

WINTER

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The CALL BOARD

Newsletter of the Austin Steam Train Association



Owning a Piece of History

The New Acquisition of Locomotive #3134

You already know and love locomotive #3134, and now it's officially ours! The Austin Steam Train Association (ASTA) is thrilled to announce the purchase of locomotive #3134 from Horizon Rail. After years of leasing, this acquisition ensures that ASTA has a second diesel locomotive, allowing us to maintain consistent and reliable service for years to come.

Built in 1968, this locomotive was originally delivered to the Penn Central Railroad as #3118. It later became part of Conrail in 1976 before being sold to the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad in 1984, where it was renumbered to #3134. Over the next four decades, it traversed the country, working for various railroad companies before finding its way to Central Texas in 2017. While on its numerous journeys, #3134 made a name for itself in Hollywood! The locomotive has appeared in several films including the first The Fast and the Furious movie, Hijack, The X-Files, and Fugitive Dreams, which was filmed on-site at the Austin and Texas Central Railroad.

Adding #3134 to our roster will help ASTA achieve a long-term goal: having two operational engines at all times. It will work alongside our locomotive #442, when it returns to service, and eventually our beloved steam engine, SP 786. This ensures that even when one locomotive is undergoing maintenance, we can continue providing uninterrupted train service. EMD locomotives like #3134 are also known for their ease of maintenance. Unlike Alco locomotives like #442, which can take months to source parts, most EMD parts can be procured within a week—helping us keep operations running smoothly.

This locomotive isn't just reliable—it's a powerhouse. After an overhaul in 2016 following an alternator fire, #3134 was rebuilt by the experts at Horizon Rail in Euclid, Ohio. Now, it features a TMV control system, self-load, motor shunting, full diagnostic functions, upgraded seating, a Microphor toilet, air conditioning, and heating. It runs on a robust 16-645-E engine, boasting an impressive 3,000 horsepower.

In the near future, ASTA plans to renumber the locomotive, apply our own reporting markers, and give it a fresh coat of paint to reflect its new permanent home with us. We want to extend a special thank-you to Board President Robert Schoen, Executive Director Zena Vaughn, Operations Manager Brian Smith, Chairman Brian Thompson, Vice Chair Ben Sargent, and Foreman Matt Jackson for their dedication in making this purchase possible. Their efforts ensure that ASTA continues to provide exceptional rail experiences for our community.

Most importantly, we want to express our deepest gratitude to you—our generous donors and supporters. It is because of your contributions that ASTA is able to maintain and expand our locomotive fleet, preserving the rich history of railroading for future generations. Your continued support allows us to make purchases like this, ensuring that we can keep our historic train running for the enjoyment of our community today and for years to come. Thank you for being a part of this journey with us!

Stay tuned for more updates, and come see #3134 in action on our next excursion!

ASTA Appreciates Our Volunteers!



ASTA is incredibly grateful for our dedicated volunteers who keep our train running—providing top-notch service, maintaining operations, and creating unforgettable experiences. On January 30, we celebrated them at our annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner at Red Horn Brewery & Roastery, a longtime supporter of ASTA. We recognized outstanding achievements, including volunteers who dedicated over 200, 300, 400, and even 500 hours of service! We also presented the Spirit of ASTA Award to Noah Jarrett. Volunteers are truly our lifeblood—we couldn't exist without them! If you're inspired to join this amazing team, visit <https://www.austinsteamtrain.org/about-asta/volunteer> to apply today.

Member Spotlight

ASTA recently rolled out a brand new membership program and we could not be more grateful to the passionate supporters who have joined. Members contribute to our general fund monthly, directly funding essential projects and ensuring the success of our programs. We are truly grateful for their support and dedication!

Beth Renstrom
John Serold
Larry Dan McGinnis
Steve Bernard Hanson
Virginia Urban
Zena Vaughn



**Thank you all
for being
members
and keeping our
wheels turning now
and into the future!**

If you would like to join their ranks and receive special recognition in our newsletter as well as gifts of appreciation (including an exclusive pin!), visit <https://www.austinsteamttrain.org/membership> and become a member today!

Join Your Neighbors in a Day of Giving!

Amplify Austin Day is the largest giving event in Central Texas! For 24 hours, residents across our seven-county region come together to support local nonprofits that make a difference in our community. We're proud to be one of over 700 participating organizations in this incredible display of community spirit! Since 2013, Amplify Austin Day has raised an impressive \$112.7 million for 1,507 nonprofits.

As residents of Williamson County, we're participating in both **Amplify Austin Day** and **Amplify Wilco Day**—a county-specific version of the event. Both take place from **6 PM on March 5 to 6 PM on March 6**. Join your neighbors in supporting nonprofits like ASTA by donating to us at the QR code or link below. This profile applies to both events.

Tito's Handmade Vodka will give us an extra \$25 per gift up to \$15,000 when you include #lovetitos at checkout!

As a nonprofit, we rely on community support to continue preserving history for families in our community to experience our train and create magical memories. Opportunities like this make a huge difference! Thank you for your support!



SCAN WITH YOUR PHONE TO DONATE

OR VISIT THIS WEBSITE
TO DONATE



Amplify Austin Day

<https://www.amplifyatx.org/organizations/austin-steam-train-association>

THE AUSTIN STEAM TRAIN ASSOCIATION, INC.

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Luck, Laughter, & Trivia!



All aboard for a thrilling St. Patrick's Day weekend on the fan-favorite Trivia Train! Compete in five rounds of pop culture trivia with a team of up to four for exciting prizes and the ASTA Trivia Champion title. Enjoy drinks, including beer, wine, and a special St. Paddy's cocktail in the Cedar Park Car. Whether you're a trivia master or just in it for fun, this ride promises friendly competition, great drinks, and unforgettable moments.

Grab your tickets at <https://bit.ly/paddys-trivia-asta> today!