



COMMUNITY

Alaska Railroad Corporation
2nd Quarter 2016



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FALL RAIL DEMO: SAFE LNG TRANSPORT

First U.S. railroad approved to transport liquified natural gas

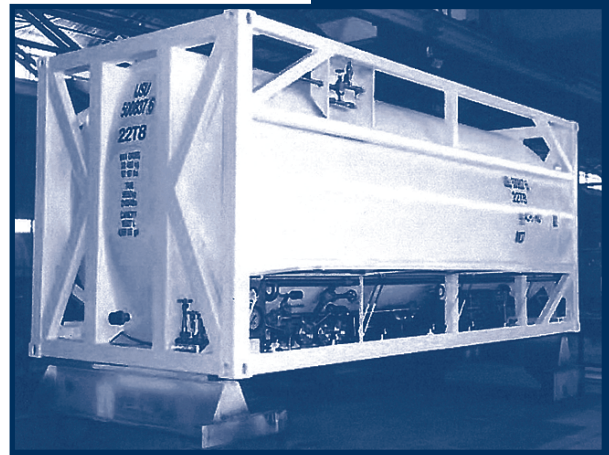


At summer's end, the Alaska Railroad will take another major step toward offering an economical alternative to bring cheaper, cleaner energy to Alaskans in need, in particular residents of Fairbanks and other interior communities who face high heating costs.

The railroad plans to prove it can safely transport Alaska liquified natural gas (LNG) in fortified intermodal cryogenic tank containers (ISO tank) from Anchorage to Fairbanks.

The demonstration plan solidified earlier this summer thanks to an agreement with ISO tank manufacturer Hitachi and Fairbanks Natural Gas. Coordination with the Alaska Industrial Development & Export Authority (AIDEA), counsel from Association of American Railroads, support from Governor Bill Walker's office and Alaska's congressional delegation, and regulatory guidance from the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) was also necessary to accomplish this.

The 40-foot portable cryogenic tank containers meet regulatory standards that call for fortified tank walls and protective structures around the tank.



(see "Liquified Natural Gas Demo" on page 3)

WINTER MID-WEEK TRAVEL EXPANDS

New Tuesday-Wednesday trains serve holiday in-state travelers



Plan now to take advantage of even more mid-week rail travel options offered this winter season, from Sept. 24, 2016 to May 14, 2017. During popular travel periods surrounding the holidays and spring break, the railroad will offer passenger rail service in addition to the normal weekend *Aurora Winter Train* schedules (Anchorage to Fairbanks on Saturday, and Fairbanks to Anchorage on Sunday). For the first time, passengers can celebrate the Christmas season, and ring in the New Year with northbound departures from Anchorage on Tuesdays, December 27 and January 3; and southbound departures from Fairbanks on Wednesdays, December 28 and January 4. Check out North Pole's Santa Claus House or watch for frequent aurora borealis displays in Alaska's interior. Plus, avoid the dark, icy hazards of winter driving while visiting family and friends along the railbelt.

(see "Winter Mid-Week Rail Service" on page 3)

ARRC REACHES OUT TO EMERGENCY RESPONDERS

Mat-Su Fire Dept. training is first; Whistle Stop training tour coming this fall

The Alaska Railroad is reaching out to emergency response agencies in railbelt communities to better prepare firefighters, emergency teams, police and other first responders who might be called upon to assist with a railroad incident. The Mat-Su Central Fire Department (MSCFD) was the first of many agencies expected to engage in training to become more familiar with railroad equipment and key personnel.

In mid-July, nearly 50 Mat-Su firefighters and emergency management / emergency medical staff attended one of three training sessions involving a locomotive and two tank cars staged at the Pittman Siding just north of Wasilla. Train crew members – including the engineer and conductor – offered insight into the locomotive’s electrical components, fuel storage, shut-down procedures, manifest and other features that could be important in an urgent situation. A railcar mechanic reviewed how a tank car is made, rolling and braking actions, types of fuel and liquids hauled and associated warning

placards. The railroad’s Safety Director Tom Covington had arranged the training and was on-hand to brief responders about overall potential hazards and challenges specific to the railroad industry, train operations and track infrastructure.

Covington expects to coordinate similar training for many more community emergency responders who request it in the coming months. Planning is underway for a Whistle Stop Tour providing Emergency Planning and Training along the railbelt this fall. ●



Mat-Su firefighters practice extinguishing a simulated fire on tank cars during a training drill at Pittman Siding north of Wasilla.

RAILROAD REPEATS "CATCH TRAIN" PHOTO CONTEST

Popular contest draws hundreds of great photo submissions featuring ARRC train

The Alaska Railroad launched its second annual **Catch the Train Photo Contest** in late May, repeating last year’s highly-successful quest for great images from passengers, photographers and the public. The top 18 entries – based on artistic merit, originality, subject and style – will be featured in ARRC’s 2017-2018 18-month calendar and other railroad publications. The 18 finalists will each get round-trip rail travel for 2 to the ARRC destination of their choice. Finalists will vie for the grand prize – chosen by public vote – including the calendar cover spot, rail travel for 4 and \$1,500.

Remember, standing on the tracks or taking photos within the right-of-way (100 feet on either side of the track) is strictly prohibited. Photos that don’t comply with safety protocols will be disqualified.

Photos must measure at least 1,000 pixels and may be submitted through Alaska Railroad social media sites:

- Facebook page (www.facebook.com/alaskarailroad)
- Instagram (@alaskarailroad)
- Twitter (@akrr) - use #CatchTheTrainAK when posting

Entry into the contest is free. Participants must be 18 or older, and may submit as many photos as they wish by the **December 11** deadline. Finalists will be announced December 19, when public online voting begins. The grand prize winner will be announced January 11. Visit www.alaskarailroad.com/catchthetrain for details. ●



WINTER MID-WEEK RAIL SERVICE ...

(continued from page 1)

The Aurora Winter Train will add more mid-week service (northbound on Tuesdays and southbound on Wednesdays) to its Saturday/Sunday schedule from February 21 – March 29, when winter festivities and spring break are in full swing. Service will increase even further during the two-week spring break, March 4 - 19, when northbound trains run Tuesday, Thursday and

Saturday; and southbound trains run Wednesday, Friday and Sunday. Expanded trains schedules give Alaskans and visitors great opportunities to enjoy Fur Rendezvous, Iditarod Sled Dog Race, and Ice Art Championships, and to explore many more winter adventures. Tickets are now available. Visit www.AlaskaRailroad.com, or call reservations at 265-2494, for more information. ●

LIQUIFIED NATURAL GAS DEMO...

(continued from page 1)

The demonstration will build upon ARRC's status as the nation's first and only railroad to obtain FRA approval to transport LNG by rail. Approval, which came in October 2015, includes conditions to ensure the safe, efficient movement of LNG. While conducting a demonstration is not an FRA requirement, a number of the operational conditions are being addressed in planning and preparing for the demonstration. This includes familiarizing train crews with the characteristics of LNG, which is supercooled to negative 260 degrees. Likewise, community emergency responders will be trained on LNG characteristics, hazards and response methods.

Plans call for two empty ISO tanks to be shipped from Japan to Anchorage, and filled with Alaska LNG from the Titan plant near Point MacKenzie. Carried aboard a flat car, the full tanks will be added to the nightly train hauling freight from Anchorage to Fairbanks, where Fairbanks Natural Gas will offload the LNG into storage. Empty containers will return to Anchorage on a flat car hitched to the regular southbound freight train. The railroad hopes to complete four or more round-trip

demonstrations by mid-October. The two 40-foot portable cryogenic tank containers comply with T75 regulatory standards that call for fortified tank walls and protective structures around the tank. The containers are on loan from Japan Oil Transport (JOT), which regularly hauls LNG throughout Japan. Hitachi is one of several T75-compliant ISO tank makers interested in Alaska's LNG market. Representatives from Hitachi, other ISO tank manufacturers and the FRA are anticipated to observe the demonstrations during October.

Demonstration results will be reviewed with the FRA to ensure regulators are satisfied with ARRC's ability to safely move LNG. If all goes well, ARRC will continue to look for opportunities to develop an LNG line of rail business that can meet Alaska's growing energy needs, particularly in Interior Alaska. The timing is important given other LNG-related planning and strategies. For example, Salix, Inc. is currently talking to AIDEA about building a larger scale LNG plant nearby the existing Titan plant to help meet natural gas demand in Fairbanks and other Alaskan communities. ●

FAIR TRAIN IS SELLING QUICKLY; SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE

Four "Green Line" State Fair Trains have sold out! Don't delay buying tickets for this popular, affordable fair transportation. The 2016 Green Line will operate two round-trips on Fridays (Aug. 26 & Sept. 2), three round-trips on Saturdays (Aug. 27 & Sept. 3), three round-trips on Sundays (Aug. 28 & Sept. 4) and two round-trips on Labor Day Monday, Sept. 5. To sponsor one of the seven fair train days, call Tim Sullivan at 907.265.2357.





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Contact Corrections

- Please correct the following errors in your newsletter emailing list:
- We receive more than one copy
 - Contact person has changed
 - Email Address is wrong
 - Name is misspelled

POKEMON GO PLAYERS URGED TO STAY SAFE, AWARE

Social media safety messages ask players to steer clear of train operating areas

Since its July 5 release, the Pokeman GO interactive app has inspired thousands of game players to use their mobile devices to hunt for and capture Pokeman characters which appear on screen against real-world backgrounds. The Alaska Railroad has discovered several of its facilities are among the game's designated way point locations (Pokestops). While some of these "Pokestops" are relatively harmless - Such as the historic Locomotive #1 monument and Quyana Park signs across from the Anchorage Historic Depot and ARRC's Headquarters Building clock tower; other locations pose a concern. In the interests of security and safety, ARRC asks players to stay clear of operating areas around any of its depots and within its operating reserves.

Several reports around the country tell of people being hurt and killed as they are distracted by the game and not heeding their risk or situational awareness of their location. Railroad employees are keeping an eye out for

Pokemon GO players who are glued to their cell phones in areas they should not be. These folks will be re-directed to safer areas off railroad property. Railroad partners and members of the public are asked to contact Railroad Police and Security Department, 265-2463, if they seek Pokeman GO (or others) trespassing along the tracks or



around railroad operating facilities. Better yet, help spread the word to family and friends via social media networks. ARRC has posted Pokeman GO-specific safety messages on our Facebook (pictured), Twitter and Instagram pages. These can be shared or re-tweeted to promote public safety. ●