



The Dispatcher March 2024

President's Message, By Eric Dilbeck

Our Summer ride season officially kicked off with our Easter Train Ride and Egg hunt. This event has been gaining popularity over the last few years. We had a great turnout, and the weather was beautiful. Thank you to all the volunteers that came out and made it a great success. April 6th marks the start of our Summer train rides and the new schedule with At The Throttle slots every first and third Saturday before the 11:15 am train ride.



Several volunteers including Kevin Oakley, John Nave, and I walked our mainline track a few weeks ago inspecting for tie replacement and other defects. We walked from NE 30th Street crossing to the end of track at NE 50th Street. Over 500 mainline ties were marked for replacement. In April, track crews will start the replacement of ties. Work is expected to take place over several weeks but will not interfere with our train rides on Saturdays.

Work continues around the grounds and in the shop. Harry Currie is slowly getting the Oakwood patio paved with bricks and once that is complete, the handrails will be installed. The CF-7 is back in the shop for additional repairs to the engine. We had several seal failures during Polar Express last fall and John Nave and company are working of getting them replaced. Track Right of Way maintenance has been fast paced this spring as well. Lots of mowing, tree trimming, and ditch work have been accomplished. I invite you to come out and see how good the ROW looks now. This will make for a better experience for our visitors while riding our train. Until next month,

See You On The Rails!

Upcoming Events

- **First Train Run of Regular Season:** April 6th, 2024
- **Train Run Day:** April 20th, 2024
- **GCOR Testing:** 2024 April 27th **DATE CHANGE!**
- **Reading the Rails Book Club:** April 27th, 2024 (Join the Book Club [Here](#))

Trustee Meeting: February 27th, 2024

- Approved Minutes of January 30th meeting
- Treasurer's Report & Expenditure
- Review Financials Review and Budget
- Status of Grants and Donations Employee and Department Reports Acquisitions Report
- Train Show Report
- Museum Projects Updates
- 2024 Museum Budget Revision
- Next meeting March 26, 2024

Volunteers Needed!

Hi everyone, The regular train season is coming up faster than you think. This year the Easter train is earlier than usual on March 30th and the regular season begins April 6th! We will need carhosts, egg hunt attendants, flaggers and gift shop cashiers.

If you are interested in volunteering please sign up with Amanda at 405-424-8222 or email [here](#)

In the last two months the Museum has lost three really great friends. We remember them below.



Marc Montray
June 14, 1955 - February 24, 2024

The Oklahoma Railway Museum has lost a dear friend. Marc and Vikkie have been members since 2013.

The World is a Smaller Place. (Vikkie Montray)

Marc passed from this life last Saturday morning after a 4 year bout with cancer. He was 68 years old. There will be a Celebration of Life on March 8, at 2:00 pm, at Rice Funeral Service & Cremation Care in Catoosa, OK. In lieu of flowers, Marc requested donations be made to Oklahoma Railway Museum in Oklahoma City.

To say Marc loved trains doesn't go far enough. Trains were in his DNA. With his phenomenal memory and deep understanding of all things railroad, he could talk trains with about anyone on any facet of railroading. When we were out railfanning, he would usually strike up a conversation with anyone else out taking photos. If he(6 learned they were visitors to the area, he'd give them maps (paper!) and show them other good places to go. It was fairly common for our new friends to speak little English, but that was never a barrier for Marc. They spoke trains.

He wasn't shy about confronting, then enlightening anyone he discovered actually on the tracks or equipment. He was doing Operation Lifesaver before it was an official thing. He'd use that amazing voice and his presence to get their attention, read them the riot act, then slowly become the guy who cared enough to stop and educate.

He enjoyed many things like weather and animals. He could fix a rainy day with his pocket knife. But most people will remember him as "The Train Guy". His essence will always be present near the tracks and in the sound of the horns and whistles as the trains go rumbling by.



Chuck Shinn

December 16, 1939 - February 27, 2024

Charles Ray Shinn, of Oklahoma City, passed away on Feb. 27, 2024. Charles, “Chuck” to his family and friends, was born Dec. 16, 1939, in Stroud to Gwen and Melvin Shinn. The family spent Chuck’s formative years in Luther, where his parents were both longtime educators. Chuck graduated from Luther High School in 1958.

Between his junior and senior years of high school, Chuck joined the Air National Guard. His various deployments took him around the world. He then enrolled at Central State College, where he graduated with a degree in economics and later earned a master’s degree in human development.

In 1964, Chuck married Donna Lynn Rushton in Lindsay. Two sons were born from this union: Robert, a school administrator, and John, a journalist. Sports were a large part of their lives while living in Illinois and returning to Oklahoma.

Chuck was an active member of the First Christian Church in Luther, where he became choir director and occasionally shared his faith as a guest speaker. He was blessed with a tenor singing voice and was active in chorus and occasional soloist.

In 2008, Chuck married Phylis Waits at Southern Hills Christian Church in Edmond. The couple traveled extensively, once visiting York, England, to see one of the first steam engines.

Chuck’s career often centered on transportation. He worked for the Milwaukee Road Railroad Company in Chicago as an administrator and executive for 22 years and later for the Soo Line Railroad in Minneapolis.

He returned to Oklahoma with his family in the 1980s and worked in the Oklahoma Career Tech system and later Edmond Public Schools, from which he eventually retired.

A quiet man, deep thinker, and ardent reader with a sharp wit, Chuck spent his retirement volunteering with the Oklahoma Railway Museum, working as a document archivist, and participating in fund-raising drives.



Autumn B. Goforth
June 23, 1981 - March 4, 2024

Autumn Goforth passed away on March 4, 2024 at the age of 42 in Moore, Oklahoma. Autumn and the Goforth family are long time friends of the museum and food vendors who worked with us on Day Out With Thomas events and on our Polar Express event. Autumn leaves behind her husband Craig, and children Summer, Aaron, Ava and Gideon. Autumn will be greatly missed by her friends at ORM.

Volunteer t-shirts have arrived!

If you ordered a volunteer t-shirt last year, they have finally arrived. Please see Amanda in the gift shop to pick up and pay for your shirt.



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
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Around the Museum

Volunteer Jay Chilton helping to off load the wheelsets to go under our Railway Post Office car #760



Volunteer Steve Kamm paints a signal sign that goes on top of a switch stand.



President Eric Dilbeck and Vice President John Nave and volunteer Kevin Oakley work on our steam cleaner so it can be used to clean our passenger cars.

Volunteer Greg Hall works on blasting the paint off of our Santa Fe #115 passenger car.





Volunteers Kevin Oakley, John Nave take a break after working on the CF-7's engine. Several heads have failures of O-rings and are being replaced.



Volunteers(L-R) Kevin Oakley, John Nave, and Eric Dilbeck, Walk our mainline track inspecting ties for replacement. over 500 ties were marked for replacement between 30th and 50th streets. Track crews will be out in April to start replacement.

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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 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

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) 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. For information on upcoming programs contact Anne Chilton at annem@oklahomarailwaymuseum.org.