



**Friends of the
Tanana Valley Railroad
Fall 2007 Newsletter
&
Notice of Annual Meeting**

**Recap of Summer and Fall
Operations**

This past summer was a busy one for the FTVRR. We operated Engine #1 often, pulling many passengers on the Memorial Day weekend, July 4th and preceding Sunday, Fairbanks Memorial Hospital Picnic, Labor Day, and on the Glorious 29 of September, in honor of the completion of the TVRR's tracks to Chatanika. Our little group of volunteers pleased many visitors to Alaska during these run days, as well as our own neighbors. This fall we also continued for the second year in a row a special Halloween steam day run. Last year's and this year saw much steam surrounding our faithful steam engine and adding spooky steam clouds due to the cold conditions. Steaming up in the snow is great fun and provides great photo opportunities. Our Halloween run (460 globins and parents as passengers) also saw support from Ft Wainwright in

the form of pirates, and Alpha Phi Omega as ghouls in a "made do" cemetery by the Wilderness Pavilion. McDonalds and J. Binkley provided refreshments for this free train ride event.

☐Santa Train ☐

& Photos with Santa☐

We plan on operating the second annual Santa Train on Saturday, November 24 from noon to 5:30. There will be free refreshments: Hot Cider, Hot Chocolate, Fresh Roasted Chestnuts, and Cookies. The Santa train will be pulled by Engine #67 (Park's engine) due to unpredictable weather conditions. Santa photos of you and/or your kids will be available for purchase, in various sizes, with steam Engine #1 as the background.

**☐FTVRR Annual ☐Meeting
and Potluck**

FTVRR is required to hold annual membership meetings so why not make it fun. Our meeting is scheduled for 4:00 PM in the Engine House, on 9 December 2007. Please come, we need you for the quorum, and we promise the business meeting will be short painless and the Pot Luck will great. It is rumored someone may be bringing a liquid Christmas Cheer for all.

What was the Price of a Porter?

Recent research has found several H.K. Porter engines, sisters to our engine, two sold for \$2,700 and one for \$2,550 in 1901. Assuming \$2,700 in 1899

for Engine #1, inflated to today
that would be about \$63,000.

Average 1900 annual income for
a family of four was about \$756.

Visit our Museum and see our new Displays

This fall, just in time for the Celebration of the 100 Years of the Golden Spike signifying the Completion of the Chatanika branch of the TVRR we displayed our new exhibits. These displays, funded by Grants from the Igloo 34 of the Pioneers Foundation and the Rasmuson Foundation, depict the rise and fall of the TMR & TVRR on six panels. Additionally, one or two panels are envisioned to explain more about Engine #1 and how a steam locomotive functions, watch for them.

Special Thanks to: the **Rasmuson Foundation, Igloo #4 Pioneers of Alaska Foundation** for museum and unrestricted grants, respectively.

Once again our steam operations this past summer were greatly helped by **Aurora Energy**, and **Usibelli Coal Mines**, and Bill Nordmark of Healy. They have generously helped in the supply of coal and special boiler water.

If you are not a Life Member your Dues are due now for
CY 2008.

Please pay them in person at the annual meeting or mail \$20
for an Individual Membership or \$50 for a Family Membership
to the Friends' P. O. Box.

Donations are also always welcome. We could use a ¾" drive
large socket set, and an old 8 point (for square head bolts &
nuts) socket set.

Friends of the Tanana Valley Railroad
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TO: