

AT&SF 2926 NEWS



January 14th, 2020 A dress rehearsal with a steam up and safety valve setting was conducted with plans to steam up and roll in March, 2020 after pistons were installed. The pistons went in but Covid-19 Public Health Orders shut down the project.

**The AT&SF 2926 is again moving under power!
More than 3.5 million dollars and more than 215,000 volunteer hours
have been invested in the restoration of the locomotive. That finally
paid off with the 2926 able to move herself under steam power. New
Mexico's Steam Locomotive has come back to life.**

Look Ma! No Lurch !

On Wednesday, July 14, 2021 Compressed air in the boiler was used to shuttle the 2926 back and forth at the restoration site under air power with Chief Mechanical Officer Rick Kirby in the engineer's seat. Car mover Lurch was attached to the pilot for the first few trips back and forth 'just in case'. Confidence in (air) power led to a few more trips without Lurch.



Inching up to 130 psi air pressure.



CMO Kirby calls the Safety Officer for clearance.



AT&SF 2926 ready to roll. A blast of compressed air from the cylinder cocks and she is off.



At the end of the run the black engine is nose to nose with yellow Lurch.

On Saturday July 17, 2021 4,000 gallons of water were loaded into the tender with treatment by chemist Roger Jutte. On Wednesday July 21, 2021 a long day of work completed the loading of 8,000 gallons of water into the boiler and 2,000 gallons of fuel oil in the tender.



The water filled boiler was pressurized to 125% of working pressure (363psi) and hydrostatic testing of the boiler completed with hammering of the thousands of staybolts from inside the sooty firebox by Gary Walker and Rick Marsden.



Gary and Rick were received pig pen award patches for their dress uniforms.



The cats suspected that something big was afoot. Spirit wanted to help.

Moving under steam for the first time since 1953



On July 24, 2021 the crew spotted the 2926 with firebox over the pit. After valve line up and lubrication checks it was time to proceed with fire up.

Save the day September 25, 2021. The Annual Free Open House from 9AM to 5PM will be better than ever. See the website www.2926.us for a flyer you can use to invite your friends to the party.



A safety briefing was conducted by CMO Kirby, SCO Spargo, and engineer Matt Casford. Those members not serving as part of the initial fire up crew were directed to one of five observer's bull pens.





A large air compressor was attached to provide air for initial firing and a fire ball of used Covid-19 face masks soaked in kerosene was used to ignite the flames as atomized fuel oil was judiciously started by Fireman Apprentice Henry Roberts and visiting AT&SF 3751 Fireman Alex Gillman. A thin grey haze rose from the extended exhaust stack.





Under the watchful eye of Matt the boiler temperature and pressure were gradually raised to 75psi. At that point the air compressor was cut off and the atomizer was run with boiler steam. When the working pressure of 290psi was reached and the first safety valve released with a vertical blast of steam the excitement in the bull pens was contagious.



At 3:44 PM Matt whistled and 2926 was rolling under steam power for the first time since 1953.



Dr. Mike Hartshorne started calling up volunteers in groups of four by seniority for short cab rides starting at the west end of the site backing to the engine house to the east. 2926 then ran forward to the starting point. This activity concluded at 5:30 PM after every one present had at least one ride. The fire was killed and the stack capped for the night.



The next day there were rides for hundreds of friends and visits by local media to cover the story.



Flags flying, headlight gleaming and bell ringing Engineer Matt played tunes on the whistle. One for stop, two for forward, three for reverse, and a fancy grade crossing tune made music all day.



Volunteers, family friends and assorted guests were happy riders until 2:30 when the last one left with a smile. The 2926 entertained some amateur whistle blowers and then the crew celebrated with Wild Bill Wilhelm's homemade ice creams in the shade of the tender.





It was a historic day in the restoration of the AT&SF 2926. Asked about the performance of the locomotive Engineer Matt Casford observed that it was really hard to hold her speed down and said “It was like driving a corvette in a parking garage.” (We can’t wait to see the big black lady on the freeway.)



Coming August 2021

A Love Affair with Big Boys Toys—Restoring the 2926

By NMSL&RHS Historian John Taylor

The saga of the restoration of the AT&SF 2926 will be available in August 2021 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 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.

4. 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 SmileAmazon.com when you shop.
5. Buy stylish 2926 merchandise at the gift shop at the locomotive.
6. Get a copy of John Taylor's A Love Affair with Big Boys Toys – Restoring the 2926 at the gift shop.
7. Add to your legacy by naming the NMSL&RHS in your will.
8. 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).

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