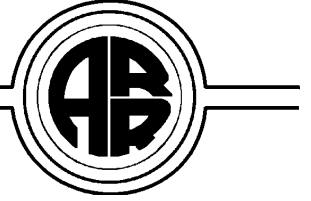


ALASKA RAILROAD CORPORATION



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For Immediate Release

Alaska Railroad Unveils New Luxury Cars to the Public on Friday

ANCHORAGE – The Alaska Railroad Corporation (ARRC) will unveil two new bi-level dome cars to the public from 9 AM to 4 PM on Friday May 13. The public is invited to come down to the Anchorage Historic Depot (411 W. 1st Ave.) to tour a static display of the new cars.

The Alaska Railroad Corporation has taken delivery of two new, custom-designed railcars earlier this month, adding to its existing fleet the option for passengers to upgrade to first class – or “GoldStar Service.” The cars were built by Colorado Railcar at a cost of \$3.4 million dollars each.

The service will be available between Anchorage and Fairbanks on the Denali Star Train. Passengers who upgrade to first class will have a reserved seat in the glass-domed upper level of the new cars, a private outdoor viewing platform exclusively for GoldStar guests, complimentary appetizers and a full-time first class attendant.

Business has been brisk in recent years for the passenger services division of the Alaska Railroad Corporation. With increasing passenger demand, the Railroad has required additional seating capacity. The decision to add a first-class option to the Railroad wasn't only a matter of customer demand but to compliment existing service.

“We needed more cars, that was the bottom line,” said Susie Kiger, Manager, Sales and Marketing. “We were also in need of new dining cars, so financially it made sense to do one car that could accommodate 72 passengers upstairs in addition to 36 extra dining seats.”

To date, about 30 percent of visitors booking travel on the Denali Star Train – which runs north and south daily between Anchorage and Fairbanks in the summer – have opted to upgrade to GoldStar Service. Between Anchorage and Fairbanks, GoldStar Service costs an additional \$100. For any rail segment in between the two cities, such as Fairbanks and Denali or Anchorage and Talkeetna, the additional cost is \$80.

The first-class cars will feature the artwork of two local artists. Ayse Gilbert designed and painted 16 reverse glass panels for the interiors of the new cars. The panels strike a visual kaleidoscope that unfolds along the miles of track. While the Greatland Panels take the main stage, the Railroad honors Alaska's indigenous people with a display of artwork by Ron Apangalook. Whalebone carvings embellished with ivory inlay are on display in the cars. Cathy Kerr of Spiral Design, in Anchorage, designed the elegant railcar interiors, recreating the luxury of classic railcars from the past.

The Alaska Railroad Corporation is a self-sustaining, state-owned corporation that operates without state subsidy, and provides year round passenger and freight service to a number of rail belt communities from Seward to Fairbanks.