

News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Alaska Railroad releases 2025 official print

“Alaska Railroad Buddies” sign and sale events with artist Scott Clendaniel coming to Anchorage and Fairbanks in January

ANCHORAGE, Alaska - The Alaska Railroad announces the release and print signing dates for *Alaska Railroad Buddies*, the winning 2025 annual art print by Alaskan artist Scott Clendaniel. The public can meet Clendaniel and purchase the new print or poster at signing events scheduled for Anchorage and Fairbanks in January 2025.

Entitled *Alaska Railroad Buddies*, the 2025 artwork captures a lively trip by four of Alaska’s favorite animals aboard a *GoldStar* coach. When describing how he conceptualized the artwork, Clendaniel wrote “these anthropomorphic animals are depicted realistically but comically, acting like human passengers politely riding the train and having a great time. Denali looms in the window and the tail end of the train is easily visible from the domed windows, offering a clear view of the caboose.” Clendaniel was thrilled to be selected as the Alaska Railroad’s 2025 winning artist and looks forward to meeting the public at the sign and sale events.

Scott Clendaniel, a long-time Alaskan, moved to Anchorage at the age of seven. His passion for art was sparked by his grandmother, who gave him an oil painting kit and encouraged him to capture Alaska’s beauty. This early inspiration led Scott to pursue formal art education graduating from University of Alaska Anchorage with a fine arts degree in oil painting. Scott worked as a graphic designer until 2006, when he quit his job to fulfill his dream of making oil paintings full-time. His wife, Maria Benner, also quit her job three years later, and the couple completed two long bicycle tours down the pacific coast and across Europe. Upon returning to Anchorage, Maria became the business manager of their art business, Real Art Is Better.



Alaska Railroad Buddies, by artist Scott Clendaniel for Alaska Railroad’s 2025 Art Print Program

Clendaniel's whimsical, colorful, and textural art is inspired by Alaska's natural beauty, his passion for outdoor sports like cycling and skiing, and Wrangell-St. Elias National Park, where he and Maria built a log cabin. His paintings are easily identifiable by their balanced compositions, brilliant colors, and unique luster. More of Clendaniel's art can be found at:

- <https://www.instagram.com/realartisbetter/>
- <https://www.facebook.com/realartisbetter>
- <https://www.realartisbetter.com>

The public can meet artist Scott Clendaniel at two Alaska Railroad sign and sale events scheduled for January 2025:

- **ANCHORAGE:** Saturday, Jan. 11, 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Anchorage Historic Depot (411 W. 1st Avenue, Anchorage)
- **FAIRBANKS:** Saturday, Jan. 18, 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Fairbanks Depot (1031 Alaska Railroad Depot Road, Fairbanks)

ARRC's art print program began 45 years ago, when renowned artist John Van Zyle was commissioned. Since that 1979 beginning, the annual tradition (except in 1984, when no painting was released) has evolved into a popular collector's item. Find more information, including history and images of past prints on www.AlaskaRailroad.com/Corporate > [IN THE COMMUNITY](#) > [Annual Print Contest](#).

The Alaska Railroad is a state-owned corporation providing year-round inter-city public rail transportation and freight service from Seward to Anchorage to Fairbanks. Moving over 500,000 passengers and 3.5 million tons of freight annually, safety is at the core of its operations.

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The ARRC is an Equal Opportunity Corporation. If you need special assistance (including language) in order to participate in any ARRC service, program, or activity, please contact the Alaska Railroad Corporation; P.O. Box 107500; Anchorage, AK 99510; Attention: Legal Department, zappasj@akrr.com, (907) 265-2461; via Alaska Relay Service for hearing impaired – dial 7 11 anywhere inside Alaska, OR dial toll-free from anywhere outside the state 1-800-770-8255 (voice); 1-800 770-8973 (TTY). Upon request, printed materials can be made available in alternate formats.