

The Dispatcher July 2023

President's Message, By Eric Dilbeck

Work continues at the museum despite the dreadful temperatures. Early in July, our mechanical crew moved the roof hatch section of the F9 locomotive into the shop building to start the process of changing out the radiators. Our train crew also worked on cleaning up around the yard in front of the shop building. Two Saturdays were taken up with moving parts and pieces in and out of the baggage cars we use for storage. The new radiators for the F9 locomotive were stored in the Santa Fe baggage car over the winter to keep from getting damaged. Work should start soon on getting them installed.



Our ridership this year keeps increasing and it is great! We are currently 787 riders ahead of last year. This means we are getting noticed more and more. Even visitation to our museum is increasing during non-train ride days. Just last week we had over 80 people visiting per day. Hopefully this trend will continue as we look to increase our visibility and attract potential members and volunteers.

Also, around the grounds, our electrical infrastructure project is moving forward. The current schedule is that the project will be finished by the end of October. All the trenching work is finished, and our grounds will be getting back to normal. With the completion of the project, the Le Flore depot will finally have power. This is just in time for us to ramp up the start of the completion of its restoration. With this and grants from Union Pacific and Oklahoma County (ARPA), Le Flore will finally be our new entrance building.

Special thanks to Steve Kamm for chipping away at painting the trim on Oakwood Depot. This and several other projects are slowly coming to completion. All these projects would not be possible without the help and support of you, our members and volunteers. Thank you for your support of your museum.

See You On The Rails!

Upcoming Events

- **Regular Train Ride:** August 5th, 2023
- **Regular Train Ride:** August 19th, 2023
- **Member's Meeting and Picnic:** October 14th, 2023
- **Railroaders' Appreciation Day:** October 21st, 2023 **Reading the Rails Book Club:** October 21st, 2023 (Join [Here](#))
- **Halloween Train:** October 28th & 29th, 2023

Trustee Meeting June 27th, 2023

- Treasurer's Report & Expenditure Review
- Financials Review and Budget
- Status of Grants and Donations Employee and Department Reports Acquisitions Report
- Review Commercial and Website Rebuild Train Show Report
- Motor Car Report
- Approved 2024 Calendar of Events Discussed the Polar Express contract Changes to Museum family Memberships
- Discussed possible By-Laws changes for the future Museum
- 25th Anniversary Events planning
- Next meeting July 25, 2023

For a complete copy of the minutes email Anne Chilton annem@oklahomarailwaymuseum.org



Top left: Tom Harrington gives Safety briefing. Top right Completed Safety Briefing and received track report from A-OK loading up to head to Red Oak. Bottom left: Rest break at A-OK Shops in Wilburton. Bottom Right: Two riders from trainweb.org and the A-OK Safety officer (Ron Ferrier) with Guy Lynn

Motor Car Travel on A-OK Drake Rice

On Saturday, June 24th, 10 units gather in McAlester for a day on the A-OK Railroad. The trip was organized by Tom Harrington, ORM EC in training and it turned out to be a great day on the rails in Southeast Oklahoma.

The set point is at 5th and Choctaw in downtown McAlester and the wide street allows two cars at a time to be set on since it is a four-lane street that is not a busy thoroughfare. Once cars are set on and inspected by Guy Lynn, ORM Mechanical Dept, the group gathers for the safety briefing. Ron Ferris the A- OK Safety Officer provided safety requirements for the A-OK and that is followed by the ORM Safety talk by Tom Harrington. Tom also reviewed the trip and rest-stop in Wilburton and lunch stop in Red Oak. EC Drake Rice recognized Leland Stewart from Texas, the Area Representative from NARCOA and our guest from TrainWeb.org, Chris and Elizabeth Guenzler.

Due to rains, Tom got to dig out a lot of crossings along the line so there were no derailments. It as a good day on the line, we saw a lot of wildlife and Tom did a great job

leading us. We appreciated the A-OK having iced bottled water at the Wilburton stop since the day was very warm and it made for a great rest. Following the stop, it was on to Red Oak for the turnaround and lunch.

Following lunch, everyone loaded up for the trip back, with a rest stop in Wilburton. There were no mechanical issues with the cars, and everyone kept good distance for the day. Arrival back in McAlester was around 5:00pm and after all cars were off track the A-OK was notified that all cars were in the clear and everyone headed home.

We always appreciate the hospitality the A-OK provides the Oklahoma Railway Museum and the long-term friendship we have had with the Donoley's and the assistance that Heather Watson the General Manager provides.

Jeremy Wance, Development Director

Greetings, Railfans! We are now partway through summer, and things have really heated up, and not just the temperature!

We have been meeting each month in an ad hoc committee that is directed at planning and goal-setting. It allows us to list our hopes and dreams for next year and beyond, and then we work to reconcile those things with the budget and with our labor force. As always, we need more of both!



One bright spot is the awarding of \$50,000 in ARPA funds from Oklahoma County to go toward the completion of the LeFlore Depot. This project stalled out during the COVID era, and this, along with a \$10,000 grant from Union Pacific and some earmarked funds, should get us very close to what we need to finish this job. For this award, we happily thank our county commissioners, Carrie Blumert, Brian Maughan, and Myles Davidson. We were the only museum in OKC to receive funds from the commissioners. I would like to thank Harry Currie, in particular, for lobbying on our behalf. The resuscitation and completion of LeFlore will be a very happy sight as we gather momentum toward even bigger things!

In other news, we are making a change to membership privileges! As of 2024, members may ride as many times as they like on our regularly scheduled runs. (This excludes special trains like Halloween, Easter, Polar Express, etc.) It's our desire to get as many people on our trains as we can fit, and we hope this provides a nice boost. Please tell everyone you know! For a very low cost, a family can buy a membership and everyone rides free – no limits. Come join 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](#)



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

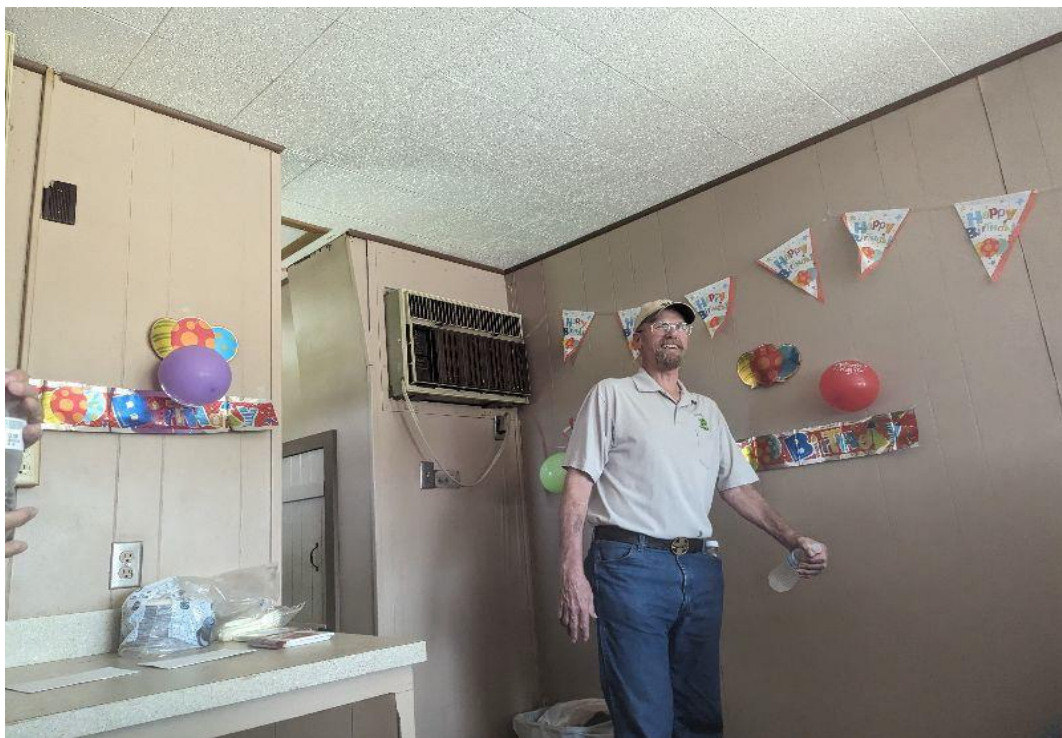
[DONATE](#) and mention what funds are for in the note section of donation form. You can also mail us a donation if you prefer.

- ♦ Plants and bushes for landscaping 6 &
 - ♦ 8 ft plastic tables
 - ♦ 6 ft. plastic picnic tables
-

Around the Museum



Volunteers Eric Dilbeck and Greg Hall pull a power assembly out of the CF-7 so it can be replaced.



Volunteers threw a birthday party for Marc Montray on June 17th. Marc and his wife Vikki have been long time museum members and volunteers. Happy Birthday Marc!



MKT 48 bring out latest acquisition into the museum grounds. Caboose BN12622 was donated by the locally by BNSF and was used as a shoving platform for the OKC switching crews. The caboose was originally Great Northern X-142 built in 1969 and renumbered BN 10062 during the BN merger.



Work on our new electrical service continues progress. Above left, Workers run new conduit and place a pull box behind Anne's office. Above right, new panels are in place and conduit is being backfilled.



Members Greg Hall and Eric Dilbeck visited the Galveston Railroad museum during the Santa Fe Railway Historical & Modeling Society annual convention. The picture above is the ticket counter of the Former Gulf, Colorado and Santa Fe Railway corporate headquarters.



Left Image: Steve Kamm mans our table at Kidfest at the Rose State College. Right Image: Alan Gagnon gives a field trip tour.



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