NEWS WIRE Trains+

Iowa Interstate steam schedule set

May 4, 2012

NEWTON, Iowa – The Iowa Interstate Railroad has finalized its schedule for steam locomotive trips this spring. The railroad operates two Chinese QJ-class 2-10-2s, Nos. 6988 and 7081. No. 6988 has been given a more "Americanized" look, with a centered headlight and number board, and black paint on the driving wheels.

The schedule is as follows:

- May 31 and June 1 – Steam may pull some test runs between Newton and Kellogg, Iowa, if necessary.
- June 2 – Trips between Newton and Mitchellville, Iowa, to benefit the Mitchellville Firefighter's Association. Depart Newton at 9:00 a.m., 11:50 a.m., and 2:40 p.m. Depart Mitchellville at 10:25 a.m. and 1:15 p.m. There may be a third trip from Mitchellville at 4:05 p.m.
- June 16 – Deadhead move with 6988 and coaches from Newton to West Liberty, Iowa, with a stop in Iowa City. The train will leave Newton around 9 a.m.
- June 17 – Fire department benefit trips with 6988 between West Liberty and Durant, Iowa. Depart West Liberty at 9 a.m., noon, and 3 p.m. Depart Durant at 10:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m., and 4:30 p.m. Trips will be push-pull with a diesel on one end.
- June 17-18 – After the Durant trip, 6988 will run light to Rock Island, Ill., 17th Street Yard. On June 18, the locomotive will probably be turned.
- June 19 – A trip for the National Railway Historical Society Annual Convention will depart Cedar Rapids, Iowa, with Iowa Interstate Rock Island Heritage ES44AC No. 513. Upon arrival in Rock Island, No. 513 will cut off, and 6988 will be added. No. 6988 will lead the train west to South Amana, Iowa, where it will be cut off.
- June 20 – NRHS trip out of Cedar Rapids with a diesel. No. 6988 will be added at South Amana and run to Newton. After a photo run in Newton, 6988 will cut off and a diesel will take the train back to Cedar Rapids.

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