



## TEXAS STATE RAILROAD

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TexasStateRR.com

# 2015 Photographer's Special

May 2-3, 2015

## The Rules

- **SAFETY FIRST**
  - Always think "Safety"
  - Be aware of your position and situation
  - Be aware of the position of the train
- **Please respect the guidance of the Photo Line Coordinators**
  - **Coordinators:** Cody, Casey, Mark, & Jason
  - A photo line will be established at each location by the Coordinators
  - Please stay in-line with the person to your left and right
  - If you choose to use a different location, please do not place yourself between the photo line and train
- **Be aware of your position relative to the photo line**
  - Never stand in someone else's shot
  - Always try to be shoulder-level with the person next to you
- **ABSOLUTELY NO TALKING during the run-bys**
  - Some guests are making audio/video recordings
- **Number of Run-by Locations**
  - Our schedule is tight today to maximize the number of locations where we can stop for photos
  - The faster we unload and load at each stop, the more stops we will have time to make
  - Please be SAFE, but move quickly and efficiently in this process

# SPL 28 East

## 845 AM

Palestine, TX – MP 25.5

Back train past west wye switch, around bend, hidden from sight

## 900 AM

Palestine, TX – MP 25.5

Photo line east of water tank

Bring train into Depot from west and spot at tank

[Possible] Water Tank Demonstration

Board passengers 910 AM

## 920 AM

Depart Palestine

## 955 AM

Arrive Neches River – MP 14.0

Photo line on east side of river and in river bed

2 run-bys

\*Lowest location on the TSR: 280'

Depart 1020 AM

## 1050 AM

Arrive Maydelle – MP 7.3

Photo line east of Depot on road and in field

Back train west of Jarret Road and "arrive" at Depot

Depart 1110 AM

## 1120 AM

Arrive MP 5.3

Photo line in field south of track, near tree line

Depart 1140 AM

## 1150 AM

Arrive Rusk – MP 0.7

Passengers & crew "go to beans"

Turn, water, and service locomotive (Photographers welcomed)

Switch coaches to rear of train

# SPL 28 West

## 120 PM

Depart Rusk – MP 0.7

## 130 PM

Arrive Fairchild Hill – MP 5.1

Photo line at top of hill

2<sup>nd</sup> Highest location on the TSR: 500'

Depart 150 PM

## 210 PM

Arrive MP 12.0

Photo line at top of hill

Depart 240 PM

## 315 PM

Arrive Dean Wright – MP 23.5

Photo line west of road in field

Run-by #1: Photo line west of road in field, along treeline

Run-by #2: Photo line south of track on road and near ballast pile

Depart 345 PM

## 400 PM

Arrive Palestine – MP 25.5

# History & Facts

## Palestine

- MP 25.5
- 427' Above Sea Level
- Western Terminus of the Texas State Railroad.
- The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department constructed the railroad yard, Depot, and Engine House in 1977 to serve the new tourist railroad.

## Dean Wright

- MP 23.3
- 364' Above Sea Level
- Dean & Wright Lumber Company sawmill was once located here.
- The abandoned D&W spur is still visible on the north side of the tracks.

## Neches River Bridge

- MP 13.7 - 13.9
- 280' Above Sea Level: lowest point on the railroad.
- 1,050 feet in length. 35 feet above the river bed.
- Original trestle was a traditional wood-pile design.
- The Texas Parks & Wildlife Department constructed modern concrete bridges across the entire railroad 1980.
- Just south of the Neches Crossing, there was a ferry operation run by Ben Canon from 1848 to 1851. A toll bridge later replaced the ferry and operated until 1924.
- On the east side of the river, the Texas Southeastern Railroad (owned by the Southern Pine Lumber Company) once connected to the Texas State Railroad. The TSE line ran south to the logging town of Fastrill and then on to Diboll. The Southern Pine Lumber Company had logging land on the both sides on the Neches and used the TSR trestle to cross over. In later years, TSE trains ran from here to Maydelle on TSR rails to deliver lumber products.

## MP 12

- 380' Above Sea Level
- Located in the I.D. Fairchild State Forest.
- This 2,989 acre property was transferred from the Texas Prison System in 1925 and named in honor of Texas State Senator I.D. Fairchild of Lufkin. It is the largest of the five state forests in Texas.
- Senator Fairchild sponsored legislation that was instrumental in rehabilitating the railroad and subsequently leasing it to the Texas and New Orleans Railroad. In effect, he saved the TSR from certain abandonment.
- In the spring of 2013, Everett Lueck, Cody Akin, Casey Akin, Mark Huckaby, Kevin Gentry, John Price, Brent Muecke, Chase Bond, and Brandon McElroy cleared out trees, created a walking path, and constructed the loading platform for photography excursions.

## Maydelle

- MP 7.2
- 411' Above Sea Level
- Only surviving town on the TSR between Palestine and Rusk.
- Camp Searcy Baker was built at this location in 1904 as an extension of the state prison in Rusk. In addition to constructing the railroad on its way west, the inmates also cut trees to support the coking operation in Rusk.
- In 1907, the camp was reorganized as Camp Wright and in 1909 the town of "Maydelle" was established, named in honor of the daughter of Texas Governor Thomas Campbell.
- By 1914 Maydelle had blossomed into a thriving community with several churches, a bank, a cotton gin, and four general stores.
- The population of Maydelle peaked at 450 in 1929, dropped to 150 during the Great Depression, and has settled at about 250 today.
- Until 1946, the Texas Southeastern Railroad hauled timber from Fastrill, Texas to a connection with the Texas State near the Neches River and then east to Maydelle for finishing.
- Since the tourist railroad was created in 1972, the Maintenance-of-Way Department has been headquartered across the street from the Depot.
- The turntable was installed in 1979 by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. It was acquired from the Frisco rail yards in Paris, Texas.

## MP 5.3

- 435' Above Sea Level
- On this spot in 1881, nothing happened.

## Fairchild Hill

- MP 5.1.
- 500' Above Sea Level: 2<sup>nd</sup> highest point on the TSR.
- \*The highest point is 545' at MP 27.9 and not part of the passenger route.
- The grade is primarily 2% in both directions. However, near the summit it increases sharply to approximately 2.5%.

## Rusk

- MP 0.7
- 430' Above Sea Level
- Eastern Terminus of the Texas State Railroad
- Depot was completed in February 1977 by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and is constructed out of beautiful native stone.
- In addition to a ticketing booth and souvenir area, the Depot has a 60-seat theater and houses the railroad's administrative offices.
- The primary TSR maintenance/restoration shops and storage yard are located about a half mile to the east of the Depot.

# Consist

## **Southern Pine Lumber Company #28**

- Built by Baldwin Locomotive Works in 1917 for the U.S. Army as #396.
- After serving the Army, she was sold to the Tremont & Gulf Railroad where she was given the number "28." She was then sold to the Southern Pine Lumber Company before being donated to the Texas State Railroad in 1973.
- #28 was painted red and given the number "300" on the Texas State Railroad.
- In 2014, #300 was put in the shop for maintenance. Her paint scheme and number for the Southern Pine Lumber Company were lovingly restored.
- This class of locomotive is known as a "General Pershing."
- SPL #28 is a 2-8-0 or "Consolidation." She weighs 83 tons, has a boiler pressure of 190 pounds per square inch, cylinders of 21X28 inches, Walschaerts valve gear, 56 inch driving wheels, and can deliver 35,610 pounds of tractive effort.
- The tender holds 6,500 gallons of water and 2,400 gallons of recycled automotive oil.

**TSR Stock Car #126300 – Former Burlington Northern #953002**

**TSR Tank Car #10835 – Former US Navy**

**American Refrigerator Transit (ART) Refrigerator Car #111717**

**Cotton Belt (SSW) Flat Car #101974**

**Missouri Pacific Flat Car #822100**

**TSR Combine #60**

**TSR Open Car #71**

**TSR Observation Car #1511 – Former AT&SF #1511**

# Notes