

## The Dispatcher May 2023

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### President's Message, By Eric Dilbeck

Our May flowers are in full spring at the museum -- well our May grass that is. Now starts our battle to keep our grounds presentable to our guests. Our volunteers do a great job keeping up with the grounds. Jerry Gore, Paul Pennell, Bob Nantois, Charles Price, and Bob Cossairt spend many hours mowing, weed eating and picking up the grounds every week. We really appreciate these guys and their hard work. We can always use extra people so if you can lend a hand, please let Amanda know. Speaking of volunteering, our Parking fundraiser is coming up next week. This is the second biggest fundraiser for the museum each year and we can use your help. Amanda has the schedule of shifts listed below in the newsletter.



Train rides are going well this year so far and attendance has been up over last year -- both our Easter event and the summer train rides. Additionally, both *At the Throttle* days are completely sold out! Hopefully we can look at an additional day towards the end of the summer. This event is very popular at the museum. We had hoped to have two engines running for this event in May, but due to technical difficulties, the Alco C415 was not able to be used. We hope to schedule a special *Alco At the Throttle* event when it is back up and running.

In the Around the Museum section below, you will see pictures of the trip John Nave and I made to Indiana to salvage passenger car parts. The main items we salvaged were electrical cabling and connectors to upgrade our passenger cars to be able to be powered from a generator at either end of the trainset. This is mainly to create redundancies in our power generation during major events such as Polar Express. While on the trip, we picked up a pallet of Grit-O-Cobs blasting material that can be used on our stainless-steel passenger cars. Greg Hall has already tried it out on our lounge car removing the graffiti from the side of the car. Greg and I also made a trip to Atchison, Kansas to remove part from a former Santa Fe Pullman built coach car. We were able to bring back couplers and diaphragms that will be used as spare part on our passenger cars. The car will be scrapped soon, and we will also move the wheelsets to our museum for future use.

As you can see, we keep very busy at the museum with normal maintenance, repairs, and

restoration work. Our expansion is also moving along with our new electrical service. Our contractor has buried several runs of conduit and is close to pulling wire to various points on the grounds. If you can lend a hand or donate to museum or a specific project, it will be greatly appreciated. Just a reminder, we have moved the member annual picnic to October. Mark your calendar for October 14<sup>th</sup> for a great picnic and train ride.

See you on the rails!

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## **Upcoming Events**

- **Softball World Series Parking Fundraiser: June 1st- June 9th, 2023 (see complete schedule below)**
- **Train Ride: June 3rd, 2023**
- **Father's Day Train Ride: June 17th, 2023**
- **Independence Day Train Ride: July 1st, 2023**
- **Book Club Meeting, July 22nd, 2023 (Join the ORM Book Club [here!](#))**

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### **Trustee Meeting April 25, 2023**

- Approved Minutes of March 28th meeting
  - Review of Treasurer's Report & Expenditure
  - Review of Financials and Budget
  - Status of Grants and Donations
  - Employee Reports
  - Acquisitions Report
  - Review Commercial and Website Rebuild
  - Next meeting May 30, 2023
  - Softball Parking/ESPN
  - Surplus Equipment, Atchison Kansas
  - GE 45 ton diesel unit in Nebraska
  - Passenger car parts in Atchison Kansas
  - Harrah OK motorcar run scheduled for August 12, 2023
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## Volunteers Needed: Softball World Series Parking

It's that time of the year again! **The Softball World Series is June 1st through 9th**, and we need as many volunteers as possible to make it a success! It is one of the biggest fundraisers of the year, but we will only have two lots to work this time. See the full schedule below and let Amanda know your availability as soon as you can!!

### June 1st (Thursday)

- ◆ Shift One: 9am-3pm
- ◆ Shift Two: 3pm-8:30pm

### June 2nd (Friday)

- ◆ Shift One: 3pm-9pm

### June 3rd (Saturday)

- ◆ Shift One 11am-6pm

### June 4th (Sunday)

- ◆ Shift One 11am-6pm

### June 5th (Monday)

- ◆ Shift One: 9am-3pm
- ◆ Shift Two: 3pm-8:30pm

### June 6th (Tuesday)

- ◆ No Games

### June 7th (Wednesday)

- ◆ Shift One 4pm-8pm

### June 8th (Thursday)

- ◆ Shift One: 3pm-7pm

### June 9th (Friday)

- ◆ Shift One 3pm-7pm (If Necessary)



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## Jeremy Wance, Development Director

When we talk about “development” at any non-profit institution, it’s usually considered another name for fundraising. And it’s true that this is perhaps the largest part of the role, but the truth is that it is much more. Development in all aspects of the institution (our museum) is the goal.



The greatest strength of our museum is in its volunteers. In many ways, the museum operates only because of their constant work. That’s literally the case, as there are only three paid staff. I never cease to be amazed at the work that is accomplished all the year ‘round. It runs from mowing (a constant challenge in the temperate part of the year) to bricklaying to hosting in the cars on run days to rebuilding the head assembly of a locomotive.

If you’re reading this and find yourself interested in what goes on behind the scenes, we need your help! Amanda can find just the right spot for you. We will all be in your debt. But the job does pay greatly in friendship and camaraderie.

In the coming months, there will be a greater emphasis on marketing the museum. It’s necessary for us to reach more of the public and get our existence lodged in their minds. We do a good job at getting people for special trains and *Polar Express* is its own blitz that is run by the production company. But we need people to know about the usual rides and events throughout the year. We have to remind the public that we’re here. We have to remind them that we are quite unusual. We have to remind them that we have something for the whole family.

If you can help our museum grow, everyone benefits, and our little niche in the world continues to hold. Come help us!



## Donation Box

In anticipation of our new museum expansion project, we are in need of donations more than ever before! Brick purchases and donations will make a real difference in helping us to achieve our goals.

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

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The class picture left to right; Steve Foust, Drake Rice, Alan Wells, Rick Syzmore, Bill Alexander and Thomas Harrington.

### **NARCOA Affiliate Oklahoma Railway Museum Host NARCOA Training by Drake Rice**

On Saturday, March 25<sup>th</sup>, EC Drake Rice and EC in Training Thomas Harrington held a Operators Mentoring Training at the Oklahoma Railway Museum in Oklahoma City. Oklahoma had four new operators that needed mentoring. After discussion with our NARCOA Area Director Leland Stuart in January, Drake and Tom found a date that did not interfere with Museum Train Operations and contacted Oklahoma Operators and also made it available to others in the region. Unfortunately, a new Operator from Colorado had vehicle trouble and could not make the training.

Following NARCOA Guidelines the first two and half hours were spent reviewing the rules, operating practices and forms. The review was good for all to go through and what to be aware of while out on the rail and in charge of your own car and the responsibilities.

Following the classroom work and a break for lunch, the group assembled around a motor car and ORM Mechanical member Guy Lynn, who is also a NARCOA member with two motor cars, and went over the inspection process. He pointed out various items that each operator needed to address when preparing his car for an excursion.

Then it was down to the set-on location. Members helped with the flagging and off loading of a car onto the rail. Drake had gotten a track warrant for the museum track for the afternoon. Each operator operated the car with Drake and Tom alternating as experienced operator with the new operators. When the car reached the turnaround point, the new operator and the experienced operator manually turned the car around and returned to the set on point, when the car was again turned for the next operator. At completion of the training runs, all assisted in the reloading of the car back on the trailer

and returned to the museum shop for a debriefing session. At the end of the training session, paperwork was completed and a group picture made. The result was that four new NARCOA members were mentored.

Those completing the training were Bill Alexander, Steve Foust, Rick Syzmore and Alan Wells. A special thanks to Leland Stewart for his support, ORM Manager of Train Operations, Eric Dilbeck for giving us use of the museum track for training and Anna Chilton for arranging use of the Birthday Caboose for our morning training class. I would also like to thank Thomas Harrington, EC in training, for assisting in this class.

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**Upper left:** Steve Kamm with Troop 792, **upper right:** Merit badge councilors Robert Reynolds, Keith Callihan and Chris Holmes, **bottom left:** Chris Holmes with Troop 792, **bottom right** Troop 288.

## Gary Githens Merit Badge Program

By Anne Chilton

We at ORM want to express our greatest appreciation to volunteer Steve Kamm! He has worked tirelessly on the Gary Githens Merit Badge program since its inception, almost seven years ago. Committed volunteers, like Steve, are essential to the museum to be able to carry out our programming. Thank you for your contribution to this successful program!

Steve is passing the Merit badge program over to very capable hands. Taking over are volunteers Keith Callihan, Robert Reynolds, and Chris Holmes. The new merit badge councilors followed Steve's guidance during the hosting of Troop 792 from Norman in March, and then the trio conducted their first class in April with Troop 299 from Oklahoma City with the assistance of Drake Rice on the Operation Lifesaver portion of the class..

Join us in wishing them the best as they follow in Steve's footsteps to continue this great program here at ORM!

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**The museum needs the following items:**

Contact Anne Chilton 405-424-8222 [annem@oklahomarailwaymuseum.org](mailto: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
- 6 & 8 ft plastic tables
- 6 ft. plastic picnic tables

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**Around the Museum**



Volunteers John Nave and Eric Dilbeck drove to Indiana to salvage Passenger car parts of some privately owned former Amtrak cars. While in Indiana, they visited Grambling Locomotive works and Barny and John Grambling.





Greg Hall works on corn blasting our Santa Fe lounge car. Corn cob blasting material is used to clean up the stainless steel car side. A pallet of Grit-O-Cobs was brought back from Indiana by John Nave and Eric Dilbeck.



Greg Hall assists loading a coupler at the Atchison Railway Museum. Volunteers Eric Dilbeck and Greg Hall made a trip to Atchison, KS to salvage part off of a former Santa Fe Pullman coach slated for scrap.



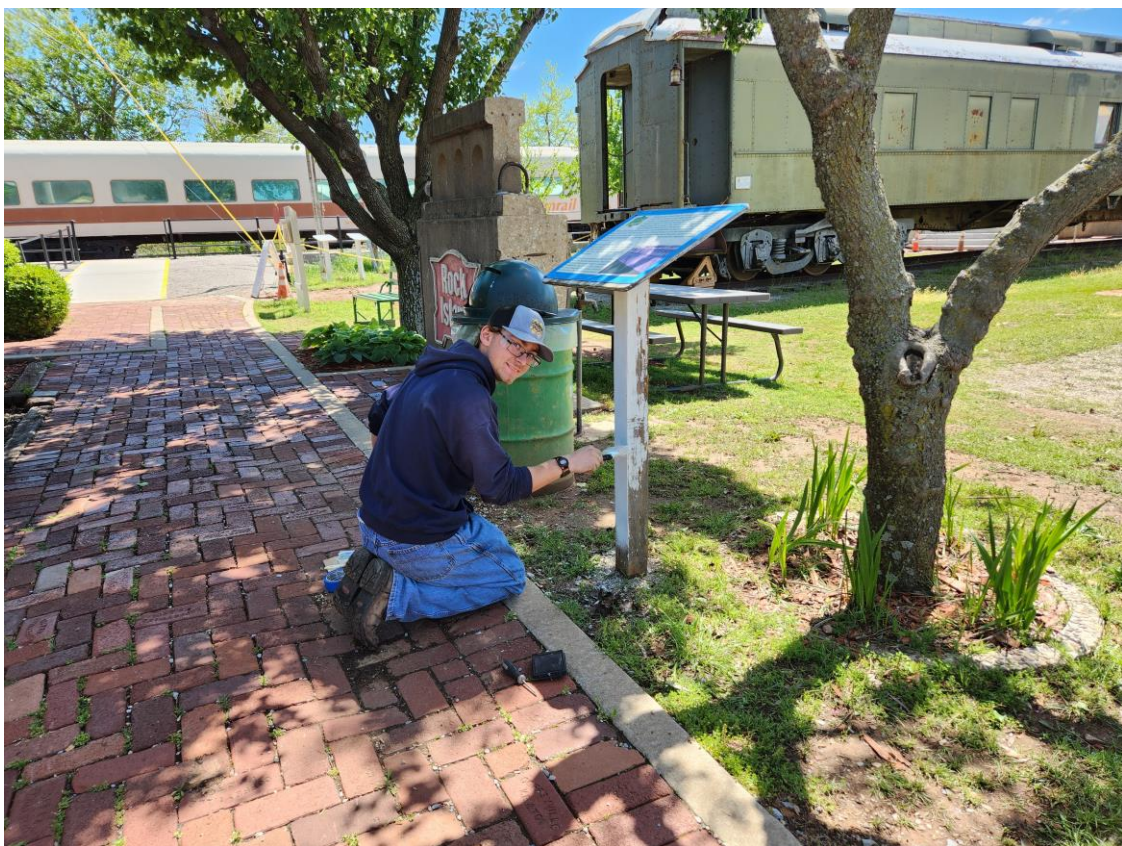
Museum Administrator, Anne Chilton, presents volunteers Jennifer Biggs, Jordan Biggs, and John Biggs with their appreciation certificates, for all their hard work this past year!



Volunteers Steve Kamm and Charles Price painting the Oakwood Depot trim.



John Nave, Audrey Towles, and Guy Lynn work on welding switch points. Guy does double duty in the background interacting with visitors.



Justin Riehm re-paints all sign post on the museum grounds.



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 Tuesday 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](mailto:omratrains@gmail.com)

**Central Oklahoma Garden Railroad Society** Contact information:

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

Marshall Douglas (405) 290-8989

Steve Kamm (405) 685-3755 email [skamm@college.occ.edu](mailto: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](mailto:sfrr@aol.com), [www.passengerrailok.org](http://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) 614-1896. If you can help,  
call Charlene Bixler.

## Corrections

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