



Federation of Heritage Railways of Southern Africa

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Dear FEDRAIL SA member,

FEDRAIL NEWSBRIEF No: 19

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Welcome to our latest News Update of 2017 with more news from FEDRAIL SA and our members, in these frequent bulletins we shall be updating our members and friends on matters relating to rail preservation and tourism in Southern Africa. We invite all our readers to submit any comments or information that could be beneficial to the growth of rail preservation and tourism for future issues.

News

AfricaRail 2017

FEDRAIL SA visited this annual exhibition in mid-June although we chose not to take exhibitor space as AfricaRail is now a pure trade show for the railway industry. Rail preservation and tourism do not feature at all as in years gone by. The exhibitors are suppliers of everything from rail clips to locomotives to freight wagons to signalling systems. It was also evident how much foreign suppliers, particularly from China, have infiltrated the South African railway industry. Transnet Engineering, however, was well represented with particular emphasis on their new Trans Africa Locomotive. PRASA had an impressive stand but in light of some recent incidents it did seem a bit out of place in the high tech railway environment surrounding it.

Members News

Friends of the Rail

The Pretoria club had DSTV's Carte Blanche filming on their train to Rayton on the 25th June as part of a concerted marketing effort to increase passenger numbers. Sadly the line from Rayton to Cullinan is still out of use after the rail theft that led to the derailment of 15F 3052 earlier this year. The official reason from TFR for lack of repairs is lack of budget but yet they will not allow FOTR to repair the line even though they have access to qualified personnel and the materials required. Our pictures from Les Labuschagne show 24 Class 3664 shunting stock in the early morning and Derek Watts from Carte Blanche with the FOTR crew. The programme is expected to be aired on Carte Blanche on Sunday July 2nd from 19h00 on DSTV Channel 101.



Reefsteamers

Germiston based Reefsteamers ran another successful Planes, Trains and Automobiles event on Saturday 24th June with some spectacular photographic opportunities and a 500 passenger train hauled by 15F 3046.



Picture courtesy of Reefsteamers

South African Railways

Les Pivnic reminded us of a significant date. The 26th June was the 157th birthday of railways in South Africa when The Natal Railway Company ran its first train between Durban and the Point.

It would have been nice to say - "Happy Birthday" - to the grand old SAR & H! But sadly, the SAR & H is no more - all we can say is - R.I.P. but, you will be remembered as one of the world's great railway Administrations.

The Railway Safety Regulator

Our national safety body has been busy lately and you can read about their latest news in their "On Track" newsletter at the following link, <http://fedrail.co.za/images/pdf/Jun/On%20Track%20News%20June%202017.pdf> There is a lot of important information on the news Safety management Standards which all operators will need to digest plus upcoming RSR Safety Management Conferences in your region. The preliminary findings and recommendations of the recent Elandsfontein Metrorail accident have also been released in this Newsletter. It's good to know that our preserved railway industry is not making such headlines.

Trans Africa Locomotive (TAL)

Although Transnet Engineering claims that the TAL is the first locomotive designed, engineered and manufactured in Africa the memories have strayed a little as this honour goes to the 4-6-2TT (originally built as a 2-8-2TT) locomotive, "Havelock" designed and built by the Natal Government Railways in 1888. Subsequent to that the Class 2C of 1910, the Class 20 of 1935, the ES electric shunter of 1936 and the Class S1 of 1947 can also claim South African design and manufacture. Memories are short!



"Havelock" as originally built and a Class S1 at Germiston

Our thanks to Andre Kritzinger for the information and pictures.

Calendar

As we approach our winter season in South Africa there are less steam hauled trains running for fire risk reasons but our members are still active before the summer season begins in a few months' time.

Reefsteamers

1 July Steam to Irene

29 July Depot Open Day

<http://www.reefsteamers.com/>

Friends of the Rail

2 July Hermanstad Open Day and Tshwane Explorer circular trip of Pretoria

<http://www.friendsoftherail.com/joomla/>

Umgeni Steam Railway

15/16 & 30 July Kloof to Inchanga by steam. 15 July is a special "Christmas in July" event with Santa on board.

<http://www.umgenisteamrailway.com/>

Atlantic Rail

16 July Stellenbosch/Spier Wine Farm

<http://www.atlanticrail.co.za/index.php>

Ceres Rail

18-20 August West Coast Flowers

<http://www.ceresrail.co.za/trips/>

Membership

We urge all our readers who are non-members to join FEDRAIL SA especially now with our recognition by Transnet Foundation. If you belong to a private railway club or operator you might like to use the opportunity to promote your club. In other words, we would like members to know what other members do so we can provide an opportunity for dialogue and cooperation. We would really like to hear from you. Readers are invited to share this newsletter and non-members are invited to join FEDRAIL. Full details can be found on our website, www.fedrail.co.za under membership applications. You can also pick up the latest industry news on the site.

Join FEDRAIL SA now and add your voice to Railway Preservation and Rail Tourism in Southern Africa.

Tailpiece.



Class 6C number 544 at the head of a passenger train in early SAR days. The locomotive is now in the Sandstone collection. Picture courtesy of the Transnet Library.