



Communiqué



La Société des 40 Hommes et 8 Chevaux

Grande Voiture du Missouri

January 2024 - Grand Chef de Gare John "MIKE" Scruby

L'Editeur Robert C. Emery



Greetings Voyageur's

I hope everyone had a good Christmas and are ready for a great New Year. Since my last newsletter I have traveled to Ashland Missouri for Voiture 292 Christmas Dinner and Promenade on December the 6th. , the hospitality and food was great. On December the 20th. I traveled to Sedalia Missouri for Voiture 333 Promenade and Christmas Dinner, the food and hospitality were great. The main topic of discussion was the 75th. Anniversary of the Boxcar coming to Missouri. The Viet Nam memorial wall is coming to the Missouri State fair grounds on September 18-23 of 2024. There was discussion on having a celebration either at the fair or when the

wall was at the fair grounds. The fair is August 10th.-20th. And the wall is September 18th.-23rd. 2024. I suggested maybe both dates, but I think there will be more Veterans at the wall. I'll keep you updated on when it will be, we need to have a big turn out for the Anniversary of the Boxcar. If you would like for me to visit your Voiture let me know. Stay safe and healthy. Current membership is at 77.27 % we need to keep working on it.

Mike Scruby

Grand Chef de Gare du Missouri

Jscruby50@gmail.com

816-204-1746

Grand Spring Wreck Fundraiser

Spring Wreck Fundraiser at the Spring Wreck will be a Corn Hole contest. Frank Angelo will be in charge. If a Voiture does not participate then there will be a \$50 fine. If a Voiture participates there is a \$50 participating fee. Bring your best game for a fun time. Send your Voitures fine money or your participating money to Grand Correspondant AJ Noonan.

THE BLUE CHEVALIERS

As many of you are aware the Public Relations Program announced a new project at Promenade Nationale during the 2021 year in Springfield, Missouri called The Blue Chevaliers. Its sole purpose is to support Law Enforcement and provide recognition and positive public relations for the Forty and Eight. The name, Blue Chevaliers is a mixture of English and French, as is the tradition of La Societe. Blue being the English term that commonly refers to law enforcement and Chevaliers is French for "Noble or Honored Knights." We felt this was a most appropriate description of our law enforcement personnel in America. We kicked off this project in January 2022 after a year of planning and organizing with offering memberships, soliciting donations, pin sales, and shirt sales to raise the funding to support law enforcement officers and their families and the Law Officer of the Year program that we offer through The Forty and Eight Special Awards Program. Every cent raised goes for those purposes and there was no financial commitment or participation from Voiture Nationale. All funding was done exclusively by the staff of The Blue Chevaliers selling memberships and collecting donations. Now, what some of you may not be aware of is that at the Promenade Nationale, General Session at the 2022 Promenade Nationale in Green Bay, Wisconsin, The Blue Chevaliers project presented a check in the amount of \$2,000.00 to the Forty and Eight Law Officer of the Year recipient, in addition to the plaque he received from La Societe. We felt so honored to do this and it was made possible by the tremendous participation and support of the Voyagers and Dames in the inaugural year of this project. As it stands now, we plan to make this award annually at Promenade Nationale, just as we did again in 2023 in Sandusky, OH at Promenade Nationale this year. This can only be accomplished by the continued support of the Voyageurs of La Societe and Dames of La Cabane. The Project Manager is Bob Cearlock and Advisors are Mike Wood, Frank Campo and Greg Hall. Please contact any one of these Voyageurs to join The Blue Chevaliers Posse. In addition to this award we were able to recognize many Officers, Deputies and Sheriffs all over the country with awards and honors, many that the membership of La Societe were not even aware of. We now offer a very attractive pin that is a one-time purchase, or included with your membership in The Blue Chevaliers, polo shirts, hats, patches and decals for your car. Achievement certificates are awarded for different levels of financial donations as well as memorial certificates. We have had an outstanding response to this the project and hope that we can match that participation in 2024. With all the support and hard work we have now proven to La Societe the benefit of making The Blue Chevaliers a full stand-alone program in The Forty and Eight. At Promenade Nationale 2023 in Sandusky, OH, the membership overwhelmingly voted to make The Blue Chevaliers a

full stand alone PROGRAM as of 2025. The 2024 year was needed to create a Committee with a Nationale Directeur and Sous Directeurs and incorporate the funding and banking of the program to conform with the Forty and Eight Federal tax exempt status. Join us now and support this program and demonstrate the world that The Blue Chevaliers and The Forty and Eight make a great TEAM in supporting law and order in America.

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.

THE "MERCI" TRAIN

A Show of Goodwill and Gratitude

2024 is the 75th Anniversary of the Merci Train when the people of France showed their appreciation in an extraordinary way.

The American "Doughboys" of WWI were transported in small boxcars referred to as "Forty & Eights" and would carry either 40 men or 8 horses and thus marked Hommes 40 / Chevaux 8.

On February 2, 1949, France sent 49 of these WWI boxcars to the United States. Each magnificently decorated and filled with gifts. Today 43 boxcars remain from the Gratitude Train and are on display all over the United States. To find the boxcars and planned events near you scan the codes below or visit:



www.mercitrain.org





La Societe des 40 Hommes et 8 Chevaux Grande Voiture du Missouri

OFFICIAL CALL

TO: ALL GRAND CHEMINOTS
ALL GRAND OFFICERS
ALL GRAND CHEFS de GARE PASSE
ALL VOITURE'S CHEFS de GARE & CORRESPONDANTS
ALL VOYAGEURS OF GRANDE VOITURE du MISSOURI

This is the OFFICIAL CALL for the Spring Grande Cheminot and Wreck to be held April 5th to April 7th, 2024 at the Oasis Hotel & Convention Center, 2546 North Glenstone Avenue, Springfield, MO 65803, phone (417) 866-5253, or (888) 532-4338.

The Active Wreck will be held on Saturday, April 6th, 2024, at 9:00AM in Springfield, MO.

The Spring Grande Cheminot will be held on Sunday April 7th, 2024 at 9:00 AM at the Oasis Hotel & Convention Center.

There may be an Executive Board Meeting scheduled on Saturday. If there is one, the time and place will be posted in the Hospitality Room. A Central States Committee meeting will be held. Time and place will be posted at Registration Table.

ALL GRAND OFFICERS AND GRAND CHEMINOTS ARE EXPECTED TO GIVE A REPORT OF THEIR ACTIVITIES AND SUBMIT A COPY IN WRITING TO THE GRAND CORRESPONDANT.

All Voyageurs are to be in proper attire. The following male Officers are expected to be in coat, tie, shirt, long pants, socks and shoes, whereas female Officers are expected to be in a dress or skirt and blouse or slacks and blouse and shoes: Grand Chef de Gare, Grand Chef de Train, Grand Commissaire Intendant, Grand Correspondant, Grand Garde de la Porte, Grand Lampiste, Grand Conducteur, Sous Grand Conducteurs, and Grand Aumonier.

A.J. Noonan
Grand Correspondant

Mike Scruby
Grand Chef de Gare

GRANDE VOITURE DU MISSOURI

GRANDE CHEMINOT and WRECK

April 5th thru April 7th, 2024

Oasis Hotel and Convention Center
546 North Glenstone Ave.
Springfield, Missouri 65803
417-866-5253

Room Rate \$109.00 (+TAX) per night
For Deluxe King or Deluxe Double

PLEASE MAKE RESERVATIONS AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE
Handicapped Rooms Available

Mention 40&8 Honor Society for special rate when making reservation

Make Hotel reservations directly with Oasis Hotel and Convention Center by March 3rd, 2024

Friday, April 5th, 2024

Registration: 1500 until 1800
Hospitality Room 1500 - ????

Saturday, April 6th, 2024

Registration 0900 - Noon
Wreck 0900-1130
LUNCH 1130 – 1300
1300 wreck continues
Hospitality Room open after Wreck until 1700
Grand Chef de Gare Passe' Social Hour – 1700 – 1800
Social Hour 1800 – Cash Bar
Banquet Buffet: 1900
Hospitality Room: After Banquet – ???????

Sunday, April 7th, 2024

Grande Cheminot 0900 - NOON

Check Out

HAVE A SAFE TRIP HOME

Deadline for registration for the banquet is March 29th, 2024, NO EXCEPTIONS!!!

To register for the Cheminot, make Check payable to Voiture 760

Send to:

**Ron Leverenz
425 Boonville Ave
Springfield Mo. 65806**

Last Name _____ First _____ Spouse/Guest _____

Title: _____ Voiture Number _____

Banquet \$35 per person X No. Guests _____ = _____

Registration Fee \$10.00 (Voyageurs Only) _____

Total \$ _____

Grande du Indiana & Grande du Ohio invites you to attend the



105th Promenade & 61st Rendezvous Nationale
Sandusky, OH
September 10-14, 2024
Come Enjoy some Indiana/Ohio Hospitality

Date form completed

PLEASE SUBMIT SEPARATE FORM FOR EACH REGISTRANT

Last Name First MI
Address
City/State/Zip
Phone
E-mail

Payment by Check? (Enter Check Number):

Payment by Credit Card? (Check one below)

VISA Master Card Discover

Card Number: -

Card Exp Date: Month Year CVV

BILLING ADDRESS AND ZIP CODE FOR CREDIT CARD REQUIRED

BILLING ADDRESS

BILLING ZIP

<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
# <input type="text"/>	Voyageur's Registration @ \$30.00 (NON REFUNDABLE)	\$ <input type="text"/>
# <input type="text"/>	Voyageur's Late Reg. Fee (AFTER 6/1/24) @ \$35.00	\$ <input type="text"/>
	Grande Voiture: <input type="text"/> Voiture Locale: <input type="text"/>	
# <input type="text"/>	Dame's Registration @ \$25.00	\$ <input type="text"/>
	Grande Cabane: <input type="text"/> Cabane Locale: <input type="text"/>	
# <input type="text"/>	La President Luncheon (9/12/24) @ \$35.00	\$ <input type="text"/>
# <input type="text"/>	Early Bird (9/10/24) Tickets @ \$30.00	\$ <input type="text"/>
# <input type="text"/>	Banquet (9/13/24) Tickets @ \$45.00 each	\$ <input type="text"/>

Select one meal for each person:

Pan Seared Bone in Chicken

Lemon Garlic Baked Salmon

REGISTRATION AND RESERVATIONS

NOTE: ALL VOYAGEURS & DAMES MUST REGISTER WITH THE PROMENADE NATIONALE CORPORATION. Complete this form as applicable and either provide your credit card information or make your check payable to "105TH Promenade Nationale Corp." Then mail form and payment to;

Voiture Nationale
250 East 38th Street
Indianapolis, IN 46205
Or Email to ttaylor@fortyandeight.org

RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE BY AUGUST 1, 2024
Registrations you may send in until the end of August 2024

NOTE: REGISTRATION FEES ARE NON REFUNDABLE
Additional forms are on line at www.fortyandeight.org

HANDICAP ROOMS ARE LIMITED: PLEASE CONSIDER THIS WHEN MAKING YOUR REQUEST. HANDICAP ROOMS ARE ASSIGNED ON A FIRST COME FIRST SERVE BASIS

THE KALAHARI RESORT IS FOR BOTH VOYAGEURS & DAMES

ALL VOYAGEURS & DAMES WILL BE EXPECTED TO MAKE THEIR RESERVATION WITH THE RESORT DIRECTLY THERE IS A LINK ON OUR WEBSITE OR YOU CAN CALL 1-419-433-7200 MAKE SURE TO LET THEM KNOW YOU ARE THERE FOR THE 105th 40/8 PROMENADE

NOTE: Rates ONLY available through Promenade Nationale Corporation



Membership Grande Voiture du Missouri

4-Jan-23

Voiture Name	Voiture	2020 Year End	2021 To-date	2021 Quota	Sh/Ov Quota	% of Quota
HEART OF AMERICA	3	34	33	34	-1	97.06%
SPIRIT OF ST. LOUIS	38	53	49	53	-4	92.45%
JESSE JAMES	130	30	32	39	-7	82.05%
HEART OF MISSOURI	292	30	27	30	-3	90.00%
STATE FAIR	333	92	99	104	-5	95.19%
GATEWAY	448	41	40	67	-27	59.70%
CENTRAL OZARK	460	37	41	59	-18	69.49%
KICKAPOO	760	14	10	29	-19	34.48%
MARK TWAIN	966	2	2	2	0	100.00%
CAPITAL	1292	54	65	73	-8	89.04%
MINERAL AREA	1321	60	49	74	-25	66.22%
NEUF COMPT	1379	30	28	37	-9	75.68%
ATCHISON NODAWAY HOLT Counties	1402	1	9	18	-9	5.26%
LAKE OF THE OZARK	1403	9	4	9	-5	44.44%
TWO RIVERS	1541	52	39	54	-15	72.22%
Missouri Total		539	527	682	-155	77.27%