



NEWS OF THE YEAR 2005

6/8/2005

Sunday the 7th of August is the final day of the section Athens Peloponnisos Station - Ag.Anargyroi. This closure follows the closure of the section Piraeus - MPR (Piraeus Depot) two months ago.

The section is closed down so that the tracks in the Athens vicinity will be rebuilt to standard gauge bringing to an end the presence of SPAP in the center of Athens after 121 years.

29/6/2005

Works on the track renewal project Andritsa - Kalamata are well under way. In the past few weeks the section between Assea and Athinaio has been almost completed. In the mean time also the work in the station of Assea have began.

Furhtermore the welding of the rails in sections of three is being carried out between Makri-Kalogeriko-Assea and the concrete sleepers have also been traspoerted on spot. The initial planning was to lay the track in this section with wooden sleepers, something that was abandoned in favor of the concrete ones.

Finally the works in the section Lefktron - Diavolitsi are under way since a large proportion of the old trackbed has been dismantled and most of the small metal bridges have been replaced with new concrete ones.

As we speak 27% of the whole project has been completed and as soon as some minor technical problems will be solved it is expected to increase the rate of the works.



Here we have track 1 of Assea station. We can see that the track has been removed and the substructure is being renewed. (Photograph: Andreas Kapaklis, June 2005)



The concrete sleepers are ready to be laid just outside Kalogeriko station. Every few metres there are stockpiles like this. (Photograph: Andreas Kapaklis, June 2005)

30/3/2005

The first GTW 2/6 built for the Peloponnese Railways arrived in Kalamata Depot after a long stay (since march 2004) in the, currently closed but soon to re-open, Kryoneri - Agrinion line in the North Western part of Hellas. The vehicle came from its "home" there (Aitoliko station near Mesolongi) by road transport.

Soon it will be assembled by the technicians of the manufacturing company (Stadler A.G. - Bussnag CH) that are based in Kalamata Depot carrying out maintenance on the other GTW 2/6 vehicles and training to OSE's staff.



Pictures after the arrival of the vehicle from Aitoliko at Kalamata Depot. The only thing that remains is its assembly. (Photograph: Andreas Kapaklis 30/3/2005)

16/3/2005

Our Association in cooperation with the Technological Educational Institute (TEI) of Kalamata presented a survey of the Associate Professor Mr. Fotis Droubalis concerning the satisfaction degree of the students with the scheduling of the Railbus between Kalamata and the TEI. The survey was carried out by final year students of the institute. The presentation was held on the first floor of the old station at Municipal Railway Park of Kalamata.



The stop that has been built at the TEI of Kalamata. Lighting and seating is still missing (Photograph: Andreas Kapaklis 22/3/2005)

During the talk about the survey the President of the TEI Kalamatas Mr.Dimitris Nikopoulos, representatives of OSE's administration, many workers of OSE in Messinia, the students that conducted the survey and of course the board of our Association along with members, were present.

The survey and its results are in the following link and can be downloaded in .pdf format. (Sorry greek only!!!!)

10/2/2005

On Sunday the 6th of February 2005 our Association organized a day trip to Olympia, for celebrating the new year and for its New Years Pie (Tradition in Hellas), with unexpected success. The response by the people was very warm and the number of people that expressed their will to participate was in excess of 400. Unfortunately we had to disappoint about 200 of them due to the limited seating. So, with 198 people on board, two Railbuses started their journey from the station of Kalamata. The first one departed on 8:05 and after 25 minutes the second one. The travelers were impressed by the cleanness and comfort that the Railbus GTW 2/6 can offer, but also from the superb organizing of this trip. A big help for its success was also the sunny weather which helped us enjoy every minute of it. During the journey, in the trains, there was selected music playing from their speakers but also announcements when passing from important place - like a guided tour. There were also brochures given to the participants, one informing about the new trains and the other one about the history of the Peloponnese Railways. At the station of Kalonero there was a ceremony held and our New Years Pie was cut. The lucky passenger that found the coin got as a gift a book from Spyros Nikolopoulos - "The Hellenic Rack Railway between Diakofto and Kalavryta". Upon arrival in Olympia at 11:30 a tour had been organized to the archeological sites by a professional guide. The museum there was also visited. The return trip started at 16:45 for the first Railbus and after 15 minutes for the second one. The best moment of the journey was at the moment when the night fell and the lights in the passenger cabin were turned off!!!!!!! Outside there was heavy rain and while music was playing we where just looking at the thunders lighting up the sky!!!!!!!

At this point we would like to thank Mr. Kotsaris and the patisserie "DOLCE" for being so kind and giving us the New Years Pie, Mr Sarantakis for giving us the sandwiches and of course the train drivers, conductors and station masters of the Hellenic State Railways for their excellent cooperation and their vital help for achieving such success in our trip.

After this impressive response by the people we are thinking of organizing a two day trip to Kalavryta. The trip will be from Kalamata with an Intercity until Diakofto and the from Diakofto to Kalavryta with the Rack Railway. We are looking forward in seeing you in our next Railway trip!!!!!!

9/2/2005

After a long waiting period (and 4 weeks of work from this websites administrators!!!!!!) we are in the position two present to you two new sections in this web site. The first section concerns literature and the second concerns photo galleries.

In the literature section you will see an extensive list (but not exhaustive) with books that have been published from time to time, in Hellas and abroad, dealing with the Railways in Hellas. We hope that you will find this list of help when searching for specific interest literature.

In the photo galleries section you will find some topics that concern our Association and the Railways of the Peloponnese. Currently you will find three different photo galleries. The section can be accessed from the main catalogue but also from the following link.

28/1/2005

First of all we would like to wish a HAPPY NEW YEAR to EVERYBODY!!!! In order for 2005 to start with the best possible prospects it is necessary to do a trip with a train.

So the Messinian Association of the Friends of the Railway organizes a day trip to Olympia on Sunday the 6th February 2005. This trip will be to celebrate the new year but also to cut the new years cake as the tradition demands. The program for this trip is the following:

Departure time will be 8:30 in the morning from Kalamata Railway Station. A specially rented railcar of the type GTW 2/6 Railbus will be waiting for us. The travel time to Olympia is about 2 hours and 30 minutes. When we will arrive in Olympia Station the traditional new years cake will be cut, on the stations premises. After that the program is free for everybody until 16:45 when we will start for our return trip.

Everybody is invited in this trip (members and non-members) and we hope to see you aboard our train.