

C&TSRR Up-Date From The President

I received this from Elmer today.

- Locomotive 488 - The boiler 5 year inspection has been completed and the locomotive is being reassembled in preparation for a hydro test next week. Full steam testing and pop off valve testing will happen next spring when the weather warms up. Compliments to the Antonito Shop with help from the Chama Shop in completing this critical tasking.
- Locomotive 487 - The work on the 487 drivers is coming along well. A counter weight had to be pressed off and is now back under repair with the intention of having the number 2 and 3 axels back on the 487 by December 9, 2010. The Chama Shop has done an excellent job of getting on the 487. The plan is to have the 487 ready to go in early March 2011 in anticipation of moving girders and ties to Lobato Trestle in preparation for construction beginning in early April 2011.
- Both shops will shut down for about 2.5 months beginning on December 9, 2010.
- Marketing Update - The Marketing Team continues to press ahead on a number of fronts. We are working new contracts with key contractors including Taos Web for website support, Internet Honey for social networks, and Fulgen on the reservations system. All contractors are being asked to step up their presence and support of the railroad in anticipation of a significant campaign to announce our return to full service in May 2011. My thanks to the Marketing Team for their good work in this critical area. There is a new Gift Card Program that has been developed by Nick Quintana and the Marketing Team just in time for the Holidays. Thanks Nick. The Marketing Team is working drafts for next years brochures which include streamlining the number of trip options, collapsing motor-coach transportation options into the cost of tickets, and looking to promote the Mid-Day Meal at Osier. The goal is to make our trip options simple to pick and incrementally working the web site and the reservations system to be more user friendly so that when you decide to go, it is easy to get a reservation. In addition, programming efforts have been launched to send Thank You notes to people within 24 hours of riding on the railroad. The plan is to have a final draft of the brochure ready for review by the Commission at the December 16 meeting, go to printing before the end of the year and begin brochure distribution in January 2011 in racks and for promotion during winter and spring marketing events. My thanks to Tim, Chris, Nick and Roger for working this effort. Roger and Nick have worked with the Chama Village Council in getting approval to hang a Village of Chama/C&TSRR banner at the south bridge coming into town. The banner will welcome people to town and direct them to Old Town Chama and the railroad as opposed to just turning left and heading up to Pagosa Springs. Thanks Roger and Nick.
- Track Program - The Track Gang completed its appointed duties by mid-November and the track is ready for winter, and more importantly, given the work they did, we are confident that the track will be in good shape for start-up in the spring. In addition, crushing of ballast at Martinez Point became a reality with crushing equipment being moved in by rail, ballast was made and spread on the railroad before the Track Gang went home for the season. Thanks to the track crew, Ronnie Lopez and the train crews, and Marvin and John for their efforts in bringing this capability to the railroad.
- Trestle Update - The design engineering for the most part is done and John and Leo continue to work the process of getting bids in for the girders and wood ties. The goal is to place the orders next week. Very tight and perhaps a bit of an optimistic schedule on the Lobato Trestle Project on all fronts, but the John and Leo team, along with Marvin, are very intent on hitting their targets. Thank you gentlemen.

Here's wishing you all, along with your families, a very Happy Thanksgiving Holiday.

Thanks,

Elmer