

**The South Carolina Railroad Museum Newsletter**  
*Information and Happenings on the Rockton, Rion & Western Railroad*  
Volume 41 Number 3 Summer 2013

***TRAIN RIDES SHINE THIS SUMMER***



Polished RS4-TC1A No. 1276 poses with shiny sister No. 1249 at Rockton prior to an excursion.

**IN THE NEWS:**

Our summer excursions have shown steady ridership, helped in part by the cooler weather. No. 1276 was polished and complements shiny sister No. 1249. The Steam Train and *Engineer Experience* return with 0-4-0T No. 75. An expanded schedule is planned for the Pumpkin Patch trains. The Gallery building reopens after much hard labor. The *Lake Rion* should be back in service soon with a repaired A/C system. September's Membership Meeting will offer a rare motorcar expedition on the west end of the railroad to Milepost 7.0.

**HOT TOPIC: WE NEED YOU** to help out with our upcoming events as a car host or in the gift shop. Contact Rodger Stroup or Joe Palma for more information.

**MEMBERSHIP:**

The next Membership meeting will be at the Rion building at 10 AM on September 14th. Family Membership is \$35, Single is \$25, and Senior is \$18. See our website, or apply in Rockton or by mail at the address below.

**CONTACT:**

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Vince LiBrizzi, Editor <>



Flagg Coal No. 75 pulls into Rockton with a passenger excursion.

### **Locomotive No. 75 Returns to the SCRM By Vince LiBrizzi**

After an absence of two years, the Gramling Locomotive Works' famous steam locomotive No. 75 (a.k.a. Hank the Tank) will be returning to the museum. The well-travelled 0-4-0T will be here in October and November for a number of events. The spunky saddle tanker will be the main attraction for the *Engineer Experience program* on Saturday, November 16<sup>th</sup>. This program offers participants the rare opportunity to operate No. 75 under crew supervision about two miles on the west end of the railroad in Rion. Judging by last year's attendance of several previous *Experience* members, this is an event that is truly special! On November 2<sup>nd</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>, the first two Saturdays of the month, No. 75 will power passenger trains at 9:30 AM, 11:30 AM, 1:30 PM, and 3:30 PM. On November 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>, No. 75 will pull trips at 1:30 and 3:30 PM. As before, all excursions will operate to Greenbrier. The "Green Giant" open air car proved to be very popular last year during these excursions for those who prefer their smoke and steam firsthand, and was usually the first car to sell out. We expect an excellent turnout for this annual event. Special events are also being discussed, such

as a Photo Freight and Mixed Train, with the opportunity for passengers to detrain and take pictures and video of the locomotive steaming by at Greenbrier. Contact Rodger Stroup to help out with these popular events planned around the operation of locomotive No.75. <>

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The *Lake Rion* will be hosting First Class passengers again soon

### **Lake Rion to be Back in Service By Rodger Stroup**

Repairs to the *Lake Rion* dining car's air-conditioning system should be completed before the fall season. The *Lake Rion's* system, originally rebuilt in the 1940s when the car was in service on the Southern Railway's famous *Crescent Limited*, has been experiencing issues for some time. It was given a comprehensive inspection earlier this summer, when it was determined the existing system could be overhauled rather than completely replaced. The car's A/C compressor was replaced; the condenser repaired, and leaks in the system were sealed. Final testing of the air conditioning is planned for late August to ensure the system is functioning properly. The historic 44-seat former Southern dining car will then be available for First Class service and dinner trains barring any major problems. Look for the car to re-enter service on Pumpkin Patch trains this fall. <>



A Fairmount Motorcar begins an excursion on the Rockton & Rion.

### **West End Motorcar Excursion Planned By David Lewis**

On Saturday, September 14<sup>th</sup>, members of the South Carolina Railroad Museum will be given the opportunity to ride Motorcars or bring their own Motorcars to ride on the west end of the RR&W from Milepost 5.1 to Milepost 7.0. This special event will allow members the chance to see the famous “Chinese Wall”, a stone edifice that was constructed for the right-of-way, but never used. We will depart after the Membership meeting at 10 AM from the Rion office building. To reserve your spot or register your own Motorcar, contact David Lewis at (803) 259-7668 or at [scrm.sec@gmail.com](mailto:scrm.sec@gmail.com).

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The Gallery with new carpeting and revised interior awaits visitors.

### **Museum Gallery Reopens By Rodger Stroup**

The museum gallery is open after undergoing extensive renovations. Since the project

began in the spring, we have removed the center wall and created one large gallery space. The walls have been insulated and covered with sheet rock. An insulated drop ceiling with lights and new carpeting was also installed. Finally, the air conditioning system has been repaired and new ductwork installed. The gallery reopened with a temporary installation on August 10th. Many thanks to all the hard working members that made this reopening possible.



Locomotive No. 1249 arrives at Greenbrier with an excursion.

### **Pumpkin Patch Train Expands Schedule By Vince LiBrizzi**

On Saturday, October 26<sup>th</sup>, the Museum will be having its second annual Pumpkin Patch train event. Building on the success of last year's debut, where over 400 passengers rode the two scheduled trains, we will be running 5 trains on the hour starting at 9:30 AM, with a break over the lunch hour. All trains will stop at Greenbrier, where the passengers will detrain to pick their own pumpkin, decorate their pumpkin, meet our Friendly Scarecrow, and participate in many fall-themed events. An operating G-scale model railroad featuring Thomas the Tank Engine and refreshments are also planned. Since we will be operating more than one train at the same time on the railroad, additional crew members and volunteer help will be needed for this event. Contact Rodger Stroup at (803) 318-7086 or at [histrycur@aol.com](mailto:histrycur@aol.com) to sign up for this exciting and popular fall event. ◇

**South Carolina Railroad Museum**

**PO Box 7246**

**Columbia, SC 29202-7246**

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*(from previous page)*



No. 1276 shines in Rockton after being washed and polished.

### **No. 1276 is Washed and Polished**

***By Rodger Stroup***

On Tuesday, June 25<sup>th</sup>, five members washed, scrubbed, and polished former U.S. Air Force

RS4TC-1A diesel locomotive No. 1276 until her paint shined in the summer daylight. The locomotive's chalky and oxidized finish was buffed to the Royal Blue color it was painted when rebuilt in the 1990s. No. 1249 also received a coat of wax to keep her looking shiny despite the elements. Unlike the polishing for sister locomotive No. 1249 back in cold and rainy February, it was sunny, humid, and hot. What made this project even more impressive is that these members operated two charter trips to Rion on the same day with No. 1249 and still were able to finish the job. Talk about teamwork and dedication! Kudos to Joe Palma, Vince LiBrizzi, Henry Nechemias, Bill Eccelles, and Rodger Stroup for their flexibility and can-do attitude. <>