



## HEY NEIGHBOR By Frank J. Buchman

### Midland Railway Is 'Back In Steam' For Labor Day Weekend 'Railfest'

Steam power will reign again at the Midland Railway's Labor Day Weekend Railfest 2013, August 31-September 2, according to Allen Kinsley, conductor of the heritage railroad headquartered in Baldwin City, Kansas.

"A 1930-built coal-fired steam locomotive, 'Hank #75,' will power excursion trains all three days at 9:30, noon, and 3 o'clock. The steam locomotive is a special look at a past era gone by," emphasized Kinsley, who also serves as promotions coordinator for the excursion trains on a railroad line originally constructed in 1867.

Advertised and promoted heavily on The BIG 94.5 Country and 580 WIBW, Railfest will also include diesel and electric powered excursions behind the former "M-K-T RS-3M #142," departing at 11 o'clock, and again at 2 o'clock, all three days.

Midland Railway Historical Association was chartered in 1982, and purchased the 11-mile Baldwin City to Ottawa line from the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway in 1987, with excursion trains operating later that year.

"Our mission is to educate the public about the role railroading played, and continues to play, in the commercial, social and cultural life of America's heartland," Kinsley said.

Base of operations is the depot built in 1906 at 1515 High Street in Baldwin City. This building was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1983.

"Midland has received two matching federal grants to rebuild track. Private grants have and are being used to rebuild the railroad equipment," Kinsley explained.

"Hank," shown, was built for the Flagg Coal Company of Avoca, Pennsylvania, in 1930, and is being used by Midland Railway through special arrangements with the Gramling Locomotive Works of Ashley, Indiana.

"At the Throttle" runs will offer participants a unique opportunity to live their dreams by running the steam engine for a full half hour.

"The popular Railroadiana show and sale are being expanded this year to all three days, Saturday through Monday from 9 o'clock, in the morning, to 4 o'clock, in the afternoon," Kinsley said.

Vendors will be showing and selling railroad artifacts, collectibles, China, signs, signals, and other items from former famous rail lines, with vendor space still available. Admission is free with any train ride ticket.

"Of special interest during the Railfest will be the ex-Kansas City Southern Railroad Post Office Car #30. Retired railroad postal clerks will be aboard to explain the operation of the railroad post office and how the mail was sorted and delivered when trains carried the mail," Kinsley said.

Information is available at 913-721-1211 or online at [www.midlandrailway.org](http://www.midlandrailway.org).



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**94.5 COUNTRY**



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**Padre says:**

***"The journey  
is the  
treasure."***

