

The Dispatcher February 2026

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Upcoming Events

- **GCOR Testing:** March 14th, 2026
- **Annual Members Meeting:** March 28th, 2026
- **Easter Train:** April 4th, 2026
- **Steam Train:** April 10th-12th and 17th-19th, 2026
- **Book Club:** April 25th, 2026 (Join Book Club [Here](#))
- **Regular Season Train Run:** May 2nd, 2026

Happenings



February started cold but Spring was starting by the end. Many projects continued this month. The ORM volunteers are still hard at work getting ready for the upcoming season.

- The 301 got a primer coat and is all prepped for it's new look.
- The 90 has had a few repairs to get it ready for its new paint.
- Work has continued on the exterior of the CB&Q caboose.
- The Farmrail crew finished the trackwork in front of the shop building. This is a big step in the museum expansion.
- All the seats from Great Northern Car have been dropped off at Truman's Fabric and Foam to get reupholstered.

The Annual Members meeting is coming up on March 28th. Please keep an eye out for the info email this week. This year we are charging \$15 for the dinner and you will have to RSVP to attend.

Also please remember to renew your membership if you haven't yet. You can pay online [here](#), or you can pay by mail with [this](#) form.

Spring Events!

Spring has very nearly sprung here at the museum, and our event season is just around the corner!

Easter Bunny Express

The Easter train is April 4th with runs at 9:30am, 11:30am, 1:30pm, and 3:30pm. We will have our annual Easter Egg hunt during the train rides and then at the museum we will have the bounce house, mini golf, and an Easter scavenger hunt.

We will need volunteers for:

- cashiering the gift shop
- car hosting
- helping at the egg hunt
- Flagging
- Running the model train and more!

The Spring Steam Train

April 11-12 & 18-19, 2026 will be our Spring Steam Train Rides. The rides depart

Saturday 10:30 am, 12:15 pm, 1:45pm, and 3:15 pm Sunday at
12:15 pm, 1:45pm, and 3:15 pm

We will need volunteers for:

- cashiering the gift shop
- car hosting
- helping at the egg hunt
- Flagging
- Running the model train and more!

Spring Steam At The Throttle

We will be having Steam At the throttle April 10-12 & 17-18, 2026 (all day on Fridays, 8-9:30am on Saturdays, and 8-11:30am on Sundays)

We will need volunteers for:

- Flagging

Tickets for all these events are available now on our [website](#), and please let us [know](#) if you would like to volunteer for any of these days!



Donation Box

Brick purchases and donations will make a real difference towards the museum's expansion and programs. Please visit our [website](#) if you are able to give!

The museum is also in need on a box blade for our tractor. The one we have is worn out and beyond repair. If anyone has one to donate or funds toward a new one, it would be greatly appreciated.



A Memorable Merit Badge Class

Chris Holmes

Fifteen Scouts and four leaders from Troop 87 in Amarillo, Texas, braved winter's cold to drive to the Oklahoma Railway Museum where they participated in the all-day Gary Githens Railroading Merit Badge Program on Saturday, January 31, 2026. After arriving, the troop took their places in Rock Island combine car #6015. There, instructors Keith Callihan and Robert Reynolds helped the Scouts learn about the difference between "trains" and "railroads," what freight and passenger trains are, as well as the different cars each type of train uses. They then moved outside to tour the museum grounds, seeing examples of what they had just heard about in the classroom, such as examples of rolling stock, freight car trucks, and a section of track. While the Scouts finished up this portion, the leaders grilled hot dogs and burgers to serve everyone for lunch.

In the afternoon, to emphasize the importance of safety around railroads, Drake Rice, a long-time volunteer at the museum, gave an Operation LIFESAVER talk. After the presentation, the Scouts played a game using G-scale model railroad cars and an engine, taking turns to see who could follow switching instructions safely and quickly. Chris Holmes, another merit badge class instructor, next led the Scouts and

leaders downtown where they learned to read the route map for the OKC streetcar, followed by riding it for the entire Downtown Loop (not to mention taking advantage of its free fares). After the ride, the group happened to catch three BNSF freight trains passing through Nowers Yard. As they watched both north and southbound trains, everyone could see in real life some of what they'd learned that morning.

Once back at the museum, it was the Scouts' turn to cook. After dinner, rather than making the four-hour drive back home at the end of a long day, the Scouts and leaders slept in the tents they had pitched on the museum grounds. The next morning, the group packed up their gear and drove back to Amarillo. Despite the cold, Troop 87 members thoroughly enjoyed their experience, getting an education on railroads both in the classroom and in real life.

Around the Museum



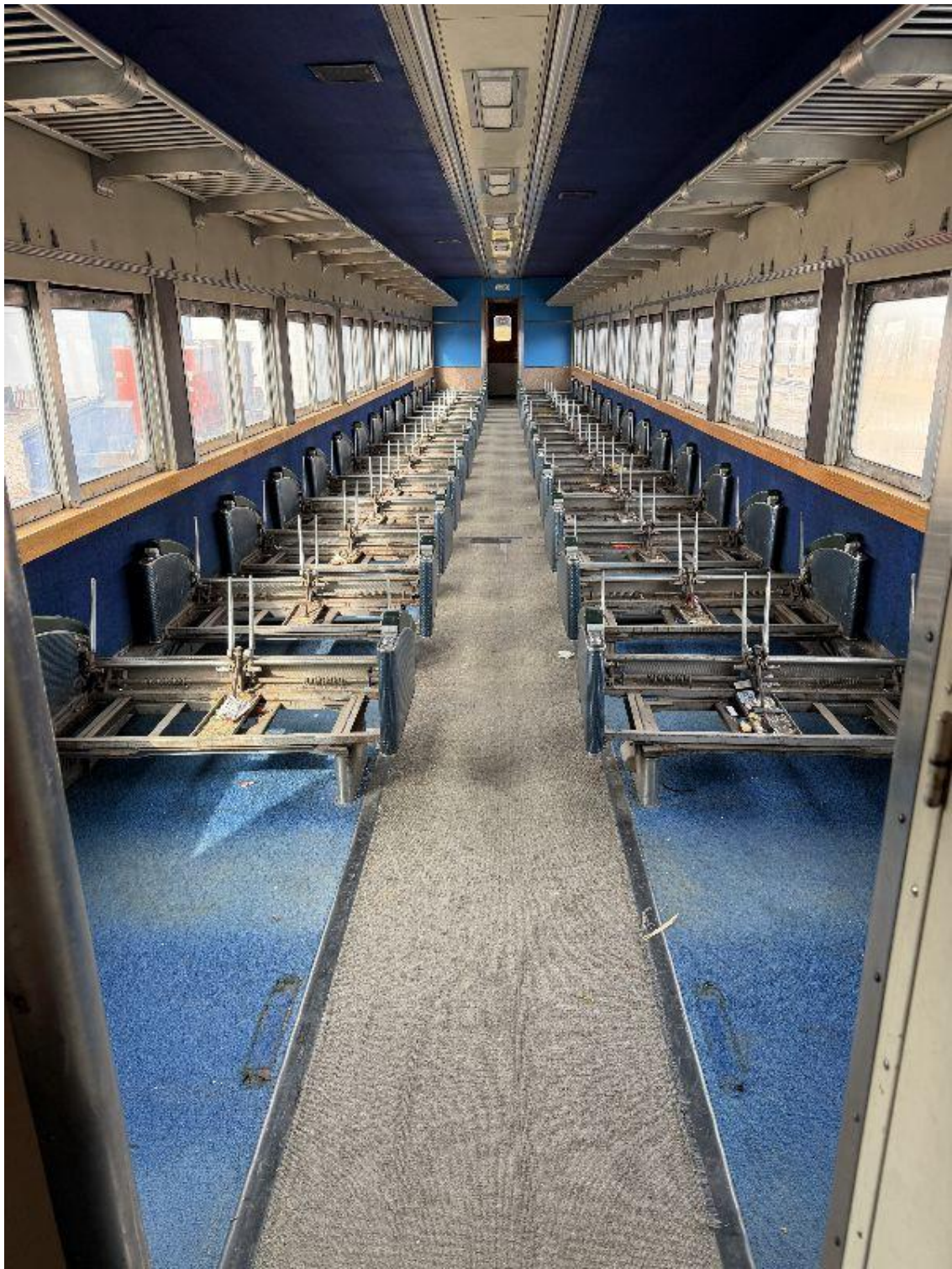
Volunteers Steffan Raymann, Paul Stephens, and Eric Dilbeck continue work on the Le Flore Depot.



Farm Rail crew working on railyard track realignment



Santa Fe 90 is moved inside the shop for new paint



Seats are taken from the Great Northern 1304 to be reupholstered.



Volunteers Jay Chilton and Guy Lynn examine our newly acquired golf cart.



Museum Administrator Anne Chilton (second row center) attended Museum Day at the State Capital



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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.