



# WELCOME ABOARD... FROM THE APRHF RAIL RANGERS

The APRHF Rail Rangers program is a new affiliate of the American Passenger Rail Heritage Foundation, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization in La Plata, Missouri.

## WHAT IS THE APRHF RAIL RANGERS PROGRAM?



APRHF Rail Rangers provide interpretive programs for passengers on private railroad excursions throughout the Midwest. Program topics often include history, geology, and various fun and entertaining stories that relate to people and places seen along a particular train route. We have a saying that not knowing what you're seeing outside your window on a train ride is just like watching the Travel Channel with the audio turned off. Rail Rangers customize their programs, based on exactly what experience a trip organizer wants

for their passengers. Rail Rangers attend various outreach and community programs during the year to educate people about upcoming trips and what can be seen from the train.

## WHAT SERVICE DOES THE APRHF RAIL RANGERS PROGRAM PROVIDE?

APRHF Rail Rangers' interpretive guides heavily customize each and every one of their programs to meet the expectations and desires of a particular rail car owner or trip organizer. APRHF Rail Rangers has the ability to provide extremely experienced guides who ride along on the private car trip, providing live real-time narration for



passengers about the sites they are seeing out the windows. Each guide is experienced; APRHF Rail Rangers only accepts guides into its program who have worked as car hosts before for other groups – we only provide 'the best of the best' for your trip... period. APRHF Rail Rangers also has the ability to provide customized handouts for private car passengers – this can range from simple two-sided handout sheets to a complete route booklet or large size book. We do the research and publishing so private car owners can focus on their trips. APRHF Rail Rangers also own a vast collection of props that relate to train routes; these help passengers better understand what they are seeing out their window. APRHF Rail Rangers also provide the highly collectable 'passport stamps' for various park service destinations on its excursions.

## **I'M A PRIVATE CAR OWNER OR TRIP ORGANIZER – HOW DO I CONTACT RAIL RANGERS?**

APRHF Rail Rangers are always looking to make connections and new partnerships with private rail car owners and trip organizers. Questions can be directed to APRHF Rail Rangers Executive Director Robert Tabern at [railrangers@rtabern.com](mailto:railrangers@rtabern.com). And, remember, since we are part of a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, guide services are provided at a very low cost for private car owners, with interpretive guides who have decades of experience.

## **I LOVE TRAVELING BY TRAIN – HOW CAN I PARTICIPATE IN A RAIL RANGERS PROGRAM?**

APRHF Rail Rangers provide on-board interpretive programs on-request from trip organizers and private railcar owners. For an up-to-date listing of upcoming programs in which APRHF Rail Rangers are participating, you can check our website at [www.railrangers.org](http://www.railrangers.org). Programs are provided free of charge, however often times travelers have to purchase a ticket for that particular trip from the group who is organizing it. Ticket info is also available on our website. Most of the funding for APRHF Rail Rangers comes from donations and funds made from the sales of “Outside the Rails” Rail Route Guide Books – available at [www.outsidetherails.com](http://www.outsidetherails.com).

## **HOW DID THE APRHF RAIL RANGERS PROGRAM GET ITS START?**

The American Passenger Rail Heritage Foundation (APRHF), based in La Plata, Missouri, has the mission of preserving and promoting the role that passenger rail travel has played in the building of this nation. You may be already familiar with the APRHF’s popular Rail Lookout Point, perched above the busy BNSF



Transcon line, or perhaps its’ Exhibition of Amtrak History, or the train-themed Depot Inn & Suites; all are located in La Plata. In December 2012, the APRHF began to expand its mission beyond Missouri, by partnering with Amtrak and the National Park Service to sponsor a brand new Trails & Rails program onboard the *Southwest Chief*. In the three years this program operated, volunteers reached out to more than 50,000 passengers, providing hundreds of interpretive programs about the interesting sites between Chicago and La Plata. When officials with the National Park Service decided to end its partnership agreement with the APRHF, we received incredible feedback and encouragement from passengers and Amtrak officials alike to try and keep aspects of the program going. On July 20, 2015, the American Passenger Rail Heritage Foundation announced the creation of the new APRHF Rail Rangers program; the organization would be given the mandate to provide the same services that Trails & Rails did, except on private excursions. Robert and Kandace Tabern, who designed and managed the highly successful Trails & Rails program on the *Southwest Chief*, now head up the Rail Rangers program; APRHF President Bob Cox and APRHF Vice-President Amy Cox are also heavily involved, serving as the two La Plata Coordinators. Many former Trails & Rails volunteers, who know the various Midwestern rail routes, are now part of the APRHF Rail Rangers program.