

SUMPTER VALLEY RAILROAD STEAMS INTO SUMMER

Full steam ahead! Take a trip back in time, beginning May 22

By Lisa Britton
Go! Magazine

SUMPTER — The Sumpter Valley Railroad is kicking off the 2021 season with “Full Steam Ahead” rides this weekend, May 22 and 23.

As this is a soft start to the season, rides will be more limited than a regular weekends throughout the summer.

Steam #3 will leave McEwen Station at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. Saturday. These are both round trips.

On Sunday there will be one round-trip train, leaving McEwen at noon.

Masks are required.

Fares are \$25 adults, \$22 seniors (65+) and military, \$15 for a child ages 3-17, or \$70 for a family.

Children age 2 and younger ride for free and are issued a complimentary ticket.

A round trip usually takes about two hours and includes a layover in Sumpter for sightseeing, visiting the dredge near the station, shopping and snacking.

Tickets must be purchased in advance through the website, www.sumptervalleyrailroad.com. After purchasing, print the tickets and bring them with you.

MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND

The train’s schedule for Memorial Day Weekend differs just a bit — instead of round-trip rides, there will be short runs from Sumpter to the river and back.

These abbreviated routes will allow for more people to catch a ride while still maintaining distance between passengers.

Fares for the short runs are \$18.50 adults, \$15 seniors (65+) and military, and \$10 children ages 3-17. Age 2 and younger ride free.

On Saturday, May 29, the train leaves Sumpter at 11 a.m., 12:30 p.m., 2 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. The Saturday rides will feature the



Travel Baker County/Contributed Photo

The Sumpter Valley Railroad’s round trip route provides a panoramic view of the Elkhorn Mountains as the historic train runs between McEwen Station and Sumpter.

season’s first “robbery” by bandits on horseback.

Rides on Sunday, May 30, leave Sumpter at 11 a.m., 12:30 p.m. and 2 p.m.

SUMMER SCHEDULE

The train won’t run the weekend of June 5-6, but will return for rides on June 12 and 13. And Father’s Day weekend, June 19-20, will

feature two runs both days.

June 26-27 is designated as “Diesel Weekend” and includes short runs from Sumpter to the river. There will be four rides each day.

For a full summer schedule, go to www.sumptervalleyrailroad.com and click on “2021 Calendar.” For more, call 541-894-2268, email info@sumptervalleyrailroad.org or visit the SVRR Facebook page.

HISTORY

The tracks of the Sumpter Valley Railroad sat silent from the mid-1900s until 1971 when a small group of volunteers set out to rebuild the narrow gauge Sumpter Valley Railway in Eastern Oregon.

Although the road bed and track is mostly on original Sumpter Valley Railway right-of-way, the original track was scrapped in 1947 and nearly all of the original road bed had eroded away.

With an almost all-volunteer work force, the SVRR has rebuilt more than 7 miles of track and is still growing.

The official ribbon cutting ceremony reopening the railroad and its historic excursion rides took place July 4, 1976.

Be safe, wear masks, stay distanced: we will get through this. Thank you. Mae

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541-524-0122

GO
WEEKEND OUTLOOK



FRIDAY

High 53 Low 34

Spotty showers



SATURDAY

High 58 Low 38

Rain possible



SUNDAY

High 67 Low 40

A shower possible