

PRESS RELEASE

Midwest Association of Rail Shippers to Explore How Shippers & Rails Are Adapting to Changing Markets

Impact of Decreasing Oil Shipments Topic at MARS July 13–14 Summer Meeting

CHICAGO—May 19, 2015 (James Street Media Services)—“Shippers and Rails Adapt to Changing Markets” will be the theme for the 245th meeting of the Midwest Association of Rail Shippers (MARS) to be held July 13–14, 2015 at the Grand Geneva Resort in Lake Geneva, Wisconsin.

“Shippers and railroads are in the middle of ever-changing market conditions” said MARS President George Macko. “For the past several years, the focus has been on the growth of high volume shipments like crude oil. As the economy continues to recover, we are seeing more diversity in shipments, and everyone is trying to respond quickly to new opportunities and challenges.”

The two-day meeting includes speakers, presentations, and panels focusing on some of the toughest issues currently facing the freight rail industry. This year, topics include: adjusting to a decrease in fuel shipments; addressing key infrastructure needs; and keeping on top of fluctuating demand for rail equipment.

“The MARS Summer Meeting always provides a great forum to educate and inform our membership in areas of railroad operating practices, new innovations in transportation, and legislative matters,” said Macko. “Plus, it provides a relaxed setting for discussing transportation and car supply markets—and examining critical issues from both the shippers’ and the railroads’ perspective.”

The schedule on Monday, July 13, features the traditional Scholarship Golf Outing and reception, along with an evening cookout and entertainment. A full-day business meeting will follow on Tuesday, July 14.

Program highlights on Tuesday include:

- keynote speeches from Class I railroad executives;
- an overview of the changing market for oil and its impact on the rail market;
- presentations on proactive freight rail planning;
- a rail equipment and power update;
- a mid-year economic forecast; and
- shipper panels focusing on the challenges for specific industries such as plastics, paper, and metals.

Date

Monday and Tuesday, July 13–14, 2015

Location

Grand Geneva Resort
7036 Grand Geneva Way
Lake Geneva, WI 53147

(262) 248-8811
(800) 558-3417

Cost

Members \$190; Non-members \$215

Registration

Advance reservations are required for the conference and golf outing. For information or to register:

- Online conference information and registration
- Email: mars@mwrailshippers.com
- Phone: (630) 513-6700

About The Midwest Association of Rail Shippers

The Midwest Association of Rail Shippers (MARS) is one of five regional North American associations under the North American Rail Shippers (NARS) national organization. Headquartered in the Chicago area, MARS provides an open forum for discussion and resolution of rail transportation issues by bringing railroads, shippers, receivers, and rail supply companies together twice annually for formal meetings in the Chicago area. To review the most recent meeting presentations, and to inquire about MARS membership, please visit the MARS website at www.mwrailshippers.com.

MEDIA CONTACT

Bill Fahrenwald

James Street Associates

bfahrenwald@jamesstreetassoc.com

708-371-0110 Ext. 1-#