Broadway, Kendall Square
Cambridge, MA 02142-1093

Phone: (617) 494-2630
Cell: (617) 877-9763
Fax: (617) 494-2967
Email: michelle.muhlanger@dot.gov

ASST. CHAIR TECHNICAL PROGRAM

Jeffrey Gordon

US Department of Transportation
Federal Railroad Administration
55 Broadway
Cambridge, MA 02142

Phone: (617) 494-2303
Fax: (617) 494-2967
Email: jeffrey.gordon@dot.gov

CHAIR PUBLICITY

Rafael (Ralph) Maldonado

Engineer
ENSCO, Inc.
923 Gardens Boulevard
Charlottesville, VA 22901

Phone: (703) 321-4603
Cell: (956) 493-2646
Email: Maldonado.rafael@ensco.com

OPEN POSITION

MGR. OF DIVISIONAL AFFAIRS

Samuel R. Williams

5759 Scotia Court
Dublin, OH 43016-3256

Phone: (614) 766-6970
Cell: (614) 570-9197
Fax: (614) 766-6970
Email: srwilliams@columbus.rr.com

ASME RAIL TRANSPORTATION DIVISION
COMMITTEE MEMBERS
JULY 1, 2013 -- JUNE 30, 2014

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