



Voiture 1379 Communiqué for January 2024

Happy New Year – let's hope this year is better than last year!

75th Anniversary of the Gratitude Train

In 2024 we will celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Gratitude Train. There are 43 of the 49 Merci Box Cars remaining and almost every state has gifts from their respective boxcar on display in a variety of locations. When they arrived, they received a grand welcome in New York Harbor. We expect to make a national press release about this historic occasion and coordinate with the incoming Chef de Chemin de Fer for a possible ceremony on or around that date. As February weather is unpredictable for most everyone we are not planning any major events for that time. Some states may be able to celebrate as early as February 2024 but we encourage everyone to coordinate your 75th anniversary at a time that is convenient for your area, such as a Grand Cheminot or Grand Promenade, so you may make the most of this historical occasion. If your boxcars are not looking their best - now is the time to update them. Please refer to the Boxcar Restoration Guide at www.mercitrain.org. A limited number of copies of the 75th Anniversary Poster (11" x 17") will be available for purchase at Promenade Nationale to help raise funds for the National Box Car Association. They have space at the bottom for you to add information about your specific event. We are also planning to publicize event information via the Facebook pages for both the 40 & 8 National Box Car Association and The Merci Train.

40et8 Membership year runs from January 1st to December 31st.

The Grand Spring Cheminot and WRECK will be held in Springfield, MO from April 5th to the 7th.

This year's Grande fundraiser will be Hillbilly Golf so the Voiture will need someone to dress up as a Hillbilly Golfer and wander around collecting donations for the best costume.

I have already sent in Voiture 1379 entry fee/ fine to Grande for this event.

This year one of the Sous Chef de Chemin de Fer Debra Reynolds will be attending the Spring WRECK.

Our Promenades are the fourth Wednesday of the month

(I get the date wrong sometimes)

This month's Promenade will be on January 24th at Post 61 Kansas City, MO with dinner at 18:00 HRS and the Promenade will begin after the meal

Thank you for your service to Our Great Nation and the 40et8 through Voiture 1379. If we all work together we can and do make a difference.

Robert C. Emery, Correspondant Locale, Voiture 1379

Check us out on the web

www.fortyandeighth.org

www.grandedumissouri.com

www.voiture1379.com