

# The Travel Town **TENDER**



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## ***President's Message***

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Holiday Greetings to all our Friends of Travel Town!

2025 has been a spectacular year for us at Travel Town - and we still have a few weeks left! Our fantastic team of volunteer restorationists have made outstanding progress on the 104-year-old Union Pacific dining car, both inside and outside! We've also mounted TWO new exhibits this year: *Meet Me At The Depot* is featured in the upper level of the historic Arcadia Depot building (near the miniature train ride boarding area) and offers a nostalgic look at a railroad station and office from the 1940s. Meanwhile, in the big Exhibit Hall, we're excited to present a *Travel Town 75th Anniversary Retrospective*, tracing some key moments in Travel Town's own rich history in anticipation the Museum's "Diamond Jubilee" celebration coming up in 2027. If you've not yet visited either of these new exhibits, please stop by soon!

We're looking forward to 2026 as the year of "The Little Nugget". As work on the U.P. dining car nears completion, we're eager to turn morn of our volunteer work and resources back into the restoration work on the famous club car from the 1937 Streamliner. Watch for updates in the new Tender and please don't miss our upcoming Member's Only Polar Express Holiday Party on December 6th. Members, please be sure to RSVP with Sandy right away! I'll be there, along with a very old friend of mine from the North Pole. Can you still hear the bell?



Happy Holidays from Travel Town!

GREG GNEIER

President

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## ***Executive Directors Report***

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The end of the year is a great time to reflect on the work we have done around the Museum, to appreciate all of our supporters this past year, and to plan and anticipate the work to be done next year. I include everyone who is reading this as part of that WE - whether you have supported us by donating to our memberships, or you have volunteered and led tours, or run our Squirrel Valley Railroad, or cleaned trains or raked leaves or restored and painted any of the cars at the Museum, WE have all done great things this past year! Here is a quick summary:

Educational Outreach:

- 48 Group tours given to 2,734 attendees
- Regular monthly open house tours given on the second saturday (and some sundays) with 2,294 attendees
- Offsite outreach at Los Angeles' Union Station's Train Festival

- Squirrel Valley Railroad run on 63 days!

Restoration Goals Met:

- 36 Dining car chairs re-upholstered and ready for display.
- 12 Window shades purchased for dining car.
- Rewiring of dining car completed, fans and lights all working.
- Interior finishing (repair, staining and painting) completed on walls of main dining room.
- Exterior roof of the diner was primed and painted!

Maintenance performed:

- Batteries replaced on the Charley Atkins 52.
- Batteries watered, engines started monthly for Charley Atkins 52, Baldwin 56, and Crane, as well as skip loader and forklift maintenance.
- Trains dusted, brushed and washed when necessary.
- New directional signs installed at the Museum.

What do we look forward to in 2026?

- Meeting and exceeding our 2025 numbers for tours.
- Expanding our open house tour program to include more sundays
- Exceeding our SVRR run days from 2025, and improving our donations.
- Painting the exterior of the 369 Dining Car.
- Installing the exterior windows in the 369 diner.
- Repairing the flooring in the hallway of the diner.
- Repairing windows in "The Little Nugget" lounge car.
- Replacing the missing door on the West end of "The Little Nugget" lounge.
- Oversight of 3 Eagle projects to improve the track and a play area at the Museum.
- Continued maintenance on all the diesel locomotives and other equipment.
- Coordinating businesses and other groups with community service days.

WOW! Its amazing what we have done and plan to do, and none of it is possible without our volunteer labor and the monetary support of members and donors. If you would like to become more involved, please know that we encourage our members to volunteer, and volunteers to support us financially!

Here is a brief example of some of our expenses from last year:

- Each window shade in the diner cost 976.88. We ordered 12.
- Paint for the roof of the dining car - Primer was \$49.20 per can, 6 cans used. Paint for the roof was \$65.98 per gallon, 8 gallons used. Total cost of paint for roof around \$900.
- Other supply costs in dining car: \$1551.87
- Towing of REA truck to Union Station for Train Festival, \$250 per hour, Total was \$700.
- Supplies for volunteers, tour guides, school groups and cleaning supplies:\$2,355.30

So thank you once again for your support in all these endeavors. Remember at the end of the year, small business saturday will be on November 29, so shop our gift shop on this day! Members get 15% off, not just your regular 10%! And for straight donations, giving Tuesday is December 2nd. Please think of us!

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***Members Event - Please RSVP!***

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## **Member's Polar Express Party with Santa!**

Dec 6th, 5:15pm sharp!

5:15 – 6:30 Doors open – Activities include:

- Special evening train ride around the Museum
- Visiting the gift shop (10% discount applies on everything in the store!)
- Coloring and writing letters to Santa
- Free cookies, popcorn and Hot Chocolate!
- Other finger foods available for purchase for a light dinner.

5:15 to 6:30 **Santa Claus** will be here for pictures!

6:30 -- **Showing the Movie "The Polar Express"** (1hr, 40 minutes)

Gift shop will remain open until 8:30 pm.

Food and hot chocolate provided until they run out, or 8:15.

8:15 Movie will end. Parking lot locked at 9pm.

Please RSVP via email to Sandy so we know how many people to expect:

[Sandy@traveltown.org](mailto:Sandy@traveltown.org)

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*Depot Day 2025*

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For more great Depot Day photos, please see our Facebook post by clicking here or going to :  
<https://www.facebook.com/traveltown/posts/pfbid031dp5fQRMXj5Es4nS3mv2T32VSTEAZqtZrZxYteEjK5khWLPdLftkB89zU3iA2oMql>:

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## ***New and Renewing Members***

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### **Restoration Partners:**

Cliff Gilbert-Lurie  
Doug Hutcheon  
Colleen Server  
Zara Jethani

### **Streamliners:**

Alejandra Moreno  
Daniel Pirimasihi  
Marco Coromac/ Paulina Ramirez  
Kevin Dunckzar  
Jamie Carter  
Michael Blishak  
Maria Giraco  
Mike & Ann Pitts  
Maricela Gonzalez  
Tiffany Crowe-Overbeck

### **Track Gang members:**

Vanessa Grunstein  
Amanda Kainer  
Carter Rubin  
Marya Shapiro  
Phoebe Krueger  
Faith Crawford

Madison Malone  
Jessica Leggett  
Andrew Daramola  
Jessica Franco  
Nicholas Berkofsky  
Nick Wisniewski  
Sebastian Stofenmacher  
Milton Morales  
Casey Killian  
Andrea Chapman  
Tristan Mathews  
James Brooks  
Nena Carmen  
Melanie Kirk  
Chris Rougier  
Vladimir Coca  
Joanne Nucho

### **Engineers:**

Shan Xiong  
Adam Ianniello  
Sam Linsky  
Chung Wang  
Kyle Toohey  
Taylor Morgan



Memberships are great gifts for that person who has everything! Click the button below for easy gift giving!