

Operations Update: 2024 Caboose Trains

NEW TIMETABLE

Scheduled Operating Days:

Saturdays, Sundays, Memorial and Labor Day May 25 to September 2

Scheduled Departures, daily:

11:00, 11:30, 12:00, 13:00, 13:30, 14:00

There have been three changes made to the caboose train departure schedule as compared to the 2023 season.

First, departures will start one half hour earlier at 11:00. This is an effort to offer a more attractive time for the significant number of customers who arrive at or near museum opening.

Second, the caboose train schedule will now be the same for every operating day. There will no longer be a different schedule for Saturdays, Sundays or holidays. This change will remove one departure from Saturday and add one departure to Sunday, so there will be no change in the overall total of scheduled departures.

The third change is procedural and impacts the 12:00 run. This single run will always be push-pull, even if there is a full crew and 'full operations' are in effect. The purpose of this change is to allow the crew more time for lunch. Even though the current schedule allows 30 minutes for lunch, in practice this time is rarely available without pushing the next departure back since the crew must return from lunch early to assemble and test the train.

It is expected that running push-pull will reduce the 12:00 run by 5-10 minutes. Leaving the locomotive attached to the train during lunch will result in a quicker recovery for the 13:00 run, saving another 5-10 minutes over current operations. Combined, these time savings should allow all crew members a full 30 minutes for lunch.

CONDUCTOR - STORE COMMUNICATION

In an effort to keep store personnel fully informed about the status of caboose train operations, a new reporting task is being added for the caboose train conductor. A white board has been installed in the museum store in a prominent location where it can be viewed by store personnel. This board is to be updated each operating day prior to museum opening with the following information:

- Current Date (confirms to store personnel the information is fresh)
- Caboose train status (i.e. 'as scheduled', 'cancelled due to lack of crew', etc)
- Caboose train locomotive (i.e. 'SP2873')
- Number of seats available for cab riders
 - QRR1100 - 1 seat potential
 - WP1503 - 1 seat potential

- SP2873 - 4 seats potential

This information will assist with the sale of train tickets, cab rides and walk-in RALs

CAB RIDES

Cab ride release forms will now include the departure time the cab ride was purchased for. Engine crews are to check each release form and confirm the customer is assigned the current departure time. If a cab rider presents a form for a past departure (they missed their assigned time), communicate with the museum store to determine if there are adequate unsold seats on the present run to accommodate the customer. If there are not adequate seats, direct the customer to return to the museum store where they can inquire about a courtesy re-assignment to a later departure.