

Past 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



MARCH 23-26, 2015 • SAN JOSE, CA

JOINT RAIL CONFERENCE



CALL FOR PAPERS & PRESENTATIONS

Abstracts due by September 15, 2014

www.asmeconferences.org/JRC2015

Joint Rail Conference - 2015

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

San Jose, CA

March 23-26, 2015

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

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, rolling stock design, manufacturing, materials, and maintenance

Planning and Development

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

Urban Passenger Rail Transport

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

Energy Efficiency and Sustainability

Energy conservation and efficiency, energy storage modeling, hybrid vehicles, emissions reduction and control and 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 passenger reservation systems, freight railroad network optimization, asset planning, and train scheduling

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

Signal and Train Control Engineering

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

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

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 scholarship. 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:



FUTURE MEETINGS

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

2016 - JRC: University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC, April 12-15, 2016

2017 – JRC: TBD – New Orleans

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

2015 JRC SCHEDULE
MARCH 23-26, 2015 – San Jose, CA
Mineta Transportation Institute, San Jose University

Theme: “A Century of Innovation: Heavy Haul to High-Speed Rail”

Note: Check the printed program to confirm times and room assignments

TUESDAY, MARCH 24, 2015:

6:30 am JRC CONFERENCE BREAKFAST
7:00 am - 12:30 pm TOURS (\$20 fee at registration to cover transportation)
1:00 pm – 1:45 pm CONFERENCE LUNCHEON – NO PROGRAM
Tuesday Authors meet with your Session Chair for Orientation
2:00 pm – 3:45 pm PLENARY SESSION- INVITED SPEAKERS
3:45 pm – 4:00 pm REFRESHMENT BREAK
4:00 pm - 5:45 pm (1) CONCURRENT TECHNICAL SESSIONS

FREE EVENING – NO JRC EVENT

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25, 2014:

7:00 am - 7:45 am CONFERENCE BREAKFAST
Wednesday Authors meet with your Session Chair for Orientation
8:00 am - 9:45 am (2) CONCURRENT TECHNICAL SESSIONS
9:45 am - 10:00 am REFRESHMENT BREAK
10:00 am - 11:45 am (3) CONCURRENT TECHNICAL SESSIONS
12:00 pm - 1:15 pm CONFERENCE LUNCHEON - NO PROGRAM
1:30 pm - 3:15 pm (4) CONCURRENT TECHNICAL SESSIONS
3:15 pm - 3:30 pm REFRESHMENT BREAK
3:30 pm - 5:15 pm (5) CONCURRENT TECHNICAL SESSIONS

6:30 pm - 8:30 pm CONFERENCE RECEPTION, BANQUET & PROGRAM
KEYNOTE SPEAKER – Rod Diridon, Sr. - Retired Executive Director,
Mineta Transportation Institute.

THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 2015:

7:00 am - 7:45 am CONFERENCE BREAKFAST
Thursday Authors meet with your Session Chair for Orientation
8:00 am - 9:45 am (6) CONCURRENT TECHNICAL SESSIONS
10:00 am - 11:45 am (7) CONCURRENT TECHNICAL SESSIONS
11:45 am - CONFERENCE CLOSING LUNCHEON – NO PROGRAM

END OF CONFERENCE

On-Site Registration at San Jose Student Center:

Monday – 12:30 pm – 3:00 pm
Tuesday – 6:30 am – 4:00 pm
Wednesday – 7:00 am – 1:30 pm
Thursday – 7:00 am – 9:00 am

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 graduate and undergraduate students enrolled at U.S. colleges and universities with an interest in rail.

During the 2014 ASME Joint Rail Conference, 17 graduate scholarships and 10 undergraduate scholarships, totaling \$27,200.00, were awarded to students from the following U.S. colleges and universities:

- George Mason University
- Kansas State University
- Michigan Technological University
- Pennsylvania State University
- Purdue University
- University of California, San Diego
- University of Illinois at Chicago
- University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- University of Nebraska-Lincoln
- University of Tennessee-Knoxville
- Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

In addition, Riley Peterson from Michigan Technological University, was not only a recipient of the undergraduate scholarship, he was also recognized as the “Best Essay” award recipient for his essay on Center Beam Rail Car Conversion Options.

In support of the 2015 ASME Joint Rail Conference, application submissions for the Graduate and Undergraduate Student Conference Scholarships are encouraged.

Below are the requirements for each student scholarship, which are also available [here](#).

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 in and attending a U.S. college or university.
- The student must submit an abstract(s) and written paper(s) for the ASME Joint Rail Conference and have them both accepted through the publication process. *Note: If you are an undergraduate student who has submitted an ASME technical paper for the conference, you are not required to submit an essay, but you are required to submit a scholarship application to be considered for the undergraduate scholarship. If you are an undergraduate student, your technical publication is accepted and you are awarded the scholarship, the award will be in the amount of \$850.00 USD*
- The paper topic(s) must be relevant to the rail industry.

- The student must be lead author of the accepted paper(s).
- The student must complete and return the ASME RTD Graduate Student Scholarship application to FRA-RSEC.PMO@dot.gov by the deadline specified. Deadline details will be provided following the announcement of abstract acceptances.
- The student must receive written notification from the ASME RTD Scholarship Committee indicating award of the scholarship.
- The student must deliver an oral presentation of the paper(s) in person at the conference.
- In order to be issued the scholarship check, the student must be registered for the full conference as a student and must provide a completed Request for Taxpayer Identification Number and Certification Form (W-9) in PDF format. The completion of the form is required for tax purposes and will need to be returned to the Scholarship Program Chair by the deadline specified. *Note: Only one Request for Taxpayer Identification Number and Certification Form (W-9) should be submitted per college/university.*

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 in and attending a U.S. college or university.
- The student must be enrolled in an undergraduate engineering program at their university, college, or technical college.
- The student must be of Junior or Senior status.
- The student must submit a minimum 250-word essay outlining why they 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: If you are an undergraduate student who has submitted an ASME technical paper for the conference, you are not required to submit an essay, but you are required to submit the scholarship application to be considered for the undergraduate scholarship. If your technical publication is accepted and you are awarded the scholarship, the award will be in the amount of \$850.00 USD.*
- The student must complete and return the ASME RTD Undergraduate Student Scholarship application and essay to FRA-RSEC.PMO@dot.gov by the deadline specified.
- The student must receive written notification from the ASME RTD Scholarship Committee indicating award of the scholarship.
- In order to be issued the scholarship check, the student must be registered for the full conference as a student and must provide a completed Request for Taxpayer Identification Number and Certification Form (W-9) in PDF format. The completion of the form is required for tax purposes and will need to be returned to the Scholarship Program Chair by the deadline specified. *Note: Only one Request for Taxpayer Identification Number and Certification Form (W-9) should be submitted per college/university.*

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
COMMITTEE MEMBERS
JULY 1, 2014 -- JUNE 30, 2015

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COMMITTEE TOTALS:

24 GC Members at Large (30 max.)

**5 EC Members (4 + Mgr. of Div Affairs, ONE
OPENING)**

12 AC Members (5 + 7 Honorary)

KEY:

GC Member at Large, General Committee

EC Member Executive Committee

AC Member Advisory Committee

ACH Honorary Member Advisory Committee

[-] Year of Division Chairmanship

() Date appointed if known