

The Dispatcher September 2024

President's Message

The summer is almost over, but the museum is getting ready for a busy fall. Since our summer trains ending on Labor Day weekend, we have been busy with projects and tasks getting ready for our Halloween trains and the Polar Express Event. Several volunteers have been working on the Oakwood Depot patio, installing the stations and railing around the perimeter. Steve Foust welded up all the rails and did a fantastic job. The patio will be a multipurpose area that can be used for a picnic area, a band stand, or can be decorated for photo ops during special events. Our plan is to have a large Christmas Tree up during Polar Express so families can take pictures.



Also on the grounds, track work has been in full swing. Crews from Lonestar Railroad contractors replaced mainline ties over the summer and once our train rides were finished in August, they continued tie replacement on several switches on main 1 & 2 and well as one yard track switch. They continued with installation on a new switch in the house track off main 2 north of the Depot. This switch allowed us to add an additional storage track that extends north to the north end of the barn. The crews also extended the house track to match as well as bumper posts. This track work is another part of our master expansion plan that we have been working towards the last few years.

The Fall Events Season starts Saturday, October 12th with The Annual Member's Picnic. Join us for a potluck lunch followed by a train ride. Saturday, October 19th is Retired Railroaders' Appreciation Day as well as the Fall Meeting of 'The Reading the Rails' Book Club. This Time we are reading The Cautious Traveller's Guide to the Wastelands by Sarah Brooks. Join the bookclub here! The Halloween Train is Sat. October 26th and Sun October 27th. Stop by museum for a day of spooky family fun!

The fun continues on November 2nd and 3rd with the Annual OKC Train Show at the Oklahoma State Fairgrounds. And our Biggest Event of the Year, Polar Express, pulls into town on Monday November 11th and continues through the end of the year!

As you can see it's going to be a super busy time and we need volunteers for all these events! This is just an overview of the season so keep an eye out for more info!

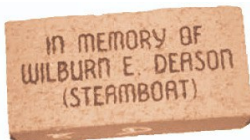
See You On The Rails!

Upcoming Events

- **Members Picnic:** Saturday October 12th, 2024
- **Retired Railroaders Day:** Saturday October 19th, 2024
- **Book Club Meeting:** Saturday October 19th, 2024
- **Halloween Train:** October 26th & 27th, 2024
- **Polar Express:** November 11th through December 29th

Trustee Meeting: August 27th, 2024

- Approved Minutes of July 30th meeting Treasurer's
- Report & Expenditure Review Financials Review
- and Budget
- Status of Grants and Donations Employee and
- Department Reports Acquisitions Report
- Approved Conex Move
- Grounds Weed Control 2028
- Olympics Planning
- Next meeting September 24, 2024



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](#)

Introducing New Board Member Jerry Sargent!

Hello everyone, my name is Jerry Sargent, and I am excited to join the Board of the Oklahoma Railway Museum. As a new board member, I bring to the board a background in law and human resources, as well as railroad experience. I worked in the industry for over three years with Conrail and Norfolk Southern, where I developed a deep appreciation for the technical and historical significance of railroads.

Additionally, my law degree has equipped me with a strong understanding of regulations and policies that can be of benefit to our museum.

My fascination with railroads began at a young age, with many of my family employed with various railroads throughout the country. I believe that preserving railroad history is vital for education and inspiring future generations. I am particularly looking forward to contributing to our efforts in the expansion of the museum, membership growth, and continuing excellent service to this industry.

As a board member, I aim to leverage my expertise to assist in any legal challenges we may face while also promoting innovative solutions that can enhance our exhibits and operations. I am eager to collaborate with our board of directors and share ideas. If anyone has any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to me anytime

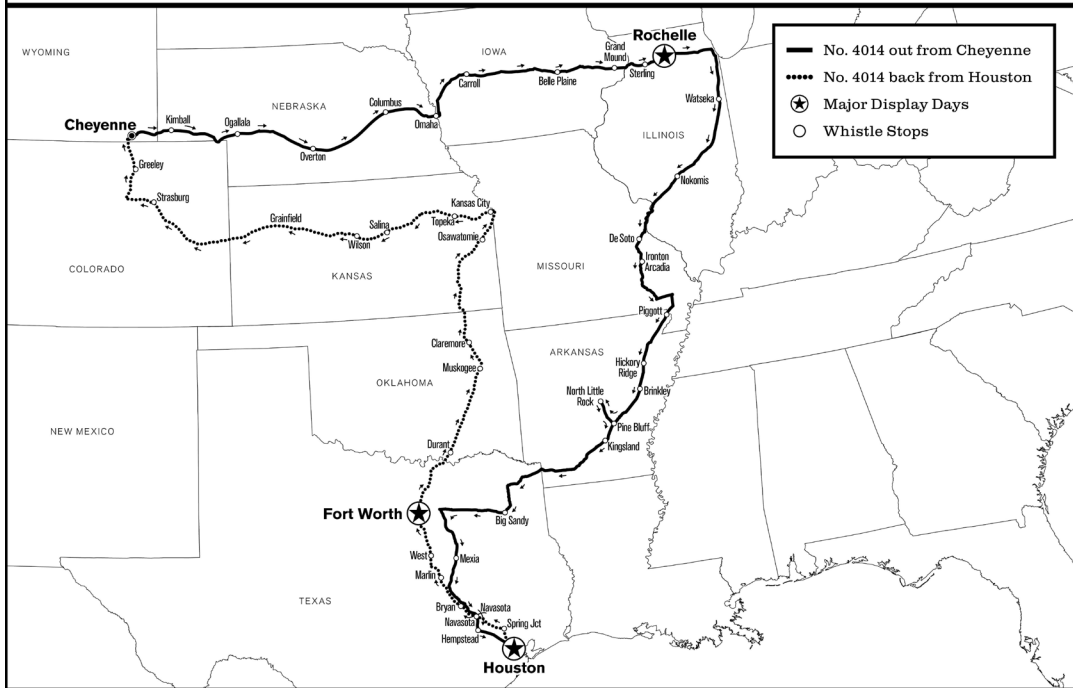
—I look forward to getting to know everyone and working together to advance the mission of the Oklahoma Railway Museum.



Big Boy Heartland of America Tour

Union Pacific's No. 4014

Visit up.com/heritage/steam/track for information on No. 4014's location.



Union Pacific's Big Boy will be coming through Oklahoma October 13-14, 2024

[Click here for schedule](#)

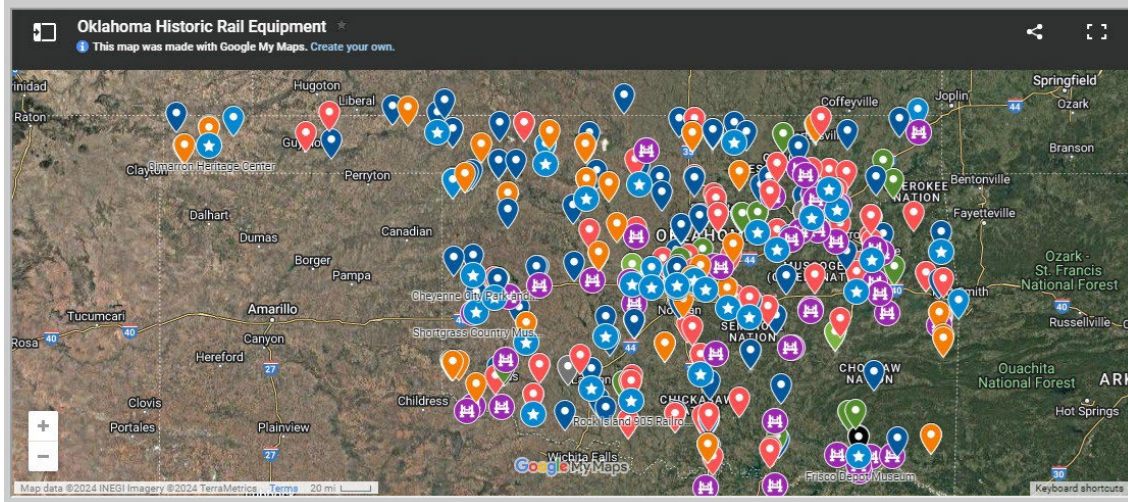


The museum needs the following items:

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.

- Fall/Halloween Decorations
- 6 & 8 ft plastic tables
- 6 ft. plastic picnic tables
- Artificial Christmas Trees

Oklahoma Historic Rail Equipment



[Link to Map](#)

Have you ever seen a cabooses in a field, or an old depot building and wondered "Where did this come from? Are there any more out there?" I did too, and so after I found a couple incomplete lists and maps online, I started a map of historic railway equipment and structures in Oklahoma. The map can be found on the ORM website under Education – [Education Resources](#) or use the link above,

Currently marked on the map are just over 400 items, including 144 depots, 100 cabooses, 20 passenger cars, and 12 steam locomotives. I have also added points for 32 railway-related museums, from large ones like the ORM to small local history museums inside the town depot. I have been adding pictures to entries when I am able to take them, and the map is a continuous work in progress. I know there are more items out there not yet on the map, and I add them whenever I find them.

If you have additional information or photos and want to help keep this map up to date, you can submit them at andrewr@oklahomarailwaymuseum.org.

Please include a good description to identify the item, and dated photos if you have them.

Next time you're on the road, take a look and see what's out there. You might be surprised.

Andrew Reynolds

Historic Baldwin Comes Home to Oklahoma!

In 2016, the museum discovered that a unique locomotive was being decommissioned by the military. Locomotive USAX 4648, a Baldwin VO- 1000m, was one of two units that the Army was decommissioning. The other unit USAX4649, is now our Milwaukee Road 615 a EMD SW-1200 switcher. Like #4649, we researched the origin of 4648 and found it to be one the first Baldwin the Frisco Railroad purchased. Research at the time pointed to unit 206 from the built number (64433) provided by the Army which is part of the second batch of Baldwins the Frisco purchased in 1942. Once the unit arrived at the museum, we were able to verify 4648 was indeed 206 by the frame casting date of 1942. Some data on the internet points to unit 203, but that unit was delivered in 1941. We worked with our local government surplus program to request that the engine be donated to the Oklahoma Railway Museum. After years of delays and setbacks, #206 has finally come home to Oklahoma.

Frisco #206 was built in November 1942 and operated on the Frisco Railroad until the late 1970s, but it didn't stay the same over the years. In 1959, it was sent to La Grange, Illinois, to be repowered with an EMD 567C engine. Because the new engine was wider, the Baldwin hood had to be replaced with a wider EMD-style hood, giving it the look of a SW-1200 switcher. Frisco continued to run this engine and its sister Baldwins until 1979, when most of them were either traded in to EMD, sold, or scrapped. Our engine was one of the lucky ones—it was refurbished and began a new life with the US Navy. The Navy designated it as #65-00625 and assigned it to the Port Chicago Naval Magazine in California, where it shuttled munitions for naval ships. Around 2008, the U.S. Army took over operations, and the site became Military Ocean Terminal Concord in California. During this time, the locomotive was renumbered to USAX 4648.

Future plans for this unit are to return it to Frisco #206 and paint it Frisco's Mandiran Orange and white livery. These Baldwins had several different liveries over the years they were in service. The first order of 5 units, 200-204 were delivered in the *Zephyr Blue* and *Silver* paint livery, like the 4500-4502 series steam locomotives. A second livery was black with diagonal stripes and there were four variations of this with different styles of lettering. The Frisco later changed their paint scheme for diesel locomotives to a white and mandarin red and the 206 was repainted in these colors by 1967. The white and mandarin livery is a great paint scheme, and our hope is that it will draw visitors to our museum. Also, the earlier liveries were used before our locomotive was repowered and the EMD switcher hood installed.

Engine #206 traveled extensively on the Frisco Railroad, and we've found photos of it in Missouri, Kansas, Alabama, and Oklahoma and we are glad to have it back in it home turf.



USAX 4648, A Baldwin VO-1000m at the interchange from UP Railroad. ready for the museum crews to pick up.



Volunteers John Nave and Jake Donaldson work on USAX 4648 replacing the batteries.

Around the Museum



Museum goers enjoy the Diesel At The Throttle on August 31st



New Volunteer, Josh Glassiein, on Engine 48



Looking north from the platform shows the new siding off the house track and the extension of the house track.



Board members Eric Dilbeck and Paul Stephenson along with Museum Administrator Anne Chilton recently attended the Heritage Rail Conference in Springdale, AR.

Look for an article upcoming covering the trip.



VIP passenger on the MKT Inspection car!

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Oklahoma Railway Museum, Ltd.
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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.