

The Dispatcher September 2022

President's Message By Eric Dilbeck

Jeremy and I recently attended the Fall Heritage Rail Alliance (HRA) conference in Hartford, CT. This was the first in person HRA conference in three years. The conference was packed from start to finish with educational sessions and site visits. Over three days, we visited the Essex Steam Train and Riverboat, Naugatuck River Scenic Train, Connecticut Trolley Museum, Shore Line Trolley Museum, and the Danbury Railway Museum. It was great to visit so many sites with different focuses. I took plenty of pictures showing how each one of them displayed equipment and artifacts. I enjoy visits to other museums; I always bring back new ideas.



Our CF-7 is officially back up and running! It has been a monumental task by our volunteers to get this locomotive running again. During August and September, we performed multiple repairs. Volunteers Greg Hall, Guy Lynn, John Nave, and I spent many hours on these repairs. Noah McCann and Matt Monson with Dieselmotive Company assisted with repairs and diagnosis along the way. ORM is thankful for their assistance! Once all the repairs were made, Greg, John, and Guy completed a 92-day inspection of the locomotive. They were assisted by volunteer Jordan Biggs who, due to her size, was recruited to service the traction motors (see picture later in the newsletter). Look for 2571 to be our main power for our Halloween and Polar Express Trains.

At our last board meeting, we had a presentation from ARC Architects on a 3D video of our future expansion. It is exciting to see years of planning come to realization, although only virtually for now. The video is reviewing a few final edits and should be ready for public viewing in the next few weeks. This video will be great to use as a fundraising tool and to generate public excitement and support. Now that this is near completion, we will start to work on more detailed plans for the event center. Lots of great things coming in the near future! Thank you for all your support of the museum.

See You On the Rails!

Upcoming Events

Diesel At The Throttle: October 8th, 2022

Retired Railroaders Day: October 15th, 2022

Reading the Rails Book Club: October 22nd, 2022 Join [here!](#)

Halloween Train: October 29th and 30th, 2022

The Polar Express: Nov. 11, 2022-Dec. 27th, 2022 (See full schedule below)

Trustee Meeting August 30th, 2022

- Previewed ARC's animated video fly through of the museum expansion
 - Reviewed minutes of July 26th meeting. Minutes approved
 - Reviewed and approved Financial Report
 - Next meeting September 27th
 - Reviewed 2023 event dates and approved
 - Reviewed remaining 2022 events
 - Project update drainage at 36th Street, museum crews installing pipe
 - 2023 project planning meeting October 11th
 - Commercial for the museum was reviewed
 - Expansion Plan – discussed the campus electrical plan and OG&E work
 - Development Committee – continued discussion for the formation and making committee goals
 - Train Show –New model railroad layout for children is under construction
-

The Countdown is On!

By Jeremy Wance, Development Manager

Every year, as we move into fall, many of us stop for a moment and scratch our collective heads, wondering how the last nine months went so quickly. It's just an automatic response triggered in humans as we mark the passage of time.

So, here we are, once again, entering what is supposed to be fall (though it feels like summer is still hanging on tightly) and hurtling toward the end of the year.



At the museum, members and frequent visitors will know that there are two great events left: the Hallowe'en train, and the colossal production of *The Polar Express*. As always, volunteers are needed to help us present the most enjoyable experiences possible for our guests. If you like these events, and the overall work of the museum, please step forward and let us know when you are available to help. We need you!

Secondly, please make sure your family, friends, neighbors, and anyone else that will listen, know that we have these great excursions coming up. The majority of our ridership, and our income, is from the end of the year events. Last year was very good, in spite of the continued presence of COVID. This year should be even better. Let's pack those trains as full as possible!

Lastly, as you consider the end of the year, please remember the museum in your charitable giving. As a 501(c)(3), gifts to the museum are fully tax- deductible. The better our bottom line at the end of the year, the better our capacity to do new and better things next year. I think we will see many exciting events and projects. Keep in touch, and don't miss out!



Dear ORM Members,

It is with great sadness that we inform the ORM community that one of our members, Craig Larson, has passed. Craig served on our board and had been a member since 2016. Please keep Bonnie and his family in your thoughts.

Lieutenant Colonel Craig Jonathan Larson, USAF, Retired, passed away on September 15, 2022. He was a devoted husband and a proud father who loved God, his country, and his family and friends. He was a distinguished officer, talented musician and athlete, and an inspirational friend and mentor.

A memorial service will be held at the US Air Force Academy Community Chapel in Colorado Springs, Colorado, on Monday, September 26th at 1PM. The date also marks his 35th wedding anniversary with his beloved Bonnie. The family would like to extend its deepest gratitude to Good Shephard Hospice of Ardmore, and the staff at the Ardmore Veterans Home for their dedicated care and support. In lieu of flowers, please consider donating in Craig's honor to the [Alzheimer's Association](#), The [Wounded Warrior Project](#), Tunnels to Towers Foundation, or a charity of your choosing.

This is a significant loss to the museum and all his friends and family. He will be greatly missed by all of us at the Oklahoma Railway Museum.

HOMECOMING EXPRESS

By Steve Kamm

How many of you were around on November 30, 1990, when Burlington Northern Locomotive 2974 pulled the “Homecoming Express” from Tulsa to Oklahoma City? This train, sponsored



by the Oklahoma Department of Tourism and Recreation, was composed of thirteen coaches provided by several entities. The Central Oklahoma Railfan Club contributed our Dinner and Great Northern passenger coach. And, several members of CORC staffed some of the cars. Of course, this event occurred before the CORC transitioned into the Oklahoma Railway Museum.

A newspaper article described the event. “Restored by doting train buffs, the cars displayed the splendor of the 1920s, ;30s and ‘40s.” Also, “Hundreds of folks gathered beside the tracks. They took pictures of the train and people on the train took pictures of the people on the tracks.” The photographs shown here were taken by famed railroad photographer Preston George, courtesy of the Oklahoma History Center.

“Among the riders were numerous grandparents with small children...And the Homecoming Express bridged a generation gap with feelings more powerful than a locomotive.”



Above is a home movie of the Homecoming Express by a rider on the train. Get a glimpse of volunteer Guy Lynn at 8:14 :)

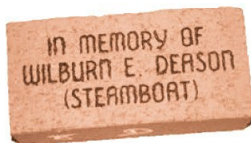


Polar Express Schedule

Here is a [link](#) to the complete schedule for the 2022 Polar Express. Please review and consider adding volunteering to your holiday schedule.

The Polar Express is our top fundraiser for the year, and we need as many volunteers as possible to make it a success! To volunteer for Polar Express please respond to this email, call 405-424-8222, or come by the museum!

Any time you can contribute is a huge help!



Donation Box

Because of closings and cancellations, we are in need of donations more than ever before! Brick purchases and donations will make a real difference during this difficult time.

Please visit our website if you are able to give! [DONATE](#)



The museum needs the following items:

Contact Anne Chilton 405-424-8222 annem@oklahomarailwaymuseum.org if you would like to purchase anything on this list. To donate funds click link [DONATE](#) and mention what funds are for in the note section of donation form. You can also mail us a donation if you prefer.

Plants and bushes for landscaping Halloween Decorations and Candy

♦



Wish from the Track Crew:

The track crew has the following tool on their wish list. The tool below will be used to tighten bolts on our track. Our track is bolted together every ~39ft with bolts. These bolts have to be regularly tighten. Our track crews currently use a hand wrench that is very time consuming and tiresome. This tool is \$1,400.00 and will be a great addition to efficiently keeping our track maintained. Click on the picture below for more details on the tool. Please contact our Roadmaster, Eric Dilbeck for more information.



Did you know that you can send us Amazon gift cards? The museum buys supplies from Amazon on a regular basis. You can also shop at smile.amazon.com and select the Oklahoma Railway Museum as your charity. The museum will receive a small donation every time you make a purchase. Click below to set the Oklahoma Railway Museum as your charity.



Scouting Merit Badge Program – September, 2022



Oklahoma Railway Museum's Gary Githens Railroading Merit Badge Program is active once again! On September 10th, five Scouts (three boys and two girls) from Troop 381 in El Reno, along with two Leaders, arrived early in the morning to spend the day working on activities designed to help earn their Railroading Merit Badges. After a short safety briefing, the Scouts settled into their classroom (the Party Coach) to view PowerPoint presentations and to fill out workbooks designed by the Boy Scouts of America.

Lessons, which covered train, locomotive and railcar types, signals, safety, and Amtrak, continued for a full day—with frequent breaks. Scouts explored Museum exhibits, climbed into steam and diesel locomotive cabs, investigated the Rock Island caboose, viewed our Model Trains, etc. At midday, the Scouts conducted a flag-raising ceremony. The day's activities concluded with a timed switching competition using our small G-scale model train layout, presentation of Gary Githens cloth patches, and a chance to operate our 4-man pump hand car.

Grateful thanks are extended to Amanda for organizing the visit; to Anne for helping set up; to Greg and Guy for overseeing the pump car rides; to Drake for conducting the safety briefings; to Lindsay for acting as timer during the switching competition; and to Harry for allowing himself to be interviewed as a former railroad employee. As in times past, everyone seemed to think the event was both successful and fun!

Without a doubt, the Gary Githens Program is worth our time and effort. It certainly supports our mission of providing educational experiences of railroads. ORM Volunteers who might be interested in participating should contact Anne Murray-Chilton or Amanda Resnick.

Around the Museum



New batteries arrived to be installed in Frisco 814. Once these are installed, this engine will be available for emergency backup service.

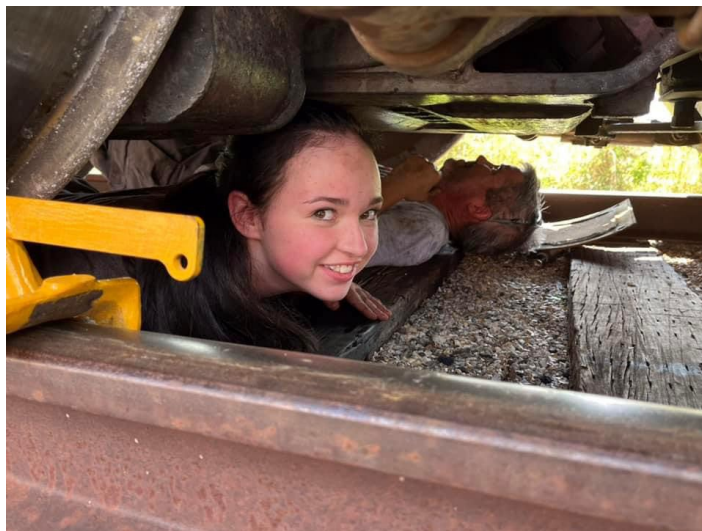
ATSF 2571 is switching cars at the museum during a trial run after returning to operation



Volunteers L-R, John Biggs, Jerry Gore, and Andrew Reynolds work on prepping Oakwood depot for new paint



Anny Chilton and Amanda Resnick with help from museum volunteers, installed new stairs on the east side of the Party Coach and Display Car.



Volunteers Jordan Biggs and John Nave service the traction motors on ATSF 2571 locomotive.

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Hi, just a reminder that you're receiving this email because you have expressed an interest in Oklahoma Railway Museum. Don't forget to add info@oklahomarailwaymuseum.org to your address book so we'll be sure to land in your inbox!

Our mailing address is:
Oklahoma Railway Museum
3400 NE Grand Blvd
Oklahoma City, OK 73111



Oklahoma Railway Museum, Ltd.
3400 NE Grand Boulevard
Oklahoma City, OK 73111-4417

Return Service Requested

The Dispatcher

Timetable

Oklahoma Railway Museum (ORM) - Open Thursday, Friday, and Saturday from 9:00 AM until 5:00 PM
Closed on major holidays.

ORM Train Rides - First and third Saturdays, April through August at 9:15 AM, 11:15 AM, 1:15 PM and 3:15 PM

ORM Board Meetings - Last Thursday of every month at Oklahoma Railway Museum - 7:00 PM

Oklahoma "N" Rail - For information call Rick Inselman (405) 412-1552

Oklahoma Model Railroad Association - For information contact Phil Howell via email omratrains@gmail.com

Central Oklahoma Garden Railroad Society Contact information:

Steve Lemcke (405) 703-0209 e-mail steve.lemcke@att.net

Marshall Douglas (405) 290-8989

Steve Kamm (405) 685-3755 email skamm@college.occ.edu

Passenger Rail Oklahoma - Passenger Rail Oklahoma volunteers provide Amtrak depot hosting for the Hartland Flyer in City of Norman, OK most evenings, holidays, Saturdays, and Sundays.
The depot opens at 7:50 AM. Contact Evan Stair at sfrr@aol.com, www.passengerrailok.org, or (405) 366-8957. Depot volunteer opportunities are available.

Oklahoma S.W. Division NMRA - 2nd Saturday of each month, 1:00 PM, Goldman Room, Kirkpatrick Center,
Jim Heidon, President

Yukon's Best Railroad Museum - Thursday/Saturday/Sunday and by appointment. Located 1 block north of Main and UP tracks
in Yukon. Call John Knuppel, (405) 354-5079, for times and information.

Waynoka Station/Waynoka Historical Society - 202 South Cleveland, Waynoka, (580) 824-1886. If you can help,
call Sandie Olson.

Corrections

Any changes to the above information or articles in "the Dispatcher" should be directed to the editor, at info@oklahomarailwaymuseum.org. For information on upcoming programs contact Anne Chilton at annem@oklahomarailwaymuseum.org.