



Meeting Notice

Our next Zoom Meeting is on
Friday, January 21, 2022 at 7:30 p.m.

Presenting This Month: Jack May

Longtime conventions and trip chairman and former editor of *Headlights* **Jack May** will be the presenter of our January meeting, "Survey of the Streetcars of Japan."

In the spring of 2010, Jack and the late Phil Craig journeyed to Japan with their wives. They focused on visiting cities with traditional streetcar lines, many of which are too small to support heavy metro systems, plus some large cities which retain a small number of streetcar lines mainly as feeders to rapid transit. Of the 18 cities with tramways, Jack and Phil visited 15 on their three-week sojourn, and all but Toyohashi, Sapporo and Hakodate will be covered in this month's slideshow.

The tramways in most of these cities consist of a familiar mixture of street running, center- and side-of-the-road reservation, and even a certain amount of cross-country interurban-like private right-of-way. This is similar to what could be found in North American cities before the mass abandonments after World War II and today, following the rebirth of light rail and streetcars. And because of the excellence of Japanese maintenance and efforts to keep costs low, today's rolling stock is a mixture of old-fashioned high-floor streetcars and newly-built streamlined low-floor units.

Japan is a hotbed of electric traction, with electrified mainline railways, both traditional and high-speed; upgraded interurbans; and subway systems operating in cities and connecting to suburbs. Because of time constraints this presentation will be limited to streetcar operations, although occasional views of other electric lines will creep in.

Jack traditionally opens each year of ERA meetings with his outstanding presentations. Please join us on Zoom to welcome in the New Year with our first program of 2022!

How to Join Our Zoom Meeting

A "Zoom Login" button will be posted on our homepage about five days before David's presentation. Please go to ERA's website at www.erausa.org to join. You can sign in at 7:15 p.m. The show begins at 7:30 p.m. If you have any problems, email **Bob Newhouser** at bnnyc1955@aol.com, or on the night of the meeting, text or call Bob at **917-482-4235**.

Important Announcements: President Bob Newhouser

ERA Trips Are Back! ERA annual conventions have returned. Our 2022 convention, based in San Diego from July 7-10, will be headquartered at the Best Western Plus Hacienda Hotel Old Town in San Diego's historic Old Town district. We have planned several exciting trips throughout Southern California. Check the ERA website soon and watch for our convention flyer in the December mailing for more details.

ERA international tours also return in 2022 with an exciting trip to Greece, starting and ending in Athens from September 8-17 (leaving the U.S. on September 7). We will travel on high-speed railways, a narrow-gauge steam train, and a luxury tour coach. Check the ERA website soon and watch for our tour flyer in the January mailing when "Transit and Tourism in Athens and Thessaloniki (Salonica)" will be covered in detail.

Save the Date! Our next Zoom meeting will be on Friday, February 18, 2022, at 7:30 p.m. The speaker and content will be announced. See www.erausa.org for further details!

If you have not yet **renewed your ERA membership for 2022**, please do so as soon as possible before your subscription expires! We have mailed each of you a printed form for your renewal. OR, if you prefer, renew quickly online as well as vote for your 2022 directors on the following pages of the ERA website:

- 2022 membership renewal can be found at: www.erausa.org/renew/
- 2022 membership e-card can be found at: www.erausa.org/card/

ERA greatly appreciates your prompt membership renewals and your donations. It's our primary source of income and makes possible the monthly programming, *Bulletin* issues and the *Headlights* magazine that we all count on and enjoy!