



*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** – 46<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting
- 8 October** – Executive Committee
- 9 November** – Member Meeting  
West Region Location TBA
- 10 December** – Executive Committee

Visit [www.marp.org](http://www.marp.org)  
Email [marprail@yahoo.com](mailto:marprail@yahoo.com)

# Season's Greetings



Continuing a years-long tradition, the Four Flags Garden Club hosted the **27<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.clintonnorthernrailway.org) .

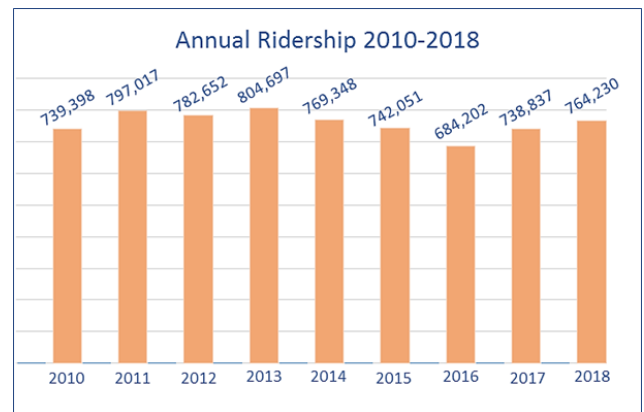
Other general membership meetings in 2019 are scheduled for April 6 (East region), June 22 (North region), November 9 (West region). The Annual Meeting will be held on September 14. The Executive Committee will confer by phone on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm. Members are welcome to contact 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](mailto: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 ways 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

Wolverine		Wolverine		Blue Water		Wolverine		Pere Marquette		Train Name		Pere Marquette		Wolverine		Blue Water		Wolverine		Wolverine			
350	352	364	354	370	Train Numbers		371	351	365	353	355	Days of Operation		350	352	364	354	370	371	351	365	353	355
Daily	Daily	Daily	Daily	Daily			Daily	Daily	Daily	Daily	Daily			Daily	Daily	Daily	Daily	Daily	Daily	Daily	Daily	Daily	Daily
Read Down																							
Mile																							
Dp																							
Ar																							
Read Up																							
7:20 AM	1:25 PM	4:00 PM	5:50 PM	6:30 PM	0	↓	CHICAGO, IL - Union Station	(CT)	↑	9:08 AM	10:32 AM	11:45 AM	3:05 PM	10:40 PM									
7:46 AM					16	↓	Hammond-Whiting, IN		↑														
8:28 AM			6:53 PM		52	↓	Michigan City, IN		↑														
				9:14 PM	89	↓	St. Joseph-Benbn Harbor, MI	(ET)	↑	8:10 AM													9:12 PM
				9:50 PM	116	↓	Bangor, MI (South Haven)		↑	7:32 AM													
				10:33 PM	151	↓	Holland, MI		↑	6:49 AM													
9:39 AM	3:41 PM	6:10 PM	8:04 PM		62	↓	New Buffalo, MI		↑				11:24 AM	2:24 PM	10:02 PM								
10:04 AM	4:02 PM	6:32 PM	8:24 PM		89	↓	Niles, MI		↑				11:04 AM	2:04 PM	9:42 PM								
10:15 AM		6:43 PM			102	↓	Dowagiac, MI		↑				10:49 AM		9:29 PM								
10:47 AM	4:36 PM	7:11 PM	8:58 PM		138	↓	Kalamazo, MI		↑				9:16 AM	10:19 AM	1:31 PM	9:00 PM							
				11:34 PM	176	↓	GRAND RAPIDS, MI	(ET)	↑	6:00 AM													
11:13 AM	5:02 PM	7:38 PM	9:24 PM		160	↓	BATTLE CREEK, MI	(ET)	↑				8:51 AM	9:52 AM	1:07 PM	8:36 PM							
		8:47 PM			208	↓	East Lansing, MI		↑				8:45 AM										
		9:24 PM			238	↓	Durand, MI		↑				8:04 AM										
		9:55 PM			256	↓	Flint MI		↑				7:32 AM										
		10:21 PM			274	↓	Lapeer, MI		↑				7:06 AM										
		11:31 PM			319	↓	PORT HURON, MI	(ET)	↑				6:20 AM										
			9:54 PM		184	↓	Albion, MI		↑				8:19 AM										
12:06 PM	5:55 PM		10:18 PM		208	↓	Jackson, MI		↑				7:56 AM										7:42 PM
12:48 PM	6:34 PM		10:57 PM		243	↓	Ann Arbor, MI		↑				7:20 AM										7:06 PM
1:17 PM	7:08 PM		11:26 PM		271	↓	Dearborn, MI		↑				6:51 AM										6:36 PM
1:40 PM	7:33 PM		11:54 PM		281	↓	Detroit MI		↑				6:33 AM										6:18 PM
2:04 PM	7:57 PM		12:18 AM		292	↓	Royal Oak, MI		↑				6:10 AM										5:55 PM
2:12 PM	8:04 PM		12:25 AM		296	↓	Troy, MI		↑				6:03 AM										5:48 PM
2:39 PM	8:32 PM		12:55 AM		304	↓	PONTIAC, MI	(ET)	↑				5:50 AM										5:35 PM

\* 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.



# MICHIGAN TRAIN SCHEDULES

## Provided Compliments of

Michigan Association of Railroad Passengers  
 Railroad Passengers  
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[www.marp.org](http://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!