



the Dispatcher

Volume 47, Issue 3, March 2012



Central Oklahoma Chapter
of the National Railway Historical Society
Oklahoma Railway Museum Ltd,

NARCOA Affiliate Member



ORM members volunteer at Amtrak Exhibit Train

by Gary Githens



A northbound BNSF freight train passes the Amtrak 40th anniversary train which was on display at the historic "Santa Fe" depot platform

Raymond Woods

The President's Column



We have finally discovered winter in the past few weeks. This has slowed down our work on various projects at the Museum. The outdoor ones have come to a halt. Indoors some progress is being made, but it still is cold and miserable.

We had a Planning meeting and set the projects for this year and the next five years. If we can complete half of the items I will be pleased. There is always more to do than time

and money allow. The current budget is also included elsewhere in this months Bulletin. Take a minute to look it over to see what we hope to accomplish this year.

As always we can use some help on these projects. If you can help, come out on a Saturday and we will find a spot for you.

Stan Hall

**Oklahoma Railway
Museum, Ltd.**

Board of Directors

Stan Hall, *President*

Larry Dodd, *Vice President
and Program Chair*

Drake Rice, *Secretary*

Charles Price, *Treasurer*

Bob Nantois, *NRHS Director*

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Bob Hussey, *Director of*

Track Maintenance

Jim Murray, *Director of*

Mechanical Operations

Harry Currie, *Director at Large*

Greg Hall, *Director of*

Museum Activities

Larry Loomis, *Director of*

Museum Displays

Ed Birch Jr., *Train Show Chair*

Gary Moore, *Membership*

Chair

Gary Githens, *Dispatcher*

Editor

IMPORTANT REQUEST TO VOLUNTEERS: It is extremely important you record you volunteer hours. Please log in and log out on the time sheets. Volunteer hours worked are a major factor in grant application evaluations.

“The Girls of Summer”

will be in OKC May 31st through June 6th

The Womens College Softball World Series brings visitors literally from coast to coast to OKC. This event is televised by ESPN.

For your ORM it is a major fund raiser. Please consider volunteering to assist with parking at Adventure District Station. Your help is needed.

Plan early, mark your calendar now for:

May 12 - National Train Day

June 9 - Member's picnic and train ride

Sept 28, 29, 30 - Day Out with Thomas

Oct 5, 6, 7 - Day Out with Thomas

Oct 27 - Halloween Trains

Dec 1 & 2 - Okla City Train Show

Dec 15 - Christmas Trains

Train rides resume April 7th. Car hosts, gift shop help, flaggers needed.

Museum Update by Drake Rice



In another six weeks, trains will be rolling at the museum and people will be coming out more to visit. It has been interesting to see the number of visitors we have at the museum during the winter months on our Thursday, Friday and Saturdays.

The mechanical department has been busy with the removal of the brake systems which were sent in for testing and recertification and now they are back for reinstallation. So this will be the next scope of work as the cars are readied for the 2012 run season.

Also, in the shop, work continues on the restoration of the Rock Island Caboose. With 2/3's of the sides being taken off, the floor taken up the car looks like a skeleton. The piece of steel bracing that was cut off years ago to install an air conditioner has been replaced and the old roof is now being taken off for replacement. This effort is becoming the biggest restoration project the museum has under taken and we look forward to the reinstallation of wood once all bad wood is removed. Pictures and measurements have been taken. Hopefully we will have some pictures in a future newsletter. Work continues in the Rock Island Combine in making floor repairs in the baggage end to allow a larger area for birthday parties. Birthday parties have become a big part of the museum activities and it provides a revenue stream throughout the year. Once the work is completed on the car, it will be moved over on the team track at the museum. Attention will need to be given to the seats in the passenger area since the UV

rays have caused the fabric which was a bus seat type to show wear and sun damage.

Terry Burchett continues to work on the car mover. The head was pulled and the head gasket is in need of replacement. Hopefully in the next several weeks, it can be replaced and the unit placed in operation by summer shuttling cars in and out of the shop. The unit has been named the Terry B.

Hopefully the cold winter weather will move out of our area by mid-March and attention can be given to painting of buildings on the grounds. The Yard Office and Depot need some attention as does certain areas of the platform canopy. And of course with the coming of spring, grass mowing becomes a continuous need at the museum. Mowing along the buildings and grounds coupled with right of way keep several people busy from April through October. The museum is always in need of volunteers in this area.

As for track, Bob Hussey has rounded up some ties and we hope tie replacement can be done south of NE 16th toward Eckroat. Maintaining 3 miles of track is a necessity for the museum and its operations. It also keeps our tie with the UP open.

Remember we look forward to seeing members out at the museum where there is always something to do.

Important Notice to owners of radios

To all owners of radios used at museum. Due to the requirements of the FCC the museum is converting all two way radios to narrow band operation before the first operations of the 2012 season in April. If you own a Maxon SP-230 radio purchased at the same time as the museum radios please drop off at the museum by **Feb. 25** along with **\$15 check payable to the museum** for conversion. We have made arrangement for these radios to be done as a group at a discount. Be sure to tape your name to radio so there will not be any confusion as to which radio belongs to whom. If you own another brand of radio you must have it converted before January first 2013 or both you and the museum could be liable for fines by the FCC if you use it on the museum channels. Please forward this information to anyone you know who may have a radio but not receive the Dispatcher. Any questions call Jim Murray 405-596-0844.

Thanks,
Jim Murray
Suprintendent Mechanical Dept.
Oklahoma Railway Museum
(405) 596-0844

ORM members volunteer at Amtrak Exhibit Train

photographs by Raymond Woods



Anne Murray and Stan Hall on duty in the gift shop



Tuna Dobbins answers questions from a guest



Jim Murray explains a locomotive control stand operation



Amtrak dining car place setting



Greg Hall greeting visitors aboard the Amtrak Exhibit Train



Michael Davis looks on as Steve Davis answers questions from a visitor

ORM members volunteer at Amtrak Exhibit Train

photographs by Raymond Woods



"The Sound of Amtrak" display



Time table display



Local organization displays setup in the Depot waiting room. ORM's is at left



Local organization displays setup in the Depot waiting room.

Amtrak Blog about OKC visit

source: Amtrak website

If Oklahoma City has a byword, it must be "friendly"—enthusiastic volunteers, diverse exhibitors, animated visitors and a gem of a station added up to an enjoyable weekend. The Oklahoma City Amtrak station sits on the border between the downtown business center and the bustling arts and entertainment district known as "Bricktown." The two neighborhoods are separated by a viaduct that carries the tracks through the city; to our advantage, the viaduct was also a perfect pedestal for the Exhibit Train, making it visible to drivers and pedestrians passing through the area. As darkness fell, the train shone under the platform and station lighting—a beacon in the night to all rail enthusiasts.

Over the weekend, it was fun to watch visitors as they stepped into the station lobby. Mouths fell open in awe as people took in the rich interior decoration of the jazzy Art Deco station, which opened in 1934. Cameras were whipped out to capture the ceiling's bright and colorful geometric patterns as well as the elongated metal and glass chandeliers whose common chevron motif evokes the sense of movement so essential to Art Deco design.



Amtrak Blog about OKC visit

Continued from page 5

People also ran their fingers over the walls, whose light brown limestone is embedded with seashells and other fossils. Much of the station's original grandeur was recaptured during a successful \$3 million restoration project undertaken by the Oklahoma Department of Transportation more than a decade ago.

Through the lobby's eastern window, one could see the tail end of the Exhibit Train's Bistro Car, which serves as the 40th Anniversary Store where people can pick up a copy of Amtrak: An American Story, commemorative t-shirts, lapel pins, coffee mugs, posters, and other fun items. Up on the platform, people stopped to watch passing freight trains, as the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway's main line runs alongside the station.

Children mobbed the Chuggington play area, and the paper "Junior Conductor" hats were a hot item. They're perfect complements to a free activity book that helps young readers understand a conductor's job, which includes tasks such as welcoming passengers onto the train, taking tickets, providing information about stops, and communicating with the engineer driving the locomotive.

In a side room, passenger rail advocacy groups such as the National Association of Railroad Passengers, the Northern Flyer Alliance, and the Heartland Flyer Coalition set up tables and talked to people about their missions and activities—this last organization manages a helpful website to assist travelers. Volunteers from Trails and Rails introduced people to the historic and cultural sites to be seen along the route of the Flyer.

Two museums also joined us for the weekend. The Railroad Museum of Oklahoma is based out of the former Santa Fe freight house in downtown Enid. Dedicated members spent years rehabilitating the structure and organizing a large collection of railroad artifacts that includes dining car china and silverware, whistles and lanterns, and an outdoor area with rolling stock. Museum Director Frank "Watermelon" Campbell, dressed in a vintage conductor's uniform, regaled Exhibit Train visitors with railroad stories. One table over, the Oklahoma Railway Museum (ORM) had an interesting display on Oklahoma depots that included photos and brief histories of the buildings.

While we've hosted a number of model railroads during our nationwide tour, this was the first time we'd had an N-Scale layout. Most people are probably more familiar with HO scale, which is the most popular with modelers. N Scale is about half the size of HO—a ratio of 1:160—and it really requires patience and an eye for detail. Members of the Oklahoma N-Rail Club ran a handful of trains along their layout, including a model of the Heartland Flyer, and graciously answered questions from fans big and small. N-Rail Club members also helped staff the Exhibit Train, as did volunteers from the South Canadian Model Railroad Club and ORM.

Aboard one of the Display Cars, ORM members explained how to operate the Engineer's Control Stand. Visitors are welcome to have their try at "driving" a train by guiding the throttle and monitoring the engine. Although the levers and buttons are labeled, it was a big help to have the volunteers describe in detail what exactly each one does. Some of the ORM members know these control stands well from the excursion trains that the museum runs from April to August.

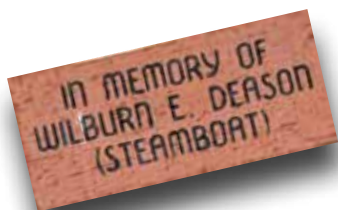
Well, as they say, the railroad never stops—this week we head south back to Texas where we'll be in historic San Antonio, known by every school child as the home of the Alamo. Hope to see you there!

--PK

ORM Depot Store

The Oklahoma Railway Museum, Ltd. (ORM) has items available for both children and adults at the Depot Store. These include baseball caps, polo shirts, t-shirts, lapel pins, and coasters. Funds raised by donations for these items support the Museum projects.

The Depot Store, located inside the Oakwood Depot on the Museum grounds, is open during regular **Museum hours – 9 am to 4 pm on the first and third Saturday operation days** of each month April through August. The store is also open for special events.



Order Form – Engraved Platform Bricks

Cost is \$50.00 per brick.

Up to a maximum of 4 lines with 16 letters and spaces per line

Purchaser's Name _____ Phone No. (____) _____

Line 1															
Line 2															
Line 3															
Line 4															

Become an ORM Member

2012 ORM/NRHS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION:

New Membership Renewal Membership (begin Jan 1st) Date _____

\$36.00 per year – Individual Membership in the Oklahoma Railway Museum, Ltd. (spouse included) Pro-rated dues \$3.00 per month

\$30.00 per year – Individual Senior (age 65 and up) (spouse included) and Individual Student (full-time student) Membership in ORM Pro-rated dues \$2.50 per month

\$36.00 per year – To add Railway Historical Society (NRHS) Membership (add \$5.00 for spouse) (Student Memberships: \$16 per year)

SEND NRHS DUES TO ORM ADDRESS BELOW, NOT DIRECTLY TO NRHS

\$500.00 - Lifetime Membership

Send your application and dues to: **Oklahoma Railway Museum , Ltd.
3400 NE Grand Boulevard
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73111**

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone _____ Fax _____ Cell Phone _____

E-Mail _____

NOTICE: The model railroad will be closed until the 1st train ride in April for major remodeling.

Engraved Platform Bricks
More than one platform brick can be donated to the Museum and you can make copies of the attached form. Mail completed forms with checks or money orders to: Jim Murray, ORM, 3400 NE Grand Boulevard, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73111. If you have any questions, you can e-mail Murray at: jtmurray@cox.net.

Crosstie Donations
Friends and families of ORM continue to make donations for crossties, equipment and facilities on the Museum property and on the leased track.
If you want to make a donation to purchase a crosstie, a donation of \$42.50 will help purchase a new crosstie. You can donate a crosstie in recognition or in memory of someone. All donations should be made out to the Oklahoma Railway Museum Ltd.
Please note on the check what the donation is for, mail to: ORM Ltd., 3400 NE Grand Boulevard, Oklahoma City, 73111



Oklahoma Railway Museum, Ltd.
3400 NE Grand Boulevard
Oklahoma City, OK 73111-4417

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

TIMETABLE

Any changes to the following information or articles for "the Dispatcher," should be directed to the Editor, Gary Githens, (e-mail: ORMnews@cox.net).

Oklahoma Railway Museum (ORM) – Open Thursday, Friday and Saturdays from 9:00 A.M. until 5:00 P.M. except on major holidays

ORM Train Rides - First and third Saturdays April through August at 10:00 A.M., 11:00 A.M., Noon, 1:30 P.M. and 2:30 P.M.

ORM Board Meetings – Last Thursday each month at ORM, Oklahoma City – 7 pm.

Oklahoma "N" Rail – For information, call Rick Inselman, 405/412-1552.

Oklahoma Passenger Rail Association – Rail Consumer Advocate Organization. Meets bimonthly. For information, write or call Roger Carter, 1120 South 21st Street, Chickasha, Oklahoma 73018, 405/224-7423

Passenger Rail Oklahoma – A grassroots advocacy organization. Meets every Saturday and Sunday morning an hour prior to the arrival of the Heartland Flyer in Norman. The depot opens at 7:50 am. Contact Evan Stair at sfrr@aol.com, www.passengerrailok.org, 405/366-8957, or 517 Claremont, Norman, OK 73069-5020. Depot volunteer opportunities are available.

Oklahoma S.W. Division NMRA – 2nd Saturday each month, 1 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.

OUT OF TOWN

Railroad Museum of Oklahoma – Tuesday thru Friday afternoons 1 pm to 4 pm, Saturdays 10 am to 1 pm, Sunday 2 pm to 5 pm, or by appointment, HO, N and Lionel layouts, Meets 3rd Tuesday at 7 pm at Old Santa Fe Freight Depot, 702 North Washington, Enid

Waynoka Station/Waynoka Historical Society – 202 South Cleveland, Waynoka Call Sandie Olson, 580/824-1886.

