

# RAIL REPORT

December 2010 • NO. 607



Rocky Mountain Railroad Club • Rocky Mountain Railroad Historical Foundation

## Annual Business Meeting Railroading With Tin Lizzies And Doodlebugs

Presented by Jim Ehernberger  
December 14th, 2010 • 7:30 PM

This will be a brief overview of unique vehicles that once operated on the railroads. Included will be numerous views of automobiles used on rails by officials for inspection trips. Railroads also converted trucks and busses to handle minor operations fulfilling mail contracts or just plain work service. Colorado had several unusual motor cars, including the famous RGS Galloping Geese. This program covers a wide variety of such contraptions. Come and see it so that you can believe it!

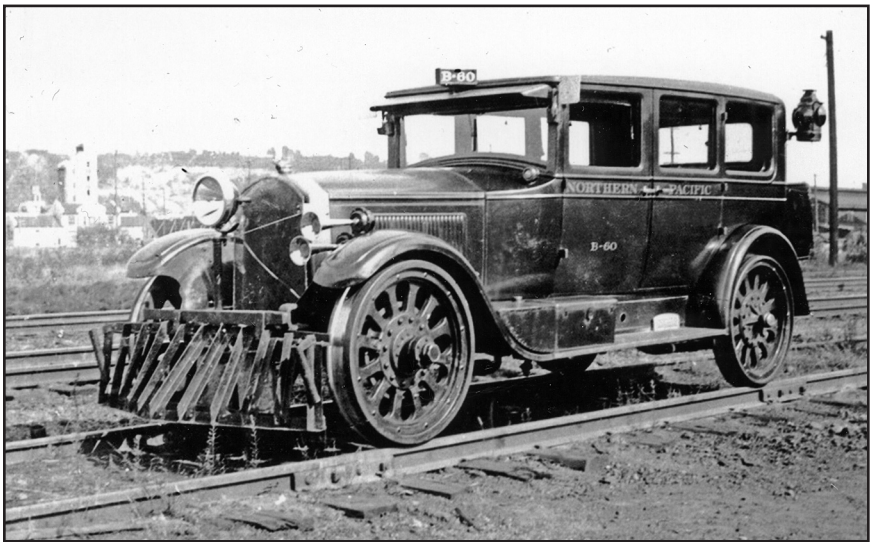
Please come join us for an enjoyable, educational evening at Christ Episcopal Church at 2950 South University Boulevard, University at Bates, where there is plenty of off street parking at the rear of the complex. Enter into Barnes Hall, where we hold the monthly meetings, on the mid-south side doors. 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.**

### RMRR Calendar – 2011

- |              |  |
|--------------|--|
| January 11th | Meeting with program: "Toronto, Ontario, Canada – photos from 30 years ago and 2007" |
| February 8th | Meeting with Program: "Along Steam's Last Main Line"                                 |
| March 8th    | Meeting and Program.   |
| April 12th   | Meeting with Program: "Video – Steam in Slovakia"                                    |

Due to circumstances beyond our control, programs and dates are subject to change without notice.

## Railroading With Tin Lizzies And Doodlebugs



Northern Pacific official inspection car B-60 is posed somewhere in the Pacific Northwest. The advent of the internal combustion era provided railroads an economical means to inspect their lines. This car is displaying rear markers and operated under train order rules. – Photo from the James L. Ehernberger collection.



Uintah Railway motor #52 at Mack, Colorado, on June 24, 1939. This is one example of a Master Mechanic's pipe dream to transport the superintendent of this railroad on business and inspection trips. – R. H. Kindig photo from the James L. Ehernberger collection.

## 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 14, 2010, 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.

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### **The nominating committee is recommending the following as Board members and Officers for 2011**

As Directors: Dave Wagner      Dave Goss      Mike Tinetti      Bernie Watts  
                 Nathan Holmes      Andy Dell      John Charles.

As Officers: Secretary: Roger Sherman      Treasurer: Keith Jensen  
                 Vice-President: Pat Mauro      President: Dave Schaaf

As always, nominations are welcome and nominations from the floor at the Annual Meetings are welcome.

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### **Membership Renewal Time**

RMRRRC members help to preserve and promote rail history and encourage an interest in railroading. Please renew your membership before December 31, 2010.

There will be no increase in dues for the year 2011. A renewal application was enclosed in the November *Rail Report*. If you have not renewed, please fill out the information requested on the form and mail to address provided. We start our yearly renewal process in November.

The club would greatly appreciate if all of our members renew by the end of year. We do allow for a one month grace period. The re-sequencing of seniority numbers is performed the first weekend in February. It is the policy of the club that those members who have not renewed by that time lose their seniority position and membership card number.

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### **News Notes From The President**

By Dave Schaaf

November 20, 1960, was the date of the first Rocky Club trip with U.P. #844. The participants rode from Denver to Cheyenne with diesel power, and then steam power from Chey-

enne to Rawlins and back, with diesels finishing up from Cheyenne to Denver. Union Pacific commemorated the 50th anniversary of this locomotive's excursion service with a special passenger run

## News Notes From The President



The Union Pacific RR celebrated their Steam Program's 50th Anniversary. Steam locomotive 844, an Alco built 4-8-4, had E-units UP 949, 963-B and 951 along with support cars, dome Columbine – UPP 7001 and flatcar OTTX 91476 with passenger trucks steaming past Bushnell, Nebraska, on November 9, 2010.  
– Photo © 2010 by Chip.

from Omaha to North Platte, Nebraska, last month. The Anniversary Special was a fund-raising event for The Union Pacific Railroad Museum in the Omaha, Nebraska, depot. When the crew got together just days before the trip, long-time steam team leader Steve Lee announced that he would be retiring soon and that this would be his last run. The new manager of heritage operations in Cheyenne is Ed Dickens Jr.

Also in mid-November, the Iowa Interstate RR ran a steam special to benefit the Rock Island Technical Society. They used engine #7801, a 2-10-2, between Des Moines and Council Bluffs.

Tourist Railway Association, Inc. held their 2010 convention in Alamosa, Colorado, in early November, hosted by the San Luis & Rio Grande Railroad. Of course there were a few standard and narrow gauge steam train rides associated with the convention. The Friends Of The Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad gave a demonstration of pile driver "OB" in Antonito and then the C&TSRR gave them a ride to Sublette and back.

In the northeastern U.S., the state of Maine has acquired 233 miles of track from the Montreal, Maine and Atlantic Railway. The state Governor says this rail line will help to protect thousands of

## News Notes From The President



Quite a number of long sections of welded rail are stored just west of Sheridan Boulevard in Lakewood, Colorado. These are ready to be installed as the grading is completed on the West Corridor for RTD light rail.

– Photo © 2010 Dave Schaaf.

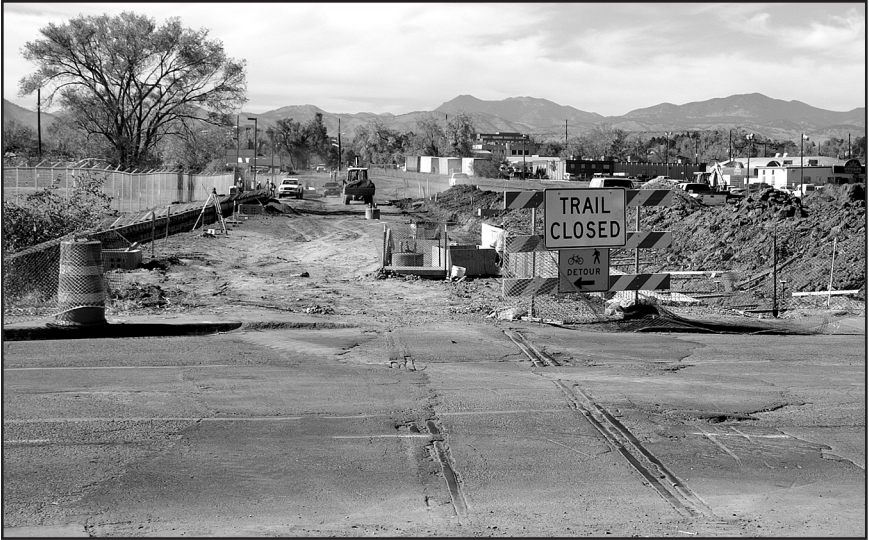
jobs and major employers in two counties. Also from that region, the Edaville railroad opened in 1947 when a man built a five mile narrow gauge line at his cranberry operation in Massachusetts. Edaville is currently hosting what may be it's last annual Festival of Lights, since the owner has the place up for sale.

The Association of American Railroads said there were 318,275 freight cars stored as of November 1st, meaning those cars had not been used in revenue service for at least 60 days. That is over 20 percent of the total fleet in the U.S.

and Canada. At the bottom of the recession, nearly 32 percent of all North American railcars were stored, and the AAR said owners have pulled 185,000 out of storage since mid-2009. Traffic levels have been rebounding this year, particularly in intermodal movements. Some forecasters are estimating that over 22,000 new freight cars will be needed in 2011.

STI-Global, Ltd., an Australian high-tech company, purchased a majority share of Santa Fe Southern Railway recently. STI develops rail safety and risk

## News Notes From The President



RTD is busy constructing the West Corridor light rail line in metro Denver. This is the Oak Street crossing in Lakewood, where a station and small museum will soon take shape. The old rails were still in the street when this image was made on November 4, 2010. – Photo © 2010 Dave Schaaf.

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mitigation technology. Their CEO said that acquiring the SFS gives the company a U.S. railroad to test and market systems, including Positive Train Control. The SFS is a former AT&SF branch line that runs from its namesake city 18 miles

to Lamy, New Mexico.

Members may contact me by e-mail at [ds5280@comcast.net](mailto:ds5280@comcast.net) or by phone at 303-988-3456.

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### Rocky Mountain Railroad Historical Foundation Report

At the November Board meeting, the officers and directors unanimously agreed to continue exploring the future role of the Foundation. Using input from several members, consensus was that the Board should retain the Foundation's 501(c)(3) status and that we should look at various ways to serve our members and the rail community in Colorado

Suggestions included possible funding (or matching funding) of selected historic preservation projects, developing an on-line repository of rail photographs, coordinating the receipt and placement of collections of photographs, slides, memorabilia and/or books, digitizing historic videos and photos and partnering with other organizations to serve the Foundation's mission, which will be updated as plans are further refined.

## Current Railroad Events



The RTD west line bridge over the UP-BNSF freight tracks near 13th Avenue in Denver is under construction on October 27, 2010.

– Photo © 2010 Dave Schaaf.



Rio Grande RPO car #60 was being moved into the roundhouse for winter work at the Colorado Railroad Museum on November 4, 2010.

– Photo © 2010 Dave Schaaf.

## Narrow Gauge Locomotive Photo Gallery



A popular tourist railroad in Colorado was the Argentine Central, a 16-mile line from Silver Plume to the summit of Mt. McClellan. This view shows the happy tourists in June 1909 at the top this line. The tourist dress code of this era does not match what we now see some 100 years later!

– Photo from the James L. Ehernberger collection.

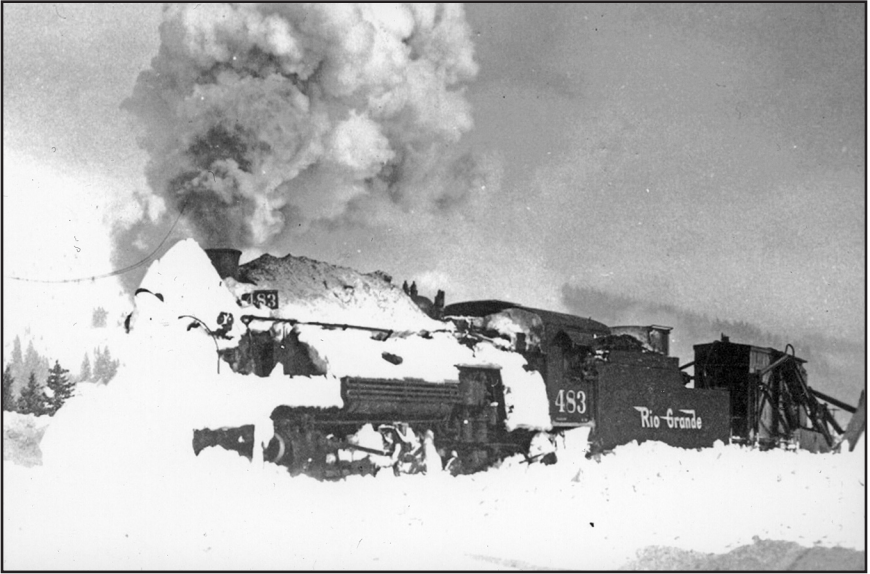


The Colorado & Southern South Park line became snow bound at Fox Hill, a few miles east of Como, where the track descends toward Tarryall Creek. This view was taken on February 21, 1936. Engine Number 8, a 2-6-0, was unable to proceed until dug out after a somewhat normal winter on this railroad.

– Photo from the James L. Ehernberger collection.



## Narrow Gauge Locomotive Photo Gallery



Cumbres Pass has always been known for snow conditions that required the rotary snow plows to open the line. In this view, Bob Richardson made a series of splendid photos showing D&RGW Engine 483 towing the Jordan Spreader to clear various tracks of the snow from the storm that came through in early January 1949. – Photo from the James L. Ehernberger collection.



Winter scenes on the D&RGW Monarch Branch are rare. The line shut down in the fall and reopened in the spring. This view, taken by a trainman, indicates the reason that the quarry only operated in favorable weather. The trainman wrote on the reverse side of this snapshot: “Engine buried in snowdrift. Circle track Monarch Yard. May 6, 1949.” – Photo from the James L. Ehernberger collection.

## Current Railroad Events



BNSF 7606 and 7338 (GE built ES44DC units) led a 15-car engineering special over South Mason Street at West Laurel Street passing the Rams Book Store in Fort Collins, Colorado, on November 11, 2010. The engineering group got off in Denver. The train then deadheaded down the Joint Line to Topeka, Kansas, that afternoon. BNSF originally assembled the 15-car special train that departed from Omaha, Nebraska, on November 6th for owner Warren Buffett and BNSF President Matt Rose. – Photo © 2010 by Chip.



The warbonnet paint scheme can still be found at work. On November 4, 2010, BNSF 753 led this Lincoln-Denver manifest westbound near Commerce City, Colorado. – Photo © 2010 Dave Schaaf.

## Current Railroad Events



Manitou & Pikes Peak Railway No. 4 making its first test run in front of the Manitou Springs station on October 30, 2010. – Photo © 2010 Joe McMillan.



Manitou & Pikes Peak Railway No. 4 during the steam up on October 30, 2010. – Photo © 2010 Joe McMillan.

## Current Railroad Events



A view of the unorthodox Vaclain valve gear and rods on Manitou & Pikes Peak Railway No. 4. – Photo © 2010 Joe McMillan



The Union Pacific Posed engine #844 for a 50th Anniversary photo along side the Mini-Train on November 8, 2010. It was 50 years ago on November 20, 1960, that the Rocky Mountain Railroad Club sponsored the special train to Rawlins, Wyoming. This year a sold-out charter train operated from Omaha to North Platte, Nebraska, on November 13th. – Photo © 2010 James L. Ehernberger.

## Current Railroad Events



The full Union Pacific Heritage Program Crew and volunteers posed on November 8, 2010, while preparing for a departure the next day to Council Bluffs, Iowa, and Omaha, Nebraska. – Photo © 2010 James L. Ehernberger.

*In Remembrance*  
**Roy E. Altenbach**

Roy E. Altenbach passed away on October 28, 2010. He was a 46 year member and held membership number 68.

*In Remembrance*  
**H. P. “Doc” Thode**

Long time member, H.P. “Doc” Thode of Fort Collins, passed away October 16 after a year long bout with cancer. He was a 61-year member who joined the RMRRC in 1949, holding card #3. He contributed his woodworking skills to some of the restoration of Interurban Car No 25. He was also active in the Fort Collins Municipal Railway Society, helping to lay track and again contributing woodworking skills to the restoration of Birney Car No 21. He was internationally known for his woodworking through his building of miniature furniture.

## Current Railroad Events



A snowy November 11, 2010, found BNSF routing two coal empties north on the Front Range Subdivision. BNSF 6226 and 6230 lead an empty coal train past the Budweiser Brewery at Fort Collins, Colorado. – Photo © 2010 by Chip.

### Colorado Railroad Museum 2010 and 2011 Scheduled Special Operation Days

For information call 303-279-4591

<http://www.coloradorailroadmuseum.org/event-listings>

December 4, 11, 12, 18      Santa Express

January 15, 2011                      Steam Up

#### Saturday Special:

Ride in Goose 7 or in a 19th century passenger coach pulled by Locomotive No. 4. Rides begin at 10:00 AM Every Saturday, Weather Permitting

Adult / Senior Fare: \$4 per ride  
Child Fare: \$2 per ride

#### Operate A Locomotive:

Call for reservations to operate Locomotive No. 4. \$150 puts you in the Engineers seat of this diesel for an hour!

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.

### The Denver Rail Heritage Society January Meeting

The Denver Rail Heritage Society, operator of the Platte Valley Trolley, will hold its next quarterly public membership meeting at the REI Flagship Sporting Goods Store near 15th Street and the South Platte River on Thursday, January 20 at 7:15 PM. Please park in the underground garage.

There program will be about public electric transit history.

Bring your friends. The public is welcome and light refreshments will be served.

### Intermountain Chapter, NRHS

#### 2010 Event Schedule

For information call 303-298-0377

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

There is no December Meeting

## **Publishers Statement — Rocky Mountain Rail Report**

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### **Club Information**

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

### **Club and Foundation Officers**

President	Dave Schaaf
Vice President	Pat Mauro
Secretary	Roger Sherman
Treasurer	Keith Jensen

### **Club and Foundation Directors**

John Charles, Andy Dell, Don Hulse, Mike Tinetti, Dave Goss, Dave Wagner

### **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](mailto:selectimag@aol.com)

**Items for the January Rail Report should be sent by December 13th.**



BOX 2391  
DENVER, COLORADO 80201

*FIRST CLASS*

