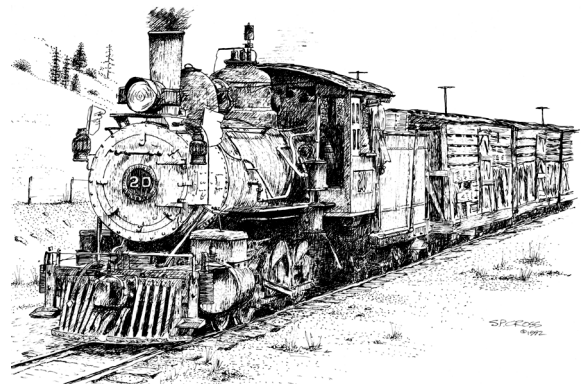


# ROCKY MOUNTAIN RAIL REPORT



MAY 2006

No. 560

ROCKY MOUNTAIN RAILROAD CLUB • ROCKY MOUNTAIN RAILROAD HISTORICAL FOUNDATION

## Slide Potpourri

Presented by Erwin Chaim  
May 9, 2006 • 7:30 PM

Erwin Chaim will host the annual slide potpourri. Erwin will not accept slides the night of the meeting. When you get this newsletter there will be a few days to give Erwin slides at the Caboose Hobbies repair department or at his home at 560 Emerson (phone 303-733-0856). The slide potpourri is the program where members can showcase their talents. The program chairman always takes notes for presenters for regular programs.

Please come join us for an enjoyable, educational evening at Christ Episcopal Church at 2950 South University Boulevard, University at Bates, where there is plenty of off street parking at the rear of the complex. Enter into Barnes Hall, where we hold the monthly meetings, on the mid-south side doors. Please bring a guest. **All programs are intended to provide an educational experience on railroading. The general public is welcome to attend. There is no charge for this meeting.**

## New Silver Vista Observation Car On The D&SNG

By Bill Jones

A replica Silver Vista car body was delivered to the Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad (D&SNGRR) on March 17th by its builder, Melcher Brothers Inc. of Durango. The original car was built at Denver's Burnham shops from a coach body and was destroyed in the car shop fire at Alamosa in September of 1953.

New drawings were created by the D&SNGRR from photos and historic information about the original car. Using



The original Silver Vista observation car was very popular with tourists on The Silverton train. The interior is shown in this Sanborn postcard view of the era. – Photo Jim Ehernberger collection.

this design a new frame and body was built by Jim and Bill Melcher of Melcher Brothers Inc. who specialize in custom fabrication for mining and railroad clients.

## La Veta Pass Excursion Saturday, June 24th

The La Veta Pass trip was sold out as of Easter weekend. There is a waiting list for tickets. Thanks to all for their support of Club trips.

## 2006 RMRRRC Events Schedule

June 13 Meeting	Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow – Denver Rail Transit
June 24 Trip:	Alamosa to La Veta and Return
July 11 Meeting	Dome Car Magic
August 8 Meeting	To Be Announced
September 12 Meeting	Excursions Of The 60s
October Event	Annual Banquet
November 14 Meeting	Video Potpourri
December 12 Meeting	Annual Meeting

The deadline for items to be included in the June *Rail Report* is 5/19/06.

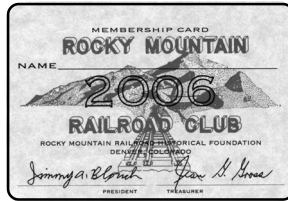
Steve Cross at Colorado Railroad Graphics (303-699-9174) provided the drawing of club engine number 20 for the *Rail Report* cover. Other railroad artwork is available.

## From The President

By Jimmy A. Blouch

### Membership Cards

By the time you read this newsletter you should have received your year 2006 membership cards. I must apologize for the delay, no one is to blame but me. We do not have a Membership Chairman at this time and this is an added duty that has fallen to the President. I have muddled along but believe I have finally made some progress. Thank you for your patience and very polite inquires about your membership cards.



good standing will continue to have the privilege of working on the maintenance and restoration of the equipment as they desire.

This is a major item of change for our Club and it has been given a lot of thought and discussion before reaching this decision. Some of the Board of Directors have had conversations with members who were involved with the acquisition of this equipment. These members have expressed their complete support for this proposal and feel it is the proper thing to do.

As has been previously reported, the officers and Board of Directors continue to look for ways to cut expenses and to simplify the operations of the Club in order to preserve the Club for as long as possible. Transferring ownership of this equipment will save the Club thousands of dollars annually that is currently being paid for insurance.

### Membership Update

At this writing, the Club currently has 620 members who have paid membership dues for the year 2006. Eight of those members joined at the Sustaining level and thirteen of these members joined as Patrons.

This is a very significant membership drop from previous years. As a result we must continue to look for ways to cut expenses. There is no other guaranteed, consistent income other than membership dues. Other income received is sporadic. Additionally, we continue to look for ways to simplify Club operations in order that those members who volunteer will not have to expend full time hours in order to accomplish their duties.

As always, I can be contacted at RMRRCPresident@aol.com, phone 303-932-8153 or by mail at: Rocky Mountain Railroad Club - President PO Box 2391 Denver, CO 80201-2391.

### Annual Membership Book Drawing

The Club's annual April Book Drawing was held at the April 11th membership meeting. This year two prizes were offered. Larry Lombard of Denver was the winner of Colorado Railroad Museum Annual No. 21, *Robert W. Richardson's Narrow Gauge News*. Winner of a copy of the Club's forthcoming snow plow video was Ron Peck of Arvada, Colorado. I would like to thank all who participated in this annual drawing.

### Club Equipment Currently At The Colorado Railroad Museum

At the last Board of Directors Meeting a motion was passed that the President be given authority to pursue the concept of an agreement with the Colorado Railroad Museum. That agreement would establish conditions under which the Club would transfer ownership of Rio Grande Southern engine #20, business car "Rico" and D&RGW caboose #0578 to the Colorado Railroad Museum.

Contact has been made with the Colorado Railroad Museum and the Club has received a preliminary agreement proposal. The officers and Board of Directors will review this proposed agreement and discuss possible revisions. When the agreement is finalized, Club members in good standing will continue to be granted free admission to the Colorado Railroad Museum and Club members in

### Publishers Statement

#### Rocky Mountain Rail Report

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### Club Information

Rocky Mountain Railroad Club  
PO Box 2391  
Denver, CO 80201-2391  
Website: <http://www.rockymtnrrclub.org>

### Membership Information

Membership in the Rocky Mountain Railroad Club may be obtained by sending the annual dues to the club address listed above. Regular membership dues are \$35.00. Overseas regular membership dues are \$45.00. Contributing membership is \$50.00. Sustaining membership is \$70.00. Patron membership is \$100.00. Golden membership is \$500.00. An associate membership for spouses and children is \$25.00 additional. Members joining after April may send a payment of \$3.00 for each month remaining in the year.

Members of the Rocky Mountain Railroad Club are also members in the Rocky Mountain Railroad Historical Foundation, the non-profit arm of the Rocky Mountain Railroad Club.

### Club Officers

President	Jimmy Blouch
Vice President - Projects	Darrell Arndt
Vice President - Programs	Don Hulse
Secretary	Roger Sherman
Treasurer	Jean Gross

### Board Meetings

Members are always welcome to attend any board of directors meeting. They are held on the first Tuesday of the month. Please contact any Club officer for the date, time and location.

### Newsletter Contributions

Newsletter contributions and items for publication should be sent to:

Bruce Nall, Editor  
Rocky Mountain Rail Report  
PO Box 620579  
Littleton, CO 80162-0579  
Fax: 303-978-0402  
E-mail: [selectimag@aol.com](mailto:selectimag@aol.com)

## Out At The Museum

By Denny Haefele

Work at the museum over the last three months was slow both due to volunteer availability and poor weather. Bob Tully and Denny Haefele spent several days cutting tongue and groove lumber to size to fit both above and below the sill rail on the Rico.

Bob and Denny used a jig set up on the saw in the roundhouse to make sure all the cuts were uniform. All the pre-primed lumber was cut to length and a few were nailed on the car. On a nice warm day in early March a good deal of the remaining tongue and groove was primed by Denny using primer that was left over from other projects. This will give the car a “circus” like appearance until the final paint is applied as the boards alternate in color between pink and burgundy.

Now things are moving along a little faster. Roger Sherman, Bob Tully and Denny Haefele met on the 24th of March and really got some things done. The last of the letter board was cut to fit and installed. There were some tricky cuts to be made at the end of the car where side meets end, but remarkably we only had to cut it twice to make it work. Bob and Roger made a trip to the roundhouse to cut some more “circus color” boards. Denny climbed the ladder to put screws in the letter board. We don’t know why the original builders used so many screws but we are sure they are not going to fall off. We put in as many as they did as it assists in the rigidity and strength of the car.

With help of a finish nail gun, now that the letter boards are up, the completion of the tongue and groove siding work will probably just take a few more days. There are two windows that need some sill work done but all the wood is already cut and they shouldn’t take much time.

Once the siding is completed we will start on the trim boards both on the letter boards and under the sill rail. All the lumber has already been acquired for these particular projects so hopefully we will boast completion of this stage of Rico by summers end.



Bob Tully (left) and Roger Sherman work on siding for the Rico.  
– Photo © Denny Haefele.



Roger Sherman (left) and Bob Tully install siding on the Rico. – Photo © Denny Haefele.

## OS Colorado

### Current Railroad Happenings

By Chip Sherman

“OS” are the initials for On the Sheets, a reference to what station agents did to notify the train dispatcher that a train had passed his/her station and been noted on the train register. OS Colorado is a joint effort to note the rail activities occurring in and around Colorado.

### UP 844 Spring Fling Test Run To La Salle, Colorado

The Union Pacific Steam Crew hit the road April 4th to check UP Northern 844's performance. The Alco built steamer left Cheyenne, Wyoming, south on the Greeley Subdivision arriving La Salle, Colorado, about 1:00 PM. The six-car train was turned on the Julesburg wye. Heavy traffic on the Greeley Subdivision had the UP 844's train wait for three south bounders including the Salt Lake City, Utah, to Denver Z-train at Nunn, Colorado.

UP 844's train:

UPP water tender 809  
Tool car UPP 6334, ART LOCKMAN  
UPP 209, HOWARD FOGG  
Boxcar UPP 9374  
Boxcar UPP 9336  
Boxcar UPP 9313 (lettered rotary snowplow)  
Bay window caboose UP 24567.

The support cars provided the crew with the tools to perform temporary repairs on the road. Several stops were made to check the running gear including Ault and Carr, Colorado. UP 844 appeared to operate quite well.

### Army Paladins Head For California

BNSF and Union Pacific moved Army M109A6 Paladin tanks from Minnesota to the Sierra Army Depot in California. BNSF's Lincoln, Nebraska to Denver train had about a third of it's consist comprised of Department of Defense (DODX reporting marks) flatcars carrying Army tracked vehicles. Most of those tracked vehicles were the M109A6 Paladin tanks with 155mm gun barrels (self-propelled artillery).



Union Pacific Northern 844 returned north from a test run to La Salle, Colorado, on 4/4/06. The Alco built steam locomotive began an extensive trip across Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, New Mexico, Nebraska and Texas departing Cheyenne, Wyoming on 4/27/06. – Photo © 2006 by Chip.



UP 844 engineer Lynn Nystrom was at the throttle at La Salle, CO, 4/4/06 during the test run. – Photo © 2006 by Chip.





Two Army M109A6 Paladin tanks with M284 cannon were carried aboard DODX flatcars. They rolled west into Denver on the BNSF's Lincoln, Nebraska, to Denver train, 4/8/06. Train was at Sand Creek Junction, Commerce City, Colorado, heading for BNSF's 31st Street Yard. BNSF transferred these cars to Union Pacific which moved them to California. – Photo © 2006 by Chip.

The M109A6 is the most technologically advanced cannon in the Army inventory. This weapon has a four man crew, and weighs approximately 62,000 lbs/32 tons. They have a cruising range of 186 miles. Maximum speed is 35 MPH. It has a fuel capacity of 133 gallons. The Paladin can operate independently; from on the move, it can receive a fire mission, compute

firing data, select and take up its firing position, automatically unlock and point its cannon, fire and move out – all with no external technical assistance.

The Defense Contract Management (DCM) partner is the designated Department of Defense in-plant organization to ensure both product

quality and fiscal integrity of the defense contractor, United Defense Limited Partnership. Major suppliers include Honeywell (navigation/positioning systems), Detroit Diesel (new low heat rejection engines), United Defense – Ground Systems Division (turret manufacturer), Watervliet Arsenal (cannons and ballistic shielding) and Alliant Tech Systems (Automatic Fire Control System).

The BNSF train was led by BNSF Dash 9-44CW 4519, CSXT C40-8 7559, BNSF SD40-2 7158 and Kansas City Southern SD40-2 618.

–Military Analysis Network contributed to this report: <http://www.fas.org/man/dod-101/sys/land/m109a6.htm>

### America's Art-Museum-On-Rail

Art lovers and train enthusiasts enjoyed America's art-museum-on-rail in Boulder, Colorado, in April.

Artrain is a non-profit organization dedicated to building communities through the arts and is supported in part by the BNSF Railway Company, which moves the vintage rail cars when on their line.

Artrain's latest exhibition, "Native Views: Influences of Modern Culture," features contemporary Native American art.

"Native Views" consists of 71 contemporary artworks by 54 living Native American artists. Visitors will learn about Native American's contributions to contemporary art and society, the many commonalities Native and non-Native people share, the complex issues surrounding Native American history, and the challenges faced today by tribal groups.

This year's exhibit will visit portions of Wyoming, Michigan, Colorado, New Mexico, Washington and Oregon. Admission is free, however, donations are encouraged. For a full schedule or more information, go to [www.artrainusa.org](http://www.artrainusa.org). –BNSF Today April 2006

Continued on page 6, column 1

## OS Colorado

Continued from page 5, column 3

### BNSF Running More Coal Trains Via Brush, Colorado

Increasing BNSF coal train traffic has prompted it to reroute some coal loads and empties via the Angora and Akron Subdivisions via Sterling and Brush, Colorado. Train congestion on the Sand Hills / Ravenna Subdivisions has BNSF trains running several loaded / empty coal trains per day via the more circuitous routing through Brush. These unit coal trains use the Akron / Hastings Subdivisions across eastern Colorado into Nebraska to eastern power generating customers.

BNSF continues double tracking the Sand Hills / Ravenna Subdivisions across Nebraska to handle its growing coal train business serving the Wyoming Powder River Basin. Crawford Hill is double track northwest of Alliance, NE. No plans at this time to triple track Crawford Hill.

BNSF expansion projects in the Powder River Basin in early 2006 included the Donkey Creek Yard east of Gillette, WY (Rozet - a staging yard for coal trains) and a third main line joint with Union Pacific between Reno milepost 42.2 south to milepost 58.1 (north of NACCO Wye Junction). NACCO stands for North Antelope Creek. Another BNSF double track project is underway between Degraw and Bayard on the Valley Subdivision west of Northport, NE. Grading for a second track between Angora to Northport (approximately 12-miles) will be underway in 2006. Angora is north of Northport on the Alliance to Northport line, Angora Subdivision.

### New BNSF SD70ACes in Colorado

BNSF's Rawhide Mine, Wyoming, coal load C RWMKBB9 27 passed Littleton, Colorado, on their first Colorado visit 4/11/06 with all new power from both locomotive manufacturers:

BNSF SD70ACe	9371
BNSF SD70ACe	9370
BNSF ES44AC (rear DPU)	5927
BNSF ES44AC (rear DPU)	5932



BNSF's Laurel, Montana to Denver, CO, train H LAUDEN1 01A, rolled onto South Mason Street Fort Collins, CO, with new BNSF ES44DC 5115, Norfolk Southern C40-9W 9347 and BNSF 5383, 4/3/06. Pacific Northwest lumber bound for Colorado homes moves in on this train. – Photo © 2006 by Chip.



Two of the first EMD SD70ACe units to be seen in Colorado in BNSF paint, numbers 9371 and 9370 were passing Castle Rock on 4/11/06 leading a TXUX coal train from Wyoming's Rawhide Mine. – Photo © Dave Schaaf.

All units bear BNSF's new Powerbar logo. Rare to find a coal train with locomotives all built in 2006. Wyoming's Rawhide Mine 18,226-ton train had new General Electric ES44ACs BNSF 5932 and 5927 working as distributed power on the rear. BNSF's commitment to their coal train operations was quite evident on this train.

Since 1995, BNSF has invested almost

\$20 billion to maintain their physical plant and increase capacity through expanded track, yards and terminals, new locomotives and technology. To handle the growth of intermodal traffic on the transcontinental main line between Chicago and Los Angeles, BNSF has added 410 miles of double and triple track since 1995. On coal territory serving Wyoming's Powder River Basin, BNSF



Amtrak #5, (the California Zephyr) leaves Fraser, Colorado on an overcast day as the Ski Train waits on the siding for it's return trip to Denver. This was the next-to-last day of the winter season, 3/31/06. – Photo © Dave Schaaf.



Colorado Railcar located at Fort Lupton, Colorado, shipped refurbished Alaska Railroad dome lounge cars 555 and 556 back to Alaska via UP and BNSF. UP GP40-2 1348 and Locomotive Leasing Partners (reporting marks LLPX) 2225 led the train across Sand Creek, Commerce City, Colorado on 4/12/06. – Photo © 2006 by Chip.

added 275 miles of second and third main line. More than 2,700 new high-horsepower locomotives have been acquired since 1995 representing almost 60 percent of their road fleet.

### **SL&RG Gets Four Ex-Long Island Commuter Cars**

Union Pacific moved four San Luis & Rio Grande RR lettered passenger cars across Colorado to Walsenburg, Colorado. Four ex-commuter cars painted brown with yellow lettering/stripes (reminiscent of the Pennsylvania Railroad paint scheme) were noted in Denver, Colorado, on 3/24/06. The cars carried reporting marks RPCX and were numbered 2948, 2968, 2970 and 2974. The cars were at Pueblo, Colorado, on Saturday, 3/25/06.

The former Long Island cars came from Ozark Mountain Railcar, which was selling them for about \$20,000 each. The Long Island cars were numbered in the 2900s. The cars moved from central Florida where they had been stored at the Plymouth shops of Florida Central Railroad.

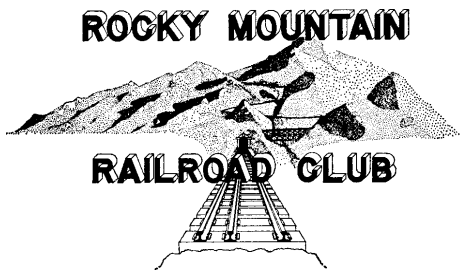
The first operations for these cars started in April 2005. Upcoming operations:

- May 24, 2006: School Children of the Valley Excursion
- May 25, 2006: Public Run
- May 26, 2006: Public Run
- June 24, 2006: RMRRRC Excursion

### **New Mexico Rail Runner Express**

The New Mexico Rail Runner Express started test runs through Albuquerque on 3/20/06. Officials say the tests are aimed at qualifying engineers and conductors to meet federal requirements for passenger service. The tests are on tracks running between Albuquerque and Bernalillo, New Mexico. 12 engineers and conductors will be on qualifying runs each day.

The state purchased 51 miles of track between Belen and Bernalillo from the BNSF Railway for \$50 million. Plans for the \$393 million Rail Runner project include extending the service to Santa Fe by the end of 2008.



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Operation Days**

For information call 303-279-4591  
Or See [http://www.crrm.org/train\\_trips.htm](http://www.crrm.org/train_trips.htm)

May 13 - 14	Mother's Day
June 17 - 18	Father's Day
July 14	Wine and Cheese Train
July 15 - 16	Armed Forces Day
August 19 - 20	Steam Up
October 29	Ghost Train
December 2 - 3	Santa Claus Special

The Club's equipment committee works on the Club owned equipment at the Colorado Railroad Museum on the second and fourth Saturdays of each month. Any Club member is invited to join in the restoration and maintenance of historic equipment.

Call Bob Tully at 303-428-2322 for details.

**Intermountain Chapter, NRHS 2006 Event Schedule**

For information call 303-298-0377

Friday, May 19, 2006: Dinner meeting at Rossi's Catering. We are delighted to have Colorado native and railroad author Mel McFarland as our guest speaker. His program will be "Colorado Midland: A Wildflower Excursion", a trip on a CM Wildflower Excursion, using period and modern scenes.

Mel's been a Colorado Midland Chapter NRHS member for 30 years. He's also author of Colorado railroading books: *Midland Route*, *Cripple Creek Road*, *Phantom Canyon*, and *Rocketing To The Rockies* (Colorado Railroad Museum Annual #17).

Dinner reservations required. No drop-ins. Call the Chapter office (303-298-0377). All reservations and any cancellations must be made by Noon, Friday, the day of the program. If you must call Rossi's (303-296-1144), please be sure they take your name along with the number in your party. No-shows are billed by the Chapter. Cost for dinner meetings is \$14 per person. Cash bar opens at 6:30 PM, dinner is at 7:00, and the program is at 8:00. If you are not joining us for dinner, but want to see the program, you should arrive by 7:45 PM.

**Trains Unlimited, Tours 2006 Tentative Trip Schedule**

For TUT information call 1-800-359-4870

or visit our web page at: [www.trainsunlimitedtours.com/rmrrc/](http://www.trainsunlimitedtours.com/rmrrc/)

June 2-4	Coos Bay Flyer	August 13-29	Great Brazilian Railfan Adventure
June 9-11	Coos Bay Flyer	August 25-27	Domes To Feather River Railroad Days
June 25 - July 2	Great Western Rail Spectacular	September 2-4	Camas Prairie Adventure
July 3	Domes Down The Valley	September 29-30	Durango Photo Special
July 22-26	Rocky Mountain Express	October 2-3	Rio Grande Photo Freight
July 29 - August 12	Great Peruvian Rail Adventure	October 7-15	New England Fall Colors Rail Spectacular