



COMMUNITY

Alaska Railroad Corporation
3rd Quarter, 2011



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Alaska Railroad
Ongoing Projects:

Northern Rail Extension
and Tanana River Crossing

Fairbanks - North Pole
Rail Relocation

North Pole Road/Rail
Crossing Reduction

Positive Train Control

Port MacKenzie Rail Extension

Healy Canyon Safety and
Reliability Improvements

Ship Creek Intermodal Center

Chugach Forest Whistle Stop

South Wasilla Rail Relocation

Bridge Improvements and
Track Rehabilitation

Seward Coal Loading Facility
Improvements

For updates or comments on
these projects, visit the
Alaska Railroad web site at
www.AlaskaRailroad.com

TANANA RIVER BRIDGE GROUNDBREAKING

Ceremony features 21-shovel salute by dozens of dignitaries

A 21-shovel salute concluded a groundbreaking ceremony September 28 at the Tanana River bridge construction staging site near Salcha. More than 125 people attended the dignitary-peppered event to celebrate the start of the long-anticipated Northern Rail Extension, which is expected to boost local and state economies with millions of dollars spent on local equipment, materials, supplies, lodging and labor.



(see "Bridge Groundbreaking" on page 3)

RAILROAD WINS GREEN STAR SUPER NOVA

New award recognizes above-and-beyond recertification effort

Green Star Inc. initiated a new award in 2011, and in August the Alaska Railroad was notified that it would be one of the first organizations to receive it. The *Super Nova Award* recognizes a higher level of leadership and commitment to doing business in an environmentally responsible manner. Green Star presented the award during the Anchorage Chamber's Make it Monday lunch forum on October 17.



"The Alaska Railroad Corporation became a Green Star awarded business in 1994 and since then it continually pursues a number of green initiatives, policies and operations, a reason why it is one of the first companies in Alaska to receive Green Star's newest recognition, the *Super Nova Award*," said the Green Star staff. "Green Star is proud that Alaska Railroad Corporation continues to lead the community by example towards environmental stewardship. Congratulations Alaska Railroad!"

(see "Green Star Award" on page 2)

2012 POSTER

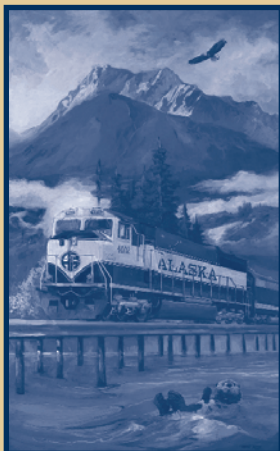
The Alaska Railroad will release its 2012 annual poster/print at public sale-and-signing events featuring Wasilla artist Taffina Katkus.

- **SEWARD: Fri. Dec. 2**, in conjunction with Seward's holiday fair. Details TBD.
- **ANCHORAGE: 10am-2pm, Sat. Dec. 3**, at the Anchorage Historic Depot (411 W. 1st Avenue)
- **FAIRBANKS: 10am-2pm, Sat. Dec. 10**, at the Fairbanks Depot (1745 Johansen Expressway)

Entitled *Seward Solidarity*, the oil painting depicts a collage of scenes from the railroad's southern terminus in Seward, Alaska.

The 2012 ARRC print costs \$55, posters cost \$30 and pins cost \$5. Following the events, prints, posters and pins will remain on sale at the Anchorage Historic and Fairbanks depots, and may also be purchased via the online ARRC Gift Shop at

AlaskaRailroadGiftShop.com



ANCHORAGE CHAMBER GOLD PAN

Chamber recognizes railroad volunteer and community service

The Anchorage Chamber of Commerce presented the Alaska Railroad (ARRC) with its 2011 *Distinguished Community Service Award for Large Businesses / Organizations* in September. ARRC was recognized as a long-time participant in the Anchorage School District's School Business Partnership, including the Tour Guide Program, which offers tourism curriculum and jobs to high school students. ARRC was honored for charitable giving, such as donation of the *Denali Business Car* to non-profit fund-raising events, and in-kind donation of rail tickets and posters / prints to 400-plus non-profits each year. ARRC was noted for support of environmental stewardship and infrastructure investments within the community. Finally, railroad employees also volunteer off-work time to numerous non-profit boards and committees.

Another Anchorage Chamber award underscored ARRC's community service through employee volunteering. In mid-September, Anchorage Chamber Immediate Past Chair Bill Evans presented Chairman's Awards to members of the chamber's Finance Committee, which includes Alaska Railroad VP Finance Bill O'Leary, who chairs the committee. O'Leary also volunteers his time to serve as the chamber's secretary/treasurer.

"The Finance Committee did a remarkable job last year in overseeing significant organizational structuring, outsourcing our financial management, and combining all of our members into a single billing cycle, as opposed to a twice-per-year cycle," explained Chamber President Sami Glascott, noting that it is customary for the outgoing chair to present Chairman's Awards shortly after the newly elected board members are seated. ●

GREEN STAR AWARD...

(continued from page 1)

In its most recent 2011 recertification, ARRC noted a number of new improvements since its 2008 recertification. Highlights include:

- **Waste Reduction:** Decreased bottled water purchases by one-third, eliminating more than 100,000 bottles from the waste stream.
- **Recycling:** Expanded the company-supported recycling program to include cardboard and plastic bottles in more locations, plus continued support of Alaskans for Litter Prevention & Recycling (ALPAR), earning a 2010 ALPAR award (presented April 2011).
- **Facilities Management:** From 2008 to 2010, reduced Anchorage facility utility expense by \$500,000 through efficiency upgrades; plus developed Alaska's first historical building renovated to Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) standards.
- **Public/Alternate Transportation:** Continued support for Regional Transportation Authority formation to enhance commuter alternatives, including rail; plus increased support of bike-to-work initiatives in Anchorage and among railroad employees.
- **Pollution Prevention:** Reduced locomotive emissions through new locomotive purchases, emission system upgrades and idle control system installation. Also purchased two bi-fuel natural gas / gasoline vehicles and one all-natural gas fueled van (*pictured above*). ●



ARRC CREATES TIE AND SURPLUS SALES WEB PAGE

New internet page offers details about used tie sales and sources, and other extra items

The railroad's Supply Management Department has established a new page on the corporate web site to provide instant information about railroad surplus sales, including the popular used tie sales.

www.AlaskaRailroad.com/SurplusSales

While public used tie sale events have ended for 2011, the web page will list upcoming sales information when events resume in May 2012. In the meantime, the

web page provides information on other sources of used ties, as well as information for individual purchases of large bulk quantities (i.e. 3,000 or more used ties). The railroad's Surplus Sales web page also includes information and invitations to bid on other surplus sales items, such as used or unneeded equipment and supplies.

Questions about surplus sales and the web site page information should be directed to Purchasing & Materials Technician Muriel Lewis at 265-2630 or LewisM@akrr.com. ●

BRIDGE GROUNDBEAKING...

(continued from page 1)

ARRC President / CEO Chris Aadnesen and ARRC Chair Linda Leary welcomed attendees, before a procession of dignitaries added words of praise and support from national, state and local government levels. Dignitaries included, in order of speaking, Alaska Adjutant General Major General Thomas Katkus, U.S. Senator Lisa Murkowski, U.S. Congressman Don Young, Alaska Dept. of Transportation Commissioner Mark Luiken, Alaska Senator John Coghill, Alaska Representative Eric Feige, and Fairbanks North Star Borough Mayor Luke Hopkins.

At the end of remarks, the ceremonial shoveling commenced. Leary wielded the "gold" shovel, and was joined by the aforementioned dignitaries, the rest of the ARRC Board of Directors, several more state legislators and local mayors. The photo below identifies the participants. The ceremonial "gold" shovel will be on display at the Fairbanks Depot.



U.S. Senator Lisa Murkowski adds her remarks in support of the Northern Rail Extension projects. (Photo by Stephenie Wheeler)

The multi-phased Northern Rail Extension (NRE) project will eventually expand railroad track infrastructure from North Pole / Eielson 80 miles southeast to Delta Junction. Expected to be a three-year effort, NRE Phase One will construct a new bridge across the river and an associated levee. The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was completed in 2010. ●



L-R: Rep. Bob Miller, Transportation Commissioner Marc Luiken, Adjutant General Tom Katkus, Sen. Joe Thomas, former Governor Bill Sheffield, Rep. Steve Thompson, U.S. Congressman Don Young, Rep. Eric Feige, U.S. Sen. Lisa Murkowski, Sen. John Coghill, ARRC Board Chair Linda Leary, ARRC President/CEO Chris Aadnesen, ARRC Board member John Binkley, Fairbanks Mayor Jerry Cleworth, Fairbanks North Star Borough Mayor Luke Hopkins, ARRC Board member Jon Cook, Sen. Joe Paskvan, Commerce Commissioner Susan Bell, North Pole Mayor Doug Isaacson, former Governor and U.S. Sen. Frank Murkowski, and ARRC Board member Jack Burton.

TRAIN CREW TAKES FAIRBANKS BOY UNDER WING

Train conductors and engineers foster enthusiasm of special young rail fan in Fairbanks

In celebrating four decades of service with the Alaska Railroad, Conductor Steve Culver has become a master at recognizing those extra measures that delight rail customers...an onboard display of his Alaskana collection, stories that bring passing scenes to life, train stops to relish an animal sighting or learn about fascinating plants. Locals along the route also appreciate Culver's thoughtful gestures, like delivering newsletters to remote cabin dwellers. His service savvy is infectious, inspiring many train crew colleagues to engage more.



Conductor Steve Culver and protegee Eric Hume.

One example of train crew engagement comes by way of a young Fairbanks boy who captured the hearts of railroad conductors and engineers. Crew members have fostered the enthusiasm of Eric Hume, a mildly autistic boy who took a serious shine to trains last winter. Dressed in a conductor hat (a gift from Culver) and dark three-piece suit to replicate the conductor uniform, Hume arrives at the Fairbanks Depot almost every Sunday during the winter to help the train crew send off passengers traveling from Fairbanks to Anchorage.

The weekly trip to the depot is a wintertime diversion when the pace is typically slower for train crews who tend to smaller passenger loads. During the less hectic winter schedule,

Culver had time to explain the responsibilities of a conductor, and even occasionally allow Eric to assist in welcoming passengers aboard the train. Other crew members soon caught on and contributed in their own way. For example, if Culver is not on duty, Harry Ross and Marty Wetherell and other

conductors may allow Eric to greet passengers as they board.

Engaging with train crew has boosted Eric's confidence and social development, said his mother Hettie Hume. "It's changed his world. He's come so far. He used to be so nervous talking in front of groups; now he's comfortable talking to many passengers."

Culver certainly has a knack for recognizing this kind of win-win-win situation. While the Hume family deeply appreciates Eric's opportunity to engage, train crew members benefit from a thoughtful community connection. Moreover, passengers are delighted with the impeccably dressed mini-conductor who offers astute safety guidance with all the seriousness an 11-year-old boy can muster. ●

Contact Corrections

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