

Florida Railroad Museum - August 2013

eTracks

Christmas in August



Well, it's not quite Christmas in August, but all the information on the 2013 North Pole Express is now available! Mark your calendars as **member ticket sales begin at 12 Noon on Monday, August 26.**

The only way to buy your member tickets is via the Ticket Office, in-person or by phone. We will have three people on the phone lines August 26 to keep the hold time short.

All the main details for the event are below including dates, times, prices and classes of service. If you have other questions, check out all the details on the [North Pole Express](#) page or give us a [shout](#) and we'll be glad to help.

Dates and Timetable

The North Pole Express will depart Parrish, FL at 5:30 PM and 7:00 PM on the following dates:

December 5, 6, 7, 8

December 12, 13, 14, 15

December 19, 20, 21, 22

Boarding will begin 30 minutes before departure and all tickets must be picked up at least 20 minutes before departure.

The train will operate on the following timetable. Start at the top of each column and read down.

Station	Train 1	Train 2
Depart Parrish, FL	5:30 PM	7:00 PM
Arrive North Pole	6:00 PM	7:30 PM
Depart North Pole	7:55 PM	9:15 PM
Arrive Parrish, FL	8:25 PM	9:45 PM

When do Tickets Go On Sale?

Member ticket sales begin at 12 Noon on Monday, August 26. As a reminder, your membership level determines the number of Early Access tickets you may purchase. For example, a Supporting Member may purchase two tickets while a Family Member is eligible to buy up to five tickets.

Once sales open to the public, there is no limit on the number of tickets that may be purchased.

Fares and Classes of Service

We are excited to introduce a new car this year, the Atlantic Coast Line #250. There was a brief write-up on the acquisition in the July eTracks. This 45 seat lounge will inaugurate our First Class Lounge service featuring a combination of tables with chairs and booth seating. (There is one seat without a table, # 30, if you want to avoid that spot.)

As with last year, there are two fare bands depending on the date. While the caboose prices have risen, the rest of the fares remain unchanged from 2012. There have been upgrades to Caboose Class during the stop at the North Pole. Read below for more details.

December 5, 8, 12, 15 & 19				
	Coach Class	Excursion Class	First Class	Caboose Class
Adults	\$24	\$36	\$49	\$639
Children 1-11	\$20	\$31	\$43	
Under 1	FREE	FREE	FREE	

December 6, 7, 13, 14, 20, 21 & 22				
	Coach Class	Excursion Class	First Class	Caboose Class
Adults	\$29	\$43	\$59	\$819
Children 1-11	\$24	\$37	\$52	
Under 1	FREE	FREE	FREE	

First Class Lounge - *New!*

- Location: **Car 250**
- Assigned seats at time of reservation.
- Enclosed lounge with air conditioning and heating.
- Variety of seating options from chairs to booths.
- Every seat is at or next to a table.
- Restrooms available in car.
- Complimentary refreshment service onboard the train.

First Class Coach

- Location: **Car 5416**
- Assigned seats at time of reservation.
- Enclosed coach with air conditioning and heating.
- Large, comfortable, upholstered seats that recline.
- Lots of leg room and a foot rest.
- Restroom available in car.
- Complimentary refreshment service onboard the train.

Excursion Class

- Location: **Car 821**
- Assigned seats at time of reservation.
- Open-window coach (windows adjusted according to weather).
- Comfortable, upholstered seats with foot rest.
- Restrooms available in car.

- Complimentary refreshment service onboard the train.

Coach Class

- Location: **Cars 6324 & 86902**
- Tickets assigned by car at time of reservation.
- First come, first served seating at boarding.
- Restrooms available in coach car 6324 for all coach passengers.
- Cars 6324 & 86902: Open-air covered coaches.

Caboose Class - *Upgraded service!*

- Private caboose for up to 16 guests, including adults and children.
- Bring your own food and non-alcoholic drinks.
- Caboose interior will be decorated for the holidays.
- Caboose has tables, restroom and running water.
- Open windows, doors and fans for ventilation.
- Museum host provided for safety and to assist in boarding/detraining.
- Exclusive ***Caboose Cabana*** at the North Pole for you and your guests. Each cabana provides seating, tables, heat, storage space and private hot chocolate and cookie service.

Do Not Leave Belongings on the Train

Due to the new schedule, the train will not remain at the North Pole. This means all personal belongings must be taken with you at the North Pole. If you are traveling in a Caboose, we have introduced Caboose Cabanas at the North Pole so you have a place to put your belongings. Read above for more details on Caboose Class.

Why Change the Event?

There are quite a few benefits to operating two trains per night:

- 1) Choice of earlier or later departure to better fit our guests' schedules.
- 2) Smaller capacity train means less crowding onboard and at the North Pole.
- 3) With the smaller train, we can better control timing and publish an often asked-for timetable of departure AND arrival times.
- 4) A shorter, more appropriate length of time spent at the North Pole. Believe it or not, staying at the North Pole too long has been our #1 complaint for several years.
- 5) More capacity over the entire event to meet demand.

The only downside we have identified is some guests used the train to store personal items they didn't want to carry around the North Pole. We believe the benefits far outweigh the storage convenience and hope you will agree.

Contact us

If you have any questions about the North Pole Express this year, or your membership in general, we'd love to hear from you. Send us an [e-mail](mailto:membership@frmm.org) or call 941-776-0906 option 3 and we'll be glad to help!