Volume 26 Issue 4 June 2026

The New Desert Dispatch

Timetable

ARHS
Tempe Museum
Work Sessions
Monday & Wednesday
9:00am to 4:00pm
Tempe Museum
2530 S. Rural Rd.
Tempe, AZ

2026 Events

The Hobbyist Model Train Show
1st Sat. of the Month, 7am
1764 W. Broadway Rd.
Mesa, AZ

ARHS East Side Swap Meet (NEW)
Saturday July 11, 9am
Tempe Nazarene Church
3929 Rural Rd.
Phoenix, AZ

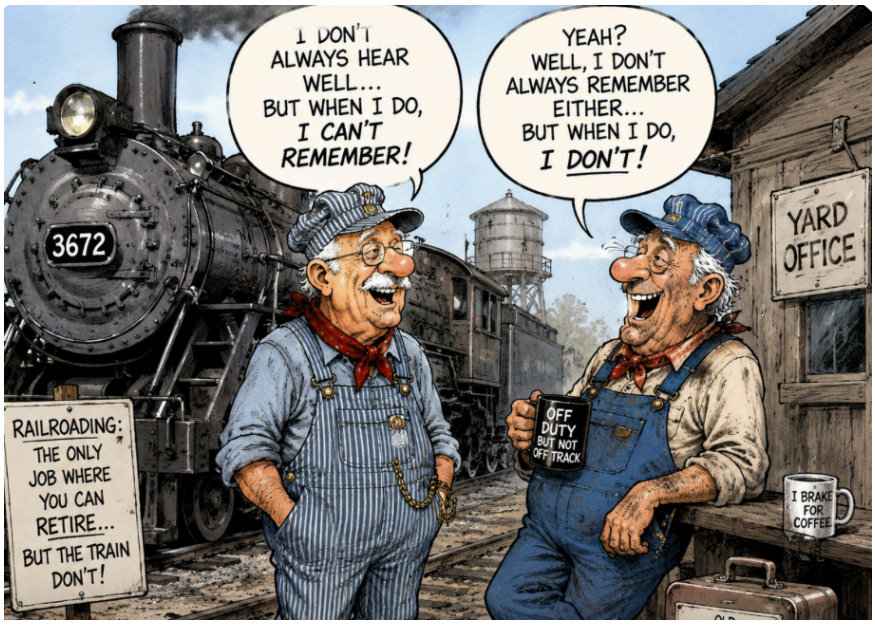
Beat the Heat Train Show
Saturday July 25, 9am
Embry Riddle University
3700 Willow Crk. Rd.
Prescott, AZ

ARHS Swap Meet
November 14, 9am
Tempe Nazarene Church
3929 Rural Rd.
Phoenix, AZ

From the Business Car

Craig Faris, President ARHS

The rails are almost hidden now. Rust pushed through the red dirt like old scars, disappearing beneath tall grass and ironwood roots. That little narrow-gauge line was once used to haul tons of pineapple and pineapple waste across Kauai. It's been silent for decades, but you can imagine it there, as if the island remembers every whistle.The line curves downhill toward the coast. Ahead, hidden in the brush, stands the remains of the loading dock. It looks like a ghost town almost swallowed by the jungle. A concrete structure leans toward the ocean, as if exhausted from holding itself upright for so many years. Nearby, the Old Lihue Pier stretches over blue water. The missing planks reveal the surf crashing below. You can almost hear it in the soft blowing wind. A faint sound drifts out across the bay, low and soulful, for a moment the docks seem alive again. Imagine workers loading crates of pineapple beneath swinging lamps while steam locomotives hissed nearby. I guess the old railroad isn't completely gone, you just might hear one last whistle. Aloha.



NMRA Events

2026 National Convention

Chattanooga, TN

July 27- August 2,

Chattanooga Convention Center
One Carter Plaza,
Chattanooga, TN 37402

2026 PSR Regional Convention

San Diego

Sept. 9 - 13,

Doubletree Hilton Mission Valley
7450 Hazard Center Dr
San Diego, CA 92108

PSR Prescott Div. Meet

Sat. June 27, 9am - 3pm

Quad City
Christian Church
501 S. Senator Hwy.
Prescott, AZ 86303

PSR Scottsdale Div. Meet

Sat. Oct. 25, 9am to 3pm

4425 N Granite Reef Rd.
Scottsdale, AZ 85251

Tarpaper in a Tea Cup

By Dennis Ranke

While recently judging an NMRA achievement project, I noticed a unique texture on the roof of an 1890s-era baggage car. After asking about it, I learned the modeler had created the roofing material from used tea bags.

The next morning, while enjoying a cup of tea, I decided to experiment with the idea myself. It turns out tea bags make an excellent roofing material for older wooden passenger cars, and structures where a rough tar-paper texture is needed. It can also be used for Tarpaulins to cover freight.

What You'll Need



- Used tea bags
- White glue or matte medium
- Hobby knife or scissors
- Tweezers
- Acrylic paint
- Small paintbrush
- Paper towels

Step 1: Prepare the Tea Bags

After brewing your tea, let the tea bag dry for 24 hours. Carefully open the bag and remove the tea leaves. Bonus: save the tea leaves, they make a nice dirt like material.

Step 2: Cut the Material to Size

Use scissors or a hobby knife to cut the tea bag material into strips or panels sized for your model roof. Slightly uneven edges actually help create a more realistic aged appearance.

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Step 3: Apply to the Roof

Brush a thin layer of white glue or matte medium onto the roof surface. Carefully lay the tea bag material in place using tweezers.

Smooth it gently with a soft brush or your fingertip to remove bubbles and wrinkles while still leaving some texture visible.

For tar-paper roofs, overlap the strips slightly just like the prototype.

Step 4: Paint and Weather

Once dry, paint the roof with acrylics in faded black, grimy brown, or weathered gray tones. For tarpaulins, leave the natural color.

Dry brushing and chalk weathering help highlight the texture. The fibers absorb paint unevenly, creating a naturally aged appearance that is difficult to duplicate with plain paper.

Final Thoughts

One of the best parts of model railroading is discovering creative ways to turn everyday materials into realistic scenery and structures. Tea bags are inexpensive, easy to work with, and produce convincing results for vintage roofing.

And best of all, your next scratch building project might begin with breakfast.



Ken Nelson surveys GC village. (Photo by Jim Paulsen)

ARHS Officers
2023-2025
President - Craig Faris
Vice President – Ken Nelson
Secretary - Dave Brown
Treasurer - Dan Kubarych
Director – Dennis Ranke
Director – Dewayne Koltin
Past Presidents – Don Stewart, Jesse Poole

The New Desert Dispatch is a publication of the Arizona Railroad Historical Society. Views expressed by guest authors are their own and do not reflect the opinions or positions of the ARHS.
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Dranke@aol.com

Mission Statement

The Arizona Railroad Historical Society strives to create a world class railroad experience which includes history, education and railroad operations centered around the state of Arizona.

Arizona Railroad Historical Society

ARHS Swap Meet Sets Sales Record

The May 16th swap meet hosted by the ARHS was a tremendous success, drawing strong crowds and record-breaking sales for the organization.

Preparations began Friday as volunteers gathered to set up the event. Thanks to a dedicated crew of members, old and new, setup was completed in record time. Early Saturday morning, the team returned to arrange merchandise and prepare for attendees.

The sales floor featured tables packed with model railroad items, highlighted by a large estate collection recently donated to the society. The wide selection attracted hobbyists and collectors throughout the day.

By the close of the event, attendance had topped 200 visitors. During the wrap-up, Dan Kubarych announced that the swap meet achieved record sales numbers, including strong pre-sale activity held earlier at the society.

Organizers credited the success to the hard work of the volunteer team, including many first-time helpers who assisted with setup, sales, and cleanup throughout the weekend.

“This event truly showed what can be accomplished when everyone works together,” one member said. “The support from volunteers, donors, and attendees made it a fantastic weekend for the society.”







The sales floor was packed by 9:30 am (upper left) Ricard Lee can’t believe the deal scored by John Mick & Ray Rumble (lower left) Matt Davis talks to a vendor while Jess Poole checks inventory



Free Ice Cream and a $50. Gift Card

Thanks to the Culver Lunch Bunch, AHRS has earned a $50. gift card from FETCH. Each diner turned in their Culver's Custard pink receipt in exchange for a free cup of Culver's Frozen Custard. All the receipts were submitted to FETCH for 25 pts. each. We reached a total of 53,500 points with some additional receipts. Our hungry members have eaten approximately: 1044 servings of frozen custard worth; $2,912. Since May 2024 The group consumed well over..... calories, well that's not important!



Like to help the cause? Turn in any store register receipt to Dennis Ranke. Thanks!

Why Do Diesel Electric Locomotives Transition from Series to Parallel?

The purpose of transition is to keep the voltage and amperage of the traction motors and generator within their safe operating range. Too much current can overheat and damage the motors, while excessive voltage can reduce generator performance or damage electrical components.

As a DC traction motor spins faster, it creates a voltage called back EMF (electromotive force). The faster the motor turns, the higher the back EMF becomes. At the same time, motor current drops as speed increases. Locomotive designers must control high current at low speed and high voltage at higher speeds.

One way to control current is by wiring motors in series. In a six-axle locomotive like an EMD SD40, the motors start out in a series-parallel arrangement. Each pair of motors is connected in series, and the three pairs are connected in series. This keeps starting current within a safe range.

As speed increases, motor voltage rises until the generator can no longer overcome the motors' back EMF. The locomotive then makes a transition by reconnecting the motors into an all-parallel arrangement. This lowers motor voltage and increases current, allowing the locomotive to continue accelerating while keeping the electrical system within its operating limits.

Transition has little effect on total pulling power. The locomotive's tractive effort before and after transition is nearly the same. The difference is that in parallel operation, the engine can travel faster.

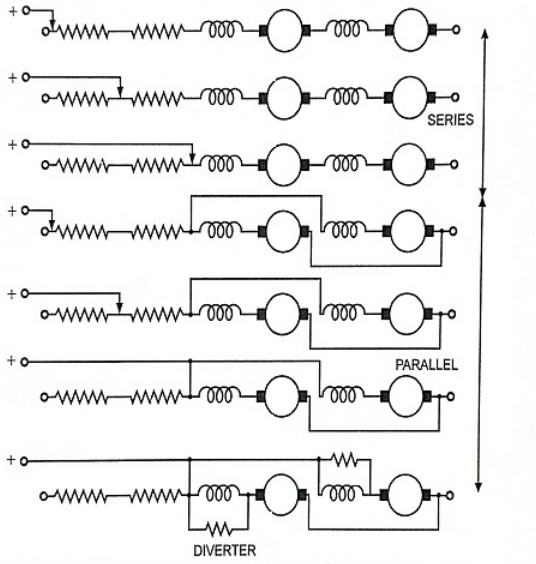


Fig. 13.3. *Combination of Series-Parallel and Resistance Control of DC Series Motors*

Big Boy Heads East for the First Time in 70 years

EAST LEG SCHEDULE

Schedule subject to change. The Big Boy may operate ahead or behind the posted schedule. We're unable to provide times or locations other than these public stops.

Monday, May 25

Cheyenne, WY **NO PUBLIC ACCESS**	Depart: 9:00 a.m. MDT
Kimball, NE 1st & S. Walnut St.	Arrive: 1:00 p.m. MDT Depart: 1:30 p.m. MDT

Tuesday, May 26

Sidney, NE **NO PUBLIC ACCESS**	Depart: 9:00 a.m. MDT
Ogallala, NE Spruce St. Crossing	Arrive: 12:00 noon. MDT Depart 12:30 p.m. MDT

Wednesday, May 27

North Platte, NE **NO PUBLIC ACCESS**	Private Union Pacific Employee Event

Thursday, May 28

North Platte, NE **NO PUBLIC ACCESS**	Depart: 9:00 a.m. CDT
Gothenburg, NE Lake Ave. Crossing	Arrive: 10:30 a.m. CDT Depart 11:00 a.m. CDT
Overton, NE Pedestrian Overpass at Wayside Park near C St & Hwy 30	Arrive: 12:00 Noon CDT Depart 12:30 p.m. CDT
Kearney, NE Central Ave. Crossing	Arrive: 1:15 p.m. CDT Depart 1:30 p.m. CDT
Grand Island, NE Walnut St. Crossing	Arrive: 3:15 p.m. CDT Depart 4:00 p.m. CDT **NO PUBLIC ACCESS** after 4:00 p.m.

Friday, May 29

Grand Island, NE **NO PUBLIC ACCESS**	Depart: 9:00 a.m. CDT
Columbus, NE 26th Ave. Crossing	Arrive: 11:15 a.m. CDT Depart: 11:45 a.m. CDT
Omaha, NE **NO PUBLIC ACCESS**	Private Union Pacific employee event

Saturday, May 30

Omaha, NE 9th St. and Leavenworth St. Parking available at 555 Jones St. Garage (Conagra South Parking)	On Display: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. CDT Free Admission; No Tickets Required Big Boy Display FAQs **NO PUBLIC ACCESS** outside these hours

Sunday, May 31

Omaha, NE **NO PUBLIC ACCESS**	Depart: 9:00 a.m. CDT

Thursday, July 2

Jim Thorpe, PA **NO PUBLIC ACCESS**	Depart: 9:00 a.m. EDT
Reading, PA Reading & Northern Outer Station 3501 Pottsville Pike	Arrive: 2:15 p.m. EDT Depart: 3:00 p.m. EDT
Pottstown, PA Pottstown Train Station 35 S. York St.	Arrive: 4:15 p.m. EDT Depart: 4:30 p.m. EDT

Friday, July 3

King of Prussia, PA **NO PUBLIC ACCESS**	Depart: 9:00 a.m. EDT
No Public Stops	

Saturday, July 4 - Sunday, July 5

Philadelphia, PA Intrepid Ave. & League Island Blvd.	**On Display:** 9:00 am - 3:00 p.m. EDT Free Admission; No Tickets Required Big Boy Display FAQs **NO PUBLIC ACCESS** outside of these hours

Monday, July 6

Philadelphia, PA **NO PUBLIC ACCESS**	Depart: 9:00 a.m. EDT
No Public Stops	

Tuesday, July 7

King of Prussia, PA **NO PUBLIC ACCESS**	Depart: 9:00 a.m. EDT
Lebanon, PA Lebanon Station 250 N. 8th St.	Arrive: 12:30 p.m. EDT Depart: 1:15 p.m. EDT

Wednesday, July 8

Enola, PA **NO PUBLIC ACCESS**	Depart: 9:00 a.m. EDT
Lewistown, PA Roundhouse Road crossing	Arrive: 12:45 p.m. EDT Depart: 1:15 p.m. EDT
Altoona, PA Railroaders Memorial Museum 1200 9th Ave.	Arrive: 5:15 p.m. EDT Depart: 5:45 p.m. EDT
Altoona, PA **NO PUBLIC ACCESS**	Private Norfolk Southern employee event

Thursday, July 9 - Friday, July 10

Altoona, PA Access free shuttles from Peoples Natural Gas Field. Limited capacity - metering enforced. **NO PARKING AVAILABLE** at display site; use shuttles.	**On Display:** 8:00 am - 2:00 p.m. EDT Free Admission; No Tickets Required Big Boy Display FAQs **NO PUBLIC ACCESS** outside of these hours

Saturday, July 11

Denison, IA S. Main Street Crossing	Arrive: 11:30 a.m. CDT Depart: 12:00 noon CDT
Carroll, IA Old Depot 407 W. 5th St.	Arrive: 1:00 p.m. CDT Depart: 1:15 p.m. CDT
Monday, June 1	
Boone, IA **NO PUBLIC ACCESS**	Depart: 9:00 a.m. CDT
Tama, IA McClellan St. Crossing	Arrive: 11:15 a.m. CDT Depart: 11:45 a.m. CDT
Belle Plaine, IA 8th Ave. Crossing	Arrive: 12:15 p.m. CDT Depart: 12:30 p.m. CDT
Tuesday, June 2	
Cedar Rapids, IA **NO PUBLIC ACCESS**	Depart: 9:00 a.m. CDT
Grand Mound, IA Smith St. Crossing	Arrive: 11:00 a.m. CDT Depart: 11:30 a.m. CDT
Sterling, IL B Street Crossing	Arrive: 1:30 p.m. CDT Depart: 2:00 p.m. CDT
Rochelle, IL Rochelle Railroad Park 124 N. 9th Street	Arrive: 3:00 p.m. CDT Depart: 3:15 p.m. CDT
Wednesday, June 3	
West Chicago, IL Union Pacific Training Center South of **West Chicago Metra Stop** **Please ride Metra** to event as there is **NO PARKING AVAILABLE** at the event site.	On Display: 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. CDT Free Admission; No Tickets Required **Big Boy Display FAQs** **NO PUBLIC ACCESS** outside of these hours **Union Pacific Employee Event** information.
Thursday, June 4	
West Chicago, IL **NO PUBLIC ACCESS**	Depart: 8:00 a.m. CDT
No Public Stops	
Friday, June 5	
South Holland, IL **NO PUBLIC ACCESS**	Depart: 8:00 a.m. CDT
Argos, IN S. Michigan Street Crossing	Arrive: 2:15 p.m. EDT Depart: 2:45 p.m. EDT
Fort Wayne, IN **NO PUBLIC ACCESS**	Private Norfolk Southern employee event
Saturday, June 6	
Fort Wayne, IN **NO PUBLIC ACCESS**	Depart: 9:00 a.m. EDT
Continental, OH Near Oak St. and Main St.	Arrive: 11:45 a.m. EDT Depart: 12:15 p.m. EDT
Fostoria, OH Fostoria Iron Triangle Railpark 499 S. Poplar St.	Arrive: 2:00 p.m. EDT Depart: 2:15 p.m. EDT
Sunday, June 7	
Bellevue, OH **NO PUBLIC ACCESS**	No Public Events
Monday, June 8	
Bellevue, OH **NO PUBLIC ACCESS**	Depart: 9:00 a.m. EDT
Altoona, PA **NO PUBLIC ACCESS**	Depart: 9:00 a.m. EDT
Horseshoe Curve National Historic Site **Ticketed Viewing ONLY - SOLD OUT** Tickets were available thru **https://railroadcity.org**.	Arrive: 9:30 a.m. EDT Depart: 10:00 a.m. EDT
Cresson, PA Cresson Railroad Park 501 Front St.	Arrive: 10:45 a.m. EDT Depart: 11:15 a.m. EDT
Leetsdale, PA 1st St/Avenue A and Ferry St.	Arrive: 5:45 p.m. EDT Depart: 6:15 p.m. EDT
Sunday, July 12	
Conway, PA **NO PUBLIC ACCESS**	Depart: 9:00 a.m. EDT
Struthers, OH East of South Bridge St.	Arrive: 11:30 a.m. EDT Depart: 12:00 noon EDT
Monday, July 13	
Conneaut, OH **NO PUBLIC ACCESS**	Depart: 9:00 a.m. EDT
Rocky River, OH 19060 Depot St.	Arrive: 12:45 p.m. EDT Depart: 1:15 p.m. EDT
Fostoria, OH **NO PUBLIC ACCESS**	Private Norfolk Southern employee event
Tuesday, July 14	
Fostoria, OH Fostoria Automotive Distribution Center 3101 North Township Road 47	**On Display**: 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. EDT ONLY Free Admission; No Tickets Required **Big Boy Display FAQs** **NO PUBLIC ACCESS** outside of these hours
Wednesday, July 15	
Fostoria, OH **NO PUBLIC ACCESS**	Depart: 9:00 a.m. EDT
Continental, OH	Arrive: 11:30 a.m. EDT Depart: 12:00 noon EDT
Thursday, July 16	
Fort Wayne, IN **NO PUBLIC ACCESS**	Depart: 9:00 a.m. EDT
Knox, IN 10 S. Heaton St.	Arrive: 1:30 p.m. CDT Depart: 2:00 p.m. CDT
Friday, July 17	
South Holland, IL **NO PUBLIC ACCESS**	Depart: 9:00 a.m. CDT
No Public Stops	
Saturday, July 18	
Bloomington, IL **NO PUBLIC ACCESS**	Depart: 8:15 a.m. CDT
Springfield, IL Amtrak Depot Washington St. Crossing	Arrive: 10:45 a.m. CDT Depart: 11:15 a.m. CDT
Girard, IL Center St. Crossing	Arrive: 1:00 p.m. CDT Depart: 1:30 p.m. CDT
St. Louis, MO **NO PUBLIC ACCESS**	Private **Union Pacific employee event**
Sunday, July 19	

Lorain, OH Near W. 11th St. and Reid Ave.	Arrive: 1:15 p.m. EDT Depart: 1:30 p.m. EDT
Euclid, OH Chardon Road Crossing, north of Euclid Ave.	Arrive: 2:30 p.m. EDT Depart: 3:00 p.m. EDT
Tuesday, June 9	
Conneaut, OH **NO PUBLIC ACCESS**	Depart: 9:00 a.m. EDT
North East, PA Near Lake Shore Railway Museum Near 143 S. Lake St.	Arrive: 11:25 a.m. EDT Depart: 11:35 a.m. EDT
Ripley, NY State St. Crossing	Arrive: 12:00 noon EDT Depart: 12:30 p.m. EDT
Buffalo, NY **NO PUBLIC ACCESS**	Private Norfolk Southern employee event
Wednesday, June 10	
Buffalo, NY Access the Big Boy via free shuttles at the **Walden Galleria Mall ONLY** (North side near Primark.) Limited capacity - metering enforced **NO PARKING or PEDESTRIAN ACCESS** at display site; use shuttles instead.	On Display: 9:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. EDT Free Admission; No Tickets Required **Big Boy Display FAQs** **NO PUBLIC ACCESS** outside of these hours
Thursday, June 11	
Buffalo, NY **NO PUBLIC ACCESS**	Depart: 9:00 a.m. EDT
Silver Springs, NY North Main St. Crossing	Arrive: 11:45 a.m. EDT Depart: 12:00 noon EDT
Letchworth State Park Genesee River Arch Bridge Park Admission Required	Pass: 12:20 p.m. EDT
Hornell, NY Hornell Erie Depot Museum 111 Loder St.	Arrive: 2:00 p.m. EDT Depart: 2:30 p.m. EDT
Friday, June 12	
Sayre, PA **NO PUBLIC ACCESS**	Depart: 9:00 a.m. EDT
Owego, NY 53 Depot St.	Arrive: 10:45 a.m. EDT Depart: 11:15 a.m. EDT
Binghamton, NY **NO PUBLIC ACCESS**	Private Norfolk Southern employee event
Saturday, June 13	
Binghamton, NY **NO PUBLIC ACCESS**	Depart: 7:30 a.m. EDT
Nicholson, PA Tunkhannock Creek Viaduct	Pass: 10:00 a.m. EDT
Sunday, June 14	
Nesquehoning, PA **NO PUBLIC ACCESS**	Depart: 10:00 a.m. EDT
Union Pacific Museum Passenger Special Nesquehoning, PA to Pittston, PA **SOLD OUT** through the **Union Pacific Museum**	
Monday, June 15 - Tuesday, June 16	
Scranton, PA Steamtown National Historic Site 350 Cliff St. **TICKETED VIEWING ONLY**	**Ticketed Viewing:** 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. EDT **Tickets and parking information available** from the National Park Service **Big Boy Display FAQs**
Wednesday, June 17 - Tuesday, June 30	
Scranton, PA Steamtown National Historic Site 350 Cliff St. **TICKETED VIEWING ONLY**	Locomotive Maintenance Distant viewing during Park Hours: 9:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. EDT **Tickets and parking information available** from the National Park Service
St. Louis, MO St. Louis Union Station 1820 Market St.	**On Display:** 9:00 am - 3:00 p.m. CDT Free Admission; No Tickets Required **Big Boy Display FAQs** **NO PUBLIC ACCESS** outside of these hours
Monday, July 20	
St. Louis, MO **NO PUBLIC ACCESS**	Depart: 9:30 a.m. CDT
Pacific, MO First St. Crossing	Arrive: 12:30 p.m. CDT Depart: 12:45 p.m. CDT
Hermann, MO Boat Ramp Road Crossing	Arrive: 3:15 p.m. CDT Depart: 3:45 p.m. CDT
Tuesday, July 21	
Jefferson City, MO **NO PUBLIC ACCESS**	Depart: 8:00 a.m. CDT
California, MO East St. Crossing	Arrive: 9:00 a.m. CDT Depart 9:15 a.m. CDT
Kansas City, MO Union Station 30 West Pershing Road	Arrive: 4:20 p.m. CDT
Wednesday, July 22	
Kansas City, MO Union Station 30 West Pershing Road	**Public Viewing**: 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. **ONLY** Private **Union Pacific employee event** 2:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Thursday, July 23	
Kansas City, MO Union Station 30 West Pershing Road	Depart: 9:00 a.m. CDT
Topeka, KS Great Overland Station 701 N. Kansas Ave.	Arrive: 12:15 p.m. CDT Depart: 12:45 p.m. CDT
Salina, KS Old Depot 400 N. 13th St.	Arrive: 6:00 p.m. CDT
Friday, July 24	
Salina, KS	Depart: 9:00 a.m. CDT
Wilson, KS Avenue E Crossing	Arrive: 11:00 a.m. CDT Depart: 11:30 a.m. CDT
Hays, KS E 9th and Milner St.	Arrive: 1:30 p.m. CDT
Saturday, July 25	
Hays, KS E 9th and Milner St.	Viewing Only
Sunday, July 26	
Hays, KS	Depart: 9:00 a.m. CDT
Grainfield, KS Main St. Crossing	Arrive: 12:00 noon CDT Depart: 12:30 p.m. CDT
Monday, July 27	
Sharon Springs, KS **NO PUBLIC ACCESS**	Depart 9:00 a.m. MDT
Kit Carson, CO Young St. Crossing	Arrive: 10:45 a.m. MDT Depart: 11:15 a.m. MDT
Strasburg, CO Main St. Crossing	Arrive: 3:45 p.m. MDT Depart: 4:15 p.m. MDT
Tuesday, July 28	

Wednesday, July 1	
Scranton, PA **NO PUBLIC ACCESS**	Depart: 10:00 a.m. EDT
No Public Stops	

Denver, CO **NO PUBLIC ACCESS**	Private **Union Pacific Employee Event**
Wednesday, July 29	
Denver, CO **NO PUBLIC ACCESS**	Depart: 9:00 a.m. MDT
Greeley, CO 10th St. Crossing	Arrive: 1:15 p.m. MDT Depart: 2:00 p.m. MDT
Cheyenne, WY **NO PUBLIC ACCESS**	Arrive 4:00 p.m. MDT

