

Press Release

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Historic Jefferson Railway

400 E. Austin

Jefferson, TX 75657

General Information, info@jeffersonrailway.com or 866-398-2038

www.JeffersonRailway.com, www.DiamondDonEmpire.com

Media Contact: Melissa Moit, Manager, call or text 903-742-2041

The Great Locomotive Chase – The Andrews Raid

Come experience the re-enactment of The Great Locomotive Chase - The Andrews Raid, the Civil War's most gripping railroad story aboard an antique gas-powered locomotive at Historic Jefferson Railway. See the North and South skirmish a replica ironclad gunboat firing its cannons on the banks of the Big Cypress Bayou River.

On Friday May 27, 2022, there will be a Living History Day at the Diamond Don RV Park to draw attention to the history and romance of the Civil War way of life. This event is open to the general public and is perfect for children and all adults. The Living History Camps will demonstrate Camp Life and Military Activities and includes an optional train ride aboard an antique gas-powered locomotive. Concessions available on site. The Historic Jefferson Railway narrator tells the story of The Andrews Raid as the train travels alongside the Big Cypress Bayou. See a gunboat with real live cannons. Visit Diamond Don Gator Pit with seven live gators and see ruins on the property from the 1800's. Friday Train rides depart 10:30, 11:30, and 12:30. Trains on Friday will depart from Diamond Don RV Park. Price is \$4 for living history and \$6 for train ride.

The Great Locomotive Chase trains will run on Saturday, May 28, 2022 departing from the Historic Jefferson Railway in downtown Jefferson at 11:00, 12:30, and 2:30. Train on Sunday, May 29, 2022 will depart at 12:30. Saturday Price is \$15 plus tax, lap children free. Sunday Price is \$12 plus tax, lap children free. Tickets are available on line. www.JeffersonRailway.com

The gripping tale of The Andrews Raid is the Civil War's most fascinating railroad story. Famous campaigns were planned and conducted for the primary purpose of capturing or destroying railroad lines of value to the enemy. On the morning of April 12, 1862, the most famous locomotive of the Civil War, the *General*, was hijacked by the Union civilian spy, James J. Andrews, and his men. After a nail-biting eight hours and 87 miles, the Southerners captured the *General*, James Andrews and several of his men.

The Merrimack was a Union cruiser, captured by the South in Norfolk Virginia, and renamed the *Virginia*. The Jefferson Battle that Never Was will feature the *Virginia*, fighting from the banks of the river, while the soldiers fight to capture the train.

Reminiscent of the landing parties that aided the regular land forces, from both above and below the Mason-Dixon Line, this train ride will be a unique experience. Keep your seat on the train as the soldiers fight around you near the railroad track and from the gunboat.

Re-enactors are welcome at Diamond Don RV Park with lots of space, trees and plenty of amenities, including free camping, WIFI, water, split wood, restrooms and showers. RV sites with water and electric are available to re-enactors and to the public. Reservations recommended.

Take a step back in time as the Historic Jefferson Railway takes you on an excursion that circles the Piney Woods along the scenic Big Cypress Bayou. You'll view a Confederate Powder Magazine from the Civil War era and remains of many sites from the 1800's still visible along the track. The train will stop about half-way for the skirmish with the gunboat. The open-canopied observation cars provide an excellent view of this exciting event along the river.

Jefferson is nestled deep in the Piney Woods of East Texas and seems frozen in time. It is a charming town and an elegant reminder of a bygone era. There are over a hundred buildings in the city with historical markers. Many historic homes offer bed and breakfast accommodations. Dozens of other historic buildings house museums, craft and antique shops and restaurants. Jefferson also offers boat rides, canoe & kayak rental, golf cart rentals and tours, gemstone mining & panning, and other attractions. Dine, Shop, Stay and Play. There is a lot to do in Jefferson!