



COMMUNITY



Alaska Railroad Corporation
3rd Quarter, 2002

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INTERIOR FIRE DEPT. GETS TANK CAR

Donation helps to drop property owner insurance costs



The Alaska Railroad trucks a donated tank car to Fairbanks for "burial."

In a time of sky-rocketing insurance costs, to realize a drop in premiums seems incredible! Yet that's what the Alaska Railroad's donation of a TILX fuel tank car will help to do for home and business owners in an area north of downtown Fairbanks.

According to Chena Goldstream Fire & Rescue (CGFR) Chief Eric

Mohrmann, transforming the tank car into a water-holding tank for the fire station has lowered the fire risk status of nearby structures. Thus, homeowners will realize insurance premium savings of about \$220 per year, and businesses will realize savings as much as \$1,500 per year.

The railroad donated the tank car to the fire department in July. Crews soon outfitted the tank with pumps and pipe, effectively turning it into a water outlet for fire trucks. Availability of water at this new location eliminates the need for trucks to drive to hydrants in downtown Fairbanks in order to refill. This saves about 40 minutes during fire responses to the Chena Goldstream area.

Depending on the size of fire truck in use, the TILX tank holds enough water to fill from seven to 10 truckloads. Three other tank cars donated by the railroad 15 years ago also serve as holding tanks for CGFR. ●

Alaska Railroad
Ongoing Projects:

Anchorage Airport Rail Station

Fairbanks Intermodal Facility

Fairbanks/North Pole Rail
Relocation Study

Whittier Equipment
Maintenance Facility

Anchorage-to-Wasilla
Track Realignment

Anchorage Rail Capacity Study

Denali Depot Improvements

Anchorage Yard Expansion

Ship Creek Improvements

Improved Sidings & Signals

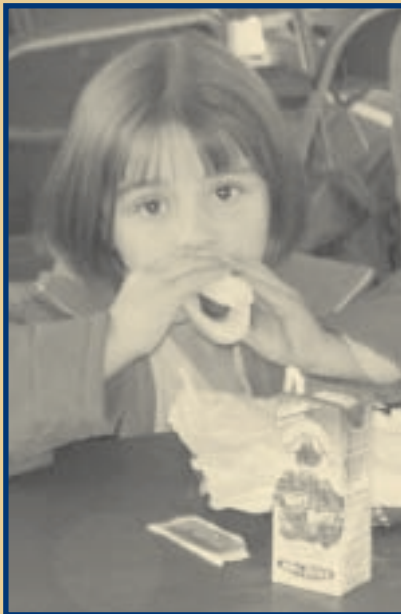
Avalanche Program

South Anchorage Double Track

For updates or comments on
these projects, visit the
Alaska Railroad web site at
www.AlaskaRailroad.com

DISHING OUT THE DOGS

Railroad marks over 10 years as school partner



At the end of August, the Alaska Railroad marked over a decade of dishing out hotdogs, fixings and helium-filled balloon for families attending the annual Government Hill Back-to-School picnic. This is just one of many ways the railroad supports the school through a long-standing partnership.

ARR CONSTRUCTION IN WHITTIER

Three projects enhance safety and services

Resident safety and railroad customer services are getting a boost with the advent of three significant capital projects in Whittier.

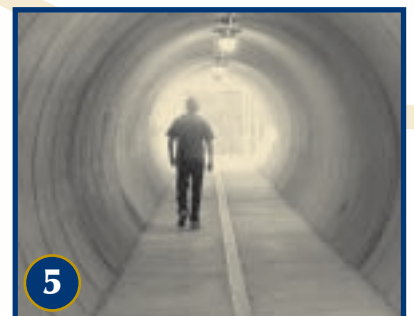
Opening July 1, a new pedestrian underpass traversing the rail yard provides safe passage for people walking between the harbor and townsite. Funded 80% by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), the \$2.285 million project includes a 330-foot-long, 10-foot-diameter corrugated pipe enclosing a lighted concrete pathway, and covered asphalt pathways leading to each entrance.

The railroad's barge dock is outfitted with new unloading features as part of a \$2.1 million Alaska Railroad-funded effort. Initiated this spring, completion is expected by early fall. The project includes construction of two 34-by-60-foot elevated platforms to accommodate more efficient unloading from the side. The structures connect the dock and a parallel roadway, and facilitate pass-pass unloading, whereby forklifts on the barge can pass containers to forklifts operating on the platforms.

Construction of a new equipment maintenance facility is just underway with ground breaking late summer. The \$2.225 million project funded 80% by FTA features a 4,793-square-foot steel building that will be used to store and maintain heavy equipment, such as graders and dozers. When completed next spring, the railroad will be able to finish demolishing the old transit shed, currently used to store equipment. Two-thirds of the transit shed was previously torn down and carted away to address safety concerns.

Another aging facility — the marginal wharf — was closed this summer, as it also posed safety problems. The railroad is outfitting nearby DeLong Dock with water and electricity to serve as an alternative base of operations. ●

1 A truck unloads the barge to the front of the dock. **2** Construction of new side platforms will facilitate efficient side unloading. **3** Distinctive signs mark tunnel entrances. **4** Covered pathways lead to both tunnel entrances. **5** The tunnel is lighted from end to end.



500 MILES OF MEETING SPACE

Rail charters offer unconventional experience

With over 500 miles of meeting space, the Alaska Railroad offers the ultimate way to arrange a meeting, entertain clients or throw a party. The railroad's big-window passenger coaches and full-service dining cars can turn an ordinary gathering into something memorable and productive.

To give folks a taste of the special charter experience, several events have been scheduled, which are open to the public. This includes a new *Great Alaska Beer Train* venture with the Glacier Brewery in early October, the traditional *Holiday Train* running roundtrip from Anchorage to Seward on December 7, and the annual *Easter Train* running between Anchorage and Portage. To make reservations, call the Alaska Railroad at (907) 265-2494 or 1-800-544-0552.

Businesses, conventions and other organizations have the same opportunity for getting down to business in a relaxing atmosphere. The Alaska Railroad Charter Tour packages allow planners to reserve just what they need, whether it's a single car or the entire train, catered dining or brown bag, family-oriented or adults only.

A new brochure outlines all the railroad has to offer. For a copy, or for more information, call Passenger Services Account Executive Jeff Johnson at 265-2447. ●



CROSSINGS: KEEP IT SAFE

- Every two hours, around the country, a collision occurs between a train and vehicle or a train and a pedestrian.
- Motorists are 40 times more likely to die in a collision with a train than in a collision involving another motor vehicle.
- At 55 mph, it takes a family vehicle about 200 feet to stop. At the same speed, a train may take up to a mile or more to stop. A train cannot swerve.

ARR OFFERS NEW DAY TRIP TO GRANDVIEW SUMMIT

Glacier Discovery affords exceptional, affordable experience near Anchorage

Join the Alaska Railroad on a new day excursion bound for a profoundly unspoiled summit that is unreachable by any other surface transportation mode.

Debuting in May 2003, the *Glacier Discovery* tour includes options to leave from Anchorage or Portage. On the train, sit back in our comfortable, roomy seats and soak in breath-taking views through our super-sized windows. As the scenery passes, a naturalist will provide enlightening narrative on the area's glaciology and history.

There's plenty to talk about along the route that first winds south along Turnagain Arm, tucks into Whittier, then turns away from the highway at Portage and travels deep into the Kenai Mountains. The trail rolls past three glaciers, over river gorges, through glacial valleys, and stops at Spencer Glacier's massive



Passengers can choose to include a raft float tour from Spencer Glacier.

ice field. The finale is Grandview — bordered by towering peaks, the summit of the pass offers vast valley views clearly defining its namesake.

Priced at \$89 from Anchorage or \$69 from Portage, *Glacier Discovery* offers a quality, educational and affordable experience for visitors and residents. A guided two-hour float down Placer River may be included for an additional \$60.00. Children (2-11) are half price.

For more information, visit www.AlaskaRailroad.com, or call ARRC reservations at (800) 544-0552 or (907) 265-2494. ●

DO YOU WANT THIS NEWSLETTER VIA EMAIL?

Railroad offers readers a choice between electronic and paper formats

In an effort to add convenience and control costs, the Alaska Railroad is offering to send the *Community Ties* newsletter by email. The railroad plans to continue printing and mailing the newsletter to those who prefer to receive paper copies.

In this era of electronic communication, people in communities statewide have expressed interest in receiving correspondence via the Internet. Benefits, they say, include faster receipt of information, less cost associated with disposal of paper waste, and the ability to discard after reading (archived copies are available on the ARRC website — www.alaskarailroad.com).

If you wish to receive *Community Ties* electronically (PDF file), please write your email address legibly in the block below. Because your name and mailing address are already imprinted on this page, you can fax this page to 265-2365. Alternatively, you can email your email address to public_comment@akrr.com. Please be sure to include your name and affiliation in your email, so we can properly identify you.

EXERCISING THE "VIA EMAIL" OPTION

Yes, I wish to receive the *Community Ties* newsletter via email to the address below:

RAILROAD HAS SEAT IN REGIONAL PLANNING

The Alaska Railroad Corporation (ARRC) has a seat on the newly-formed Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RTPO), which met officially for the first time September 16. The RTPO is charged with a) creating a vision of the transportation system required for long term growth in the Anchorage and Mat-Su region; b) speaking with a united voice on regional transportation project priorities; and c) and soliciting maximum funding for those priorities. Members represent the Municipality of Anchorage, Matanuska-Susitna Borough, Alaska Dept. of Transportation & Public Facilities, Alaska Legislature, ARRC and the military.

CONTACT CORRECTIONS?
Please make corrections beside the label and fax to (907) 265-2365.
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 Contact person changed
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