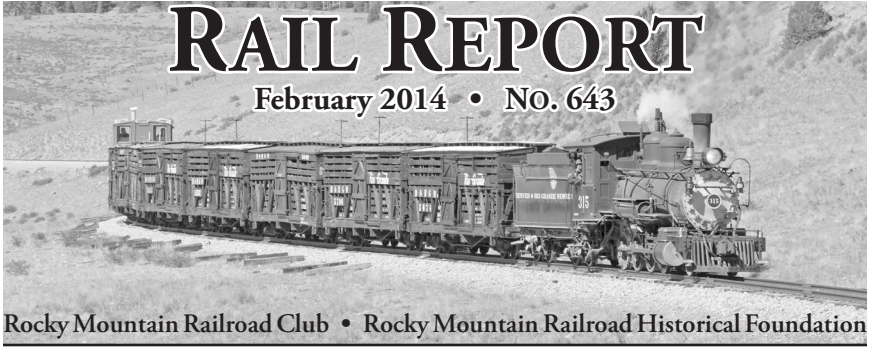


RAIL REPORT

February 2014 • NO. 643



Rocky Mountain Railroad Club • Rocky Mountain Railroad Historical Foundation

The Joining Of The Rails In Strasburg

Presented by Cliff Smith

February 11th, 2013 • 7:30 PM

Cliff is the Curator of the Comanche Crossing Historical Society and Comanche Crossing Museum in Strasburg, Colorado. His presentation is about the joining of the rails and the history of Strasburg and the Comanche Crossing Historical Society.

Hear first hand accounts of the challenges that came about in joining the rails at Strasburg, photographs of early Strasburg and the history of the area and how the "First Truly Transcontinental Railroad" was at Strasburg and not at Promontory Point, Utah. He also plans to show photographs of how they commemorated the joining in the Comanche Crossing Museum's vintage depot.

Please 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 2014 Calendar

- | | |
|------------|---|
| March 11th | Meeting and Program, "Cumbres Pass, December 1963 (50 years later)" by John Charles, Joe McMillan, & Steve Patterson. |
| April 8th | Meeting and Program, "Chinese Steam Operations" by Doug Geiger. |
| May 13th | Meeting and Program, "Colorado Midland" by Mel McFarland. |

Due to circumstances beyond our control, programs and dates are subject to change without notice. Please contact Dave Schaaf with program ideas at ds5280@comcast.net or 303 988-3456.

The Joining Of The Rails In Strasburg



The Strasburg depot at the Comanche Crossing museum in Strasburg Colorado.
– Photo courtesy of the Comanche Crossing Historical Society.

Comanche Crossing Museum – Strasburg, Colorado

The museum is located 35 miles east of Denver at I-70 Exit 310. From the exit, travel north to Highway 36 (East Colfax Avenue), then 3 blocks west to the Museum at 56060 East Colfax Avenue.

Museum Hours:

June 1st through August 31st
Building tours daily 1 PM to 4:00 PM

Grounds are open dawn to dusk

Free Admission

Contributions Greatly Appreciated!

Slide – Video Potpourri Night Returns

The Club will be having one of its famous “Slide Potpourri” nights at one of our general meetings this year. We encourage club members to bring 12-15 slides or digital images, or 5-8 minutes of railroad-related video to show off. These have always been very popular in the past and are a long-standing Club tradition, but it’s been a couple years since our last one. Our members are a talented lot, so even if you’re not presenting, be sure to come out and see what treasures emerge from those dusty little yellow boxes. More details will be provided as we get closer, but it’s never too early to start looking back and finding those long-lost treasures in your collection.

Notes From The President

By Nathan Holmes

One of the projects I've been working on now for last couple years is the digitization of the Club's old newsletters. Many were saved by Club members or were copied from the Colorado Railroad Museum's collection, so we have nearly all of them going right back to the first issue of the *Rocky Mountain Railroader*, published in June 1939 by Carl Hewett. It's been an extremely enlightening experience reading through the old newsletters, watching events and trips unfold that are now just part of the club's rich history from long before my time.

It's no easy task – each one needs to be carefully scanned, run through optical text recognition software, and then proofread for accuracy. That way, they're not just scanned images but searchable text that still preserves the look of the original document. Once the text is corrected, each newsletter is converted to a PDF file and indexed. I'm currently somewhere in the late 1970s, but once this is complete for all 76 years, we'll upload the whole thing to the RMRR website as a historical reference for all who want to read, research, or just reminisce about days past.

While we have most of the newsletters, the club printed many trip fliers, tickets, and other ephemera for its many excursions over the years. Dave Goss is working to coordinate finding these items and adding copies to the club archives, and I'd like to digitize them in the process to accompany the newsletters. If you have some of these items that you'd be willing to lend the club for a short time, we'd very much appreciate it.

Digitizing our old newsletters is only one way we've considered embracing the information age. While I realize many of you are unlikely to be heavy social networking users, it's an important way to get our name out there to younger potential members and the general public. Several years ago, former president Dave Schaaf reserved the club name on Facebook. Nathan Zachman, Dave Schaaf, and Andy Dell are working on putting up some content, and it should be accessible soon.

Two other things we've considered for our members are an email announcement list for club members so that we can send out reminders about upcoming club events or trip deadlines, and the potential for electronically distributing the monthly *Rail Report* to those who would like to receive it that way. (Our international members have all gone to electronic newsletters several years back, as – unlike with postal delivery – they now receive them in a timely manner). An email announcement list would allow us to remind club members about upcoming meetings, trip announcements and deadlines, volunteer efforts that need a hand, or even last minute changes to events announced previously. Given our recent challenges with getting the USPS to actually deliver our newsletters and constantly raising postal rates, electronic delivery would make sure you get your *Rail Report* every month, and that it arrives right on time!

So what's stopping us? At least once a year some variant of these themes comes up, and inevitably the follow-up ques-

Notes From The President



Hulcher railed BNSF 720 at Cheyenne, Wyoming, on January 20, 2014. Incident was south of the crew change building. BNSF 1567 and 1925, SD40-2, were near the derailment, but not involved. Caterpillar 330C was on the scene to assist.
– Photo © 2014 by Chip.

tion is, “Would our membership really use these capabilities?” Inevitably the honest answer is that we don’t know. Many of our members are quite computer-savvy, while likely just as many are more comfortable with the experience we’ve offered for decades. So, for lack of feedback, the board would defer on taking any action.

No more kicking this down the road. At January’s board meeting, we decided it would be a good time to stop talking and start acting on these long-standing suggestions, and set a goal of having a pilot program in place this summer. Don’t worry, nobody is forcing anybody to have email to get club announcements or to give up their printed *Rail Report*,

but we think it’s an important option to have for the future. As we plan how this is going to work, I wanted to ask you, our membership, what you think about these two options. Would you personally find either to be useful? Do you have other ideas about we could use technology to help serve the RMRRRC membership better? If you have opinions one way or the other, let someone on the board know.

I’m always available to answer questions, talk about ideas, or address concerns from club members. You can reach me through my personal email at me@ndholmes.com, or by phone at 719-235-1286. Please don’t hesitate to reach out to me.



The RTD rail line construction near Denver's Coors Field, following the U.P. tracks toward the 36th Street Yard en route to the airport. Here we see cowboys getting ready for the annual Stock Show parade on January 9, 2014.

– Photo © 2014 by Dave Schaaf.

Information For The Rail Enthusiast

By Dave Schaaf

Union Pacific has moved Big Boy #4014 out of the Los Angeles County Fairgrounds to Colton, California. Travel prep will be done in Colton for several weeks before it departs for Cheyenne, about 1,300 rail miles away. The public can view this engine in the Colton yard on February 8 & 9. It has been more than 50 years since #4014 was out on the main line.

Canadian Pacific plans to sell the west end of its Dakota, Minnesota & Eastern railroad line to Genesee & Wyoming Inc. for about \$210 million. This includes 660 miles of trackage in

Minnesota, South Dakota, Wyoming, and Nebraska. This railroad will likely be named the Rapid City, Pierre & Eastern Railroad.

The Colorado Historical Society (now History Colorado) has transferred ownership of D&RGW K-37 engine #491 to the CRRM. The Museum is restoring this 2-8-2, and it has been listed on the State historic register.

Durango & Silverton will run a special for photographers on February 16. The train will make several run-bys, information at 888-872-4607.

Information For The Rail Enthusiast



On the U.P. Limon subdivision, this eastward view shows the construction of a new overpass for Peoria Street on January 18, 2014. The RTD airport line is being built to the right, on the south side of the old Kansas Pacific trackage.
– Photo © 2014 by Dave Schaaf.

Pacific Locomotive Association sponsors a 5th annual Post-Winterail Photo Special on the Niles Canyon Railway on March 9. Power includes a Western Pacific F7 and Clover Valley Lumber #4, a 2-6-6-2T steam engine. Online at www.ncry.org

North Carolina Transportation Museum will hold a “Streamliners at Spencer” event in late May. They expect at least ten operating E and F series units to attend. See www.nctrans.org or call 704-636-2889.

The 2014 Southern Pacific Narrow Gauge Historical Society conference is set for May 8-11 in Lone Pine, California. More at www.spnghs.org

The CSX Transportation Historical

Society holds its 2014 convention in Pikeville, Kentucky on June 6, 7 & 8. www.csxthsociety.org

BNSF Railway announced that President and Chief Operating Officer Carl Ice has become President and Chief Executive Officer. Matt Rose now takes the role of Executive Chairman.

Charles Bradshaw, who bought the Silverton Branch of the Denver & Rio Grande Western in 1981 and saved it from abandonment, died on December 21, 2013.

Utah rail historian and author Stephen L. Carr, 76, passed away last month. He had been involved with running trains in the Heber Valley.

Information For The Rail Enthusiast



Looking east on January 18, 2014, at the new RTD line at Sable Boulevard, about two miles east of Roydale. The U.P. Limon subdivision, at milepost 630, is on the left (north) side. – Photo © 2014 by Dave Schaaf.



Looking northwest from near Union Station in Denver over the new bridge that will carry the RTD Arvada line above the “Buck” crossover and the BNSF shop area. – Photo © 2014 by Dave Schaaf.

Along Today's Transcontinental Kansas Pacific's West End



UP 5039 is EB between Quebec and Havana streets in Denver, just west of Roydale, Colorado, on the Kansas Pacific line on November 11, 1952. Note the cattle cars on the head end situated for a quick switch to water the cattle.

– Bob Andrews photo, Tom Klinger collection.



Powered by UP 801, train #38 is passing the then open fields near Roydale as it makes its way east to Hugo, Colorado, and on to Kansas. This was Bob's second train for the morning of "Armistice Day," November 11, 1952.

– Bob Andrews photo, Tom Klinger collection.

Along Today's Transcontinental Kansas Pacific's West End



Rock Island 889 on train #26 is EB at Roydale, Colorado, on January 8, 1949. Note how things have changed over the years at Roydale – those open fields now contain warehouses. Train #26 will run on the UP's Kansas Pacific line to Limon, Colorado, then on the Rock Island tracks across northern Kansas.
– Bob Andrews photo, Tom Klinger collection.



UP steam rotary 900076 is EB at Strasburg, Colorado, on March 14, 1977. Within a few miles the rotary plow train will encounter drifts as high as the top of the rotary's wheel. – Tom Klinger photo.

Current Railroad Happenings



CitiRail (CREX) 1318 led a northbound BNSF Denver to Great Falls, Montana, train on December 31, 2013. The CitiRail units have been showing up to help power short BNSF Railway. The train was caught north of Boulder, Colorado. – Photo © 2013 by Chip.



Hickory Creek, former New York Central 20th Century Limited round-end, observation lounge bar & sleeping car, arrived on Amtrak train number 5 into Denver on December 31, 2013. Car attendant Ray Klaus was aboard keeping things in order for the Amtrak 6 departure that evening. The Amtrak Denver Depot hosted two private cars (The Patron Tequila Express 50 was also parked in the Mile High City) on New Year's Eve). Amtrak moves from temporary Denver Depot to new Denver Union Station tracks on or about February 15, 2014. – Photo © 2013 by Chip.

Books and Prints for Sale – E-mail Address Correction

Club member Ed Haley is selling a number of books, memorabilia and railroad prints in his collection. Several were his father's and include titles such as *Denver South Park and Pacific* (both Memorial edition and Pictorial Supplement) by Poor; *Colorado Midland* by Cafky and *Rails Around Gold Hill* by Cafky. Other items include a 1907 Argentine Central Railway Pass and a several Howard Fogg prints including, "The Rio Grande Challenger."

A sample of the items and asking prices in Ed's collection for sale:

A mint condition Argentine Central Railway annual pass dated 1907 – \$300

Rails Around Gold Hill by Morris Cafky – \$225

Steam & Thunder In The Timber by Michael Koch – \$170

Colorado Central Rail Road Company - Wyoming Territory stock share – \$27

Denver, South Park And Pacific Share-Trust Certificate – \$55

The Denver, Cripple Creek And Southwestern Railroad Company stock share – \$25

Ed will entertain offers on the items for sale. If interested please contact Ed for a complete listing: Edward R. Haley, 15099 East Bellewood Drive, Aurora, Colorado 80015, Phone 303-699-1765, or e-mail erhaley@comcast.net (*corrected e-mail address*).

Long before the founding of the Rocky Mountain Railroad Club in 1938, there was another railroad club in Denver: The Rocky Mountain Railway Club, established in 1900. Here is the first of several articles about that Club.

This is the first of several articles about the club provided by Dan Edwards

Club for Railroad Men

— *Denver Post, May 18, 1900* —

What will be the nucleus of a new club, the largest probably of its nature between the Missouri River and the Pacific Coast, will be formed tomorrow evening. Representatives of nearly all the railroads entering Denver have decided upon organizing the Rocky Mountain Railway Club.

Two weeks ago a meeting of those who had the idea in mind was held and a temporary organization

was effected. It was the unanimous wish of the meeting that the Denver Superintendents' Association should become charter members of the Club. At the meeting tomorrow evening the opportunity will be presented by signing the constitution and bylaws. The objects of the association will be the advancement of knowledge concerning railway operation, and its membership is to consist of persons interested in railway matters generally.

2014 Membership Cards, A Story

The 2014 membership cards will be mailed to each individual member about the middle of March. The Club uses a web based printer for the cards. The cards will be a matte finish this year rather than the gloss finish we used last year.

Members asked why it takes so long to receive the cards. The answer is twofold. The first is the compilation and sequencing of the members cannot take place until the renewals received on or before the January 31 are processed by the treasurer. The publisher form for blank cards with merge fields is created with the sequence list. The publisher combines

form and list to produce our the plastic membership cards.

The publisher form for the buck slip with artwork is also created. After the forms and list are emailed to the printers they require two to three weeks to complete the card and buck slip printing operation. After printing operations are complete the cards are attached the buck slips. These are then mailed to us. When the cards arrive, the Club stuffs them in envelopes, stamps them and sends them on their way via USPS. The Club hopes this explains why the cards seem to take so long to arrive.

Memorial Service for Ed Gerlits

Thursday February 13th at 10 AM
Vogt Auditorium, Mile High Church
9077 W. Alameda Avenue
Lakewood, Colorado.


Reception to Follow, 11 AM – 3 PM
Lakewood Elk's Lodge
1477 Newland Street
Lakewood, Colorado


Come celebrate Ed's life and share your stories with friends and family!

Ed requested no flowers; however donations may be made to:
The Colorado Railroad Museum,
17155 West 44th. Avenue
Golden, Colorado 80403
303-279-4591

75th Anniversary Commemorative Items Are Still Available For Sale To Members At Club Meetings And On The Club Website:

- Anniversary DVD: *Journey to Yesteryears – 1938-2013* (\$15.00)
- Baseball caps with embroidered logo, choice of khaki or black (\$18.00).
 - 16 ounce glass mug with logo (\$10.00)
- 75th Anniversary logo patch (\$4.00)
- Enameled logo lapel pin (\$5.00)

 <p>Denver & Rio Grande Western Railroad</p> <p style="text-align: right;">163</p> <p>MONARCH AND VILLA GROVE EXCURSION September 25, 1949</p> <p>Rocky Mountain Railroad Club's SPECIAL TRAIN</p> <p><i>E. Staley</i> Pres. R.M.R.C.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Full <input type="checkbox"/> Half</p>	<p>SALIDA, COLORADO</p> <p>--- 70 ---</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>MONARCH, COLORADO</p> <p>--- 70 ---</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>VILLA GROVE, COLORADO</p> <p>--- 70 ---</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>VILLA GROVE, COLORADO</p> <p>--- 70 ---</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>SALIDA, COLORADO</p> <p>--- 70 ---</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p>
	<p>MONARCH, COLORADO</p> <p>--- 70 ---</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p>				

<p>Denver & Rio Grande Western R. R. No. 295</p> <p>GOOD FOR ONE ROUND TRIP</p>  <p>ALAMOSA - GUNNISON EXCURSION</p> <p>OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN RAILROAD CLUB</p> <p>October 7 - 8, 1950</p> <p><i>S. August</i> PRESIDENT.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Full <input type="checkbox"/> Half</p>	<p>ALAMOSA, COLO.</p> <p>... to ...</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>GUNNISON, COLO.</p> <p>OCT. 7, 1950</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>GUNNISON, COLO.</p> <p>... to ...</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>ALAMOSA, COLO.</p> <p>OCT. 8, 1950</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>GOOD FOR ONE ACCOMMODATION GUNNISON, COLO., OCT. 7, 1950</p>
	<p>GOOD FOR ONE ACCOMMODATION GUNNISON, COLO., OCT. 7, 1950</p>				

The Club archives are incomplete and missing the announcement flyers or postcards for these trips. Dave Goss is collecting historic Club items for the archives and would like to talk to any person who might have them. He is also looking for tickets and announcements for any trips done by the Club between 1938 and 1959 to see if any of those are missing in the Club archives.

Do You Want To Find A Home For Some Of Your Old Rocky Mountain Railroad Club Information?

Attention Club Members!

The Club is interested in locating letters and postcards announcing early Club trips in the 1940s and through 1959. This includes excursions, banquets and field trips and if you have tickets themselves, we'd like them, too. We have the dates for all these events but do not have hard copies of all for our historical files.

For example, we have a ticket for the D&RGW narrow gauge trip to Mon-

trose and Villa Grove in 1949 but no announcement. Similarly, we'd like an announcement for the Alamosa-Gunnison trip in October, 1950 and the Lizard Head trip in 1951, for which we have tickets for both.

If you do not want to part with your items but would loan these items for scanning please phone Dave Goss at 303-693-9933 or contact him by email at dave@dcgoss.com. Thanks in advance for your responses.

Colorado Railroad Museum 2014 Scheduled

Special Operation Days

For information call 303-279-4591

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

Black On Track Saturday, February 8
Bunny Express Train Saturday, April 19
Wild West Day Saturday, June 21
Dinosaur Express Train Saturday, July 19

Day Out With Thomas
Saturdays & Sundays
September 13, 14, 20, 21, 27 & 28

Trick or Treat Train
Saturday & Sunday, October 25 & 26

Santa Claus Special
December 14, 15 & 21

Colorado Rails and Cocktails - An Evening of Colorado History

Historic Castles of Colorado, February 21
The Lonely Pyramid Hill on Sherman Hill,
April 11

Railroad Stories: Kate Shelley, June 20
Denver's Street Car Suburbs, August 29
Firing on the Grande, October 10
The American Hobo, December 12

Advanced Tickets Required,
21 and older only.

Ride The Rails Saturday

Train rides every Saturday. Catch a ride behind one of the Museum's steam or diesel locomotives in passenger cars from different eras in Colorado railroad history or on the uniquely Colorado Galloping Goose. Rides operate 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

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

2014 Event Schedule

For information call 303-298-0377

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

Friday, February 21, 2014
Dinner Meeting and Program at IHOP
Dinner 6:00 PM, Program 7:00 PM.

The program, "California In Motion: Past and Present," will be presented by Keith Kirby. Keith always provides entertaining programs. This one will cover the Peterson Automotive Museum; the Western Railway Museum; The California State Railway Museum; Cable Cars; the LA Subway; Diesel and Trolley buses; PCC cars; Amtrak Capitol trains; the Coast Starlight; the Sausalito Ferry; and the California Zephyr. It is indeed a full program for us to enjoy.

Dinner Meeting Notes:

We conduct our dinner meetings at the IHOP at 5280 Wadsworth Bypass in Arvada. Go to 53rd and turn east, you will be there. Lots of parking and well lit. We have the back meeting room from 5:30 to 8:30 PM. The food is good and priced right. The menu is varied from breakfast, lunch, and dinner items available all day. IHOP management has been informed to expect 20-25+ people, so please plan to attend the program and support the Chapter. When you arrive tell the IHOP personnel you're with the railroad club.

No minimum dollar amount of food to purchase is required to attend, but please order something. The gratuity will NOT be pre-added to your dinner check. You'll calculate your own. Dinner orders begin at 5:30 and the program begins at 7:00 PM. So, please arrive accordingly to be served in time to enjoy both your meal and the program.

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	Nathan Holmes
Vice President	Dave Schaaf
Secretary	Roger Sherman
Treasurer	Keith Jensen

Club and Foundation Directors

John Charles, Andy Dell, Don Hulse, Dennis Leonard,
Pat Mauro, Charles Moffat, Mike Tinetti, Nathan Zachman.

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

E-mail: selectimag@aol.com

Items for the March 2014 Rail Report should be sent by February 14th.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN



BOX 2391

DENVER, COLORADO 80201

