



**Black Hills
CENTRAL RAILROAD**

April 2009

Issue No. 06

Newsletter

1880 Train, BHCR

Highball! Spring Specials

Greetings!

Get ready for our first special event of the year, Mother's Day May 10th. Take your mom on a train ride!

This winter, the Train has added several hi-tech means of communicating with our passengers as we now have a significant online presence. Check out the new features in our 1880 Train Web article.

Throughout the course of the fall and winter, a new structure has emerged in the south yard of the Hill City station. The South Dakota State Railroad Museum Comes to Town!

Tour Group companies from all over the country and Canada have been making reservations for our 2009 season, as well as family reunions, school groups, weddings, and organizations. Find out what we have to offer in our Group Reservation article.

Finally, we'll be taking a look back at the beginning of our

1880Train.com
Special Events
Purchase Tickets

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1880 Train Blog

railroad spur and why it's here in The Inception of the High Line, 1890 - 1900.

Mother's Day Special Event

Sunday, May 10th, we will have our Mother's Day Train! On this special event, moms ride for the price of a child when accompanied by a family member, and receive a sweet treat from Mostly Chocolates.



Reserve now, as we only have one departure on this day! The train leaves Hill City at 1:15 pm. Watch out for bandits at Oblivion while experiencing an Old West style shootout!

1880 Train Web



With so many exciting new methods of communicating on the Internet, this winter we set out to give our passengers a hi-tech insider's view of the 1880 Train.

The first is our blog at <http://1880train.blogspot.com>. Our blog includes shop updates from the crew working in the roundhouse. Find out how much work is required to keep our equipment up and running! Posts also include information about upcoming events and behind-the-scenes information about our company.

Next, the train has a Twitter account. For those of you unfamiliar with Twitter, it has one basic function. It asks you, 'What are you doing?' Members of Twitter can even choose to update and receive updates through their cell phones. You can follow us through Twitter at <http://twitter.com/1880train>.

Finally, we have a Facebook account. Similar to MySpace, Facebook is a Social Networking site that allows friends to keep in touch using concepts similar to blogging and Twitter. Our

HIGHBALL

The highball is the signal a train's conductor gives the engine crew to confirm they are ready to depart station.

Facebook account posts updates about events at the Train, pictures of the locomotives in action, and gives us a chance to interact with our passengers before or after they've road. Be our Facebook friend!
<http://www.facebook.com/people/Blackhills-Central-Railroad/519715998>.

The South Dakota State Railroad Museum Comes to Town

If you've been in Hill City in the last six months, you may have noticed that work has begun on the South Dakota State Railroad Museum (SDSRM).



In mid-October, ground was broke on this co-project between the Black Hills Central Railroad and the SDSRM Board. An official ground breaking ceremony was held on November 28th, and the construction crew has been making tremendous progress ever since.

The SDSRM organization was formalized back in 2004 and its mission is to preserve the state's railroad history. The organization has already received donations for the collection, including rolling stock, photographs, maps, and uniforms. Items in the collection will range in age from 1872 to the present.

The building will feature an indoor stall which will display pieces of rolling stock, library, research area, and displays. The museum will hopefully be open to the public by late 2009.

Rick Mills, SDSRM Board President said it best, "You cannot tell the South Dakota story without the railroads. The invaluable contributions, good and sometimes bad, of the railroads and their employees to the development of the state are immense, so this sort of recognition and education regarding those contributions is deserved and overdue. We want to make sure this story is told."

Group Reservations



Tour groups, school groups, family reunions, small organizations, and weddings; we can accommodate them all! Let the 1880 Train host your group for an unforgettable experience!

Any group of 20 or more paying passengers under one reservation name and payment are eligible for our discounted group rates. This also includes reserved seating for you group. Group rates are available on any of our departures, except for special events. Make your event special by reserving a private coach for your group. Coaches hold approximately 50 passengers.

For school groups studying trains, transportation, or history, we offer budget-friendly rates for classrooms visiting in May. Please call for details.

Food arrangements are also available for your group.

Box Lunches

Box lunches are an additional \$6.00 per passenger. They include a roast beef, ham, or turkey sandwich, cookie, bag of chips, and soda.

Wine & Cheese

Our wine and cheese option is \$15.00 plus the cost of a ticket for adults. A non-alcoholic children's option is available for \$10.00 plus the cost of a ticket. The wine and cheese option includes a fruit and cheese plate, two glasses of wine, and a keepsake wine glass.

The train has, in the past, provided other food options. Please call our office at 605-574-2222 for pricing information.

The Inception of the High Line, 1890-1900

In the late 1870's, Deadwood had become one of the largest gold boom settlements in the area. The High Line, which the 1880 Train's line spurs off of, was built in competition with the Freemont, Elkhorn, and Missouri Valley Railroad which was coming into Deadwood from Rapid City. Both railroads wanted to be the first to provide service to this boom town.



The High Line began in 1890 in the southern Hills as a branch off of the main line running from Alliance, Nebraska, into north-central Wyoming Territory. The area was referred to as Siding Seven and was later named Edgemont because of its location on the edge of the Black Hills.

On May 15th, 1890, crews started laying rail out of Deadwood Junction, which was located across the Cheyenne River from Edgemont. By August 24th of that same year, they had reached Minnekahta. The progress to Minnekahta had been delayed by construction of a 700' long, 126' high trestle across Sheep Canyon. This trestle was at one time the longest trestle in South Dakota.

The line reached Custer on the 6th of October, and they reached Hill City not long after, in early November. The High Line continued north through Mystic, Rochford, Nahant, Englewood, and finally reached Deadwood on January 24th, 1891. Unfortunately, it did not beat the Freemont, Elkhorn, and Missouri Valley Railroad, which made it to Deadwood a mere month earlier.

Many spurs were built off the High Line in the 1890's. One ran from Englewood to Spearfish by way of Spearfish Canyon, and another ran to Hot Springs. The Hill City to Keystone spur began by only going as far as Addie Camp, which was approximately three miles from Hill City. The spur reached Addie Camp in 1893. They continued to push east in 1899, and by January 25th, 1900, reached the mining town of Keystone.

In our next newsletter, we'll take a look at modern use of the High Line, and it's destruction in 1986.

Leap into spring fun by reserving your train ride today. It's Highball for a good time!

Sincerely,

1880 Train Staff and Crew, BHCR
Black Hills Central Railroad



Ride before June 1st, 2009 and receive our group rate discount for your train tickets. *Save up to \$2.00 per person!**

Reservations recommended. Customer must present coupon at time of purchase. Not valid with any other promotions or discounts. Management reserves the right to change offer at any time. Limit of one coupon per family per day.

**The \$2.00 per person savings are based on an adult, round trip, train ride.*

Offer code: CCN042009

Offer Valid May 4th through May 31st, 2009