



COMMUNITY

**Alaska Railroad Corporation
2nd Quarter 2013**



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ARRC CONDUCTS RAIL SAFETY CAMPAIGN

Operation Lifesaver grant expands public awareness efforts in July

The Alaska Railroad (ARRC) is conducting a \$26,000 public awareness effort dubbed “Track Wise: Summer Rail Safety Campaign” to promote safety around railroad tracks and crossings May through August, when more people are outdoors and train activity increases. While infrequent, fatal accidents involving pedestrians, recreational vehicles and automobiles have occurred along the Alaska Railroad tracks in recent years. Nationally, according to the Federal Railroad Administration, 1,960 highway-rail crossing collisions and 442 pedestrian rail trespass fatalities occurred in 2012.

To promote public safety, the railroad invested more than \$9,000 (cash and in-kind) in May to initiate a new summer public education campaign including several activities:

- Children’s rail safety art contest, which concluded July 5
- Rail-bike safety flyers distributed to bike shops, clubs and bike-to-work event participants
- Public service announcements (PSA) at Mat-Su Miner baseball home games
- 8-slide PSA shown on Department of Motor Vehicles lobby monitors in locations statewide
- Rail safety table and giveaways at three of the Governor’s public picnics in mid-July
- Request Governor Parnell proclaim July 21-27, 2013, as *Alaska Rail Safety Awareness Week*

ARRC leveraged its local contribution to earn a national Operation Lifesaver (OL) grant awarded in late June. OL is a national/international organization that promotes public rail safety (for more information, visit www.oli.org). Nearly \$17,000 in grant money allowed the railroad to broaden the campaign. The messages “Always Expect a Train” and “Stay Off! Stay Away! Stay Alive!” are prominent in the expanded campaign elements being executed in July and August. These include:

(see “Summer Rail Safety Campaign” on page 4)



Each side of Alaska Railroad SD70MAC locomotive 4319 sports a large decal with a rail safety message.



Visit our web site at
www.AlaskaRailroad.com

Take advantage of exclusive Alaska Resident discounts on great rail travel trips and vacation packages. Save 20% off regular prices just for being an Alaskan!

The summer daily passenger rail schedule operates through mid-September. Check out daily service between Anchorage, Seward, Whittier, Talkeetna, Denali, Fairbanks and points in between.



2013 summer rail safety campaign newspaper ad.

HURRICANE BRIDGE PREPPED FOR LONG SERVICE

Heavy equipment and crews on site for preventive maintenance on iconic bridge

The Hurricane Bridge is an iconic actor in the cast of crossings along the Alaska Railroad route. Erected in 1921 at railroad milepost 284.2 (about 60 miles north of Talkeetna), it is a masterpiece of engineering that moved the Alaska Railroad's original construction closer to its conclusion in 1923.

As an international leader in bridge design at the time, the American Bridge Company designed and



Hurricane Bridge. (Photo by David Blazejewski)

fabricated the 914-foot steel structure to cross the gulch that plunges 296 feet to Hurricane Creek below. The bridge consists of the striking 384-foot arch truss, two 120-foot deck trusses, four 50-60 foot deck girders and two 30-foot tower girders resting on eight piers and two concrete abutments.

A pier on the east side of the bridge is the focus of preventive maintenance this year after a recent routine inspection revealed the pier had shifted and rotated slightly. Visitors to the area may notice heavy equipment and construction workers on site. They are reinforcing the pier's pedestals and concrete footings by adding concrete and anchoring into the slope with steel rods.

Construction will be complete by this winter. In the meantime, the bridge remains safe for current train operations. While preventive in nature, the work will also prepare Hurricane Bridge to accommodate the load demands of a more modern, yet larger and heavier, fleet of locomotives and trains. This year's investment will ensure Hurricane Bridge continues as a mainstay crossing for decades to come. ●

ARR MARKS 90TH CONSTRUCTION ANNIVERSARY

Ninety years ago, President Warren G. Harding traveled to Nenana on July 15 to drive a golden spike to signal completion of the newly-constructed Alaska Railroad. To help celebrate the 90th anniversary of its completion, the Alaska Railroad distributed commemorative certificates to all Alaska Railroad passengers traveling on July 15, 2013, and has organized special activities on passenger trains travelling through Nenana. In addition, a special commemorative logo was created (*shown above*) and is included on celebratory materials.

ARRC will continue to recognize this important milestone with other events throughout the year. For example, a special First Friday art event is



planned for August 2 at several Ship Creek area establishments in Anchorage that will showcase Alaska Railroad annual prints. For more information, contact External Affairs Manager Tim Sullivan at (907) 265-2357. ●



President Harding drives the golden spike in Nenana in 1923.

RAILROAD PERFORMS GREEN STAR DATA UPDATE

Update shows progress on energy conservation and waste reduction

As part of its long-standing membership and support of Green Star Inc., the Alaska Railroad recently updated data that tracks energy use, emission control factors, material re-use and waste streams. The update reveals continued progress in the areas of energy conservation, recycling and waste reduction, as well as community support for projects and activities that promote environmental stewardship.

The railroad last updated Green Star data in 2011, when it was honored with a *Green Star premier Super Nova Award*. Current findings include these notable highlights:



- **Natural Gas Conservation:** Although ARRC gained 96,000 square feet of Anchorage facility space between 2006 and 2013, natural gas consumption declined by more than 500,000 cubic feet (saving half a million dollars!) annually, thanks in large part to boiler plant upgrades and energy leak repairs.
- **Water and Hazmat Conservation:** A new water feed pump installed on the Anchorage boiler system dramatically reduced the facility's water utility bill from \$56,000 to \$7,500 and cut water treatment chemicals by two-thirds (12 to 4 barrels).
- **Locomotive Fuel Conservation:** ARRC saved at least \$100,000 in diesel fuel by eliminating idling for locomotives stored inside in winter.
- **Support Transportation Alternatives:** ARRC donated in-kind tickets and provided safety tips in support of summer bike-to-work efforts for four years. ARRC is also coordinating railroad land use in support of a new future Chena River trail in Fairbanks and 2013 Coastal Trail improvements in Anchorage.
- **Vehicle Fuel Conservation:** Fleet management continues to improve vehicle efficiency. GPS units are installed in 95% of all vehicles allowing idle time tracking that should lead to improvements. During 2012-2013, ARRC will have reduced fleets by 36 vehicles and 23 pieces of heavy equipment that were under-used or inefficient. ●

STEAM ENGINE 557 UPDATE

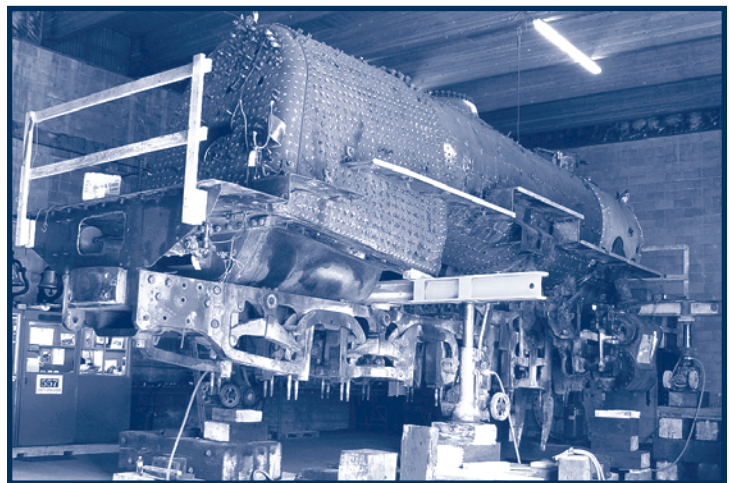
Restoration reaches milestone with dismantling complete

The project to restore historic steam Engine 557 reached a milestone in June as volunteers completed the dismantle. The now exposed boiler is being examined to determine next steps in repair to ensure it can deliver sufficient power when the restored locomotive returns to service along the Alaska Railroad, potentially in 2015.

The non-profit Engine 557 Restoration Co. has raised about \$250,000 in cash, goods and services that can be matched by a \$350,000 grant from the Rasmuson Foundation. To date, volunteers have donated more than 4,500 hours. Restoration cost is estimated to total about \$1.4 million in cash, goods, services and volunteer labor. Donations of \$25-plus may be sent to:

Alaska Community Foundation, 557 Fund
3201 C Street, Ste 110, Anchorage, AK 99503 ●

Right: A new exterior sign identifies work in progress at the facility in Wasilla.



Steam Engine 557 is stripped down to its boiler to facilitate repair. (Photo by Jeff DeBroeck)



Alaska Railroad Corporation
P.O. Box 107500
Anchorage, AK 99510-7500



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| <input type="checkbox"/> Receiving more than one copy | <input type="checkbox"/> Address wrong |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Contact person changed | <input type="checkbox"/> Name Misspelled |
- Yes, I want *Community Ties* sent to me by email to the email address below:

SUMMER RAIL SAFETY CAMPAIGN ...

(continued from page 1)

- Radio public service announcements (PSA) broadcast on stations in southcentral Alaska
- PSA ad published in Friday editions of the Mat-Su Valley *Frontiersman* newspaper
- Signs made and posted at entrances and key places along trails that are close to the tracks
- Safety message decals have been affixed to both sides of two locomotives
- Signs on 11 Anchorage *People Mover* busses for four weeks July-August and on a Mat-Su Valley *Mover* bus for one week in August

ARRC competed with railroads across the nation for limited OL grant dollars. “We are grateful for the opportunity to boost our public safety messages. Our goal is to use proactive reminders to keep residents and visitors ‘Track Wise’ and safe,” said OL Alaska State Coordinator Dwight West. ●



An Anchorage public bus sports a rail safety message sign. (Photos by Dwight West, Alaska Railroad)