



Alaska Railroad Corporation *News Release*

DATE: November 24, 2008
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Tim Thompson, (907) 265-2695

Alaska Railroad Annual Print Release Date Set for December *2009 print features Hurricane Bridge*

ANCHORAGE, Alaska – The Alaska Railroad Corporation (ARRC) will release its 2009 annual poster/print during two public unveil-and-sale events: first at the Ship Creek Historic Depot in Anchorage (411 West First Avenue) on Saturday, December 6, and subsequently at the Fairbanks Depot (1745 Johansen Expressway) on Saturday, December 13. Wasilla artist Taffina Katkus will be on hand to sign the prints and posters at both events from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Entitled *Clearing the Way*, the artwork depicts a Jordan spreader crossing the Hurricane Gulch Bridge on a cold Alaskan afternoon. The sundog and a frozen Mount McKinley in the background illustrate the harsh frigid conditions.

“I wanted to capture the enormous expanse of the gulch and the bridge,” said Katkus. “I imagined the huge challenges that the engineers in that era would have faced to erect this remarkable bridge.”

Katkus has called Alaska home for 38 years and worked as a commercial sign painter and graphic artist for the past 25 years. Some of her previous works can be viewed at Postcardsfromalaska.blogspot.com or Taffinaspaintingaday.blogspot.com.

The 2009 Alaska Railroad prints cost \$50 each, posters cost \$25, and pins cost \$5. An electronic image of the painting is available on the Railroad’s web site at <http://www.alaskarailroad.com/arrc41.html>. Other items from the Alaska Railroad Gift Shop will be available during the signing events as well.

Renowned artist John Van Zyle produced the first official Alaska Railroad painting in 1979. Since then, the annual tradition (except in 1984, when no painting was released) has evolved into a favored collector’s item. The posters, prints and pins will remain on sale at the Anchorage Ship Creek and Fairbanks depots following the signing events. They are also available online at the Alaska Railroad’s Gift Shop website at <http://www.AlaskaRailroadGiftShop.com>.

-30-

The ARRC is an Equal Opportunity Corporation. If you need special assistance in order to participate in any ARRC service, program, or activity, please contact The Alaska Railroad Corporation; P.O. Box 107500; Anchorage, AK 99510; Attention: Ouida Morrison- morrisono@akrr.com; 907-265-2529; via Alaska Relay Service for hearing impaired - Dial 7-1-1 from anywhere inside Alaska, OR dial toll-free from anywhere outside the state (800) 770-8255 (voice); (800) 770-8973 (TTY.) Upon request, printed materials can be made available in alternative formats.