

THE RSSI Communicator

SUMMER 2009

2009 Exhibition: Another Shining Success!



Not just another show...The RSSI C&S Exhibition held in Nashville was another successful show. In May, the railroad and railroad transit signal and communication community came together to view the latest technology, discuss the current trends and to solve the many issues that plague an industry that is over 200 years old. As we strive to use the most current technology to produce products and solutions to problems that have arose over the past decades, the RSSI exhibition format encourages the networking that brings the problem holders and the problem solvers together.

The economic environment forced all companies (railroad and supplier) to review the benefits of the RSSI Exhibition. The RSSI Exhibition was supported by 140 exhibiting member companies occupying 296 booth spaces, a true indication of the value placed on the RSSI exhibition by the members. As can be seen in the photo's throughout the newsletter, traffic in the exhibits was heavy and consistent, a clear indicator of the attendee interest.

Much emphasis this year was centered around the Positive Train Control (PTC) with a number of new products and/or systems on display. Rail-highway grade crossing safety was again prominent on the exhibit floor with many innovative new products such as lighted signs and LED crossing signal and gate arm lights. Several new products and systems were demonstrated on the Exhibition Floor, and the many briefings that were held captivated the attention of the attendees.

The 2009 exhibition Nashville provided a great learning experience with benefits for all the attendees.





Message from RSSI President George Rudge

Serving the past nine months as President of RSSI has been both rewarding and challenging. It is always a pleasure bringing together the Communication and Signaling community to witness the innovations of our member companies. It is also a challenge, especially during these economic times to provide a venue that our customers will continue to support year after year.

This year was another successful event. Bucky and Sharon did a very fine job. They make it seem so easy. But you, as member companies, did even better. You continue to advance the industry and offer ways to improve rail transportation.

Change is in the air. PTC will forever change the rail industry. I know the RSSI member companies will rise to the occasion, leading the way. Be assured, RSSI will be along side of you offering the best forum for you to introduce and market your innovations.

Next year, Ron McDaniel will lead RSSI as President. His leadership, as in the past, will move us forward into the new era. Remember 2011 will be the start of our combined industry event. AREMA, RSI, REMSA and RSSI will meet in Minneapolis. This will truly be a world event. You're needed to make this a success. Each of you can help get the word to our customers and convincing them this is a "must attend" event. It is never too early to build enthusiasm for this combined event. Thank you for your continued support. I look forward to seeing each of you in Omaha in 2010.



New RSSI Member Companies

RSSI would like to welcome the nineteen new member companies who joined RSSI since the 2008 Exhibition. The new members who exhibited at the 2009 Exhibition in Nashville, Tennessee are shown in bold print.

Advanced Tower Services Ltd
Allstate Tower, Inc.
American Products, LLC
**Beijing National Railway Research & Design
Institute of Signal & Communication**
Capital Tower & Communications, Inc.
DEKJO, Inc.
Insulfab
ITL, LLC
JM Test Systems, Inc.
Leotek Electronics USA Corp.
Meade Electric Co., Inc.
Midvale Electric
Spectrum Infrared
Spirit Solutions, Inc.
Stantec Consulting Inc.
STI-Co Industries, Inc.
Summit Signal Inc.
Transystems
Yankee Environmental Systems

RSSI Annual Membership Meeting

The RSSI Annual Membership Meeting was held on Monday, May 18th at the Gaylord Opryland Resort and Convention Center. The meeting included a status report on the planning for the first combined exhibition with Railway Systems Suppliers Inc. (RSSI), Railway Supply Institute (RSI), and the Railway Engineering Maintenance Suppliers Association (REMSA). The three supply associations will team with the technical presentations by the American Railway Engineering & Maintenance-of-Way Association (AREMA) and the Coordinated Mechanical Associations (CMA). The combined event, which has been named Railway Interchange – 2011 will take place September 18-21, 2011 at the Minneapolis Convention Center in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Mr. Tom Simpson, Executive Director of the Railway Supply Institute provided attendees with an update on several legislative issues now before the U.S. Congress. These topics included: stimulus funding, Amtrak funding, and Section 130 grade crossing safety funding. Tom also announced the establishment of a new RSI Legislative Committee, RSI and encouraged RSSI members to join and participate on the new committee. Interested members can contact Nicole Brewin at RSI (202-347-4664) or via e-mail at brewin@railwaysupply.org.

2009 Show Gallery



50 Years of Exhibitions

In 2010, RSSI will be celebrating their 50th Annual RSSI C&S Exhibition. The annual exhibition, held yearly since 1961 provides suppliers a venue to promote their products and services to the rail and rail transit community. The format of the exhibition has been altered numerous times, but the primary focus has always been to bring the suppliers and their customers together.

A brief history lesson: The association was incorporated in 1966 as the Railway Signal and Communication Suppliers Association Inc. Previous to that time it existed as two separate entities, one for the signal area and one dealt with the communications area of the railroad industry. Although records are vague for the years previous to 1966, there are indications that one or both of these entities were in existence as far back as 1906. In 1972 the corporate name was changed to Railway Systems Suppliers, Inc.

Over the past fifty years, the exhibition has been held in many different cities across the United States and Canada. Cities from San Francisco to Boston and from New Orleans to Minneapolis and many other points between have hosted the exhibition. In fact, records indicate that six times (over 10%) the exhibitions have been held in Canada.

The RSSI exhibition has also realized remarkable growth. During the past fifteen years, the number of exhibitors has increased by 29%. The attendance figures have remained strong throughout the years.

With the plans for the 2010 exhibition in progress, I can say that this year we are striving to accentuate the positive pertaining to the format for the RSSI exhibition. Attendees, both exhibitors and guests, will **NOT** be disappointed.



“Great floor layout. Loved our space.”



“The show was managed to perfection”

2009 Show Gallery

"LOVED the aisle carpet this year! Less noise!"



"One of the best EVER!"



"We had a wonderful time. Everything was awesome!"



"I honestly wouldn't change a thing"



Railway Interchange / 2011

AREMA/REMSA/RSI/RSSI

Minneapolis, Minnesota will be the site of the first combined exhibition with **REMSA** (Railway Engineering-Maintenance Suppliers Association) and **RSI** (Railway Supply Institute). The combined exhibition will be held in conjunction with the **AREMA** and **CMA** (Coordinated Mechanical Associations) Technical Conferences. The combined event called "Railway Interchange – 2011" will take place September 18-21, 2011. Planning for the event is being handled by an Executive Coordinating Group consisting of the Executive Directors of the four (4) associations. A web site (www.railwayinterchange.org) has been established.

Railway Interchange 2011 is intended to be a single/unified exhibition and technical conference. This is a difficult task given the vastly different show formats of the four associations. The planning group has made significant progress towards a final show plan which will be submitted to all four Board of Director's for approval. Until approval by all four Boards has been accomplished all details must be considered preliminary. A few of these preliminary arrangements are as follows:

- All three associations (RSI, REMSA & RSSI) will be in a single exhibit area. Each association will occupy a section of the exhibit hall. All air walls will be open.
- Tentatively exhibit hours will be as follows:
Sunday, Sept. 18: Noon – 5:00 PM
Monday, Sept. 19: 11:00 AM – 6:00 PM
Tuesday, Sept. 20: 8:00 AM – 6:00 PM
- The RSSI Headquarters hotel will be the Marriott City Center, with the Radisson (across the street from the Marriott) as the overflow hotel.
- The RSSI Entertainment Policy will be in effect. RSSI will have a ballroom at the Marriott that will serve as a common hospitality room for all RSSI member companies.

Watch both the RSSI website and the Railway Interchange-2011 website for further information as it becomes available.



RSI (Railway Supply Institute) Consolidates Committees

Earlier this year, the Railway Supply Institute (RSI) moved to consolidate most of their individual industry committees into one major committee, the RSI Committee on Communications, Signaling, and Maintenance of Way. John Paljug of Safetran Systems Corporation and Nancy Fowler of ARINC have been selected to co-chair the committee. The initial goal and direction of the new committee is to harness the individual energies of the RSI companies and committees into one cohesive force with the direction and synergy to identify, affect, and support the needs, interests, and message of the railway supply industry to legislators and third parties in Washington, DC, and beyond. Less apparent would be any special, narrowly focused view of independent industry segments that may have been typical in RSI committees before.

Building this team may be challenging, but John believes it's a task worth doing. Many RSI members are involved in only specific areas of the railway supply industry. Convincing all that, from a consolidated approach, "what is good for the overall industry is good for every member company" will take some refocusing. But in the end, a stronger railroad industry can only make the signal, communication, and MOW industries stronger also.

As the committee takes shape, the members will be broken into select working committees. More active RSI Committees like the Committee on Grade Crossing Safety, will be generally retained, but will be restructured to allow interface and joint direction with other signaling companies. It was felt that with the contribution made in crossing safety over the years, the ongoing benefit of the Section 130 Program, and upcoming SAFETEA-LU Reauthorization, this aspect of RSI cannot and must not be weakened. The new consolidated committee will only strengthen those successes.

Although many contemporary railroad supply issues will fall under the new committee's purview, the most pressing for initial considerations are:

- Legislative issues including:
 - SAFETEA-LU Reauthorization and sustained authorization/spending of Section 130 funds by the States
 - Support of Railroads in their efforts concerning re-regulation
 - Recovery Act Funds (stimulus money) – intelligence sharing on State spending
 - Amtrak Appropriations
 - Issues on the horizon – most notably, PTC.
 - Supplier Outreach

In the months coming, more organization and progress are expected, and will be shared with the RSSI membership. In the interim, John asks for RSSI Member support and involvement, and encourages any suggestions or comments. RSSI members interested in participating on the new committee should contact Nicole Brewin at RSI (202-347-4664) or via e-mail at brewin@railwaysupply.org.

2009 Scholarship Winners

The RSSI Scholarship Program, since its introduction in 1992, has proven to be a valuable service offered to RSSI member company employees. Fifty-four young adults have been awarded the \$8,000 scholarships (\$1,000 per semester) since the inception of the program.

The RSSI Board of Directors has voted to award two new scholarships from the thirty-five qualified applications received during this year's competition, with one of the scholarships being named the "RSSI – W. Ed Rowland Memorial Scholarship" given in honor of the past Executive Director, W. Edward Roland. The two \$8,000 scholarships (\$1,000 per semester) are being awarded to the following:

The "RSSI – W. Ed Rowland Memorial Scholarship"



Sean T. Albertson

Sponsor: Father, Mark Albertson, employed by Wabtec

Attending: Colorado State University

Intended Major: Mechanical Engineering

The 2009/2010 RSSI Scholarship



Amanda J. Huynh

Sponsor: Father, Tony Huynh, employed by Xorail Inc.

Attending: University of Florida

Intended Major: Business

In addition to the two new scholarships, the following are also active:

Sarah E. Anderson

GE Transportation Global Signaling / University of Kansas

Alicia R. Bekeny

GE Transportation Global Signaling / University of Pittsburgh

Zieanna F. Chang

Ansaldo – STS / Dartmouth College

Jack F. Ellsworth IV

Alstom Signaling / Cornell University

Jeffrey A. Green

HNTB Corporation / Yale University

Preethi V. Rajan

GE Transportation Global Signaling / Emory University

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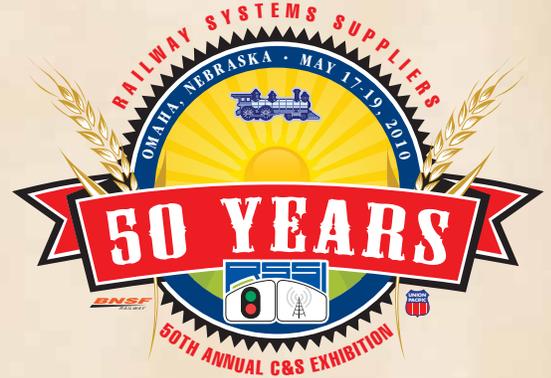
Donald Remaley
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www.rssi.org

2010 Back to Omaha

The RSSI Exhibition is returning to Omaha in 2010 to celebrate the 50th annual RSSI C&S Exhibition. After the 2005 experience, the RSSI Board of Directors knew they had to return to Omaha. The Qwest Convention Center has been selected as the venue for the 2010 RSSI Annual C&S Exhibition, being held May 18th and 19th. Move-in and set-up will be on Monday, May 17th. The Annual Membership Meeting will also be held on Monday, May 17th.



The "Omaha Experience" in 2005 was unbelievable. RSSI set records in both the number of booth spaces occupied and the total attendance. We are anticipating that 2010 will again be received as positively as the 2005 exhibition.

Exhibit information will be available in late November or early December. On-line registration, as well as hotel information, will be available on the RSSI website (www.rssi.org) as of December 1, 2009.



Preliminary 2010 Omaha Floorplan

