

NCTA 2008 Spring Conference

After highly successful conferences on both coasts, the 2008 NCTA Spring Conference heads inland to the BROADMOOR in Colorado Springs. Located on 3,000 lush acres at the foot of Pikes Peak, the BROADMOOR is the longest-running consecutive winner of both the AAA Five-Diamond and the Mobil Travel Guide Five-Star awards. This resort has it all, including a storied history dating back to the late 1800s. Resort facilities include over 600 hotel rooms and 100 suites, 54 holes of championship golf, 7 tennis courts, 3 swimming pools, and a full-service spa and fitness center.

Railroad lovers and history buffs should consider a trip on the Manitou and Pikes Peak Railway while in the area. For 114 years, the world's highest cog railroad and highest train in the United States has taken passengers to the 14,110 foot summit of Pikes Peak. It was on Pike's Peak in 1893 that Katherine Lee

Bates was inspired by the "spacious skies" and "purple mountain majesties" to write the poem that later became America the Beautiful. In another piece of rail history, it is said that Teddy Roosevelt (a featured speaker at the NCTA's 2006 Fall Conference) was on a trip on the Colorado Springs & Cripple Creek District Railway in the Gold Camp Road area when he commenting on the view with the words, "This is the ride that bankrupts the English language."

Spring conference dates are April 20-23, 2008. The conference will open with a reception Sunday for early arrivals. The NCTA is pleased to host its traditional dinner on Monday evening after the 12th annual golf tournament. Tuesday and Wednesday mornings will be plenary sessions with special breakout sessions on Tuesday afternoon. Online registration will be available on the NCTA website in January.

NCTA MEMBERSHIP LIST - Membership as of September 1, 2007

Luminant

A. Stucki Company ADA-ES **AIG Railcar Services AKJ** Industries Alliance Coal, LLC Alliant Energy Alpha Natural Resources, LLC Ameren Energy Fuels and Services American Electric Power Amsted Rail Aquila, Inc. Arch Coal Sales, Inc. Arizona Electric Power Arizona Public Service Company Arkansas Electric Cooperative Associated Electric Cooperative Basin Electric Power Cooperative Benetech, Incorporated Booz Allen Hamilton Bosch Rexroth Corp. CANAC, Inc. Carpenter Creek, LLC Chevron Mining Inc. CIT Rail Resources City Utilities of Springfield Cleco CoalTek Colorado Springs Utilities Columbus Steel Castings Co. Comet Industries, Inc. CONSOL Energy, Inc. Consolidated Terminals & Logistics Constellation Energy Consumers Energy Company CPMG, Inc. CPS Energy

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Lower Colorado River Authority

Martin Marietta Materials MidAmerican Energy Midland Railway Supply Midwest Generation Millennium Energy LLC Miller Bros Coal, LLC Miner Enterprises Inc. Minnesota Power Mitsui Rail Capital, LLC Muscatine Power & Water National Steel Car Nebraska Public Power District New York Air Brake Newmont Mining Corporation Norbridge, Inc. Northern Indiana Public Service NRG Energy Inc. Oglethorpe Power Corporation Oklahoma Gas & Electric Omaha Public Power District Ontario Power Generation Otter Tail Power Company Oxbow Carbon & Minerals LLC Pace Global Energy Services PacifiCorp Peabody Energy Pincock Allen & Holt PIRA Energy Platte River Power Authority Portland General Electric Precision Roller Bearing Co.,LLC Progress Energy Carolinas Progress Rail Services Corporation Public Service of New Mexico Rail Link

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Railroad Financial Corporation

RFTrax

Calendar of Events

Summer/Fall 2007

Presentation of NCTA Scholarship Awards for Outstanding Student in Transportation Studies: University of Arizona, University of Wyoming Four At-Large Scholarships

September 10-12, 2007

33rd Annual Business Meeting and General Conference, Brown Palace Hotel in Denver, Colo.

October, 2007

Eastern Logistics and Planning Committee Meeting, Location TBD

November 12-13, 2007

Board of Directors Meeting and Washington Visits, L'Enfant Plaza Hotel, Washington, D.C.

December 1, 2007

Receipt at NCTA office of all re-certification forms for the UMLER Fee Waiver for calendar year 2008

January 2008

Publication of the Coal Transporter, NCTA's magazine

February 2008

Winter Board of Directors Meeting, Jacksonville, Fl.

February 2008

Western Logistics and Planning Committee Meeting, Location TBD

April 20-23, 2008

Spring General Conference, The Broadmoor in Colorado Springs, Colo.

June 15-19, 2008

Operations and Maintenance Conference Inn at Bay Harbor, Bay Harbor, Mich.

September 8-10, 2008

34th Annual Business Meeting and General Conference, Westin Tabor Center in Denver, Colo.

April 12-15, 2009

Spring General Conference, Gaylord Opryland Hotel, Nashville, Tenn.



D. Bryan Bashore President, NCTA



A Message from NCTA's President, D. Bryan Bashore, Peabody Energy.

the NCTA Fall Conference is aptly themed "Potpourri", a reflection of the variety of issues with which the NCTA is currently engaged. The NCTA has been more active than ever over the past year, serving as a clearinghouse of information for members and non-members alike, and facilitating meetings and conferences in support of its mission. The NCTA has a stated two-fold mission: to provide education for its members and the general public, and to cooperatively resolve challenges and issues in the coal transportation industry. All committees, subcommittees, and conferences are dedicated to these purposes.

Summary of Key Committee Activities for 2006/2007:

- The work of the special Ballast Fouling
 Committee was particularly important
 over the past year. Action has already
 been taken to minimize fouling through
 modified chute designs and the coal sizing
 consist. Members have made significant
 voluntary contributions to fund further
 engineering studies so that any recommendations or additional actions taken will be
 reasonable and cost effective.
- This year's Operations & Maintenance Committee conference program in Vail, Colorado provided excellent information on many aspects of coal car design, maintenance, and repair with an emphasis on draft systems. The O&M committee continues to work with the railroads to improve the quality and efficiency of member car fleets and has taken a proactive lead in pushing for rules and regulations that are fair and equitable for private car owners as well as railroads.
- The Eastern Logistics and Planning
 Committee had two working meetings
 during the period hosted by Arch Coal
 in St. Louis and by NCTA in Durham,
 North Carolina. The Durham session
 utilized an interactive wireless audience
 response system which allowed attendees to
 anonymously weigh in on a variety of issues
 using numeric keypads. The responses were

gathered, the data was instantly analyzed, and the results formed the basis for a focused discussion while maintaining the confidentiality of individual organizations.

- The Western Logistics and Planning Committee also met twice with well-attended meetings hosted by the BNSF Railway in Fort Worth and by NCTA in Denver. The WL&P Coal Forecasting Sub-team's recommended revisions to the Joint Line monthly coal forecasting process went into effect in April 2007. The Joint Line - Southern Powder River Basin Coal Forecasting Process ("Process") is available for download on the NCTA website. The Rapid Response Team continues to meet monthly by teleconference to monitor and understand activity in the Basin and to facilitate actions to improve logistical efficiency.
- The **Education Committee** administered the NCTA scholarship program which provided scholarships to individuals at the University of Wyoming and University of Arizona. In addition, four scholarships were awarded to the children of employees of NCTA member companies from a group of truly amazing young applicants.

In addition to the work of its committees, the NCTA has actively represented its membership through participation in Surface Transportation Board proceedings. NCTA provided written comments and oral testimony in Ex Parte No. 671, Rail Capacity and Infrastructure Requirements. Executive Director Tom Canter also attended the Ex Parte 672 (Rail Transportation of Resources Critical to the Nation's Energy Supply) hearing in Kansas City and filed a written response in this proceeding.

Add two other major conferences with recordsetting attendance and two complete issues of the NCTA's magazine the *Coal Transporter* and you can see how this has been our busiest year ever. It has been my pleasure to serve as your President and Chairman of the Board of Directors over the past year. I wish to thank the Board and membership for their support, ideas, and dedication of time to make the past year successful.





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Education
Operations & Maintenance

Eastern Logistics & Planning

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