

## The Dispatcher October 2023

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### President's Message, By Eric Dilbeck

October saw the completion of several projects at the museum. The most notable was the reinstallation of the roof hatch and radiator on our 814 locomotives. It took a lot of time and effort and I want to thank everyone involved. Volunteers Greg Hall, John Nave, Guy Lynn, Audry Towles, Paul Stephens, Kevin Oakley, Guy Lynn and more contributed. J&B Heavy Haul donated crane services to lift the radiator back on the locomotive. The team also got the roof bolted down and all the water and electrical connections made. The unit was test fired and ran with minor water leaks. We identified some wiring problems and the unit will not fully run until the issue is fixed. We hope to continue working on the locomotive as time allows. Volunteer Paul Stephens produced a three-part videos series on the radiator replacement. You can watch these on our You Tube channel here.



Another major project was the replacement of a power assembly on our Santa Fe CF-7 locomotive. Several volunteers including John Nave, Greg Hall, Paul Stephens, and I spent two days removing the old power assembly and installing the new one. Locomotive mechanic Nelson Cabrera, from Texas, also assisted with the installation. Nelson has been a great help to the Museum over the last few months, assisting us with technical issues and questions. We greatly appreciate his help getting our locomotive operational. With this major repair completed, the CF-7 will be our main locomotive for our Polar Express Train Rides.

Speaking of Polar Express, we are now in full swing with this event. This year has been one of the smoothest setups, with very few issues. It is nice to have a great crew from Rail Event Productions to work with, not to mention our great volunteers led by Anne and Amanda. Polar Express will be running through Dec 27<sup>th</sup>, and we will need volunteers throughout Nov. and Dec. to assist with the gift shop and janitorial. Get with Amanda if you can lend a hand.

If you did not make it out to the OKC Train Show this year, you really missed out. Bob Cook and crew did a great job bringing in new vendors and layouts. I want to especially thank Rick Rossen, with Oklahoma Model Railroad association and Museum (OMRA) our co-sponsor, for his work on recruiting vendors and layouts by visiting other shows in the Midwest. OMRA have been a great partner, and we appreciate the work they have put into this show. The show floor was really full with the new layouts this year thanks to everyone's efforts.

As 2023 winds down, please keep the Oklahoma Railway Museum in mind for any end of year donations. Your support helps with many projects at the museum. Lastly, I want to thank Harry Currie for his work on the Oakwood Depot Patio. He has been hard at work all summer laying bricks and has nearly completed this project. It is great to have dedicated volunteers at our museum!

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## Upcoming Events

- **Polar Express: Opening Day November 11th, 2023 Reading**
- **the Rails Book Club: January 27th, 2024 (Join the Book Club [Here](#))**

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## **Trustee Meeting: September 26th, 2023**

Approved Minutes of August 29th meeting

- Treasurer's Report & Expenditure Review
  - Financials Review and Budget
  - Status of Grants and Donations Employee and
  - Department Reports Acquisitions Report
  - Train Show Report
  - Hensel Phelps Trailer Space S-3
  - Oil Cooler Replacement ARC Civil
  - Engineering Plans 2024 Museum
  - Budget
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## Renew your Membership for 2024!

Once again it is time to renew your membership with the Oklahoma Railway Museum!

We want to thank all of you for your support and hard work this past year. It is because of you, our members and volunteers that we continue our mission to provide an educational experience of railroads and how they shaped Oklahoma and the nation and that the museum is in a great position for the coming year.

Thank you for your continued support, and we look forward to the New Year!

**If you have already paid your dues for next year or are a Life member and receive this email, please disregard**

You may mail in your dues [Printable Form](#) or [Pay Online](#) \_\_\_\_\_

With your membership you receive:

- Free train rides on regular run days (Does not apply to Special Events) Emailed
- copy of the ORM newsletter, The Dispatcher
- Member's picnic and train ride Opportunities for
- other rail trip activities
- Eligibility to become a train crew member or car host
- Discount in museum gift shop
- and much more

Membership dues are outlined below:

Regular Membership (Includes Spouse) .....	\$40.00
Senior (Age 65+) Membership (Includes Spouse).....	\$35.00
Student (Full-time)?Membership?.....	\$35.00
Family Membership (Two Adults and Four Children).....	\$50.00
Sustaining Membership (including Spouse).....	\$150.00

Please update any contact information that may have changed.

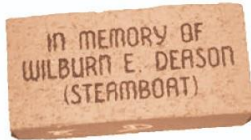
We look forward to seeing you in the coming year, so we can show you what we've been working on. Please visit us soon!

Anne Murray Chilton Museum

Administrator

annem@oklahomarailwaymuseum.org 405-424-8222

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

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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



J & B Heavy Haul along with ORM volunteers place the roof hatch and radiators back on locomotive 814.



ORM President Eric Dilbeck recently attended the Oklahoma Railroad Association fall meeting held at the Port of Catoosa. The group poses in front of the low water rail loading platform.



ORM volunteers Kyle Meeus-Chase and Alesia Meeus-Chase man the costume contest registration table during our Halloween train.



Volunteer and Vice President John Nave, along with Greg Hall and Eric Dilbeck get ready to install a rebuilt power assembly into our Santa Fe CF-7.



John Nave, Nelson Cabrera, and Paul Stephens after replacing the power assembly on our Santa Fe CF-7



Jay Chilton works on packing our drive that goes along the side on the Jim Murry Maintenance Facility. Jay also repaired the drainage in the area due to damage from trucks driving through to the back of the shop.



OGE contractor, DrillWorx places our new transformer behind the shop building. Our Electrical upgrade project is nearing completion after almost a year.



New this year for our Polar Express is the addition of sound and steam (fog machine) to 643. It really makes it seem like 643 could pull the Polar Express!







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).