



May 2011

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Volume 1

**ATLANTIC RAIL LAUNCHES NEWSLETTER**

Atlantic Rail has decided to launch a Quarterly News Letter. The purpose is to keep all our past passengers, Friends of Atlantic Rail and any other Rail Fans interested. We will publish articles about past trips, interesting items that may have occurred, and plenty of photo's. Current work undertaken by "Friends of Atlantic Rail" to keep the train going , also encourage new members to join us irrespective of age, who take an interest in railways of days gone by . Each volume will profile one of the members in order for our readers to get to know who does what, how and why. Future trips and events will be advertised, for our passengers to book their next trip early. Competitions will be held from time to time. Letters to the editor will be published. So we encourage you to send us articles, photos or just general comments on your experiences with Atlantic Rail.



Photo: Stefan Andrzejewski

3655 shunts the train to push it back into Monument station as a Northern Suburbs Metro departs Cape Town.



# Atlantic Rail's popularity grows

Since the reopening of the line between Fish Hoek and Simonstown, Atlantic Rail's trains have been running bi weekly. The line was closed more than two years ago, when heavy seas washed away the ballast around the sleepers. Having opened on the 21st February 2011, our first trip saw us arriving at



Photo Peter Rogers

Simonstown station on the 27th February 2011. The weather certainly played its part as on all three subsequent trips it has been perfect.

Our April 10th trip was very popular, and a few passengers even enjoyed the ride, in the comfort of the lounge car. The bar was put to good use, as the autumn day proved to be perfect with no wind.



Photo Alan Roy

Simonstown station was abuzz with passengers and onlookers as we arrived some 15 minutes late, due to a lengthy stop at Fish Hoek station, waiting for a scheduled Metro to clear the single line.

(The passengers were unperturbed as it gave them extra time to take photos upfront of themselves and 3655).

Soon the platform was empty, as they scurried off in all directions, looking for the right eatery. The return journey was quieter, as the food and beverages took their toll. Back at Monument station an enjoyable day was had by all. Most have expressed interest to repeat their journey with Atlantic Rail.

# Atlantic Railer Profile

Every quarter we will profile a prominent “Atlantic Railer”. Who better to start with than Frikkie Gerber, our esteemed driver, without whom we would not be going anywhere. Trying to interview Frikkie was difficult, as he is kept extremely busy on the footplate. However I did manage to catch up with him on a lunch break. Frikkie joined the SAR as a Fireman when he left school in 1966. In 1973 he became a driver of steam engines until their demise around 1992, with over 20 different classes of locomotive to his credit. The earlier years were spent mainly in Natal. Diesalisation then took over and Frikkie continued driving until his retirement in 2007. Before that he was



asked to drive for the Union Limited and the Spier Train. In 2008 Atlantic Rail did their first trip to Simonstown, with Frikkie in the driving seat. Atlantic Rail started up again in December last year. Who better to ask to drive, but Frikkie. On a personal note, he is married and has grownup children. They enjoy camping and every month venture out to different spots in the Western Cape. When I asked him which rugby team he supported, he unfortunately replied



“The Sharks”, however we will forgive him for that. Frikkie is always smiling and allows passengers up on to the footplate to look around and ask questions. A funny anecdote that Frikkie recollects, is a day in Fish Hoek station, where a boy kept on blowing the whistle. His Grandfather told him to stop as he was wasting steam. Frikkie’s response was, “don’t worry, we make plenty more”. We hope that your association with Atlantic Rail is going a be long one. Thank you.

Your efforts are highly appreciated.

# Easter Bunny Run

*Easter Monday 2011* was Atlantic Rails planned run. Two mystery trips with the Easter Bunny walking through the train and handing out presents to the children were on the cards. Booking was slow to start with. The worry was that with the extra long weekend, Capetonians had all gone away. Thankfully the train was well patronised. The children and the “big children” all had a ball. The weather played its part as rain had been forecast.



The ride took the train on the long Bellville loop. A distance of 47 km taking us through Old Mutual, Epping, Bellville and back through Vasco and Parow. We are not allowed to use the Monte Vista line as it belongs to Transnet. At present we are only permitted to ride on Metro Rail lines. Hopefully we can change that in the near future. Watch our adverts for Atlantic Rails Father Christmas December run.



Photo's : Greg Smith



Photo's : Brett Radloff



# Competition Corner

To get the ball rolling, we start off with our photographic competition. A 2012 Atlantic Rail calendar will be sold at the end of the year. We invite passengers and fans to send in photo's of Atlantic Rail. It can be any photo relating to the train. In November a panel will decide on which 12 photos will make the calendar. Your name will be mentioned as photographer, and you stand a chance to win two free Adult tickets, in a lucky draw, (Atlantic Rail staff excluded from winning the tickets) on one of our Simonstown trips in December 2011. Please e mail the editor. Photo's must be around 2mb each in jpeg format measuring 15X10. Normal Post Card size. Good luck.

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Atlantic Rail

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Photo: J Wilmot Fish Hoek station



## Letters to the Editor

Dear Ed

My family and I were down from Gauteng on holiday when we heard about Atlantic Rail through a friend. We booked and rode the 10th April trip to Simonstown. The trip was so amazing, having grown up in Mowbray, and catching the train to school every day, brought back great memories. The train staff were all very helpful and polite. My highlight was getting in the cab at Fish Hoek, and blowing the hooter. That was awesome. We will certainly do the trip again in December when we come to Cape Town.

Regards

Shirley Wilmot

# Atlantic Rail's upcoming trips.

Join us on any of our upcoming trips. Call Sarah Jane on 021 556 1012 or e mail her on [info@atlanticrail.co.za](mailto:info@atlanticrail.co.za) to book your tickets. Visit our website for prices and further information.

Date	Time	Destination	Event
22 May 2011	10h30	Simonstown	
19 June 2011	10h30	Simonstown	Fathers Day
03 July 2011	10h30	Simonstown	
31 July 2011	10h30	Simonstown	
21 Aug 2011	All Day	To be decided	Open Day
04 Sept 2011	10h30	Simonstown	Wale Watchers
24 Sept 2011	10h30	Simonstown	Heritage Day
02 Oct 2011	10h30	Simonstown	
30 Oct 2011	10h30	Simonstown	Halloween



*Tender First 3655 passes the Parow Golf Club on the Monte Vista Line*





## Proudly Supports Atlantic Rail

Atlantic Rail is pleased to announce that it is now receiving help and support from the RACEC Group. Recent projects that RACEC has undertaken for Atlantic Rail include the concreting of an ash platform in the yard area, the provision of a 'cherry picker' to aid the erection of the coal loading gantry, provision of branded uniforms for staff and the



donation of a Toyota Hilux bakkie complete with Atlantic Rail branding.

We are very grateful to RACEC for their continued support which has enabled Atlantic Rail to undertake projects which would have otherwise been out of reach with our limited resources.



RACEC are a rail logistics company operating in South Africa as well as in most of the African continent, assisting with line side technology. They also specialise in Electrification of lines including the maintenance thereof.

The Cherry Picker in action. Full story in our next edition.

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Atlantic Rail

# Picture Perfect Profile



Photo: Stefan Andrzejewski.  
3655 Nose to the stop Block. A rare sight as the Loco is pointed in the wrong direction after the first loop. Easter Monday

Photo: Brett Radloff.  
The fire is lit at 9 pm. Here Brett had rigged up a strong light and captured this gem in the late evening.



Photo: Peter Rogers  
Steaming between Old Mutual and Epping  
Peter snapped the Easter Monday early train accelerating towards Epping.

*Working to restore Steam to the Western Cape*

**SUPPORTED BY THE RACEC GROUP.**

**AR**  
Atlantic Rail

*Till next time keep on steaming*

