

RAIL REPORT

April 2011 • NO. 611



Rocky Mountain Railroad Club • Rocky Mountain Railroad Historical Foundation

Slovakian Steam Train Adventures

Presented by Dave Gross

April 12th, 2011 • 7:30 PM

As the steam locomotives of the world are disappearing there is still one place where it is possible to see some of the last modern steam engines built in Europe operating on photo charters for the rail enthusiast. You will be thrilled with the high driven 4-8-2 in both passenger and freight service, the 556 class 2-10-0 with its thundering exhaust leading a freight train, the magnificent 4-8-4 tank loco passing a castle high above on the mountain and a visit to a former narrow gauge logging railway. All of the action takes place in the beauty of the Slovakia mountains. See lots of action and spectacular scenery in this blue ray, high definition production – if you come you should not be disappointed.

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

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| May 10th | Meeting and Program: "Milwaukee Road Electrics in Idaho & Montana" |
| June 14th | Meeting and Program: "New Rail Transit Lines In The Denver Area" |

Due to circumstances beyond our control, programs and dates are subject to change without notice. Please contact Pat Mauro at pkmauro@yahoo.com or phone 303-838-7740 with program ideas.

Slovakian Steam Train Adventures



A 4-8-4 tank locomotive passing a castle high above on the mountain in Slovakia.
– Photo © 2008 Jean Gross.



A 556 class 2-10-0 with it's thundering exhaust leading a freight train in the Slovakia mountains. – Photo © 2008 Dave Gross.

News Notes From The President

By Dave Schaaf

On June 26th, a special train will leave Antonito, Colorado, to focus on the spectacular geology en route to Chama, New Mexico. This train will stop at many outcrops and rail cuts along the right of way to marvel and collect photographs, samples and experiences only accessible on the train route. You can join a cadre of distinguished geologists for an extraordinary day on the Cumbres and Toltec Scenic Railroad. The reservation phone number is 888-286-2737.

The Grand Canyon Railway no longer runs steam engines on a regular basis, but does make several special runs each year. In 2011, the railroad will operate ten steam trips. Regular steam power is former Burlington 2-8-2 #4960. Longer trips from Williams to the Grand Canyon will operate on two dates. For ticket info go to www.thetrain.com

In late May, Union Pacific's Challenger steam locomotive will make a goodwill tour starting in Kansas City, heading east through Jefferson City and St. Louis before turning south en route to Little Rock, Arkansas.

The Association of American Railroads has reported that 2010 was the safest year in the history of U.S. freight railroading, with the number of train accidents involving Class I freight railroads falling by 3% and the number of employee casualties falling by 14%.

Trinity Rail Group will supply leasing company GATX with 12,500 railcars in the next five years. The order

will include both tank cars and freight cars. American Railcar Industries, Inc. is expected to start delivering an order for 3500 cars (tanks & hoppers) to leasing outfit CIT Rail Resources this month. During 2010, railcar loadings increased by almost 10%.

The Fort Collins Municipal Railway Association, which operates the historic trolley line in that Colorado city, is seeking volunteers to serve as conductors and motormen. The trolley runs week-ends and holidays from May through September. Conductor and motorman training is scheduled in April. For details, call 970-484-3957.

The second annual Midland Days Symposium takes place April 16, 2011. This is a fund raiser for the restoration of the Depot at Divide, which served the Colorado Midland and Midland Terminal Railways. Contact me for details.

The Southern Pacific Narrow Gauge Historical Society will be holding its annual meeting this year at Hawthorne, Nevada, on Saturday April 30. They can be reached at spngoffice@sbcglobal.net or 707-262-1824

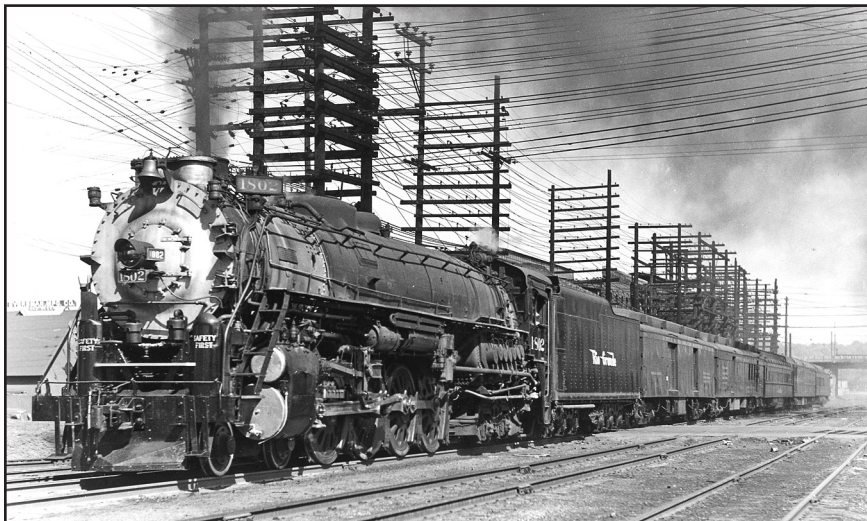
Well-known historian, author, and photographer William Kratville passed away in mid-March.

Please have a look at the Club's web pages now and then. Members may contact me by e-mail at ds5280@comcast.net or by phone at 303-988-3456.

Railroad Events



BNSF 678, Dash 9-44CW, with unit vehicle train waited for Amtrak train 5, the California Zephyr, to back into Denver Depot (temporary station opened February 4, 2011). Private varnish – Warren R. Henry dome lounge WRIX 800149 and Evelyn Henry sleeper were on Amtrak's Superliner equipped train 5 on March 13, 2011, at the 23rd Street crossing in Denver.
– Photo © 2011 by Chip.



D&RGW #1802 on train #1 is passing West Colfax Avenue in Denver on its run south to Pueblo on May 15, 1948. – R. W. Andrews photo, Tom Klinger collection.



Eastward view of the Oak Street station stop on the RTD West Corridor line under construction on March 1, 2011. – Photo © 2011 Dave Schaaf.

RTD-guided tour of the West Corridor

As a companion tour to the Club's June meeting program, members can sign up for an RTD-guided tour of the West Corridor on Friday, June 17, 2011. These monthly tours are open to the general public and may fill quickly. Other months could be an option if June is already at capacity.

There is not an option to register by telephone, only online, but this can be done by anyone that has an e-mail address. This is so that RTD can keep you informed about times and locations and tour availability. Members, or their internet savvy friends, can sign-up at: http://www.rtd-fastracks.com/wc_106

West Corridor Historical Rail Cooperative

The Rocky Mountain Railroad Club and the Rocky Mountain Railroad Historical Foundation jointly agree to match up to \$25,000 of the funds raised by the West Corridor Historical Rail Cooperative between February 19th and May 30th (100 days for 100 years) that will be used for Car #25's future plans.

All donations are tax-deductible. No donations for the interurban car or it's future house should be sent to the Rocky Club. Checks can be made out to WCHRC, LLC and mailed to:

West Corridor Historical Rail Cooperative, LLC
Attention: Michelle Nierling
480 S. Allison Parkway
Lakewood, CO 80226

For more information, call 303-987-7800, e-mail RailCoop@lakewood.org or see the website at <http://www.historictransit.org>.

Current Railroad Events



J & L Consulting (reporting marks JLCX) 3312 SD40-2 is painted red with yellow reflective frame markings and white hand rails. The unit was shipped over BNSF rails to New Elk Mine west of Trinidad, Colorado, (Jansen Yard). The line between the Jansen Yard and the New Elk Mine is being rebuilt in 2011 to allow metallurgical coal to be shipped overseas. The Port of Corpus Christi (Texas) Commissioners have leased about 18 acres at the bulk terminal to Colorado-based New Elk Coal Co., a subsidiary of Toronto-based Cline Mining Corp. New Elk plans to ship about 1 million tons of metallurgical coal in 2011 to primary markets in Europe, Brazil and Korea. Met coal is a primary ingredient in 70 percent of the world's integrated mill steel production. JLCX 3312 was UP 8042 (first), then UP 3312 (info courtesy Norm Metcalf). – Photo © 2011 by Chip.



Looking southward at Jansen, near Trinidad, Colorado, the switch to the C&W main line is visible. This location is poised to see railroad action in the coming months. When coal begins to move out of Jansen yard in the near future this will be a very busy place. – Photo © 2011 Karl Rethwisch.

Current Railroad Events



BNSF's Denver to Provo, Utah, train H DENPVO1 28a, passed 100-foot long tunnel 38 in Gore Canyon, Colorado, on March 2, 2011. BNSF 5143, 7660 and 8290 SD75M led the train over UP trackage rights. The Army Abrams M1A2 tanks were headed for California. – Photo© 2011 by Chip.



BNSF 5143 West with 7660 and 8290 SD75M rolled the Denver, to Provo, Utah, train across the Colorado Rockies west of Granby, Colorado, on March 1, 2011. Abrams tanks were on the train headed for California. The train ran 3 x 2 (BNSF 8295 SD75M was one of the rear DPU's). – Photo © 2011 by Chip.

Steam Locomotive Photo Gallery



UP 820 and 831 on train #27 with 8 head end cars plus passenger cars leaving Cheyenne, Wyoming, on February 19, 1956. The roof of Tower A at the west end of Cheyenne is visible above the head end cars under the C&S bridge.

– Neal Miller photo, Tom Klinger collection.



UP 4019 rumbles along just west of the Dale fill between Hermosa and Sherman, Wyoming, in the Mid 1950s. – Neal Miller photo, Tom Klinger collection.

Steam Locomotive Photo Gallery



UP 4002 and 4004 between Cheyenne and Speer, Wyoming, bound for the "Hill" on the new line known as the 3 track. This train on the 3 track will by-pass the crossing at Sherman, Wyoming, on its way to Laramie in the Mid 1950s.

– Neal Miller photo, Tom Klinger collection.



UP 3543 and 3949 are westbound west of Buford on the final climb up Sherman Hill to the Summit at Sherman, Wyoming, in January 1952.

– Neal Miller photo, Tom Klinger collection.

Current Railroad Events



Renewable Fiber, Inc. (RFI) switcher 2771, lettered J&E Railroad, is a General Electric 25-ton switcher used to unload wood chip cars along the Great Western Railway at Bunyan, south of Johnstown, Colorado. Omnitrax Switching Service (OSS) 4285 GP-7 and Northwestern Pacific lettered 4327 SD9 (ex-Southern Pacific) passed the 2771 headed for Walker, Colorado, on March 21, 2011. – Photo © 2011 by Chip.



Commerce City Grain has acquired Shuttlewagon Commander SWX 525 track-mobile to replace former Cargill (no unit number) General Electric center cab switcher at a grain elevator near Union Pacific's (formerly Denver & Rio Grande Western RR) Utah Junction north of Denver. Here the red and white painted Shuttlewagon is moving San Luis Central (SLC) 5052 covered hopper past the out of service green GE 44-tonner on March 11, 2011. – Photo © 2011 by Chip.

Current Railroad Events



Great Western Railway pulled into Walker, Colorado, on March 21, 2011 with cars for Wedron. Walker is on the Johnstown to Longmont portion of the sprawling Great Western Railway where OSS 4285 GP-7 prowls. The TV dish and grade crossing signals add that 2011 era feel to the Northern Feed & Bean elevator office scene. – Photo © 2011 by Chip.



Vestas Wind Energy, maker of windmill electrical production devices, has their 5-track rail yard ready to ship nacelles and wind mill blades from their Brighton, Colorado, plant. The rail yard had no rail connection to the Union Pacific RR (foreground - Greeley line) until a natural gas line could be buried deeper. Once that happens rail shipments will begin later in 2011 from the Vestas manufacturing plants. In early 2011, the MJ100 Travelift was loading trucks with nacelles. – Photo © 2011 by Chip.

Current Railroad Events

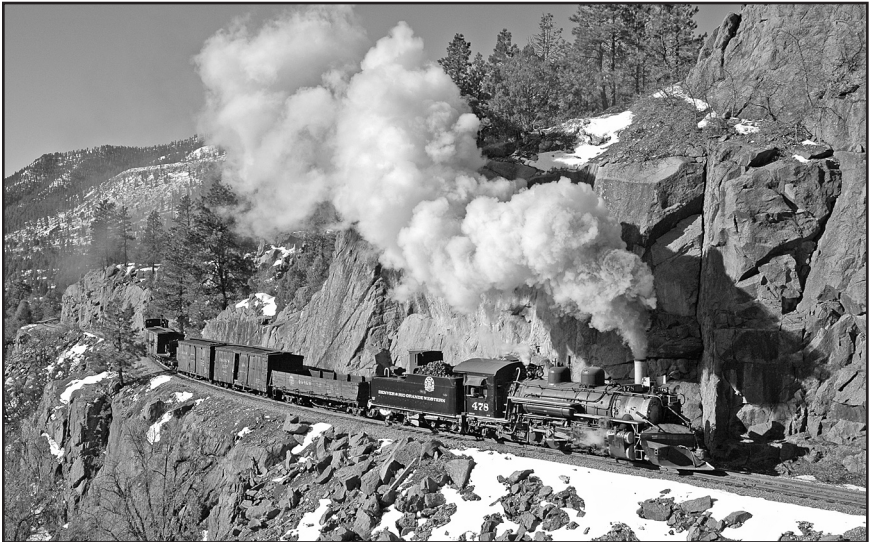


Inspecting the Shay #9 bearings outside the engine house at Silver Plume, Colorado on March 21, 2011. – Two photos © 2011 Dave Schaaf.

Current Railroad Events



A passenger train lettered to recreate a 1930s excursion was chartered by Dave and Jean Gross for a small group on the Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge on February 21, 2011. – Photo © 2011 Jean Gross.



A freight train lettered to recreate the 1930s was chartered by Dave and Jean Gross for a small group on the Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge on February 22, 2011. – Photo © 2011 Jean Gross.

Colorado Railroad Museum 2011 Scheduled Special Operation Days

For information call 303-279-4591

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

Bunny Express Train – Steam-Up April 23

German Heritage Festival:
Cultural Event June 25 & 26

Buffalo Bill Wild West Days:
Steam-Up Event July 30 & 31

Colorado Wine & Music Train:
Cultural Event August 20

Day Out With Thomas: Themed Event
September 10, 11, 17, 18, 24, 25
Reserved Admission Tickets Required

Trick or Treat Train:
Steam-Up Event October 29 & 30

Santa Claus Special:
Steam-Up Event December 3, 10, 11 & 17

SCFD Free Days – Saturdays:
January 8, March 12 & November 12

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.

Intermountain Chapter, NRHS

2011 Event Schedule

For information call 303-298-0377

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

Dinner Meeting at Lone Star Steakhouse April 15, 2011

As a relief from finishing up our taxes, we're pleased to have Marilee Utter, President of Citiventure Associates, LLC and Managing Partner of P3 West, LLC. Her program will be *Transit Oriented Development: Using Transit to Build Communities*.

Transit and land use are natural siblings, dating back to the days of streetcars in Denver. We have artificially separated transit design and funding from community building, and both have suffered. This presentation will review the recent evolution of rail transit and transit oriented development (TOD) in Denver, look at the challenges and strategies of moving forward, and lay out leadership roles for success.

Marilee is a nationally known speaker, writer, and advisor on innovative approaches to community redevelopment and urban issues. She is a national Trustee for the Urban Land Institute and Past Chair of the Colorado District Council.

PLEASE NOTE: Dinner meetings are in the Alamo Room of the Lone Star Steakhouse at 7450 W. 52nd Avenue, Arvada (exit north on Wadsworth off I-70). Reservations are STILL necessary, so call the office (303-298-0377) EARLY in the week, or by Noon on Thursday, before the program. "Social Hour" and dinner ordering will be from 6:00 to 7:15 PM. The evening's program begins at 8:00 PM and should end around 9:00 PM. Supporting our guest speakers also supports your Intermountain Chapter. Because Lone Star provides us with a private room without charge or set-up fees, we have guaranteed them that each attendee will spend a minimum of \$10.00 in the purchase of food and/or drink, excluding the 18% automatic gratuity.

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Club Information

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Club and Foundation Officers

President	Dave Schaaf
Vice President	Pat Mauro
Secretary	Roger Sherman
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Club and Foundation Directors

Dave Wagner, Dave Goss, Mike Tinetti, Bernie Watts,
Nathan Holmes, Andy Dell, John Charles.

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:

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Items for the May Rail Report should be sent by April 15th.



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