



COMMUNITY

Alaska Railroad Corporation
3rd Quarter 2015



www.AlaskaRailroad.com • (907) 265-2300

Visit our web site at
AlaskaRailroad.com

Anchorage-to-Fairbanks weekend passenger service operates mid-September to mid-May. Visit our web site for information on this regularly scheduled service, along with several special charter trains.

WINTER SERVICES HAVE MORE IN STORE

Holiday Train adds a day; Aurora Trains add mid-week service

There's much more in store during the Alaska Railroad's (ARRC) winter passenger season, with expanded train service, plus sweet prizes for sharing great photos.

More Holiday Trains. On November 17, 2014, a Wasilla resident posted a Facebook lament, "My family is so sad that the *Holiday Trains* are already sold out! Any chance you will be adding any cars or additional schedules?" The answer is YES for 2015! The railroad will add a third Saturday – December 19 – to the *Holiday Train* schedule, which includes two daily departures at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. The highly popular *Holiday Train* runs round-trip from Anchorage to Indian and features caroling, coloring, contests, prizes, Santa and his elven entourage, and more.



Good fun is in store on the *Holiday Train* which will operate two round-trips on three December Saturdays.

(Photo by Glen Aronwits)

More Mid-Week Trains. Anchorage-Fairbanks weekend winter passenger service will again expand with popular mid-week round-trips during and around Spring Break 2016. In 2014, the railroad offered two mid-week round-trips. Service in 2015 grew to four mid-week round-trips; and in early spring 2016, six mid-week round-trips will operate, from the last week in February through all five weeks in March. During this time, the *Aurora Winter Train* will travel north on Saturday and Tuesday, and return south on Sunday and Wednesday.

Fabulous Photo Contest. Calling all photography buffs and railfans: The railroad is conducting a "Catch the Train" photo contest for folks who submit their best photos of the railroad – on or off the train – by the **December 13 deadline**. Folks can upload and enter photos through Facebook, Instagram or Twitter (hashtag #catchthetrainak).



The *Aurora Winter Train* operates on weekends, except in late February and March, when mid-week round-trips are added to the schedule.

(Photo by Dave Blazewski)

The railroad will select 18 first-prize winners by December 21, 2015. Each winner gets a set of railroad tickets and their photo featured in an 18-month Alaska Railroad calendar. From among the first place entries, a grand prize winner will be chosen by public vote on Facebook. The grand prize winner gets a total of four (4) railroad tickets, his/her winning photo featured on the calendar cover, and \$1,500 cash. Voting will occur between December 22, 2015 and January 10, 2016.

There is no fee to enter. Details are available at www.AlaskaRailroad.com > Travel > search "Catch the Train Photo Contest." ●

SEWARD MASTER PLAN PROJECT GETS UNDERWAY

Railport Seward: Reimagining Travel and Trade

Pursuit of a *Master Plan* for railroad assets in Seward got underway in August, funded by a \$2.5 million Maritime Administration-managed grant and a \$500,000 match from the Alaska Railroad. Known as ***Railport Seward: Reimagining Travel and Trade***, the project lead contractor is PND Engineers. Sub-contractors include E3 Environmental, Hanson, Dowl, Bettisworth North and Cardno.



**Christina
Hendrickson**

A workshop in mid-December will wrap up the visioning step.

In 2016, the team will pursue three studies:

1. *Passenger Traffic Study*
2. *Freight Traffic Study*
3. *Transportation Connectivity Study*

The first step is collaborative visioning, which involves focus groups in Seward to help develop a project logo, followed by stakeholder meetings during the last quarter of 2015. Visioning activities aim to:

1. educate stakeholders about the planning process and how / when they can provide input;
2. determine issues of concern, and project benefits and challenges; and
3. to identify key points of contact in the community and within subject expert organizations.

Research results will help the project team evaluate alternatives based on cost, social and economic factors. The end product will be a *Master Plan* that includes dock design concepts, and a prioritized approach to reimagining the uses and attributes of all railroad assets in Seward.

According to Project Manager Christine Hendrickson, the goal is to complete the project by the end of 2016. Once in place, a *Master Plan* sets the stage to pursue the next phases of engineering, final design and construction, and associated funding sources. ●



Secured freight dock uplands may warrant expansion.



The passenger dock includes an intermodal terminal. Planning will recommend dock design concepts. (photo by Judy Patrick)



A coal train prepares to unload in the yard. Operating land uses and associated track structures will be evaluated.



A ship loads at the coal-loading dock, which will be evaluated for use in handling other commodities. (photo by Chris Ahrend)

RAILROAD RELEASES 2016 PRINT

Artwork features Aurora Borealis for first time

The Alaska Railroad releases its 2016 annual art print at three public sale-and-signing events featuring Anchorage artist Jason Vukovich.

- **HOUSTON: Sat., Nov. 14**
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Houston High School Library
12501 Hawk Owl Circle
- **ANCHORAGE: Sat., Nov. 21**
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Anchorage Historic Depot
411 West 1st Avenue
- **FAIRBANKS: Fri., Dec. 4**
4 to 7:30 p.m. (First Friday)
Fairbanks Railroad Depot
1745 Johansen Expressway

Entitled *Lights Above Houston*, the original watercolor painting depicts a locomotive moving into a winter landscape. For the 2016 print contest, the Railroad asked artists to submit ideas featuring Houston, which marks its 50th anniversary having incorporated as a city in 1966. Houston also sits at the juncture of the existing main railroad track and a current project to extend a rail spur to Port MacKenzie.



The 2016 ARRC art print is the first to feature Northern Lights.

“In addition to showing the Houston area on a clear winter night and the spectacular aurora borealis, I wanted to showcase two of the very best ways to see Alaska – mushing a dogsled and riding the Alaska Railroad,” said Vukovich.

Signed and numbered prints cost \$55, posters cost \$30 and pins cost \$5. During the Anchorage and Fairbanks sale/signing events, depot gift shops will be open to offer other items featuring the 2016 artwork (mugs, coasters, ornaments, etc.) along with other ARRC gifts and apparel. After the events, prints, posters and pins will be sold at depots and online at www.AlaskaRailroadGiftShop.com. Samples of gift shop items will be available at the Houston event.

More information about the Alaska Railroad’s annual art print program, including history and images of prints from the recent past, are available on the Alaska Railroad web site – www.AlaskaRailroad.com/Corporate > COMMUNITY > Annual Print Contest. ●



Jason Vukovich

For more information, follow Jason Vukovich Art on Facebook or Etsy.

LINDAMOOD LEADS AREMA



Brian Lindamood

ARRC Project Management Director Brian Lindamood took the helm of the American Railway Engineering and Maintenance-of-Way Assn. (AREMA) Board of Governors during AREMA’s annual conference in Minneapolis October 4-7, 2015. Lindamood will serve as AREMA President for the 2015-2016 term. AREMA’s mission is to develop and advance technical and practical knowledge and to recommend practices pertaining to the design, construction and maintenance of railway infrastructure.

In October 2014, Lindamood was named Senior VP of the AREMA Board of Governors and Chair of the AREMA Functional Group Board of Directors who focus on Engineering Services, Track, Maintenance, Communications & Signals, Structures, and Passenger & Transit. Previously, Lindamood served on AREMA’s Functional Group Board of Directors as VP of Engineering Services from 2011-2013. Lindamood has worked for ARRC 9 years. ●



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Contact Corrections

- Please correct the following errors in your newsletter emailing list:
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|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Receiving more than one copy | <input type="checkbox"/> Email Address wrong |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Contact person changed | <input type="checkbox"/> Name Misspelled |

RAILROAD REAL ESTATE, LEASE CONTACTS CHANGE

Andy Donovan directs department; Jill Hall oversees railroad land leases

Businesses interested in leasing railroad land will notice a few personnel changes in the Alaska Railroad's Real Estate Department. When 47-year railroad veteran Karen Morrissey retired earlier this year, Leasing Manager Andy Donovan was promoted to fill the Real Estate Director post.

Donovan joined the railroad in 2002 as the Leasing Manager. He had arrived in Alaska in 1993 and earned a bachelor's degree in Finance from the University of Alaska Anchorage. Cook Inlet Region Inc. hired Donovan as a real estate officer for out-of-state properties, and three years later, he went to work for the Alaska Permanent Fund as its real estate investment officer.

The railroad gained commensurate commercial real estate experience when Jill Hall was hired



Andrew Donovan

in September to fill the Leasing Manager position. A licensed real estate salesperson, Hall has 20 years of real estate experience, including commercial leasing, sales and property management. She was involved with more than 200 commercial real estate transactions at Jack White Commercial, a large commercial brokerage in Alaska. Previously, Hall was the Operations Manager for Prudential Jack White/Vista Real Estate.



Jill Hall

Born and raised in Illinois, Hall earned a bachelor's degree in Political Science from the University of Oklahoma. The military brought Hall to Alaska in 1994, when the Air Force transferred her husband to Elmendorf Air Force Base.

Donovan can be reached at 265-2617. Hall can be reached at 265-2325. ●