The Michigan Association of Railroad Passengers, Inc. (MARP) is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit corporation established in 1973 to improve passenger train service, travel conditions for passengers, and to work for the preservation of historic rail stations. Monthly meetings are held at locations around the state. Check the website for dates and venues. The public is invited to attend.

MARP EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
2016-2018
Tom Purmort  Chair
Adam Tauno Williams  Vice-Chair
Steve Vagnozzi  Treasurer
Open  Secretary
John Langdon  Gov’t/Public Affairs Coordinator
Jeanie Merckel  Membership Coordinator
Kay Chase  Communications Coordinator
Chuck Merckel  Meetings Coordinator
Robert Patterson  Detroit/Metro Region Chair
Mark Miller  Northern Region Chair
Warren Fritz  West Region Chair
Joshua Hamilton  East/Central Region Chair
The Michigan Passenger Editor and Webmaster, Larry Sobczak
ON TRACK Editor, Kay Chase

2019 MEETINGS
26 January – Member Meeting
   St. Johns
12 February – Executive Committee
12 March – Executive Committee
  6 April – Member Meeting
   Detroit Metro Location TBA
14 May – Executive Committee
22 June – Member Meeting
   North Region Location TBA
  9 July – Executive Committee
7-9 August – Michigan Rail Conference
   Michigan State University
14 September – 46th Annual Meeting
  8 October – Executive Committee
  9 November – Member Meeting
   West Region Location TBA
  10 December – Executive Committee

Visit www.marp.org
Email marprail@yahoo.com

Season’s Greetings

Continuing a years-long tradition, the Four Flags Garden Club hosted the 27th Annual Hometown Christmas Celebration at the historic Amtrak Depot in Niles on December 1. The 150 year old depot is decorated inside and out by the club’s 24 members as a welcome to townsfolk and visitors alike. Handmade ornaments festoon a Fraser Fir tree donated by Pinecrest Christmas Tree Farm. Santa and Mrs. Claus always drop by with cookies and cider and everyone joins in the singing of carols. The tradition of decorating the depot for Christmas began in 1990 when a scene for the movie “Only the Lonely,” featuring John Candy, was shot at the depot. When the filmmakers left, they left the lights, and the Four Flags Garden Club and community members joined together in a campaign to keep the lights burning each holiday season.

All of us on the MARP Executive Committee wish you and yours a safe and joyous holiday season.
MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

MARP’s first meeting of 2019 will be held on Saturday, January 26, 10:00 to Noon, at the former Grand Trunk Depot, 107 E. Railroad Street, St. Johns MI 48879. Nick Little, Director of the Railway Education program at MSU, will present "Dream with Me: The future and challenges of passenger rail in the U.S. and Michigan". We will also have a tour of the depot and the vintage rail cars being restored by volunteers led by Jenny and Gary McCampbell. Visit www.clintonnorthernrailway.org.

Other general membership meetings in 2019 are scheduled for April 6 (East region), June 22 (North region), November 9 (West region). The Annual Meeting will be held on September 14. The Executive Committee will confer by phone on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm. Members are welcome to contact the Chair with questions, suggestions or concerns and may join the monthly conference calls. You may contact Chair Tom Purmort at 412-398-6662 or twpurmort@gmail.com.

DIY (Do-It-Yourself) Michigan Timetable

If you are among those who miss having a printed timetable in your pocket as you travel, today’s your lucky day. Pages 3 and 4 of this newsletter can be downloaded, printed and folded into a handy tri-fold to take along on your next journey. Tell your printer to print both sides, flipping on the long edge. Not to worry if you don’t have a color printer. It will look just fine in black and white.

Michigan Ridership Rebounds

Michigan trains in FY 2018 carried more than 764,000 passengers—an increase of 3.4%, the highest growth rate among the Midwest state-supported services. This at a time when Amtrak ridership nationally was flat. The Wolverine route bounced back from 3 years of major track work with a 5.4% increase to 484,000. With a strong economy and low gas prices, trains and transit nationally are seeing fewer riders, so the upward trend is indeed good news. The chart shows a way to go to reach the numbers seen in the years coming out of the “great recession”. Farebox receipts in 2017 totaled $32 million. Along with decreased costs attributable to the fuel-efficient Charger locomotives, costs for Michigan’s three routes are significantly lower than originally projected when PRIAA Sec.209 pushed all operating costs onto the state.

Just In Time...

Give A Holiday Gift That Supports Rail Passengers Too!

Lonely Planet’s

“Amazing Train Journeys”

Rail Passengers Association & Lonely Planet Have Teamed Up To Bring You This Great Gift Idea!

Experience 60 of the world’s greatest and most unforgettable train journeys, from classic long-distance trips like Western Canada’s Rocky Mountaineer and Darwin to Adelaide’s The Ghan, to little-known gems on regular commuting lines. “Amazing Train Journeys” is the culmination of asking more than 200 travel writers for their absolute favorites. Some are epic international adventures, others are short suburban routes along stunning coastlines. There are incredible feats of engineering, trains that snake their way through mountain peaks, and even those which have achieved Unesco World Heritage status. Each profile contains practical information including ticket options, timetables and stops, plus inspiring photos and illustrated maps.

For 45 Years, Lonely Planet has traveled the globe and produced guides to inform and inspire, with trusted content for every destination and adventure!

Your purchase helps support RPA’s mission too! Lonely Planet is contributing 15% of all “Amazing Train Journeys” sales to Rail Passengers Association!

CLICK HERE TO ORDER TODAY!
**Michigan Train Schedules**

Effective July 17, 2018

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* Please confirm your departure time by phoning 1-800-USA-RAIL or VISIT Amtrak.com
Michigan has 3 Passenger Train Routes Serving 22 Communities

Wolverine
Pontiac-Chicago
3 daily round trips

Blue Water
Port Huron-Chicago
1 daily round trip

Pere Marquette
Grand Rapids-Chicago
1 daily round trip

With Thruway service provided by Indian Trails motorcoaches, 27 more Michigan communities have access to train service connecting to over 500 destinations in the U.S. and Canada.

Provided Compliments of
Michigan Association of Railroad Passengers
P.O. Box 405
Okemos, MI 48805
marprail@yahoo.com
www.marp.org

The Michigan Association of Railroad Passengers, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, all volunteer organization established in 1973 to improve passenger train and intercity bus services, travel conditions for passengers, and to work for the preservation of historic rail stations. MARP is not affiliated with Amtrak, the railroads, government, or any political party. MARP’s membership consists of passengers and citizens who want a balanced transportation system in Michigan.

ALL ABOARD MICHIGAN!