



Alaska Railroad Budd RDC2 No.712 at the prime fishing spot at Indian River.

Pacific main line between the nickel mining town of Sudbury Ontario and the small town of White River Ontario which claims to be both the coldest place in Canada and the hometown of Winnie The Pooh!

For this article, we will focus on the Alaska Railroad's Hurricane Turn service since ready-to-run models of the actual Budd RDCs still used on the service are available

from Kato in N scale. There are also other appropriate locomotives and rolling stock of the Alaska Railroad available from Kato, Atlas and Micro-Trains, also in N scale. The Alaska railroad currently operates four Budd RDCs – two Budd RDC3s No.701 and No.702, and two Budd RDC2s No.711 and No.712. Kato has chosen to model Nos.711 and 712, a pair of RDC2s.

The Hurricane Turn service operates between May and September on Thursday to Sunday and lines up to depart from Talkeetna town station at 12:30pm shortly after the northbound Anchorage to Fairbanks service (the 'Denali Star') has passed through Talkeetna. It proceeds at a leisurely pace north, covering the 58 miles to Hurricane Gulch in around three hours. Once there it stops on the middle of the 296' tall/384' long steel trestle bridge and after a few minutes returns south towards Talkeetna, returning to the town station for around 7.00pm. There is no onward southbound service from Talkeetna back to Anchorage at night, but there is a range of accommodation available in the town. The southbound 'Denali Star' will pass through town mid-afternoon the following day.

Shortly after departing from Talkeetna town station at milepost 226.7, the line crosses the Talkeetna River, a tributary to the Susitna River and enters the wilderness. With the highway to the west on the other side of the broad Susitna river, the rail service is the only way into or out of this wilderness area. There are a mixture of both permanent dwellings and seasonal hunting cabins along the line whose occupants rely on the flag trains as their only means of transport and for supplies. The flag train will also drop



Wot, no platform? A hunting party unloading their supplies (and guns) from the baggage compartment of RDC3 No.701.