

Ilona Linnoila

Celebrating the Summer of Steam

Big Boy No. 4014



Picture 1.

I cheered for America's 250th Birthday by photographing Big Boy (Picture 1), the World's Largest Working Steam Engine in Pennsylvania. Big Boy, one of the 25 such locomotives, was built in 1941 for speed, durability and exceptional power to transport supplies of World War II. To reach Pacific Ocean heavy freight needed to be hauled over the Wasatch Mountains range in Utah. In May 2019, seven years before its current celebratory trip across America, Big Boy, No 4014,



Picture 2.

finished a massive five-year, \$10 million restoration at the Union Pacific Steam Shop in Cheyenne, Wyoming.

On my way to see the arrival of Big Boy in Altoona, PA on July 8 I spotted the Mogul 11 steam engine of Everett Railroad chucking on the parallel to the road **(Picture 2)**. This locomotive, built in 1930s, has been used for tourist rides in nearby Hollidaysburg since 2015. In Altoona, I chose the 12th Street pedestrian bridge to welcome Big Boy. The excitement was palpable among the many train enthusiasts while

photographers were few. There was a couple who had traveled most of the scenic railway trips in North America, and many miniature railroad builders. I tried to participate telling how amazing the NorthlandZ miniature museum was that I visited in April and mentioned knowing the world's best miniature railroad photographer Steven of Silver Spring Camera Club. The pleasant excitement was disturbed by an extra long trash train with an unmistakable smell pulling by. Finally the Big Boy arrived **(Picture**



Picture 3.

3). The train included commemorative diesel engines that provided computerized safety features for Big Boy's travels. Here is Abraham Lincoln No 1616 honoring the president who signed the Pacific Railway Act of 1862, which established the railroad **(Picture 4)**.

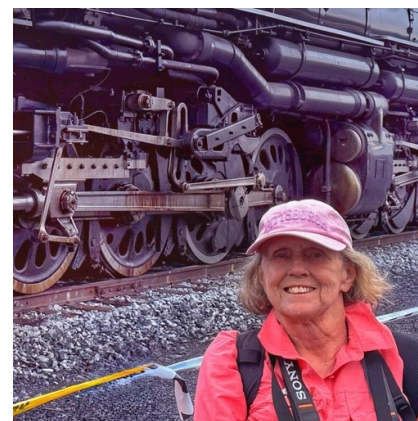


Picture 4.

Next morning I arrived early to Norfolk Southern Rose Yard in Altoona where Big Boy **(Picture 1)** was stationed for the viewing of two days. Standing next to it, it was BIG **(Picture 5)**. Some work was going on



Picture 6.



Picture 5.

around the locomotive **(Picture 6)**. Not sure if it was for show or real. The rest of the train including the Norfolk Southern America's 250th locomotives No. 2026



Picture 8.



Picture 9.

the excitement was palpable when we heard the rumble of Big Boy rolling in **(Picture 11)**. And soon it was time to say good bye. Interestingly, the last car in



Picture 11.

Sony FE 4 70-200 G OSS lens and with iPhone 16 Pro. More pictures can be found:

<https://flic.kr/s/aHBqjCZoFu>

Lady Liberty **(Picture 7)** and No.250 The Freedom **(Picture 8)** were also on display. I was happy to find a red executive diesel of Norfolk Southern **(Picture 9)** whose regular engines are dark blue and black.



Picture 7.



Picture 10.



Picture 12.



Picture 13.

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