

## Take a ride on a vintage train Saturday

June 6, 2013

Ready for a ride on a vintage train?  
Saturday's your day.

Iowa Interstate Railroad Chief Operating Officer Mick Burkart of Cedar Rapids and a crew of 15 volunteers are taking a Chinese steam-engine train, owned by Iowa Interstate Railroad, between Anita (near Council Bluffs) and Atlantic.

The steam engine was built in China in 1986 and was the last long-distance passenger train in China to use steam. The Iowa Interstate railroad bought the steam engine in 2006 when China went from steam to diesel. They use the steam engine as a fundraising tool for local outreach programs and for volunteer fire departments across the state of Iowa. Besides the steam engine there are eight passenger cars on the train along with a water car and a tool car.



Iowa Interstate Railroad Chief Operating Officer Mick Burkart of Cedar Rapids, left, checks the railroad tracks east of Meredith Corp in Des Moines on Thursday morning.  
*(David Purdy/The Des Moines Register)*

"Iowa Interstate Railroad asked us if we were interested in partnering with them again this year, and we jumped at the chance," said Atlantic Fire Chief Mark McNees. "The first time we tried this was three years ago and it was a huge success."

### **About the Saturday rides:**

Three separate roundtrip departures will originate in each city. The train will leave from Atlantic at 9 AM, noon, and 3 PM. The train will depart from Anita at 10:25 AM, 1:25 PM and 4:25 PM. Passengers will board from the specific city, at the specific times, for each ride and will return to the point of their original departure. Only 400 tickets per city, per ride are available.

Tickets are available from any Atlantic or Anita firefighter. Tickets may also be obtained at the Atlantic Fire Station and orders may also be placed by contacting them at 712-243-2146. In Anita, tickets may be purchased at Anita Municipal Utilities and at Anita Supply. Tickets must be presented at the time of boarding in order to ride.

Tickets are \$14 for adults (age 12 and over) and \$7 for children. Infants who can ride on their parent's laps may ride for free. Food and drink is available to take upon the ride, but since the cars are vintage, there will be no amenities. Access to the passenger cars will be provided for those needing assistance.

ARTICLE LINK: [http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20130606/NEWS/130606036/Take-a-ride-on-a-vintage-train-Saturday?Frontpage&nclick\\_check=1](http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20130606/NEWS/130606036/Take-a-ride-on-a-vintage-train-Saturday?Frontpage&nclick_check=1)

VIDEO LINK: <http://www.desmoinesregister.com/videonetwork/2442701210001/Steam-locomotive-rolls-through-Des-Moines>