



Rail Tales

Summer 2009



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



Museum for the Custer County 3rd graders on Thursday following the Grand Opening. A fun time was had for all 33 students, 2 teachers and a mom and young daughter accompanying the group.

If anyone would like their own special group tour, give Mel a call at 783-2217.

AAW Interpretive Center

Visit the All Aboard Westcliffe website:

www.allboardwestcliffe.org



Railroad Museum Grand Opening



The grand opening for the Railroad Museum on May 2-3, 2009 was a great success! Over 60 visitors made the rounds through the museum and Interpretive Center.

A very special thank you to all the AAW members for donating their time to help with this special event!!

Mel gave a special tour through the

Do you want to have a party and don't know where to have it? Do you need a full kitchen facility? Do you need to provide a location for a business meeting? We have the solution!

The AAW Interpretive Center is available for all types of functions. The rental fee is \$15/hour with a minimum of 3 hours. After the three hours, the rate drops to \$10/hr. The capacity is about 125-150 people. If a dinner is planned, there are enough tables, chairs and space for approximately 80-85 guests.

Call Doris Porth to reserve the AAW Interpretive Center or for more information.

Model Rail Road Club... "HELP WANTED" by Tim Thrun

Anyone with Paper Mache' experience or related skills should apply at the Basement of the

AAW Interpretive Center any Tuesday evening at 7:00 p.m. The Texas Lariat Loop framework is up and needs covering.

The Westcliffe Model RR Club is an equal opportunity employer and complies with all government and social regulations concerning wage and hiring practices.

The Saga of Moving a Caboose continues...

The earlier exploits of the Keystone Cops type members of a "move the caboose" team are recorded in the January 2009 issue of the Rail Tales. This episode closes the book on the antics involved in placing an ancient wooden caboose, elevated on railroad tie cribbing so that repair work can be done underneath prior to lowering it onto a set of trucks (wheels).

Actually, the job was quite simple. That is, after bringing in the proper equipment and professional operators who know what they are doing. Numerous phone calls were placed for the purpose of determining which crane company should do the job and when the job could be scheduled. Terry's Crane Service of Salida was selected. An employee came to Westcliffe to view the task before any heavy equipment was dispatched. Then further calls established the date of April 21st at 11:00 a.m. for the work day.

The local newspaper, all members of AAW and other interested people were notified to be on hand, camera ready. On the appointed day, Mel was driving to work at 7:30 a.m. and just happened to notice a crane derrick towering over surrounding houses and realized the crew was already at work. He whipped around the corner, driving rather hurriedly to the AAW parking lot. Fortunately, Doris had reminded him to take the camera on leaving the house. The crane and all the lifting gear were already in place, so on exiting the El Camino, the first picture snapped was of the caboose just lifting off the ground. A hurried phone call home asked Doris to alert everyone interested in the advanced timing of the works. Ironically, the only spectator at this hour was Brad Baltzy, the first person contacted to attempt this moving

epoch (in January 2009 issue). Also being an early go to work type, he too saw the crane derrick above the normal surrounding view and followed it to the scene. Mel was able to snap a few more pictures before it was all over. Sally Gilchrist also happened to show up during the move, along with her dog and camera (always ready to snap a few photos). The photos shown are from Sally's camera. THANK YOU!!! By 8:15 a.m. everything was loaded up and the crane was pulling out of the property headed for Salida.

Oh, by the way, the crane operator recorded the weight of the caboose at 14,000 lbs. Seven tons is slightly different from Mel's original guess of 3 tons. So much for amateurs on the job.



Another huge THANK YOU to Sally Gilchrist for the photos!!

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 22 and 23 for the AAW Memorial Day events. The Annual Yard Sale will be held both days, May 22-23 beginning at 9:00 a.m.. The Pancake Breakfast will be held on May 23 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 the Lettuce Shed (behind 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 4 and September 5-6 for additional Pancake Breakfasts served by All Aboard Westcliffe members. The yard sale will continue for the July 4 holiday.

Bingo is Back!

Mark your calendars with the Wednesday of every month beginning with June 3 through September 16. Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. with the Old Fashioned Bingo games beginning at 7:00 p.m. Cost is \$10 per card. Each card will be good for 10 games.

CASH PRIZES! BAKED GOODS! FUN TIMES! Come to the AAW Interpretive Center located at 110 Rosita Avenue for a good time.

Interpretive Center Summer Hours

The Interpretive Center summer open days and hours are: Friday 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Sunday 12:00 to 4:00 p.m. and Monday 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The IC will open starting Memorial Day weekend and will maintain this schedule through June, July, August and September.

Movie Night...Emperor of the North

The AAW meeting for June 18 will instead be a movie night hosted by AAW for members and the Custer County community. Come to the Interpretive Center for the FREE MOVIE, FREE POPCORN at 7:00 p.m. Pop will be sold for \$1.

Emperor of the North stars Lee Marvin, Ernest Borgnine and Keith Carradine. The movie lasts about 90 minutes. It is set on the Pacific Northwest railways at the height of the Great Depression. The movie pits a crafty, train-hopping drifter called A-No. 1 (Marvin) against Shack (Borgnine), the cruel, bum-intolerant conductor of Engine 19. "It is a breath-holding, fast-paced ride from start to finish!" – *Cue Magazine*

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.

AAW Membership Dues

Several members have not renewed their membership by paying their annual dues. Please contact Doris Porth to remedy this situation.

Future Train Excursion

Plans have begun to select the next Train Excursion with AAW. 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.

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