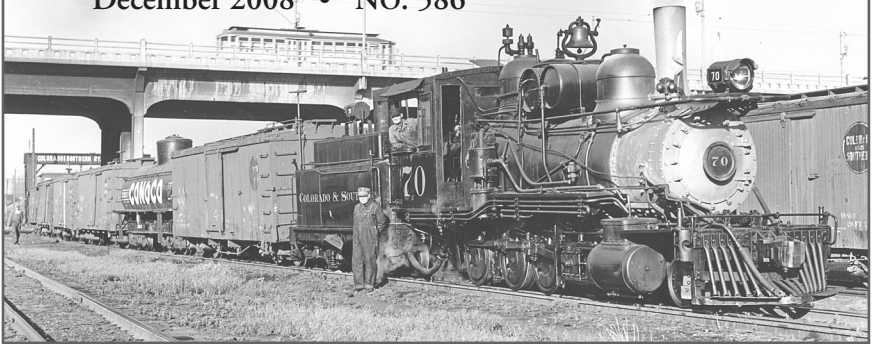


RAIL REPORT

December 2008 • No. 586



Rocky Mountain Railroad Club • Rocky Mountain Railroad Historical Foundation

Annual Meetings Of The Rocky Mountain Railroad Club and the Rocky Mountain Railroad Historical Foundation

December 9th, 2008 • 7:30 PM
Winter On The Great Western Railway
Presented by John Charles

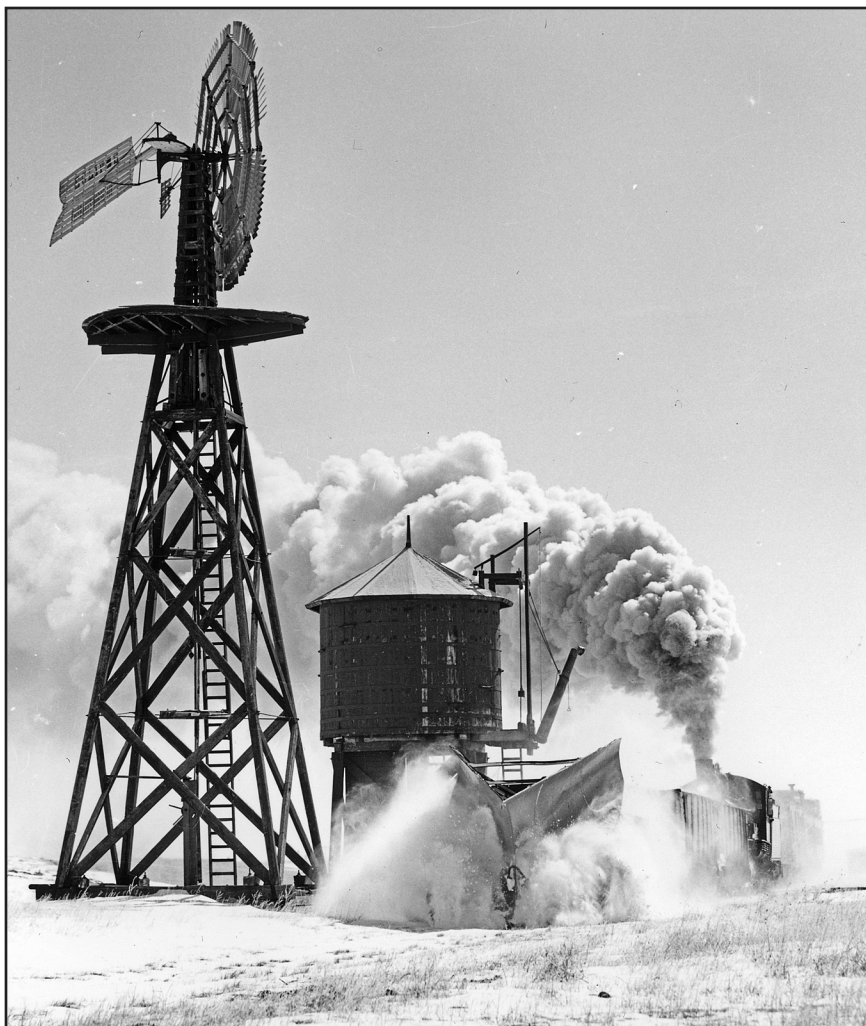
Winter on the Great Western Railway back in the 1960s.

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.**

RMRRRC Calendar

January 13th	Meeting
February 10th	Meeting

The Club's future program listing will provide members adequate advance information for planning. Proposed 2008 meeting and event dates are shown. Due to circumstances beyond our control programming and dates are subject to change without notice. Please contact Joe McMillan at jmcmillan20@comcast.net or phone 303-456-4564 with program ideas.



Snowplow Extra 919 West passes the old-time wooden water tank and windmill at Keota, Colorado, on February 24, 1955, en route to Cheyenne, Wyoming, from Sterling, Colorado. Due to blizzards raging across this area, the line had been snowbound for six days. Old 919, a ten-wheeler, was the oldest (built in 1903 at the B&MR Havelock shop) steam locomotive the Burlington had in regular service. During this time a motorcar normally served this line. The motor could not buck the big drifts and steam came to the rescue – at least four times during that winter! A few months later a 600-hp switcher was assigned, and the 919 was kept in storage at Sterling. When the diesel needed shop work during the summer of 1956 steam made its last trip on August 4th. This locomotive (re-numbered back to 719) has been preserved and is on display at Alliance, Nebraska. This branch line was abandoned in segments between 1970 and 1980.

– Photo © James L. Ehernberger.

Notice Of Annual Meetings

The annual meetings of the Rocky Mountain Railroad Club and the Rocky Mountain Railroad Historical Foundation will be held on Tuesday, December 9, 2008, 7:30 PM at Christ Episcopal Church, 2950 South University Boulevard, Denver, Colorado. These meetings are called for the purpose of electing Officers and Directors for both organizations. At these meetings the Club or Foundation may conduct any other business as may properly come before these meetings.

From the President

By Jim Ehernberger

We certainly enjoyed viewing a variety of 16-mm movies at our November meeting. Some footage covered the remarkable reconstruction of the Southern Pacific line over the Tehachapi line after the 1952 earthquake. The wide variety of subjects included Rio Grande narrow gauge operations over Cumbres Pass and into Durango; a Louisiana lumber operation; and thrilling aircraft daredevil operations during crop spraying maneuvers. Thanks to Joe McMillan for this presentation.

You won't want to miss the December program featuring the Great Western operations during an annual fall sugar beet campaign to be presented by John Charles. The Great Western was the last standard gauge railroad in northern Colorado to feature steam power. John always puts on great presentations.

It is the time for me to express my appreciation for the support of our membership past and present. While the numbers are declining we are still about 500-strong. We have many members with at least 50 years, and even more who have been with the Club for 40 years, and that in itself is quite remarkable.

The current Officers and Directors of the Club have been top-notch individuals and it has been a pleasure, especially for me, to acknowledge all of those who have worked with me during these past two years while serving as your President. It is very important to have people who can be depended upon, and I certainly have no complaints. One of the key positions, of course, is that of the Treasurer, and Jimmy Blouch is an expert in that field, and I must thank him for all of his hard and dedicated work.

The volunteers involved with the Car 25 project have done a remarkable job in their restoration efforts. That was obvious when we celebrated the annual rollout this past August. And without their dedication the project would not have been completed. The visible is a contribution of those who specifically labored on the project. The invisible contribution by many others, such as fund raising, authorization of funding by our board, keeping financial records and providing some guidance is only part of the total picture.

While on the subject of volunteers, the Club has always depended upon volunteers. The Club leadership is always aware of the numerous accomplishments

From the President



The Union Pacific's Coalmont Branch out of Laramie, Wyoming, experienced heavy snow problems over the years. GP30 unit 707 obviously struggled the snow banks along the route on January 28, 1978. This was a common winter scene where snow accumulated over the top of the nose after it battled the windy snowy range of Wyoming and Colorado. – Photo © James L. Ehernberger.

volunteers have made during these past 70 years. There are many areas where the general membership may not be aware of what takes place on the inside track of this big Club railroad yard. In other words, there have been countless volunteer hours (perhaps in the hundreds of thousands) involved that are invisible contributions.

I want to thank everyone past and present, whether a member, serving in an office, chairing committees, and general volunteering for this massive endeavor. The Club has been blessed with its success because of people pitching in.

This is not an easy task, especially when one looks back and views the accomplishments of the Rocky Mountain Railroad Club (and Foundation). We have had the dedicated work of authors, starting with Mac Poor's labor of love, the Denver South Park and Pacific book published in 1949, and all subsequent books produced. While Poor's publication brought greatness and fame to our organization, many other events are memorable as well.

The excursions and trips involved a lot of dedicated hard work by those who were responsible. While passengers sit back and enjoy these, those involved

From the President



The Cumbres and Toltec Scenic Railroad used steam rotary plow OY to open the line on May 3, 1997. This view shows the train plowing snow and three 480 class locomotives shoving near Coxo, Colorado. Near the summit of Cumbres Pass, snow drifts were encountered that were about 15-feet deep.

– Photo © James L. Ehernberger.

continue to make plans and adjustments necessary until it is all over.

To list a few important facets of this organization, I can think of committees who handled membership, trips, tours, events, newsletter, editors, mailing, programs, equipment, publications, fund raising, video, banquets, etc. Pardon me if many are not listed, but you can see my point where many of these projects can be invisible, but the time involved has been enormous – to say the least!

The purpose of these comments is to tell everyone how this organization has existed for more than 70 years, and it has been because of fine people who stepped

forward, and kept the train on the track simply by volunteering.

Lets not overlook the benefit of the Colorado Railroad Museum, as well as other rail oriented displays and museums, and the various tourist rail lines where we can visit and enjoy railroading, somewhat like it use to be. While the motive power is not the same on the main line routes, the constant changing of equipment and operations are extremely fascinating too. Train watching, photography, modeling and railroading in general should, and can, continue into the future for the next generations – so, lets work toward keeping it alive!

From the President



The Rocky Mountain Railroad Club's Union Pacific 9000 excursion was, without a doubt, powered by the most unusual type of motive power ever used by our organization. This was the first of 88 Union Pacific Type 3-cylinder locomotives built in 1926, and they were only used by the UP. It was a 4-12-2, and had the longest rigid wheelbase of any locomotive operating in the USA. Several hundred fans braved the below zero weather to witness this fine trip on March 11, 1956. After this trip the locomotive was retired, and it is now on display, at Pomona, California, at the fairgrounds. It is the only one of the class that was preserved.

– Photo © James L. Ehernberger.

From the President

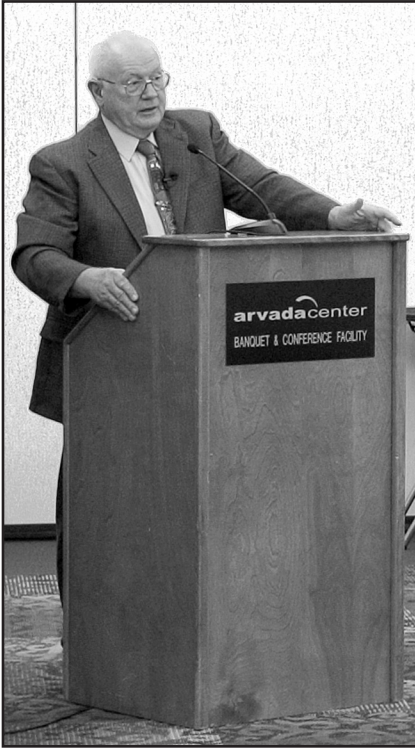


The winter of 1979 was difficult for train operation on the line out of Laramie to Walden, Colorado. Typical operation utilized a Jordan spreader as viewed a few miles east of Centennial, Wyoming, on January 10th. Shortly after this scene the spreader was disabled and other snow fighting equipment was utilized.



Seven days after the photograph above, the UP found the wedge plow (made from a steam locomotive tender) derailed easily at an iced-in road crossing. The process required the use of two large rented cranes and the Cheyenne Pettibone crane to upright the plow on January 17, 1979 near Albany, Wyoming. Needless to say, the damage done during this operation to the plow, which was loaded with gravel in the tank, and thick lead along the bottom of the blade, resulted in the plow becoming useless, and it was scrapped. — Two photos © James L. Ehernberger.

From the President



Jim Ehernberger at the Club's 70th Anniversary Luncheon Banquet. Thanks Jim for all you have done for the Club!
– Photo © 2008 Bruce Nall.

This is my last letter as President. I have been honored twice to be the President to superintend our Club, and during both times, all I can say is that it was my pleasure to serve you, and the time has come for me to head into the siding at the end of this year. There will be a new crew passing by on the main track to take over the leadership of the Club. My 55 years as a member, and all of the close friends I have known during those years, prove we have a special comradeship that is forever lasting. And I hope my contribution to the Club and the information shared will be passed along for others to benefit.

To all of our membership, friends and families, in closing, it is now time for all of the Officers and Directors of the Club to express and extend our best wishes to each and every one of you, so you may enjoy a trainload of Christmas spirit and will have a great New Year.

Members may contact me at:
jimrtrain@gmail.com
Phone: 307-421-7057

Little Visitors to a Big Interurban

By Darrell Arndt

On November 3rd, volunteers had the pleasure of providing tours of D&IM No. 25 to the Clever Kids Learning Center, the day care center at the Denver Federal Center. Since the center is located about a block away, the kids and staff enjoyed perfect weather for the short walk to the car. About 40 kids took the tour and showed their fascination with the No. 25.

Interestingly, a number asked some

pretty perceptive questions. As can be imagined, the flip-over seats, Edison bulbs, “disappearing windows”, conductor’s bell, roof gong and internal rotating parts of the controller elicited the most reactions. After covering their ears, sounding the air horn seemed to leave a lasting impression.

No. 25 is available for tours or individual visits. Call Darrell Arndt at 303-667-4797 or e-mail trainpixs@aol.com.

Little Visitors to a Big Interurban



“Conductor” Tom Peyton introduces himself to our guests from the Clever Kids Learning Center prior to the tour.



The well behaved kids showed quite an interest in No. 25 and were fascinated that it was “the” mode of travel before automobiles and busses.

– Two photos © 2008 Darrell Arndt.

Current Railroad Happenings



This 53 car unit train of oil field equipment was in south Denver on November 12, 2008. Passing northbound through Colorado en route from Louisiana to Washington state. – Two photos © 2008 Dave SchAAF.

Current Railroad Happenings



BNSF assigned two GP-60's to the Longmont Local in late October which operates north from Longmont, Colorado, towards Loveland and Fort Collins, Colorado. On Thursdays the local moved up Mason Street to interchange cars with the Great Western Railway at North Yard in Fort Collins, Colorado. On 11/6/08 the BNSF 117 & 159 – yes BNSF 159 still sports silver & red! – were headed north on Mason Street passing the Conoco gas station. – Photo © 2008 by Chip.



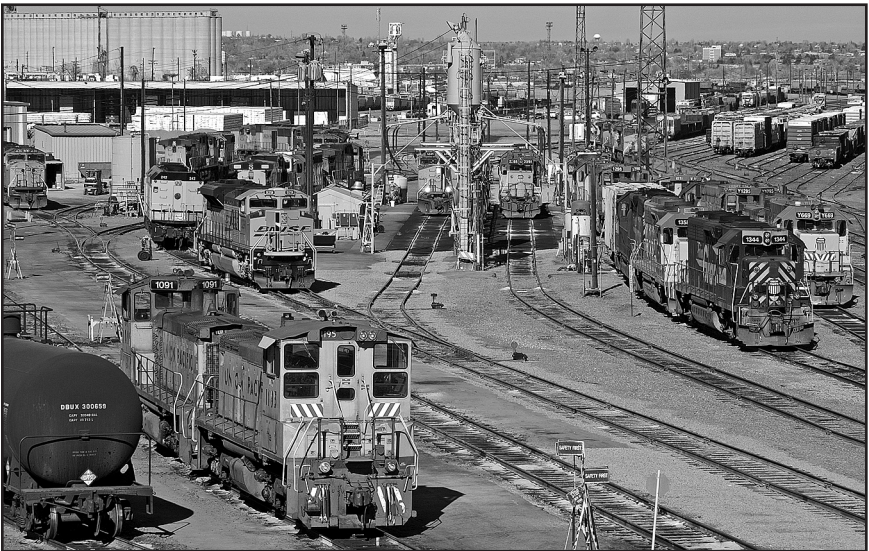
BNSF's Longmont Local hustled south from its run to Loveland, Colorado, where it interchanged with the Great Western Railway. The train was south of Longs Peak Siding returning to Longmont, Colorado, on 11/12/08. – Photo © 2008 by Chip.

Current Railroad Happenings



NMRX 109 was headed for work on the New Mexico Rail Runner commuter service on November 3, 2008. Built by Motive Power in Boise, Idaho, Model MP36PH-3C is 68 feet long, with 40-inch wheels and a top speed of over 100 mph. Several of these motors have migrated through Colorado in recent weeks.

– Photo © Dave Schaaf.



A good variety of locomotives were at the UP North Yard service area in Denver on November 15. Two geeps in Rio Grande paint can be seen, along with a BNSF SD70ACe, and a Ski Train loco. – Photo © Dave Schaaf.

In Remembrance Gerry Gresham

We received word that member Gerry Gresham of Fullerton, California, recently passed away.

For Sale

Railroad Lanterns

- Reading Clear Globe by Dressel - \$100.
- UP Red Globe by Adlake - \$125.
- NYCL Blue Globe by Dietz (this is a rare item) \$150.

Conductor's Lanterns

- Two Red Globe, \$30 each.
- One Clear Globe \$30.

Include \$25 per lantern for packing and shipping.

Switch Keys

Ex-Rio Grande employee keys consisting of five different switch keys for D&RG, D&RGW, C&S, Santa Fe and BN plus five miscellaneous keys. \$160.

Plaque

Rollins Pass "The Moffat Road" Restoration Association 8 by 10-inch plaque - \$15 plus \$5 shipping.

Color Print

10 by 15 inch framed and matted "City of San Francisco" color print. - \$30 plus \$15 shipping.

Assorted copies of Railroad Magazine from the 40s through the 70s, Trains Magazine from the 50s through the 60s and other books and timetables.

Contact

Morris "Rocky" Haimowitz
PO Box 440057
Aurora, CO 80044
Phone 303.750.6574

Two Unique Items Available

HO Gauge Boxcar Kit

As part of the Rocky Mountain Railroad Club 60th anniversary celebration, 1998, InterMountain Railway Company produced a specially decorated HO gauge boxcar for the Club. Several kits still remain on hand with road numbers 1968 and 1998 being available. Each car kit is individually packaged and is complete except for couplers. Price for each kit is \$10.00 which includes shipping. Please specify the car number or numbers when ordering.

D&RG Railway Time Table No. 19 Reprint

During 1963, in connection with Club excursion on the D&RGW narrow gauge, the Rocky Mountain Railroad

Club reproduced D&RG Railway Time Table No. 19 which took effect July 23, 1882. It contains 24 pages including wraps. Some copies were made available as hand outs at recent membership meetings. Several copies still remain and it was decided to make them available to those members unable to attend our membership meetings. While there would be no charge for these time tables it will be necessary to remit \$5.00 to cover shipping and handling. Quantity is limited and orders will be processed in first received, first shipped, fashion.

Please mail your order for the items to:

Rocky Mountain Railroad Club
P O Box 2391
Denver, CO 80201

Trains Unlimited, Tours 2008 & 2009 Tentative Trip Schedules

Discounts on tours are available to Club members.

Just provide your Rocky Mountain Railroad Club membership number.

For TUT information call 1-800-359-4870

or visit our Club web page at: www.trainsunlimitedtours.com/rmrrc/

2008

December 14 - 19 Christmastime in
Santa Fe and Taos

2009

February 14 - 16 Valentine Snowflake
Express

February 14 - 15 Western Maryland Winter
Photo Freight

March 2 - 3 Arizona Adventure

March 28 - 29 Central Coast Wine Express

April 2 - 14 Australian Rail Explorer

April 15 - 24 New Orleans And Cajuns
Express

April 25 Domes to San Diego

April 26 California Gold Express
North

May 2 - 3 La Veta Pass Photo Freight

May 4 - 11 Sierra Madre Express I

Colorado Railroad Museum 2008 Scheduled

Special Operation Days

For information call 303-279-4591

http://www.crrm.org/train_trips.htm

Santa Claus Express December 13 - 14

Rocky Mountain Railroad Club Members in good standing, and upon presentation of a current membership card, are entitled to free admission. Members are invited to join the Colorado Railroad Museum (a Museum membership provides certain merchandise discounts), and members may participate in restoration or other maintenance programs as volunteers.

Please contact the volunteer coordinator at the CRRM, telephone 303-279-4591.

Intermountain Chapter, NRHS

2008 Event Schedule

For information call 303-298-0377

<http://www.cozx.com/nrhs>

There is no November Chapter meeting.

See You At The Jeffco Train Show on
January 31, 2009 at the Jefferson County
Fairgrounds in Lakewood, Colorado.

Publishers Statement — Rocky Mountain Rail Report

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Club Information

Rocky Mountain Railroad Club
PO Box 2391
Denver, CO 80201-2391

Club Officers

	President	Jim Ehernberger
	VP - Foundation	Darrell Arndt
	VP - Club	Herb Edwards
	Secretary	Roger Sherman
Web: http://www.rockymtnrrclub.org	Treasurer	Jimmy Blouch

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.

Board Meetings

Members are always welcome to attend any board of directors meeting. 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

Items for the January Rail Report should be sent by December 15th.



BOX 2391
DENVER, COLORADO 80201



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