

February 2014

E-Tracks

Annual Meeting & Election of Directors

The Annual Meeting of Members will be held on March 10, 2014 at 7:00 pm. At the meeting, members will elect three people to the Board of Directors. All members will receive a ballot by mail.

Additional meeting information including the agenda and election ballots will go in the mail the first week of February.

North Pole Express Success

Over the course of the 12 nights of the North Pole Express, we had over 9,200 riders. By adding a second train every night and sticking to a strict schedule, we increased ridership and decreased the crowd at the North Pole. Guests got an opportunity to visit each activity at the North Pole, and, like always, every child got to visit with Santa.

We even had an emergency generator change on the ACL 250 in the middle of the night, and would like to give special recognition to the Willow crew for pushing to get it fixed so quickly (under 2 hours!).

Overall, the North Pole Express was a huge success. Thank you to all our volunteers and vendors, who helped make the event fun and special for everyone.



What has Been Happening at the Rail Yard in Willow?

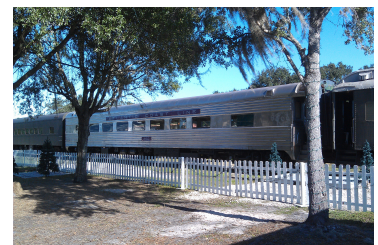
Changes have been happening quickly in Willow. Work on the new ACL 250 Lounge car and the SCL Caboose have been completed, as well as the additional projects for our special events, all while the usual day to day activities and track work are still being accomplished.

The ACL 250

The ACL 250 lounge car restoration was finished just in time for the North Pole Express, and it has had quite the overhaul since it arrived in Willow back in July. Our crew pushed to get the car completed in time for the North Pole Express, and they stayed right on track.

The 250 received:

- All new exterior glass
- A generator mounted
- AC serviced
- Seating and tables installed
- Wallpaper removed, revealing the original 50's teal formic walls and the unique prints in the restrooms
- Interior deep cleaned
- Concession area equipped with 50's style *Coca Cola* cooler



"When the wallpaper was removed, we were ecstatic to find the original walls in excellent condition... We decided to letter the car as the factory did: in purple and silver." Glenn Miley and Chris Maness

The SCL 01188 Caboose

Like the ACL 250, our new SCL Caboose was finished in time for the North Pole Express.

It has undergone a major restoration:

- Interior cleaned and seating repaired
- New speakers installed
- All original wiring fixed
- Extra seating added to the copula
- All the old fogged windows replaced with new glass
- Body sanded and painted
- A Du Point paint top coat of Family Lines gray, yellow, and red: the caboose's original colors
- Hand painted lettering
- Complete brake system service



Special Thanks

Thanks to all of our volunteers and staff who helped over 2013. Our museum would not run without you, and everything you do is greatly appreciated.

Thank you to William Pou for 13 years of volunteer service at the museum as our Conductor and Merchandise Manager. We will all miss you and wish you the best of luck with your new job as Conductor with Amtrak.

Thank you to Mike Warren for 20 years of volunteer service at the museum as our Road Foremen of Engines. We will all miss you and wish you the best of luck in Albuquerque!

Thank you to TMI Hydraulics of Tampa for substantial donations of track equipment.



**PRESERVING
FLORIDA'S
RAILROAD
HISTORY**

Volunteer Opportunities



Lots of new and exciting things are happening at the museum. We are always looking for volunteers for a variety of different duties:

- Train operations
- Track maintenance
- Train maintenance and restoration
- Special events

And remember, it is not just men on the railroad! We encourage women to come out and volunteer as well!

If you are interested in volunteering, give us a call at (941) 776-0906 or visit our [website](#) for information.

Best of 2013...



Checking papers on board
the Von Kessinger's Express



Beating Mom at the sack
races during Pumpkin Patch



Robbing the train up with
the Hole in the Head Gang



Comin round the corner!



Volunteering fun with
Engineer Peter Mason



Hay ride excitement at
Pumpkin Patch

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