



Engine 557 Restoration Company

November 26, 2017

Dear 557 Supporter,

Thanks to many individuals, businesses, charitable organizations, and other friends of ex-Alaska Railroad steam locomotive #557, her restoration continues at a steady pace. In the 63 months since the first wrench was turned, our cadre of volunteers has now invested over 60,000 hours in the restoration. The effort continues to be watched by train fans and rail preservation professionals throughout the U.S. and from around the world.

This year, a major investment in time has been installing new boiler stays. Although we had originally projected a Lower-48 contractor oversee and do much of this work, the 557 mechanical crew met the challenge and is doing almost all of the work in-house. The crew is also putting the finishing touches on the tender. Tender braking and electrical systems are essentially completed. Substantial progress has also been made in installing the new cab electrical system and reworking the locomotive brake control stand. Other work includes assessing the condition and starting the overhaul of the lead truck.

Education and outreach is another part of our mission. This year we have welcomed many local and out-of-state visitors to the Engine House, including the occasional visitor from Europe. We have hosted Boy Scouts, home schoolers, and residents of the Palmer Veterans and Pioneers Home. We continue to share the stories of 557 and the Alaska Railroad with historical and community groups and at a booth at Fur Rendezvous.

As we come closer to completing the overhaul, we are starting preparations for operations. We now have a permit from the Alaska Railroad Corporation to use a portion of the Palmer branch for testing and initial operations. The City of Palmer is supportive of our use of the City owned spur to the Palmer airport. We also have a commitment for a donated supply of fuel oil for the first two years.

I am again asking for your financial support towards returning 557 to operation. As in prior years, I am kicking off the effort with my personal commitment to match up to \$5,000 for contributions made through December 31, 2017. Please join me with your support.

If you haven't recently looked at 557's Facebook and Internet pages, check them at the addresses below. If you haven't paid a recent visit the Engine House, give a call and we will arrange a personal tour.

To have your contribution matched, send a check to "Engine 557 Restoration Company" at the address below or contribute on-line at <http://557.alaskarails.org/support/donate.html>. Thank you for your support, and as always, "Dream Big, Dream Steam."

Richard T. Morris
Secretary/Treasurer