

Lake State Railway



**FROM THE PRESIDENT
COMMUNICATION**

**LSRC JOINS SMARTWAY
PARTNERING FOR CLEANER AIR**

**SAFETY
JAKE AWARD WINNER**





Good communication is vitally important to the success of most businesses. This is especially true in the rail industry as we use a multitude of different methods to communicate both internally and externally. Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) occurs around the clock every day of the year, to and from customers, railroads and data service companies. Automatic Electronic Interchange (AEI) equipment is used to interchange information to trace railcars allowing for the updating of Estimated Time of Arrival along with other needed information. Hand-held and base radios are utilized for communication between trains, Engineers and Conductors, Dispatch, Yardmasters, Maintenance of Way crews, and communication

with other railroads and their crews as well. Hand-held radios are vital to ensuring safe operations. On most of the southern portion of the LSRC line, Centralized Train Control (CTC) is utilized as another form of communication and technology. CTC gives the Dispatchers a real-time computer view of the rail line which allows them to direct train movements by utilizing signal changes and controlling positions of powered switches. The use of CTC helps move trains more efficiently and safely.



Radio Tower

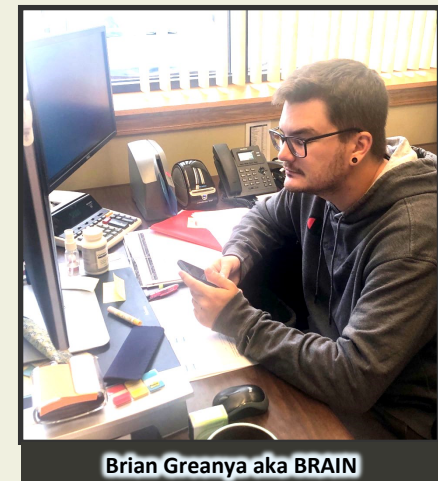
We live in the age of computers and frankly, I'm not sure any business can survive today without them. Where would we be without email? Accounting, receivables, purchasing, payables, training programs, inventory, transportation, cell phones, security cameras and so many more vital functions of the business landscape, rely heavily on the ever-evolving world of technology.

Like many conveniences in our lives, we just expect all of our electronic devices and systems to perform reliably without any thought for what it

takes to maintain, repair, improve and ensure secure information. At LSRC, we are blessed to have a small but mighty IT department lead by Mike Rose, IT Manager. Mike started with LSRC in 2017 and inherited a big job. As the lone IT employee, he had to assess and maintain our many computer programs, email systems, security cameras, radio systems, cell phones and so much more, for the entire company, including our 9 on-duty locations. Mike worked hard at not only maintaining our technology, but improving and upgrading it. Just stating the words does not hold credence to how much work and time is involved in just the day-to-day tasks, let alone the bigger IT projects that can't wait. We quickly learned just how valuable Mike's expertise became to LSRC. We have our very own MacGyver.

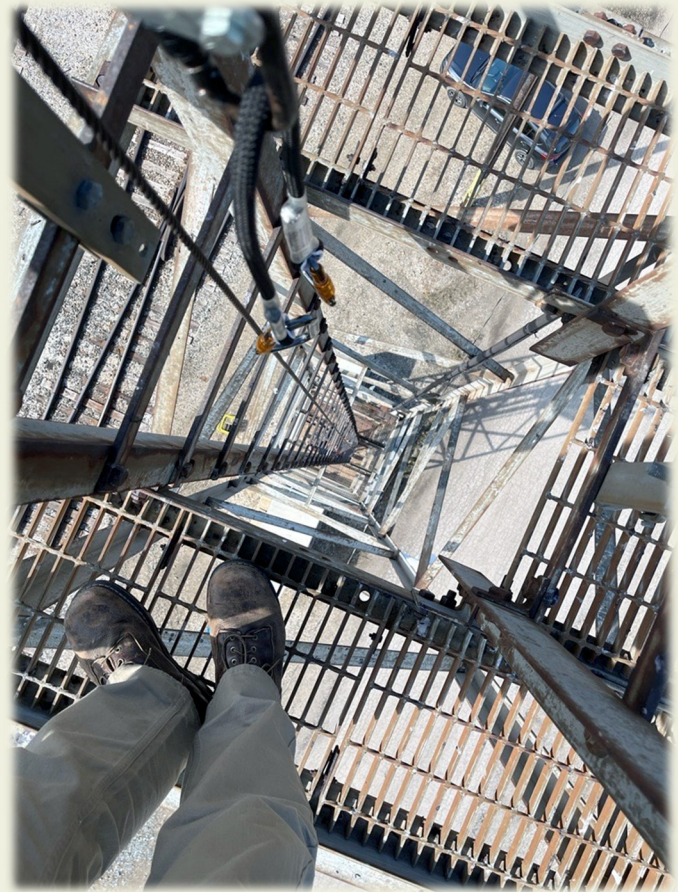


Mike Rose aka MacGyver



Brian Greanya aka BRAIN

The need for cybersecurity and the growth of LSRC has created even more challenges for our IT



DON'T LOOK DOWN!!!

Continued on page 3)

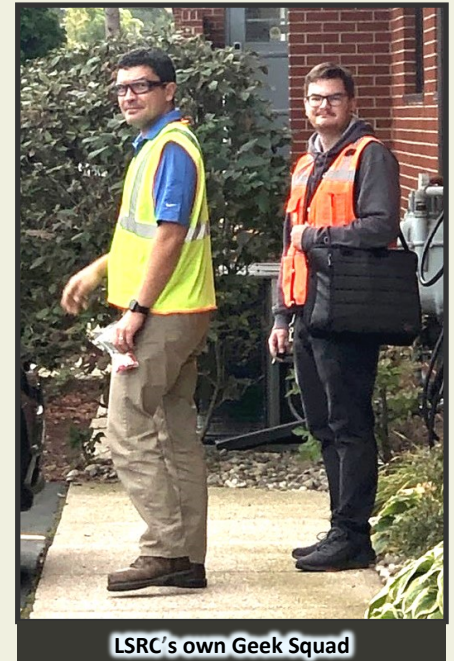
Department. As a result, LSRC brought on Brian Greanya to join the department under Mike making it a team of two. Brian has proven to be a big asset to both Mike and the whole LSRC team and we are happy to have him on board.

Homeland Security and the Transportation Safety Administration (TSA) drive many initiatives and mandates that we have to undertake and implement. Along with cybersecurity and other areas of safety precaution, LSRC undertook the replacement of 80 or so security cameras used across our property. No easy task for anyone with a fear of heights. All of these upgrades and improvements happened with little to no disruption in our daily jobs. We want to give a big thank you to Brian and Mike for doing an incredible job keeping our technology up and running smoothly.

All of this hard work keeps the communication flowing to and from LSRC and our connecting carriers, service providers, customers, our employees and also plays a big role in providing for safe operations. For more information, take a look at our website (also courtesy of our IT Team) at www.LSRC.com.

Again, I want to thank our IT Department for a never-ending job well done.

John Rickoff
President & CEO



LSRC—New Conductor Training



Safety first has been ingrained into the collective culture of all railroaders, which is a welcome change from years ago when brakemen would walk on top of moving cars to set handbrakes or make ties with link and pin couplers. Similarly, the Safety and Training Department at LSRC has advanced significantly over the last several years along with the strength of our field management. These advancements were very timely as LSRC has added a significant number of new conductors and engineers due to growth and attrition. This resulted in 29 new T&E team members joining LSRC since January of 2022. The influx of new hire conductors has put significant pressure on our Safety and Training Department as they teach, coach, and mentor the new hires. In our industry, the highest risk employees are typically employees with less than a year of experience. The onboarding of new T&E employees occurred as our Safety and Training Department has implemented an overhauled conductor training program which is much more in depth, including more classroom time than ever before. The field employees have been key as well, since they are the daily trainer, while the new hires go through on the job training. This work seems to be paying off as LSRC was awarded an ASLRRR “Jake” Award for safety for the first time in many years. The Jake Award honors railroads with less than a 2.0 injury rate per 200,000 man hours worked.

LSRC came in at less than 1.5. The goal is always zero injuries and we are making progress towards that goal. As of this writing, we have now surpassed a year injury free in the transportation department, which is significant when you consider that we have onboarded 29 new conductors/engineers since the beginning of last year.

I am also proud to say that our car department is approaching a year and a half without a lost time injury. The hard work of our Safety team, our field managers, and the employees who work on the ballast line is paying off in reaching our goal of zero lost time injuries.

Michael Stickel
EVP & COO



New Conductor Training

LSRC is proud to announce that we have become a partner of the EPA SmartWay program, a voluntary initiative that helps the freight transportation sector improve supply chain efficiency and reduce environmental impacts. By joining SmartWay, we are demonstrating our commitment to sustainability and social responsibility, as well as our willingness to adopt best practices and innovative solutions for freight logistics. SmartWay is an EPA program launched in 2004 and has since grown to include more than 3,000 partners from various freight industry sectors, such as shippers, carriers, logistics companies, and affiliates. The program provides a comprehensive and well-recognized system for tracking, documenting, and sharing information about fuel use and freight emissions across supply chains.



By participating in SmartWay, LSRC will benefit from several advantages, such as:

- Saving money and fuel by optimizing our operations.
- Enhancing our reputation and brand image by showing our customers, suppliers, investors, and stakeholders that we care about the environment and social welfare.
- Gaining access to a network of like-minded partners who share best practices and collaborate on innovative solutions for freight challenges.
- Receiving recognition and awards from the EPA for our achievements and leadership in freight sustainability.
- Contributing to the national and global efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, air pollution, and energy consumption from the transportation sector.

We are excited to be part of the SmartWay program and look forward to working with the EPA and other partners to achieve our sustainability goals. To learn more about SmartWay, please visit their website at <https://www.epa.gov/smartway> or contact us for more information.

Neetesh Sahu
Business Analyst

The EPA/SmartWay team had an opportunity to tour our Saginaw facility in August 2023 and dedicate some time to discuss EPA tools to reduce carbon footprint.



SmartWay Team From left to right - Nick Cousineau, Erik Herzog, Kathleen Martz, Denise Kearns, and Riley McKenna.



Roger Fuehring, LSRC Chief Mechanical Engineer explaining the basic functionality of an engine's controls and its operation.

LSR REALLY COUNTS SAFETY

Lake State Railway Company is proud to announce that we recently were honored by the American Short Line & Regional Railroad Association (ASLRRA) with a Jake Safety Award for 2022. The award, established in 1999, and named in honor of Lowell S. "Jake" Jacobson, who passionately promoted railroad safety amongst short-line and regional railroads, is presented to Regional and Short Line railroads who perform better than the industry average for injury frequency rate as reported by the Federal Railroad Administration.

The ASLRRA, which serves as a collective voice for Class II and III railroads, boasts a membership of more than 1,000 railroads, of which, Lake State Railway was amongst only 33 railroads nationwide to earn the coveted award with an undeniably impressive injury frequency rate that was an astounding 25% less than the industry average.

The injury frequency rate, which is calculated by tracking the number of FRA reportable injuries for every 200,000 hours worked, was a 2.01 for 2022, with Lake State Railway holding an injury frequency rate of only 1.49.

I am unbelievably proud of our team and the tremendous amount of focus and effort that has been put forth to ensure we are able to move Michigan safely, each and every day.

Their attentiveness, and unwavering commitment towards ensuring we operate in the highest echelon of safety is undoubtedly what has allowed us to earn this award for the first time since 2017. It should paint a very vivid picture that when it comes to safety, while there is always room for improvement, Lake State Railway is on *the right track*.

Dave Foster
Manager of Safety & Training



Roundhouse Report



Congratulations to :

Scott Perkins
&
Robert McEnrue

On the Completion of

The Qualified Mechanical Inspector's course

per FRA Regulations

The "Excellence Award" Winners



Congratulations to:

Steve Rainey—Engineer and Conductor
Mark Eickholt—Lead Locomotive Mechanic
nominated for going above and beyond
the call of duty.



Steve Rainey (Rainman)
NOMINATED BY: Tom Klemm

On 7-13 while working as the engineer on job 126, Steve Rainey went above and beyond to assist with an mechanical issue on the Lake State Bay City swing bridge.

On that day, the hydraulic lines on the underside of the span became entangled, and were in jeopardy of failure. Ben Schramm, the bridge tender was working alone at the time. Steve volunteered and provided assistance in making repairs to the hoses to correct the situation. As Ben worked on the hydraulics, Steve assisted in handing tools while Ben was in an area of limited access, and also providing leverage to properly position the equipment for reassembly.

This assistance reduced delay to LSRC train traffic, limited any impact to movements on the waterway, and was key to safely completing the job.

Thank you Steve for going above and beyond to help keep LSRC running.



John Rainman Tom



Mark Eickholt
NOMINATED BY: Ryan Kregel

Mark was in the shop re-profiling wheels when Ryan Kregel stopped in just in time to observe Mark catching a hidden defect most mechanics would never have caught until it caused a major problem. Mark's extra cautious examination of wheels, helped save the company from serious issues. "The fact that he can tell that something is not right with a wheel by simply hearing the sound it makes on the lath is astonishing," Ryan said.

Mark not only manages all in-depth inspections, but he also is the lead operator on the wheel lath. He makes the call to ensure when the wheels need re-profiled long before any wheelset hits the federal limit. Sometimes he makes the call when something looks fine on paper but doesn't sit right with him on how it's wearing.

Thanks Mark, for keeping us rolling, going that extra mile and paying attention to your instincts.



John Mark Ryan

AMBER NEUMEYER—DISPATCHER/YARDMASTER

Amber Neumeyer in her own words:



2023 marks my 8th calendar year as a Dispatcher/Yardmaster with Lake State Railway. Most of my days are spent dispatching from the control tower in the Saginaw Yard. Over 370 miles of main track line with 6 subdivisions is dispatcher-controlled and it can get a little hectic from time to time. We control all permission of movements of trains, men and equipment that operate on our rail lines.

I have to say that what I enjoy most about my job is when a plan-comes-together. The years of experience in this position have given me the ability to authorize rail occupancy really efficiently. I get a big kick out of it when I estimate correctly (like down to the minute) the availability of a track, when a train will be clear, or what time limits will be in use. It doesn't happen as often as it could, but I get pretty excited when it does. I do my absolute best to not keep anyone waiting and it seems like they really appreciate that. I'm a mother at heart—for me that means I take every chance I get to step back, slow down, and create a teachable moment for a new hire, or have a conversation and reflect with another seasoned employee.

Hands down, the most important part of my Job is safely authorizing track occupancy. What does that look like? - It means that anybody working on any LSRC tracks is made aware of any conflicting or upcoming movements, defects, or restrictions that could interfere with or affect their jobs in that area. One wrong authorization could be detrimental so it's imperative to be on my game at all times.

Before coming on-board with Lake state, I was "a Jack-of-all trades, but master of none". It all began in high school with the local career center where I developed some pretty handy skills. My senior year, me and 3 team members competed in the State building trades competition called "Team Build". The project was to construct a small building using the 4 trades, a Mason, a Plumber, an Electrician and a Carpenter. I was the Carpenter. We were judged on different criteria such as reading blueprints, teamwork, job safety, cleanliness, presentation skills and of course the actual structure. We must've done a heck of a job because we won 1st place in the whole State of Michigan. Back then, I was awarded for both my carpentry skills and for breaking gender norms.

That set me on the path to my first real job selling power tools and fasteners, which didn't allow me to use my learned skills but I had knowledge of what I was selling. Following that, I made a drastic move into health care working as a nurses aide for 7 years. Most of those years were spent in the rehab unit and the memory care unit. Then, I made another drastic move from the medical field to shop work for a few years. I was hired by a fire sprinkler manufacturer where I worked assembly, was a CNC machine operator and eventually became a crew leader. Finally came Lake State—one of the employees I supervised at the sprinkler company put in a good word for me to her mother who was employed at LSRC at the time. The Mom hired me and the rest is history.

I grew up in the Rhodes/Pinconning area with my younger brother, An-

thony and my sister Annie and am the lucky auntie of their 5 children collectively. After graduating from Pinconning High School in 2005, I ended up settling only about 10 miles from where I was raised.

Outside of work I'm a MOM—Beautiful Thing. It will take every moment you give it. I couldn't be happier to give all my extra minutes to anything else. Time not spent living for my Babies is spent as an assistant coach for their sports, helping out on my parents farm, or with Lover Face "Herbert Freeman Jr."

Herb has been my partner and best friend for over 10 years. Together we enjoy nights spent at the dirt track, side by side rides, snowmobiling, playing cards with friends and family and coaching our youngest daughter's softball team.



I have Zero days of continuing ed after High school LOL. I'm not sure if given the chance I'd do it differently either. I've always been a learn-the-hard-way kind of girl. Learning through living and doing, rather than through formal education has served me well (except for when it didn't haha). My girls, Danika 13 and Kadance 8, and I spend a lot of time on drills for their favorite sports. We love to kayak, paint pottery, play games, days at the beach, ATVs, bowling, trampoline parks, camping, amusement Parks and Fairs. Everything I can think of to keep everyone using their minds and bodies together. We don't really take big vacations. Instead we make the most of everyday living by bringing fun and adventures to our weekly routine.

I'm a lover of simple things. Lakes, rivers, bonfires and night skies. To be honest the Family that we've created for ourselves is the best thing that has ever happened to me. I'm taking suggestions on how to live after my children are grown if you have any pointers. I really enjoyed hunting and fishing in my twenties—maybe Ill try that again. LOL!

Thank you for sharing your story with us Amber. Who knew you were so talented outside of your Railroading skills. You Go Girl! It's great to have you on our team!

Deanna Hennessy
HOS Compliance Manager/AR
Newsletter Editor



"Amber shows pride in being a Dispatcher with an eye for detail and her diligence toward safety. She is dedicated to her craft consistently strives to improve the dispatching operation at LSRC."- Brent Keeler

"When it comes to Amber, she is hard-working, detail-oriented and safety driven. She strives to be the best she can be while setting the bar for others. She is a valuable asset to the team and always looking to help wherever she can." - Elliot Hubbard



BROWN, SCOTT
CAMPBELL, GREGG
COLLINS, DARRELL
COLLINS, JAMES
CURRIE, EDGAR
DEEL, PHILLIP
FILARSKI, KEVIN
JOHNSON, JOSHUA
LATHROP, DAVID
LOOMIS, JASON
LAURIN, JACK
MOTT, TROY
MURRINGER, DAVID
PENNINGTON, BRANDAN
SHERMAN, CODY
SMITH, TRAVIS
WATSON, BRANDON

MARINE CORP
NAVY
ARMY
COAST GUARD
AIR FORCE
NAVY
ARMY
SEABEES
ARMY
ARMY
MARINE CORP
ARMY
MARINE CORP
ARMY/AIR FORCE
ARMY
NAVY
NAVY

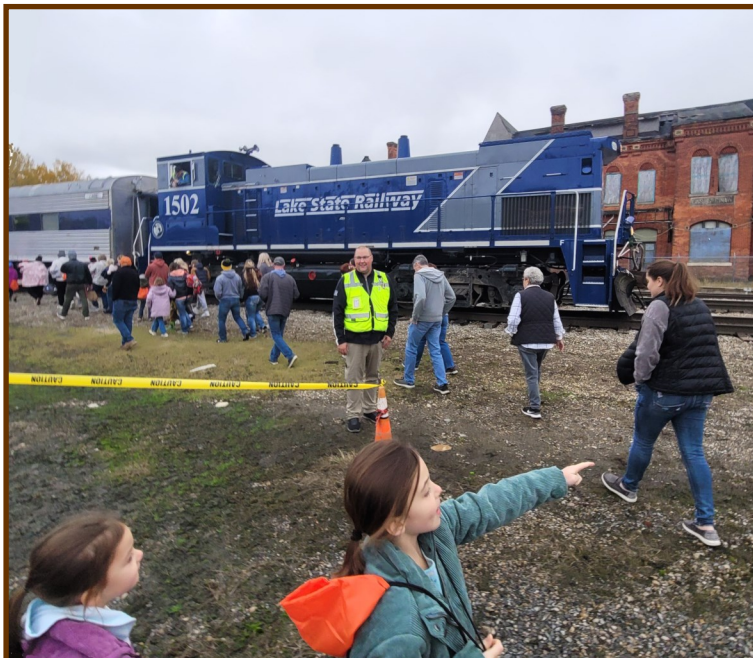
Veterans Day: November 11, 2023



*"This nation will remain
the land of the free
only so long as it is the
home of the brave" - Elmer Davis*

Thank you

LSRC Family Train Ride—October 21, 2023



WELCOME ABOARD!

mini LSRC
Railroader!

IT'S A
GIRL



Ben & Caitlin Story
proudly welcome
Adeline Rome Story
July 1, 2023

Family Train Ride cont....



LSRC's "Excellence Award" Program

Program designed for LSRC employees who are nominated by managers and/or peers w/MGR Approval . Every nomination will be reviewed by the Continuous Improvement Team to determine if qualifications are met to receive the award.

To qualify for nomination an employee must have gone above and beyond the normal scope of their job duties. The award will include company swag, a \$50 gift card, and recognition in our company newsletter. Nominations can be submitted via the employee portal at any time and will be reviewed on a monthly basis. We encourage you all to keep an eye out for those who do exceptional work so we as a company can show our appreciation.



NEW HIRES

*We'd like to give a warm welcome to our newest Lake State Railway team members!
Welcome Aboard!*

3rd Quarter—2023

- Michael Schumaker—Transportation*
- Robert (Blain) Adkins—Transportation*
- Robert McEnrue—Locomotive*
- Jay Janes—MOW*
- Jacob Hartley— MOW*
- Andrew Dronsella—Transportation*



REMINDERS

LAKE STATE RAILWAY:

- Election Day: Nov 7, 2023**
- Veterans Day: Nov 11, 2023**
- Thanksgiving: Nov 23, 2023**
- Toys for Tots Santa Train: Sat, Dec 2, 2023**
- LSRC Team Christmas Party: Sat., Dec. 9, 2023**
- Winter Begins: Dec 21, 2023**
- Christmas: Dec 25, 2023**

LSRC's First Excellence Award Recipients



2023 ANNIVERSARIES

QUARTER 4

EMPLOYEE	YEARS
Balenda, Brian	24
Erickson, Jesse	22
Laurin, Jack	18
Campbell, Gregg	18
Rainey, Steve	18
Krajniak, Rick	18
Tremble, Louie.....	18
Fitzgerald, Dora	9
Pennington, Brandan.....	8
Johnson, Quentin	7
Duffey, Shasta.....	7
Rose, Mike	6
Krabbe, Becca	5
Willford, Adisson	4
Wiseheart, Cody	4
Marhesic, Johnathan	3
Mahan Jr, Forrest	3
Shankel, Dan.....	2
Pomerville, Laura.....	1
Ross, David	1
Prochilo, Nick.....	1
Peplinski, Brandon.....	1
Land, Anthony	1
Story, Benjamin	1
Watson, Brandon.....	1

We want to Hear from You....

If you have any interesting railroad facts, stories, pictures, or exciting news to share, please submit an article (with corresponding pictures if possible) for a chance at having your story published in LSRC's "The Turntable".

EMAIL SUBMISSIONS TO:
hennessyd@lsrc.com

*Please note, not all submissions will be accepted and those that are approved for publishing will be subject to editing.

Lake State Railway
appreciates our loyal and dedicated
employees! Through your diligence, we
continue to prove that we are the premier
regional railroad of Michigan by providing
Excellence in Transportation!

Lake State Railway

"The Turntable" - Lake State Railway Company's Official Newsletter

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PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE



Mailing Address Line 1
Mailing Address Line 2
Mailing Address Line 3
Mailing Address Line 4
Mailing Address Line 5

Engine 4303—Photo courtesy of Tom Crook



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