

AT&SF 2926 NEWS



Jeffrey Moreau collection photo courtesy of Evan Werkema and the Western Railway Museum Archives, Rio Vista Junction, CA. AT&SF 2926 west with the second section of train 19, the Chief, one mile west of Victorville, CA in 1947.

Keep checking our website at www.2926.us as the Covid-19 pandemic restrictions relax. When possible we'll invite our friends and members to join us to see 2926 move under steam for the first time since 1953.

2926 Restoration during the Covid-19 pandemic

The year 2020 came in like a restoration lion. Everything pointed to a steam up and movement under power on March 20 and 21. But our last work day on the 2926 was March 18, 2020.



The restoration became a meek lamb after the strict State of New Mexico Covid-19 restrictions shut our doors. The first 30-day Executive Order of Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham was signed on March 11, 2020. That was same day that the first case of Covid-19 was reported in New Mexico. The Order was described as “declaring a State of Public Health Emergency and Invoking the Powers Provided by the All Hazard Emergency Management Act and the Emergency Licensing Act”. Nobody guessed that the Executive Order would be repeatedly renewed and modified in conjunction with a parallel battery of Public Health Orders. Well, maybe the Governor did. One of her first letters to the citizens of New Mexico declared that getting back to normal would be at least 12 – 18 months. There have been about 80 Executive Orders since last March. Most of these are Covid-19 pandemic related. The New Mexico Covid Safe Practices document is now over 60 pages of fine print.

As those Public Health Orders were modified a partial relaxation of the rules allowed limited work to resume on the 2926 and on the #3939 tool car on August 8th, 2020. This has continued with

slow progress being made on several fronts. Minor boiler repairs, tool car body and door rebuilding, locomotive jacketing, electrical work in the cab have been addressed by small crews working in compliance with the State mandated Covid Safe Practice rules. Fundraising at the end of the year, working on the 2020 audit and IRS taxes, and other administrative duties have been carried out off site as much as possible. The License permitting us to occupy the Government Services Administration's concrete decked part of the restoration site was renewed for five years as was the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center/Bureau of Indian Affairs Land Use Permit which allows us to use the ground where the engine house sits.

Visitors have not been allowed to the site. Instead, a fair amount of time was devoted to dealing with an invasion of homeless people setting up camp in our parking lot and adjacent streets. There were drug deals, bonfires and fights. There was a fire set by homeless intruders in an adjacent BIA warehouse on January 2nd, 2021. The building in question was gutted. The 2926 engine house was unharmed.



Our only problem was a few days of ice with fire hose water filling Lake Robart (as our parking lot is referred to in times of precipitation.)

Our site was penetrated by thieves repeatedly in vain attempts to rob us. We patched fence after fence, provided security camera photos to the Armed Response Team (the hired security company), the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center Police, Albuquerque Police and the New Mexico Department of Transportation.



Finally, NMDOT sent Herzog to clear the railroad right of way encampment areas around our parking lot. Trees, shrubs, weeds, and piles of homeless junk were completely removed. The homeless problem moved. And our flat dirt parking lot is much, much bigger now. Dealing with all this seemed like a lousy way to spend the pandemic. Better times a comin'!



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Ron Taylor photo of the 2926 masked up.

Coming soon: A Love Affair with Big Boys Toys—Restoring the 2926

By Historian John Taylor

The saga of the restoration of the AT&SF 2926 will be available right after our first steam up and move as a photo rich history of the work of the NMSL&RHS volunteers. From moving her out of Coronado Park in June 2000 to the first few steam powered turns of the drivers the book is illustrated with hundreds of photographs. Available at the 2926 Store for \$50 (full color) and \$40 (partial color) plus shipping and handling if needed. Reservations can be made by email to Rick Marsden (hdric@verizon.net).

(The NMSL&RHS is a 501(c)(3) non-profit – donations are tax deductible)

1. Become a member. \$30/year individual. \$50/year family. \$500 lifetime. See www.2926.us for a membership application.
2. Make a cash, check or PayPal donation of any amount. See www.2926.us for PayPal or mail a check.
3. Use GoFundMe to help with the Tool Car campaign (see the website home page).
4. Use Smith's Community Rewards.
Visit SmithsCommunityRewards.com
Sign on to your Online Account or create an account
Select as your organization (Nonprofit Organization # **JK328**) and click save.
5. Use SmileAmazon.com and select New Mexico Steam Locomotive and Railroad Historical Society as your charity. You can "Change your Charity" in "Your Account" at any time. Remember to use Smile.Amazon.com when you shop.
6. Buy stylish 2926 merchandise at the gift shop at the locomotive.
7. Get a copy of John Taylor's A Love Affair with Big Boys Toys – Restoring the 2926 at the gift shop.
8. Add to your legacy by naming the NMSL&RHS in your will.
9. Use funds from your 401(k) required minimum distribution starting the year in which you turn 70½ years old. (That age has been pushed back to 72 so check with your financial advisor.) Funds transferred directly from that account to the NMSL&RHS avoid income taxes on the donated amount. Stock transfers can be made to Account Number 3VK-683463, DTCC clearing broker number 0443 (again, check with your financial advisor).

An email from our Secretary, Gail, went out to all those that have not paid for the renewal membership donations, but some of you do not have emails. If you are one of those members and need to update your membership, please do so by sending us a check for the above amounts to NMSLRHS, PO Box 27270, Albuquerque, NM 87125, or by going to our website at www.2926.us and using PayPal. We have a new feature for renewing and that is to auto renew. As always, we appreciate your continued support.

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