Available Publications and Membership Application

Dispatch Series Special Publications

Chicago Surface Lines: Linking Chicago’s Neighborhoods II Dispatch No. 9. Building upon the success of Dispatch 8, Chicago Surface Lines: Linking Chicago’s Neighborhoods, Shore Line announces the availability of Dispatch 9, Chicago Surface Lines: Linking Chicago’s Neighborhoods II. Dispatch 9 covers 26 streetcar lines in the 1945-1958 period. The Dispatch includes a section on Eight Distinctive Lines of Southeast Chicago (including “the Hegewisch line” and South Deering); coverage of Diagonal Lines in a Grid City (including Elston, Archer and Lincoln); as well as information on such routes as Kedzie, Cicero, 18th Street and Chicago Avenue. The routes used about 630 streetcars daily and carried 162 million originating revenue passengers in 1945.

Dispatch 9 includes detailed narratives on each route and a wonderful article by George Kanary on his recollections of life on Division Street in Wicker Park. 100 Pages. 20 of them in color; 149 Photos, 28 of them in Color (including popular Then/Now Photos); 2 Maps in Color; $20 Cover Price; Great for Your Library and as Gifts for “Chicago” Buffs, Railfans and Otherwise.

Chicago Surface Lines: Linking Chicago’s Neighborhoods Dispatch No. 8. Chicago is a city of neighborhoods, with residents self-identifying as being from, for example, Hyde Park or Albany Park or Beverly or Uptown. The neighborhoods are where things happened: education, entertainment, shopping—the everyday things of life. The neighborhoods in the 1940s and 1950s were like villages where “everybody knew your name.” The common denominator? The streetcars of the Chicago Surface Lines which, while serving the individual neighborhoods, also linked them to other neighborhoods, near and far. Dispatch 8 covers 12 of CSL’s streetcar lines from January 1, 1945 until the end of streetcar service. These 12 routes (including Broadway-State, Western, 63rd Street and Lawrence) carried about 20% of CSL’s total originating revenue passengers with an average of 521 streetcars daily. Eight of the 12 routes covered served only outlying neighborhoods and did not even enter the Central Business District. The Dispatch includes detailed narratives on the routes and George Kanary takes us for a long ride on the Cottage Grove line, reliving his experiences on the route.

Chicago Surface Lines: The Big 5 Routes and 5 Others Dispatch No. 6. CSL was the world’s largest street railway. In 1931, the five largest Chicago Surface Lines routes, in terms of originating revenue passengers, were Ashland, Clark-Wentworth, Halsted, Madison and Milwaukee. The combined riding on these routes was greater than the total riding in many medium-sized American cities. CSL also had some very small routes in terms of ridership and they demonstrate the diversity of CSL’s operations. George Kanary vividly relives the sights, sounds and aroma of the countless neighborhoods that the Halsted cars traversed from the north to the far southwest side including passing by Chicago’s famous Stock Yards. George rode this line from end-to-end many times as a kid and as an adult for the thrill of a ride on a CSL streetcar soaking in the neighborhood scenes. The Big 5 Routes and 5 Others explores in depth ten fascinating routes, the principal streetcar types used and a chronology of significant events from 1945 to 1958 with detailed text and over 110 thoroughly captioned photographs in 100 pages including then/now photo comparisons in black & white and color showing the changes in some of the neighborhoods where the cars ran.

Out of print but available as an Electroreader pdf download:
Cooperation Moves the Public Dispatch No. 1. Well-known traction railroad author Bruce Moffat tells the story of the integrated operations of the Chicago Aurora & Elgin Railroad and the Chicago Rapid Transit Company and later the Chicago Transit Authority over the Garfield Park Branch of Chicago’s rapid transit system until September 19, 1953. Trains were operated seconds apart “on sight” as there were no signals and no radios. This was a very complex operation, best described as cars of wood operated by men of steel pursuant to a book of rules that included a rule stating that “no collision with another train will be excused.” Available only as a Shore-Line Electroreader™ download in universally readable, high-quality PDF. $10.00 regular price, $5.00 member price.

See Special Offers on Dispatch Series Bundle Sets on page 5.
Competing Rails—The Milwaukee Road’s Legacy in Evanston and Wilmette Dispatch No. 2.

This is a complex story full of business, political and financial intrigue covering the early days of the railroads serving Evanston and Wilmette. John Evans did not want Chicago & North Western to have exclusivity. He obtained a horse-car franchise that ended up as The Milwaukee Road commuter service. Plans to electrify manifested in the Northwestern Elevated Railroad, today’s CTA Purple Line, coming to Evanston. Competition grew. From the north came North Shore Line’s predecessor. From the south came a streetcar line that evolved into Evanston Railways.

One Hundred Years of Enduring Tradition – South Shore Line Dispatch No. 3. Very different from all other railroad publications, Dispatch No. 3 covers the history of the South Shore Line as told by the people who were involved since 1926. We reflect on the first 100 years of the South Shore Line. Discover fascinating new information, enjoy in-depth discussions of why “The Last Interurban” survived and understand how a successful public-private partnership was created. 84 pages in color and duotone. Cover illustration by Mitch Markovitz.

The Chicago “L’s” Great Steel Fleet—The Baldies—Dispatch No. 5. In the early 20th Century, overwhelmed with riders, managers of Chicago’s elevated railways were faced with two huge challenges, an insufficient car fleet and tremendous congestion on the Loop. Through routing of trains and terminals short of the Loop eased the congestion. Providing sufficient rolling stock resulted in ordering the famous fleet of 4000s, 250 of which were called “Baldies” due to their bare steel arched roofs. Now, 100 years after the delivery of the first cars, Bruce Moffat discusses what was then a revolutionary car design with rolled steel components.

You may now purchase special publications online and pay by credit card. Prefer to pay by check? Please use the order form on page 5.

See Special Offers on Dispatch Series Bundle Sets on page 5.
2011 - Winter 2013 ($3.00 ea. + S&H)

Spring '11: Raymond Street - Then and Now, Things Were Not the Same after May 1 1971, Towering Adventures - Part 4, No Wonder I Like Streetcars, It Has Been 70 years Since the Magic Interurban, Insull’s Smaller Empire, and more! Circle 85

Summer '11: A Project in Excess of $4,000,000, The North Shore Line’s Last Days, The Midlothian & Blue Island Railway, Milwaukee’s Never Completed Subway, Glen Ellyn and the CA&E, and more! Circle 86

Autumn '11: The CA&E in Cook County - Then and Now, Life With The Jitterbugs, West Towns in Forest Park, and more! Circle 87

Winter '11: Milwaukee’s Impressive 600s, A Hall Signal Primer, The Winter We Would Rather Forget, April 13, 1949 on the East Troy and North Shore, and more! Circle 88

Spring '12: Briergate - The Rest of the Story, Halstead to Marshfield, The 4 track MET West Side Division, The Chicago Freight Tunnels, Bluffton, and more! Circle 89

Summer '12: Aurora to Chicago on the CA&E, North Shore on the “L,” Following the Lake Street Forneys, Front Entrance - Center Exit CSL Sedans, The BIG Puppy, and more! Circle 90

Autumn '12: My North Shore Line, Glen Ellyn and the CA&E, West Town’s Lake Street Line, Heading for Notre Dame Football on the South Shore Line in 1937, Wabash Railroad’s Orland Park Local, Indiana Railroad Past and Present, and more! Circle 91

Winter '12: North Shore Line - The Final Day, Twenty First Street Crossing, South Shore Freight 1937 Style, Old Elm Road - Lake Forest, The Winter That Wasn’t, Streets of Old Milwaukee, and more! Circle 92

Spring '13: Metra Wabash Extension, The Road of Service, The Goddesses Return, CRT’s Stock Yards Branch, and more! Circle 93

Summer '13: Chicago to Omaha Corridor, Illinois Central to Iowa, Off to Louisville, CSL Family of Lookalike Cars, and more! Circle 94

Autumn '13: CTA’s Red Line South, Streets of Old Milwaukee-WWII, Wooden Cars Fleet of Aurora Elgin & Chicago Railway, A Second Hand Rose-But Not Without Thorns, and more! Circle 95

Winter '13: An 800-Class Rolls Again, 4000s carry APTA Members to Skokie Shops, CTA Windows to the Past, Winter “Cocktail” Parties, High Speed Rail in Illinois, Englewood Flyover, and more! Circle 96

A limited supply of older back issues from Spring 2007 through Winter 2010 is also available. Please visit www.shore-line.org/Back_Issues.lasso to review brief descriptions.

Spring 2014 - Winter 2015 ($5.00 ea. + S&H)

Spring '14: Two special features on the Skokie Swift, Innovative Elevated, Story of the Waukegan Rockford & Elgin Traction Co., CHIBERIA Weather Report, and more! Circle 97

Summer '14: North End of the Skokie Valley, CA&E Wood Fleet at IRM, Milwaukee Northern Railway Construction, and more! Circle 98

Autumn '14: 30 Years Before Metra, Men-Minds-Machines-SRS 133, Operations Management on the Indiana Railroad, “Independence Hall” Returns to Operating Condition, and more! Circle 99

Winter '14: A New Era Emerging In Chicago?, Men-Minds-Machines-South Upton, Memorable Winters Before “Polar Vortex,” Days at Wilson Shops, Kenosha Trolley Extension, and more! Circle 100

Spring '15: Fabric of NW Indiana - The South Shore Line, Farewell to the 2400s, South from Gary Works on Broadway, Down to the Mines in a High Speed, Curved Sides - Rough Rides, and more! Circle 101

Summer '15: Rondout Tower, Final Shore Line Trip, How I Committed to the Highwood Office, The Lookalike Cars, TM’s Duplexes, Riding the Streets of Old Milwaukee, and more! Circle 102

Autumn '15: MY JOB: Develop a Plan to Restore Passenger Service on the CA&E, Benjamin Kubelsky and the North Shore Line, Western Michigan Boat to Interurban Connection, Chicago & West Towns Madison Street Line, To Blue Island and Joliet, and more! Circle 103

Winter '15: Union Pacific’s Alton Route, Metra’s Engineering Dept., The Parade On The Raceway - The Early Years, The Kankakee Line - Part 1, Yellow Line Reopening, and more! Circle 104
Spring 2016 - Winter 2016 ($9.95 ea. + S&H)

Spring ’16: CSL: More is Better, HW&EC Railway, Cook County Car 1, The last ‘L’ at Lakeside, News, and more! Circle 105
Summer ’16: CA&E Then and Now, 100th Anniversary of the North Shore Line, Minnesota Streetcar Museum, News, and more! Circle 106

Autumn ’16: Early “L” Operations, My Interest in the NSL becomes my first job, Milwaukee’s Route 11, News, and more! Circle 107
Winter ’16: NKP 765 comes to Metra in Chicago, Chicago and West Towns memories, News, and more! Circle 108

Spring 2017 - Winter 2017 ($9.95 ea. + S&H)

Spring ’17: Then and Now at Wilson, The Little Branch Line Cherished by Many, Classic Streetcars of Chicago, Milwaukee Traction Classics, Twin Cities Light Rail, and more! Circle 109
Summer ’17: CA&E: Can You Believe It Has Been 60 Years?, How We Brought NKP 765 to Metra, Steaming on the C&NW, West Towns La Grange Line, Metra’s Mechanical Department, and more! Circle 110

Autumn ’17: 40 Years of Chicagoland F40PHs, Chicago’s Rapid Transit Under Wire, Beer and Streetcars in Chicago, NSL City Car History, Chicago Aurora & Elgin’s Geneva-St. Charles Branch, The Electroliners’ Last Summer, The Alley “L” Turns 125, and more! Circle 111
Winter ’17: My last encounter with the North Shore Line, Winters Past on the Big Three, “Q” Steam Fantrips from Chicago, CTA’s 70th (!) Anniversary, The Chargers Arrive!, Insull’s Smaller Empire, News, and more! Circle 112

Spring 2018 - Winter 2018 ($9.95 ea. + S&H)

Spring ’18: New Fox River Bridge in Elgin, Soo Line 1003 - Trek to Shriners Hospital for Children, The Silverliners, NSL City Car History, Pressed Steel Streetcars of Chicago, and more! Circle 113
Summer ’18: CA&E: The Last Streetcar in Chicago, A Tale of Two Streamliners, Creating the Land of the Burlingtons, The South Chicago Branch, CTA Wraps Things Up, and more! Circle 114

Autumn ’18: The Architecture and Design of Chicago’s First Subway, Dining on the North Shore Line, South Shore Freight - The Earliest Years, The Terre Haute Line’s Brazil Division, Canal and Clark Streets Grade Separation, and more! Circle 115
Winter ’18: 60 Years Ago, the Last Trips on the CA&E, New Depots on the Old Alton, Wilson Lower Yard... A look back at a forgotten “L” facility, Interurban Through Valparaiso’s Lakes, A Caboose For The 21st Century, Insull’s Smaller Empire, and more! Circle 116
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| Dispatch 8 - CSL: Linking Chicago’s Neighborhoods | $18.00 Regular, $10.00 Member | = $ |
| Dispatch 7 - Transportation Miracle, Softbound Version | $15.00 Regular, $10.00 Member | = $ |
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| Dispatch 6 - Chicago Surface Lines: Big 5 Routes and 5 Others | $15.00 Regular, $10.00 Member | = $ |
| Dispatch 5 - The Chicago “L’s” Great Steel Fleet ~ The Baldies~ | $10.00 Regular, $6.00 Member | = $ |
| Dispatch 4 - The Road of Service | $15.00 Regular, $10.00 Member | = $ |
| Dispatch 3 - Enduring Traditions — South Shore Line | $15.00 Regular, $10.00 Member | = $ |
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If you prefer to receive First & Fastest in print format only, complete and return this form with your check or money order, or purchase your membership online at www.shore-line.org.

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If you have questions, please contact us at info@shore-line.org. Thank you for your ongoing support!

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