

2018 Joint Rail Conference Register Today – Don't Miss Out

The 2018 Joint Rail conference will provide the attendees an opportunity to network with fellow engineers with similar goals and responsibilities. Over 200 rail transportation professionals attended last year's conference. The attendees will provide 130 papers and presentations and the opportunity to visit shops and incline railroads. **To register for the 2018 Joint Rail conference, go to <https://www.asme.org/events/joint-rail-conference/Register>.**



The Duquesne Incline approaches the Mount Washington Station with the downtown Pittsburgh skyline in the background. | Source



Monongahela Incline looking down toward the Station Square Station. | Source



Monongahela Incline | Source



McConway and Torley



2018 JRC
Joint Rail Conference

CONFERENCE | **EXHIBITION**
Apr 18–20, 2018 | Apr 18–19, 2018

Omni William Penn Hotel, Pittsburgh, PA

Preliminary Conference Schedule:

Tuesday 4/17

3:00pm - 8:00pm Conference Registration Open

Wednesday 4/18

10:00am + Conference Registration Open
 9:00am – 10:30am ASME RTD Committee Meeting
 10:30am – 11:30am JRC Organizing Committee Meeting
 11:45am – 1:00pm Welcome Lunch and Plenary Session
 12:00pm – 4:00pm Exhibits Open
 1:15pm – 6:00 pm Concurrent Technical Sessions
 6:30pm – 9:00pm JRC Organizing Committee Dinner

Thursday 4/19

6:30am – 7:30am Continental Breakfast
 7:00am – 5:00pm Conference Registration Open
 7:00am – 5:00pm Exhibits Open
 7:45am – 12:00pm Concurrent Technical Sessions
 12:15pm – 1:15pm Lunch & Grand Challenge
 1:30pm – 5:45pm Concurrent Technical Sessions
 6:00pm – 6:30pm Reception
 6:30pm – 8:30pm Conference Banquet

Friday 4/20

6:30am – 7:30am Continental Breakfast
 7:00am – 5:00pm Conference Registration Open
 7:00am – 5:00pm Exhibits Open
 7:45am – 12:00pm Technical Tours
 12:15pm – 1:15pm Lunch
 1:30pm – 2:30pm Workshops
 2:45pm – 4:45pm Seminars



To register for the 2018 Joint Rail conference, go to <https://www.asme.org/events/joint-rail-conference/Register>.

Joint Rail Conference 2018 - Grand Challenge Competition

This year the JRC will host the 2nd Annual JRC Grand Challenge Competition open to all conference attendees. We invite registered participants to propose an idea to the below Grand Challenge Question and present that idea to a panel of industry experts using a 3-minute “shark tank pitch”. The goal of this competition is to spark new ideas, innovations, and approaches to solving a relevant issue affecting the railroad industry.

The 2018 JRC Grand Challenge question:

In recent years, railroad’s have faced increased pressure to reduce operating ratio through improved efficiency and reduction of costs. With the exception of the 2008-2009 recession, railroads saw a fairly steady growth of revenue per ton-miles (Figure 1). However, in the last 4 years, this growth has slowed and railroads are looking for new ways to improve efficiency and reduce costs. How can the railroad industry utilize innovation and technology to advance economic goals, while maintaining high levels of safety and customer service?

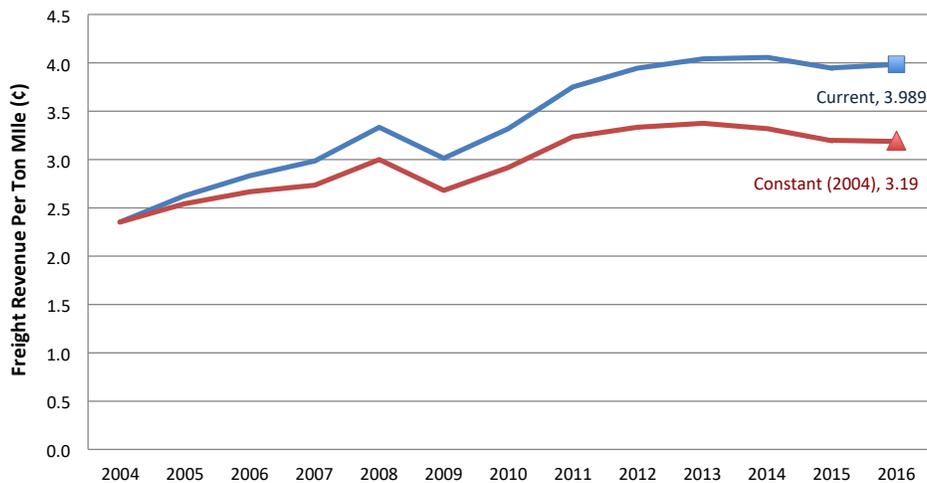


Figure 1. Freight Revenue per Ton Mile (in cents) for US Class I railroads from 2004-2016 in current USD and constant 2004 US dollars derived using the implicit price deflator for GDP (Sources: AAR and FRED)

Rules of the Competition:

This competition is open to all registered participants of the 2018 Joint Rail Conference. *Participants must register for the conference in order to be admitted to the competition.

Participants may enter the competition between December 1, 2017 and March 1, 2018.

During the competition, contestants will be allowed no more than three (3) minutes to present their idea using a single PowerPoint slide with no animations. Contestants may present as individuals or as a team of three people at most.

The winner of the competition will receive a **prize of \$500** (check to be mailed by ASME after the conclusion of the Joint Rail Conference). Competition winner will also be recognized at the conference banquet dinner on Thursday, April 19th.

After submitting an online entry form, contestants will be contacted by a member of the JRC Organizing Committee within 1-2 weeks. **Entries are open to individual contestants or teams of 2 or 3 people, but only one entry is allowed per team.** Apply online at: <https://goo.gl/forms/TOuOroLHMjMAQEZz2>

ASME RAIL TRANSPORTATION DIVISION
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS
JULY 1, 2016 -- JUNE 30, 2017

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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

- **2019 JRC: Details TBD. April - 2019.** 150th anniversary of the completion of the Transcontinental Railroad.
<http://www.tcr.com/> (Golden Spike was May 10, 1869, at Promontory Point, Utah)

- **2020 JRC: - Details TBD.**

2021 JRC: - Details TBD

**V. Terrey Hawthorne Memorial Scholarship Graduate Fund
&
Swamidas K. Charan (John) Punwani Memorial Undergraduate Scholarship**

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 RTD has received 146 graduate and undergraduate applications. Of the 146 applications received, 123 scholarships totaling \$115,150.00 have been awarded to deserving students with an interest in rail.

In support of the 2017 ASME Joint Rail Conference, the ASME RTD awarded **17** graduate scholarships and **14** undergraduate scholarships.

JRC 2018 Scholarship Fund Status to date:

Currently, the Scholarship Committee is in receipt of nine graduate student scholarship applications as of January 26, 2018.

If you or anyone you know is interested in applying for the graduate or undergraduate scholarship in support of the 2017 ASME Joint Rail Conference, please visit the [2018 ASME JRC website](#) for additional details and feel free to contact Ms. Monique Stewart, the ASME RTD Scholarship Program Chair, via email at rtdscholar@gmail.com should you have any questions.

IN MEMORIAM: John “Kevin” Kessler

KEVIN KESLER (Age 65) Passed away in Wilmington, NC on December 1, 2017 from cardiac arrest.



Kevin was born December 4, 1951, in Washington, DC to Graham and Joan Kesler. A 1969 graduate of Springbrook High School in Silver Spring Maryland, and a 1973 graduate of the University of Maryland's Mechanical Engineering program, Kevin worked for more than 40 years in the railroad industry with ENSCO and most recently the Federal Railroad Administration.

Kevin married the former Janice Tomasello of Silver Spring, MD on October 9, 1971 and together they raised three daughters, Kelissa, Lindsay and Ashley. As a member of the Burtonsville chapter of the Lion's Club and lifelong musician, he ran a regular open mic night in conjunction with the Burtonsville Moose Lodge. Following the death of his wife of 43 years in 2015, Kevin relocated to North Carolina.

On April 23, 2016 Kevin married the former Terry Croom and they lived together in Carolina Beach, NC where Kevin connected with local musicians and began a regular open mic night at the Silver Dollar.

Kevin is survived by his wife, Terry Kesler, as well as his three daughters Kelissa Orsin, Lindsay Terry, and Ashley Mitchell, their husbands, Jason Orsin, JP Terry, Brad Mitchell and seven grandchildren- Jaxson Orsin, Xander Orsin, Kyler Terry, Madden Terry, Zeke Terry, Marlowe Mitchell and Luke Mitchell.

In lieu of flowers, contributions in memory of Kevin may be paid forward in a random act of kindness. Buy the person next to you a drink, turn to the person behind you in line and pay their bill, buy the homeless man on the street a meal - reach out to someone near you and let them know it was the act of love and kindness that was Kevin Kessler, as this was his way.

A memorial service and celebration of his life will be held on February 3, 2018 from 5 to 10 p.m. at Cedar Ridge Church [crcc.org] in Burtonsville, MD where he was a member.

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