

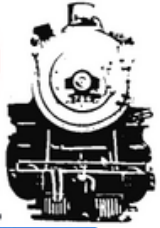
FALL/WINTER

2024

NO. 105

# The CALL BOARD

Newsletter of the Austin Steam Train Association



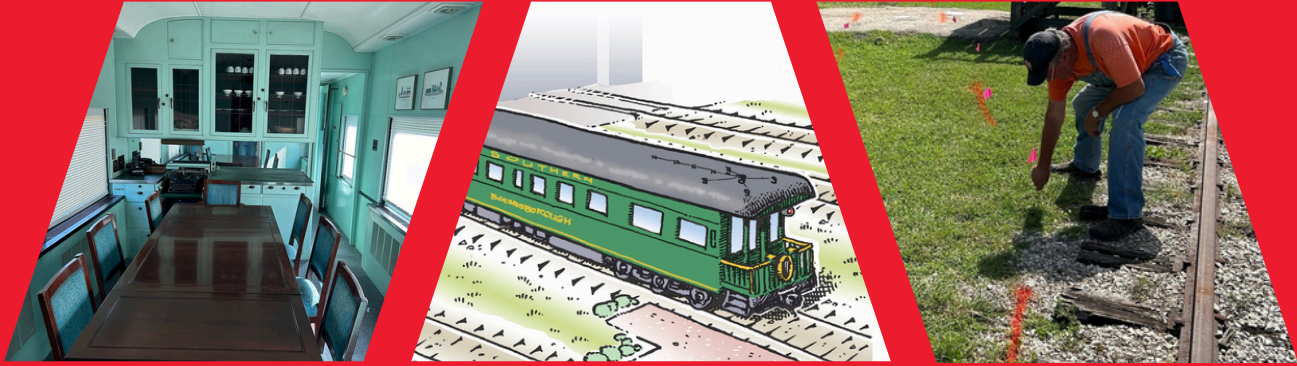
## **Improvements & Expansion!**

### **The Boonesborough Car and Display Track**

The Austin Steam Train Association is proud to announce the generous donation of Southern Railway business car #4, the Boonesborough. Built in 1929 by Pullman Standard, this historic car was originally designed to accommodate railway officials on business trips along their lines. Later, it became the personal railcar of ASTA founder Arthur Boone and his family, who enjoyed countless journeys across the country over a span of more than two decades.

The Boonesborough boasts an impressive array of features, including an open observation platform, a spacious parlor, two large bedrooms—each with its own private bath—a grand dining room, a butler's pantry, a kitchen, and onboard crew quarters. Its elegant design and rich history make it a truly unique addition to our collection.

In addition to expanding our fleet, the Austin Steam Train Association is well on its way to securing the funding needed for the much-anticipated Display Track due to an incredible \$50,000 donation from the Boone family. Once the display track is completed, the Boonesborough will be placed on permanent display and repurposed as a private event space, adding a new dimension to ASTA's offerings. This track, which will cost around \$80,000 to complete, is a vital part of our Capital Improvement Project and will serve as a permanent location for the historic Boonesborough and future Engine and Car Repair Facility. Thank you to the Boone Family for helping make all this possible!



From Left: The Boonesborough, the Display Track model, and preparing for the display track

## Thank you to our Murder Mystery Sponsors

Each year, ASTA hosts an annual fundraiser to support the organization. This year's event was a brand-new spin on our popular murder mystery ride called *"Red Carpet Secrets"*! This exclusive fundraiser featured a live performance, delicious drinks, a silent auction and raffle, and a platform party! It was a wonderful evening that raised money to help sustain us in the coming year. We are so grateful to our sponsors who helped make this event a success: Prosperity Bank, Etix, Austin and Western Railroad, Lower Colorado River Authority, and Dennis and Jane Kearns.



**Dennis & Jane Kearns**

**The #442 is  
looking  
shiny, and  
new!**



We're excited to share that our locomotive 442 project is gaining momentum! Steel wear plates have been welded onto the rear truck bearing boxes, and the cab roof and back wall gap have been expertly repaired by Abe Doss. Additionally, Noah Jarrett has given the cab interior a fresh, professional coat of paint. Next on the agenda is completing the wear plates on the remaining rear truck bearing boxes, reassembling the rear truck, and lifting the locomotive to install the truck underneath. Support like yours helps make developments like this possible!



## SP 786 Inspires Creativity

James Hoover and Michael Humbert, two passionate train enthusiasts, were so inspired by our Southern Pacific 786 that they created an exact replica of it. Michael, a model train expert, spent weeks meticulously working on the model, paying close attention to the smallest details. James, who has admired the SP 786 since childhood, provided photos and guidance to ensure accuracy. Their shared dedication led to a stunning model that they hope will inspire others to support ASTA's efforts of restoring vintage locomotives such as the real 786. Michael says, "I'm hoping people look at it and just go 'Wow, this is awesome! I can't wait to see the real one!'" ASTA is humbled to have inspired such creativity. We are so grateful for this effort and we look forward to bringing the real SP 786 back to its former glory with community support.



## ASTA's New Membership Program Rewards You!

ASTA has revamped our membership program and we invite you to join! Starting in November of 2024, members are donors who support ASTA's general fund on a monthly basis and receive special benefits, recognition, and gifts of appreciation. By becoming a member, you directly contribute to essential projects and the continued success of our programs. Join our membership program to sustain and grow the impactful work we do!



**To become a member, scan the QR code! Don't wait to join! Each person that joins the membership program between now and 12/31/2024 will be entered to win a \$100 ASTA gift card that can be used on ANY RIDE in 2025!** For full terms and conditions, visit <https://www.austinsteamtrain.org/membership>.

Benefits	Membership Level				
	Brass*	Silver \$10/mon	Gold \$25/mon	Iron \$50/mon	Steel \$100/mon
Exclusive Membership Card	X	X	X	X	X
Member-Only Communications	X	X	X	X	X
Quarterly Appreciation Gift		X	X	X	X
10% off Concession Car		X	X	X	X
Recognition in Quarterly Newsletter			X	X	X
Complimentary Birthday Ride			Up to \$30 value	Up to \$60 value	Up to \$120 value
Tickets to exclusive awards luncheon in spring				2 Complementary Tickets	2 Complementary Tickets
1-Day Early Access to NPF Ticket Sales				Must be an Iron member for at least 6 payments to receive this benefit	Must be a Steel member for at least 3 payments to receive this benefit

\*Brass is the default membership level for all other recurring donors who do not sign up for the official membership program. Visit <https://www.austinsteamtrain.org/membership> for more info

**THE AUSTIN STEAM TRAIN ASSOCIATION, INC.**

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**Celebrate the Holidays in the North Pole Flyer!**



The classic North Pole Flyer is back! Departing from our historic 1912 Bertram Depot, the 2024 trip brings back some of your favorite activities and entertainers! Our special 2-hour excursion on a real train features a visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus, all-you-can-drink hot cocoa, live balloon twisters, on-board caroling and a locally baked holiday cookie. Buy your tickets today at <https://www.austinsteamtrain.org/special-events/north-pole-flyer>.