



# MIDWEST RAIL RANGERS

A 501(c)(3) non-profit organization providing on-board educational programs on the South Shore Line & private rail excursions

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\*\*PRESS RELEASE\*\*

## NON-PROFIT PLANS HISTORIC TRAIN RIDE ABOARD 1950'S OBSERVATION CAR



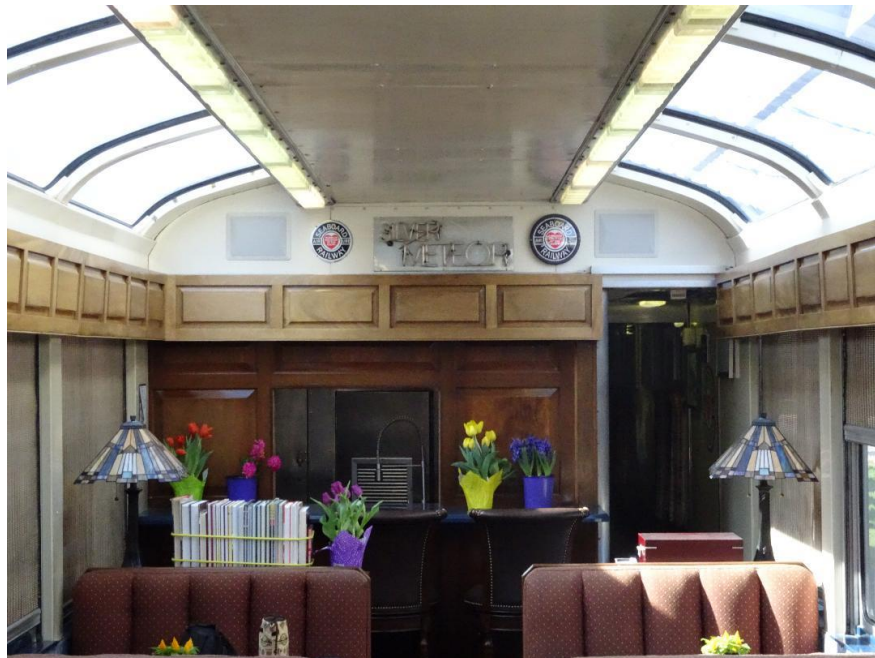
**Travelers will get the chance to travel in style aboard private railcar “Hollywood Beach” in September**

Have you ever wondered what it would have been like to travel like a true ‘rail baron’ of the 1940’s or 1950’s? Well, now you have the rare opportunity to do just that --- and in your own backyard --- thanks to an upcoming series of excursions aboard a historic rail car sponsored by the Midwest Rail Rangers, a 501(c)(3) non-profit educational organization.

The Midwest Rail Rangers will be partnering with the owner of “Hollywood Beach”, a historic 1956 railroad passenger car, to give riders several rare opportunities of seeing what First Class travel was all about during the “Golden Age” of railroading in September 2019. For those who remember this time period... a ride on the “Hollywood Beach” private car will no doubt bring back many memories of riding in the lap of luxury. For those who were perhaps maybe too young to experience this on a regular rail line... you also are definitely still invited aboard to see how much more comfortable and refined rail travel was “back in the day”. The large picture windows and overhead curved glass windows of the car make “Hollywood Beach” one of the most panoramic single level cars ever constructed. It’s perfect for enjoying the picturesque Midwest countryside in the late summer and early fall seasons.

The first guided excursion being offered takes place westbound between **Chicago and Kansas City on Sunday, September 15<sup>th</sup>** via Naperville, Mendota, Princeton, Galesburg, Fort Madison (Iowa), and La Plata (Missouri). The train departs Chicago Union Station at 3:00pm and arrives in Kansas City at 10:00pm. Interpretive Guides from the Midwest Rail Rangers will be aboard for most of the journey providing interesting stories about trackside towns the train is passing through. For example, did you know one of the deadliest coal mining disasters in American history took place near the rail line at Cherry, Illinois? Plus... just how muddy is the Mississippi River? And where can you still see remnants of an original 1926 highway tucked away in a farm field? All of those questions and more will be answered during the Midwest Rail Rangers' fun and educational narration program for passengers. There will plenty of time for Q&A, too! Travelers will also enjoy meal and drink service for the duration of their 450-mile-long ride. Midwest Rail Rangers Guides will also be riding eastbound from **Kansas City to Chicago on "Hollywood Beach" on Saturday, September 21<sup>st</sup>**. That train departs Kansas City shortly after 7:00am and arrives in Chicago shortly after 3:00pm. The price for the one-way trip between Chicago and Kansas City OR Kansas City and Chicago is just \$299 per person. Tickets are still available for either date.

On **Sunday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>**, "Hollywood Beach" will operate between Chicago and St. Louis (via Summit, Joliet, Dwight, Pontiac, Bloomington-Normal, Lincoln, Springfield, Carlinville, and Alton). Passengers will depart Chicago Union Station at 9:25am and arrive into St. Louis Gateway Station at 3:00pm. Interpretive Guides from the Midwest Rail Rangers will also be aboard this trip to share stories about the historic Illinois & Michigan Canal, Route 66, Illinois' Coal Country, and Abraham Lincoln's legacy. This unforgettable 284-mile-long journey will also feature meal service and beverages as part of the tour package being offered. The price for this one-way trip between Chicago and St. Louis is just \$249 per person. (A one-way trip without narration is also available for passengers from St. Louis to Chicago on the afternoon of Saturday, September 14<sup>th</sup> for the same price).



Any of the above-mentioned day trips will be great, but those looking for a longer ride on the “Hollywood Beach” are also in luck... as two out of the five bedrooms on the car are still currently available for a week-long trip the car will be doing between St. Louis, Missouri and Albuquerque, New Mexico via Chicago. Passengers can ride on the famed route of the Santa Fe “Super Chief” and “El Capitan” out to the heart of the American Southwest. Bedrooms run just \$3750 roundtrip from either St. Louis (depart September 14 – return September 22) or Chicago (depart September 15 – return September 21). This trip includes the two narrated day segments mentioned above. What’s really a bonus is that passenger may use the car as their hotel facilities during the week in New Mexico. Some passengers will be doing sightseeing at nearby Petroglyph National Monument and Bandelier National Historical Park --- others will be attending the AAPRCO private car convention. Sleeping for an entire week on historic 1950’s train is well worth the money and is a true “once in a lifetime” experience everyone deserves.



“Hollywood Beach” was one of just three Sun Lounge cars built in 1956 for the Seaboard Air Line Railroad. It was constructed with five double bedroom sleeping car rooms and a lounge for the exclusive use of First Class passengers aboard the railroad’s flagship “Silver Meteor” train, which operated between New York City and Miami. This was a popular train route taken by many celebrities and other rich socialites of the time looking to escape to the beaches and warmth of the Sunshine State. Even though it was designed to operate strictly on the east coast, “Hollywood Beach” definitely had a Midwest connection – as it was built by the Pullman-Standard Company, which got its start on the south side of Chicago. The car was later re-named “Sun Ray” and saw service with the Seaboard Coast Line Railroad. After operating on various Amtrak into the 1980’s, the car was sold off and has been owned by various private individuals. Keith White, the current owner, has spent a lot of time and energy to restore “Hollywood Beach” to its former beauty and is looking forward to welcoming you aboard --- along with the Midwest Rail Rangers who provide the educational component of the trips.

**This is a very rare and special experience and we expect tickets to sell very fast. For more information, or to make your reservation for either the day-trip segments or to reserve your bedroom accommodations for the week-long trip to New Mexico, please contact Keith White at (708) 446-1269 or e-mail [onecniccat@prodigy.net](mailto:onecniccat@prodigy.net) – you must mention the Midwest Rail Rangers to get the discounted prices offered in this article.**