



Rail Tales

Winter 2009/2010



NEW MEMBERS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME! If interested in joining All Aboard Westcliffe, call Doris Porth at 719-783-2217.



Visit the All Aboard Westcliffe website:

www.allboardwestcliffe.org

We want to offer MANY THANKS to all who supported AAW by contributing to the Wet Mountain Valley Community Foundation on behalf of the railroad organization. It was a very successful event raising a total of \$3,315.41. Although the match was down to 33 cents to the dollar of contributions, (49 cents last year) the improvement was significant over the total of \$2,434.74 from 2008. We had a 45% increase of individual contributors this year.

Valentine's Day Dinner & Movie

Mark your calendars and plan to attend the Dinner & Movie hosted by All Aboard Westcliffe. The date will be Saturday, February 13, 2010 with dinner from 5:30-7 p.m. The cost is \$10 which covers the meal. The menu consists of two different soups, breads, salad and a dessert. The movie "Comes a Horseman" will begin at 7 p.m. and runs until about 8:30 p.m. "Comes A Horseman" is a western that was actually filmed in Custer County. The movie and popcorn are FREE! A beverage will be available to purchase for \$1.

Christmas Party

The December AAW meeting/Christmas Party was held on Dec. 17th and attended by about 24 members and guests.

An excellent meal of beef brisket, roasted turkey and lots of trimmings was served. The beef brisket meal was catered by Charlotte Berry along with a wonderfully chocolatey-chocolate cake with chocolate roses! The absolutely moistest roasted turkey ever was prepared and donated by Don Kaufman!!

Doris Porth's creativity lent a humorous surprise for the evening. All in attendance were treated to a Christmas gift (supporting the "shop locally" theme).



Westcliffe Model Rail Road Club

by Tim Thrun

The railroad continues! It took a crew of over 100 men one year to build the Texas Creek to Westcliffe spur. If you do the math, that's 100 men x 8 hours per day x 6 days per week x 50 weeks (actually in 1901, they put in 10 hr. days and probably didn't get a two week vacation, BUT...) equals 240,000 hours divided by HO model scale 1:87 equals 2758.62 hours. At a conservative estimate of approximately 190 man hours per year (09 figures) spent on the construction of our 1920-

1930 Westcliffe /Texas Creek Branch model (we started in March of 2005) that comes to approximately 950 hours spent so far or about 1/3 completed... THAT'S PRETTY MUCH ON SCHEDULE...The railroad continues!

The Depot

All Aboard Westcliffe members are discussing the possibility of purchasing The Depot (the old Depot station-now a private residence owned by Mr. Stermer). A committee was formed from the members to work on options available.

Several meetings have been held and after visits with Mr. Stermer, some work has been done to The Depot as requested by the Historical Society. This exploratory work was necessary to be eligible to apply for historical designation which is needed to pursue applying for a grant for purchasing and remodeling of the building.

An encouraging meeting was recently held with members of the Historical Society to assess the progress and help with any further recommendations toward applying for and receiving historical designation.

The Depot committee members will be meeting soon to discuss further options. Look for the story to continue!

Start your spring & summer cleaning early. Items for the **AAW Yard Sales** are always needed. Your donations are gratefully accepted!!

Memorial Day Fundraisers

Mark your calendars...May 29 and 30 for the AAW Memorial Day events. The Annual Yard Sale will be held both days, May 29-30 beginning at 9:00 a.m. The Pancake Breakfast will be held on May 29 beginning around 7:30 a.m. Pancakes, sausage, juice and coffee are on the menu. The cost is \$7.00. Start your Memorial Day holiday with breakfast with All Aboard Westcliffe on Main Street by the Caboose. Then stop by at the Interpretive Center, one block south of the caboose for the yard sale.

Independence Day and Labor Day Holiday Fundraisers

Mark your calendars with July 3 and September 4-5 for additional Pancake Breakfasts and lunches served by the All Aboard Westcliffe membership. The yard sale will continue for the July 4 holiday.

AAW Meetings

The All Aboard Westcliffe meetings have moved to the third Thursday of each month to better accommodate members. Please mark your calendars with the new dates and attend the meetings. All meetings begin at 7:00 p.m.

Future Train Excursion

Plans have begun to select the next Train Excursion with AAW. The Pikes Peak Cog Railway is being discussed. More information will be available soon. Watch for more news! If you are interested in going along, please let Doris and Mel Porth know so that contacts can be made with the final details.

Has anyone looked at the old caboose on the East Tracks at the Interpretive Center lately? As reported last year, they have been moved into position for restoration work to begin. Since then, two of the six main support beams under caboose #1 have been replaced (the two outboard ones) with huge one piece beams cut from single logs by the Ken Goertz family and their sawmill. The old roofing material has been stripped away and replaced with new rolled roofing material and waterproof underliner. Olden day authentic "Arch-bar" spring type trucks (wheels) have been located and purchased from a historic railroad line in Louisiana. Transportation arrangements have been made. Look for their arrival at AAW soon!

Keep watching for more exciting events and activities sponsored by the train-loving engineers, conductors and crew of All Aboard Westcliffe.