

Locomotive No. 12 to Undergo Major Restoration

(Blowing Rock, NC, August 17, 2024) – One of Tweetsie Railroad’s historic steam locomotives, the 107-year-old No. 12, will be out of service for several months for major restoration.

“When you maintain and operate a steam locomotive that is over a century old, there is always the chance there will be some down time,” says Chris Robbins, President of Tweetsie Railroad. “We wish the timing would have been different, especially with our annual Railroad Heritage Weekend coming up August 24th and 25th.”

Guests can expect a few changes in the originally released schedule for Railroad Heritage Weekend.

Locomotive No. 190 will run on Saturday and Sunday featuring the Wild West show and on Saturday evening for the Photo Special.

Locomotive No. 12 and the vintage 1870’s Coach Car No. 5 will be available for guests to have the rare opportunity to step up into the cab and tour the coach car.

Robbins reports that Tweetsie Railroad’s locomotive mechanics discovered some thin areas on the boiler firebox during a routine maintenance check. An independent testing firm was summoned to inspect the boiler for verification, and then the NC Dept. of Labor’s Boiler Safety Bureau was notified. The boiler is the original one installed by Baldwin Locomotive Works in 1917, and last underwent major repairs in 1979. “We are unsure how long the restoration will take since it is a custom re-build, but we expect to see Locomotive Number 12 ready to run for the 2025 season,” says Robbins.

Guests can follow regular updates on tweetsie.com and the park’s social media accounts.

About Locomotive No. 12

Narrow gauge Locomotive No. 12 is the last surviving steam locomotive of the East Tennessee and Western North Carolina Railroad (ET&WNC), which ran rail service from Johnson City, Tennessee, to Boone, North Carolina from 1919 to 1940. When the Tweetsie Railroad theme park opened with its first steam locomotive ride in 1957(one mile to a picnic area and back), this was its sole locomotive. Locomotive No. 190 was brought from Alaska to Tweetsie Railroad in the early 1960’s as a backup to No. 12.

About Railroad Heritage Weekend

Railroad Heritage Weekend is a once-a-year event for Railroad Enthusiasts of all ages! The theme park celebrates the golden age of steam locomotives with special events throughout the weekend including a Tweetsie History Exhibit, Locomotive Shop Tour and Evening Photo Special. All Railroad Heritage Weekend activities are included in Tweetsie Railroad’s regular daily admission price.

Tweetsie Railroad

Since 1957, North Carolina's first theme park, has provided families with unforgettable Wild West adventures. Visitors to Tweetsie Railroad enjoy an interactive three-mile journey into the

Old West behind a historic narrow-gauge steam locomotive. The park features live shows, classic amusement rides, the Deer Park Zoo, gem mining, and more.

Tweetsie Railroad is open Saturdays, Sundays, and Labor Day Monday through October 27th. Regular hours are 10 am to 6 pm, with nightly operations during Ghost Train® and Tweetsie Christmas®.

Daytime admission is \$60 for adults, age 13+, \$40 for children, ages 3-12, and free for children 2 and under. There is no charge for parking.

For more information about the 2024 Tweetsie Railroad season, please visit www.tweetsie.com or call 877-TWEETSIE (877-893-3874).