

ROCKY MOUNTAIN RAIL REPORT



JANUARY 2003

No. 520

ROCKY MOUNTAIN RAILROAD CLUB • ROCKY MOUNTAIN RAILROAD HISTORICAL FOUNDATION

Rio Grande Trains

Presented by John Dillavou

January 14, 2003 • 7:30 PM

John Dillavou was born in Iowa in 1935. His father ran grain elevators so John was always around railroads when he was growing up. John and his wife, Barbara, moved to Pueblo in June of 1960 finding an apartment facing the D&RGW tracks. They saw the daily MoPac Colorado Eagle and the Rio Grande Royal Gorge. John joined the Club in 1962 and enjoyed a three day Alamosa-Durango-Silverton excursion for \$20! John and Barbara moved to Denver in 1963 and John started regularly attending meetings. John became president in 1987 and was reelected in 1988 and 1989. He moved us through our 50th year celebration and has been involved as a director, officer, newsletter committee member, steam car host, photo line supervisor and has given programs. John exemplifies the concept of service, the idea of this being "our" club, not "my" club.

John will present a multi-media program with two projectors and sound featuring the Denver and Rio Grande Western of the 1960s, both narrow gauge and standard gauge steam and diesel, up to the 1990s when the railroad merged into the Southern Pacific and later the Union Pacific. These photos cannot be duplicated as the Rio Grande is now a fallen flag and the trains of forty years ago have disappeared in the sands of time.

Come join us and bring a guest to watch this fine program. We will meet at 7:30 PM at Christ Episcopal Church, 2950 South University Boulevard, at the intersection of University and Bates. There is plenty of parking at the rear of the building and the entrance to the meeting in Barnes Hall is on the south side of the church building. Visitors are always welcome and there is no charge.

RMRRC Member's Night at Caboose Hobbies

By Steve Mason

Come to Caboose Hobbies, 500 South Broadway, Denver, on Thursday, January 22, 2003, from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM for RMRRC member's night. Admission is free – show your 2002 membership card or your blue name badge to get in.

There will be free coffee and refreshments courtesy of Caboose Hobbies owners

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Colorado Rail Car Tour

By Steve Mason

We will tour Colorado Rail Car, formerly Rader Rail Car, at Fort Lupton, CO, on Saturday, February 1, 2003, at 2:00 PM. Mark your calendars! We will see the shops and the manufacturing process. The main feature will be an order of Holland America cars ready to be shipped.

To attend you must sign up. Phone Steve Mason at 303-772-6418 or e-mail him at

Continued on Page 7, Column 1

2003 RMRRC Events Schedule

January 22 Event:	Caboose Hobbies
February 1 Event:	Colorado Rail Car Tour
February 11 Meeting:	Royal Canadian Pacific
March 11 Meeting:	Vanishing Depots
April 12 Event:	Royal Gorge Trip
April 8 Meeting:	Hatch Wroton's Films
May 3 Event:	Cheyenne Shops Tour
May 13 Meeting:	Slide Potpourri
June 10 Meeting:	Why Dieselize? Electrify!
June 14 Event:	Annual Picnic at Tiny Town
July 8 Meeting:	Polish Railways
July 20 Event:	3985 Excursion
August 12 Meeting:	RTD Fast Tracks
August 23 & 24 Event:	RMRRC Annual Work Weekend
September 9 Meeting:	SP/UP Royal Gorge and Brown's Canyon
October Event:	Annual Banquet

From The President

By Mike Gailus

I would like to wish all our members a happy new year. Last year was a very different year for my family and myself. I am making a mid-career switch. I have been a computer application programmer for over 20 years. Now with the job market very slow and tight, I am back in school studying in the health and science field.

This year is the Club's 65th Anniversary. The Club was established in 1938 and has grown over the years. We will have a special logo for the rail report and special trips and activities planned, almost one per month. Details will be published in the newsletter. I hope you will join us sometime this year.

Other changes in our Club are our new officers for the year 2003. At the December 2002 membership meeting I was elected to another year as President. Returning as Vice-President is Steve Mason. Friend John Miner continues as Secretary-Treasurer. We have three new directors joining the board for 2003. They are Ken Gow (returning for another director's term), Libby Schultz and Richard Price who will serve for the 2003-2004 terms. I would like to welcome them to the board.

Directors retiring this year are Charlotte Williams and Charles Moffat. I would like to thank these two fine people for the service to the club they have provided the last two years. They have been a vital part of the board and we wish them all the best.

As the new year begins, I am excited about a new association with Trains Unlimited Tours, Inc. (TUT). The exclusive agreement with TUT will offer the opportunity for our members beyond the Rocky Mountain states to enjoy a Club benefit. You will get a good discount on your train excursion and the Club will receive \$50.00 from TUT for your participation. Please consider Trains Unlimited when you are doing your



**Rocky Mountain Railroad Club
Officers, Board of Directors, Committee Chairs**

Front Row, from left, Bob Tully, Richard Price, Libby Schultz, Ken Gow. Rear row, from left, Barry Smith, Dave Gross, Friend John Miner, Mike Gailus, Jim Ehernberger, Michael Tinetti, Steve Mason. Not pictured: Dave Goss, Bruce Nall, Salena Moffat, Roger Sherman and Robert E. Wilson.

vacation planning for 2003. They have some great trips planned.

As many of you are renewing your memberships for 2003, you may have noticed that the Club dues are still \$25.00 per year. Your board of directors held the line for dues this year. With the cost of postage, printing, insurance on our equipment, and other expenses going up, we are looking at additional ways to provide the Club with the money that is needed to operate. The TUT rebate to the Club is one way to help our budget.

I have noticed many of you are renewing at the Sustaining membership rate of \$40.00 per year. This extra money goes toward restoration and preservation of the Club's equipment. I thank you for your support of the Club activities.

All the best to each of you in 2003.



After the annual meeting and the program, members enjoyed punch, coffee and an appropriately decorated cake.
– Two Photos © Mike Gailus.

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Club Information

Rocky Mountain Railroad Club
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Denver, CO 80201-2391

Club Phone: 303-979-2806

Club 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 \$25.00. Overseas regular membership dues are \$40.00. A sustaining membership is available by adding \$15.00 to any membership category. An associate membership for spouses and children is also available for \$12.00 per year. Members joining after April may send a payment of \$2.00 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	Mike Gailus
Vice President	Steve Mason
Secretary	Friend John Miner
Treasurer	Friend John Miner

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



Waystop, Manhattan, Montana, August 6, 1952. Neal Miller handed out prints of this photograph to members and guests at the annual meeting as Neal's holiday gift. – Photo © Neal R. Miller.

In Remembrance
Joe Reid Thompson
 1932 – 2002

Joe Reid Thompson of Jayton and Houston, Texas died on October 30th. He was a long time railroad photographer whose work was published in many railroad books and publications including Lucius Beebe's *Age of Steam* and *Great Railroad Photographs, U.S.A.* He is best remembered for his photographic pursuit of southern steam short lines.

He held Rocky Mountain Railroad Club membership number 70 and was also a long time member of the National Railway Historical Society.

The deadline for items to be included in the February *Rail Report* is 1/20/03.

Jeffco Train Show

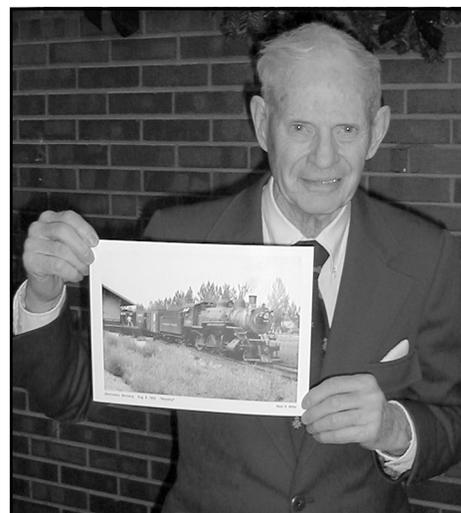
By Steve Mason

The Intermountain Chapter, NRHS, is sponsoring the Seventh Annual Mid-Winter Model Train & Railroadiana Swap Meet and Sale. The show will be Saturday, January 4, 2003, at the Jefferson County Fairgrounds, 15200 West 6th Avenue, Golden, CO. Go west on the 6th Avenue Freeway to Indiana Street Exit. Turn right on 6th Avenue proper going west to the fairgrounds. There will be signs posted at the gate directing you to the parking lot for the train show.

The Jeffco Train Show hours are 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Admission is \$4.00 for each adult, \$1.00 for children 5 to 12 and children under 5 are free. Maximum cost per family is \$10.00.

The Club will have a booth at the show manned by officers and directors. Stop by to visit or ask any questions.

Neal Miller's 50th Annual Print Gift To Club Members



Neal Miller hands out prints of one of his specially selected photographs to Club members who attend each year's annual meeting. For those unable to attend the meeting, the photograph is reproduced above. – Photo © Mike Gailus.

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.

Rebuilt UP Sable Siding

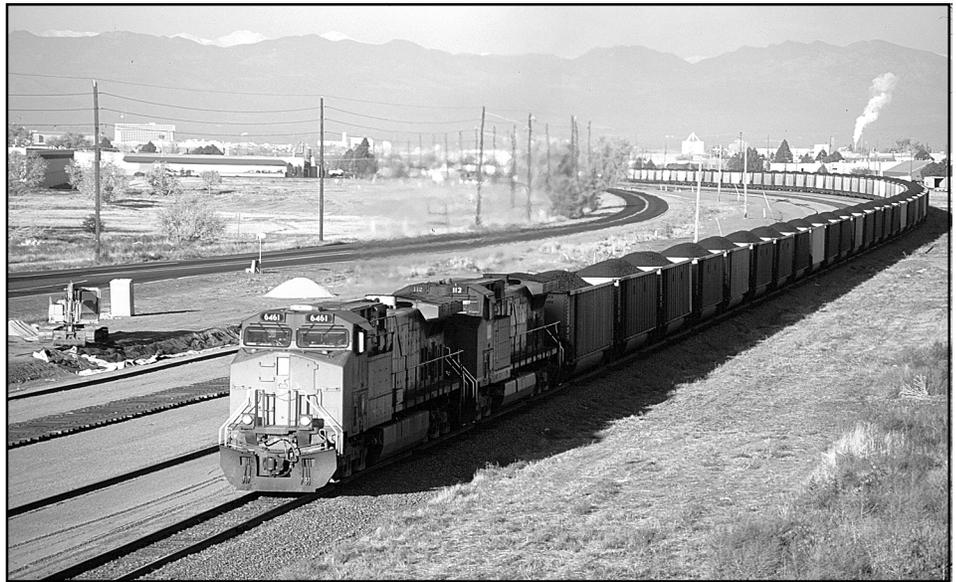
The Union Pacific maintenance-of-way crews worked even on Sundays in late November and into December 2002 to open the rebuilt Sable Siding under I-225 between Peoria Street and Sable Boulevard in Aurora, CO. Their goal was to place the rebuilt and lengthened, hand operated siding into service about 12/17/02. The siding will serve mostly coal trains on the Limon Subdivision (AKA the Kansas Pacific or KP by the locals). This will allow the Denver Service Unit to better handle the Rocky Mountain originated coal trains moving east to the Midwest.

Sable Siding was once a rail junction for three US Government installations between 1918 and 1965. It connected with a government operated rail line that served Buckley Naval Air Station (later Buckley Air National Guard and now Buckley Air Force Base), Fitzsimons Army Hospital and Lowry Air Force Base. The latter two were closed in the 1990's. The government rail lines were abandoned long ago.

UP's VM-170 Jumbo

Union Pacific has acquired the first of its kind in the USA, a Plasser American VM-170 Jumbo! This track maintenance unit is a combination track undercutter, cribbing and ditching machine for tunnels or short sections of track. UP 910950 was built by Naaktgegoren in Rotterdam, The Netherlands, in 2002. The manufacturer considers it as type VP-16000. The yellow painted, self propelled unit is 81 feet, 6 inches long.

Four of these units are currently in use in Europe. UP 910950 is the first unit in the United States. It will be pressed into track



Union Pacific is expanding Sable Siding in Aurora, CO. The ties were laid and water drainage improvements were underway on 10/26/02. A West Elk Mine, CO, coal load was passing on UP's Limon Subdivision. UP AC4400CW 6461 and Southern Pacific 112 handled another load of Colorado black diamonds headed for Illinois. – Photo © Chip.

maintenance work on the Moffat Tunnel line. It was at UP's Denver North Yard in late November 2002.

Ski Train 2002/2003 Season

The Ski Train was moved from its summer storage at the Denver Locomotive Shop (AKA Burnham Shops) to Union Station on 12/16/02. Amtrak F40PH 289, leased to the Ski Train, pulled the 18 cars into the station.

The Ski Train's winter schedule between Denver Union Station and Winter Park Ski Resort began Saturday, 12/21/02. Trains operated three days after Christmas: Friday 12/27, Saturday, 12/28 and Sunday 12/29. Some club car seats (\$70) are already sold out on some weekends in February and March 2003. Coach seats for \$45 each were still available for all trips in early December 2002. The Ski Trains leave Denver at 7:15 AM. Boarding begins at 6:30 AM.

The Ski Train runs on track owned and operated by the Union Pacific Railroad. Therefore the train shares track with other rail traffic. As a result, occasionally the train will be required to slow down or temporarily stop on a siding to allow other oncoming freight traffic to pass.

Situations may also rise where the train is delayed as a result of Union Pacific crews maintaining their lines to ensure safe tracks.

New EMD SD70M Cab Design

EMD's brand new SD70M cab was built onto Union Pacific (UP) #4838 and delivered to UP in early December 2002. It was leading two other UP SD70M's, 4555 and 4859, on train A GBPX 01 (autos from Green Bay, WI, headed for Phoenix, AZ). The new style cab was on its first westward trip. It looks a little like the CN Dash-9 cab, but has a tall spot in the middle sort of like the phase 2 SD90MAC's. It's not too bad looking. The train was running on the Cotton Rock line across southern Kansas on 12/2/02 heading west into the afternoon sunshine!

The SD70M's with the new nose design were delivered starting in November 2002 and will continue through the end of 2002. Numbers are UP 4837-4849. They will be produced in Canada, and are equipped with FIRE electronics/displays.

– Jim Harrawood

FURX Leased Unit 3039

BNSF's Denver Yard was visited by a



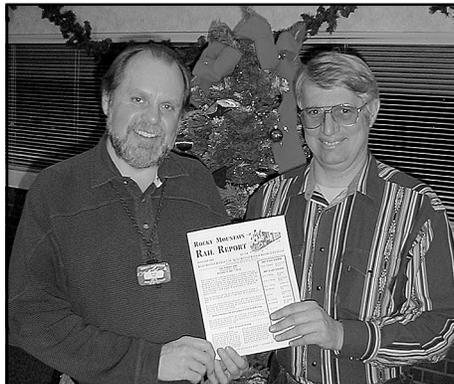
The BNSF's Washington Street underpass is undergoing expansion. BNSF pile driver AX 97502 was in Denver 11/19/02 at the construction site sitting on the main line. Tracks were realigned during underpass construction. Looking from the 38th Street end, left to right tracks are coal two, coal one, the main line and the yard leads (south and north leads with temporary sixth track). – Photo © Chip.

First Union Rail leaser unit on 11/18/02. FURX SD40U 3039 (series 3020-3049, quantity 30). This group was rebuilt by Alstom and has been leased to CSX. The unit was painted green and silver. Safety white nose stripes in a V-shape were on the nose. FURX has only 53 units painted in this scheme. Most of its units wear previous owner paint schemes and only carry FURX initials. – *Rio Gnow*

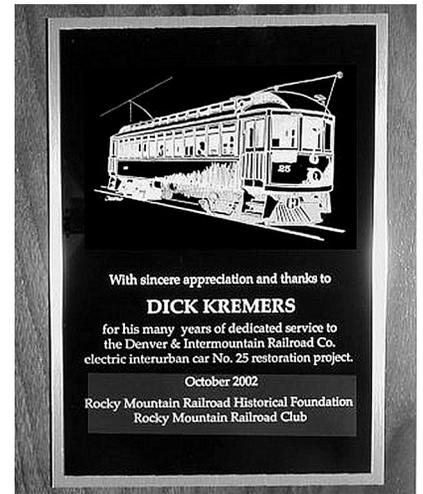
Union Pacific TV Ads

So far, three different television ads have aired in 2002. The most recent is a modification of one done on the California Coast Line. The first Coast Line version was without a train, the more recent one included a train and the voice over about “being on-line for 140 years...” The very first ad was shot in Utah on the former

Denver & Rio Grande Western RR. The two new TV spots should start airing after the first of 2003. – *John Bromley, UPRR*



Rail Report editor, Bruce Nall (left), and OS-Colorado reporter, Chip Sherman, received recognition at the annual meeting. – Photo © Mike Gailus.



Dick Kremers recognition plaque.



Dick Kremers (left) receiving his award from Rich Loveman, Rocky Mountain Railroad Historical Foundation president. – Two photos © Tom Peyton.

Dick Kremers Recognized

By Darrell Arndt

On November 4th, Rich Loveman, President of the Rocky Mountain Railroad Historical Foundation, along with Tom Peyton and Darrell Arndt, presented Dick Kremers with a plaque acknowledging his exceptional contribution to the Interurban No. 25 restoration project. Dick's participation dates back to the “early days” of the project when work was being done on the car at the Colorado Railroad Museum. That was in 1988 and during the ensuing years Dick has never given up the vision of our priceless Colorado railroad artifact operating once again for the general public. He seldom missed a weekend but now health complications currently preclude active participation. Thanks Dick! You are an inspiration to all of our members who work on the equipment at the Denver Federal Center and the Colorado Railroad Museum.

Out At The Museum

By Bob Tully

In 2003 we will try to have a work day at the Colorado Railroad Museum on the 2nd and 4th Saturday of each month like we have in the past two years. In addition, there will be a two-day event on August 23rd and 24th to work on equipment and another in early December to serve refreshments on Santa Claus days. We will be concentrating on the Rico in 2003.

Two and a half days were spent replacing portions of the platform steps and the upper end fascia on the west end of Rico. The sky was clear and the temperature above average on November 21st. Taking advantage of the good weather, Sue and Russ Stuska and I fit the fascia trying it on the car several times before final finish work. We then cut and shaped the wood for one side holding the two steps. After lots of measuring, slots were routed in the side to hold two steps and one riser.

On November 22nd Russ, Sue, Roger Sherman and I completed installation of the south side step. The steps are held together by two 1/2 inch rods and one 3/8 inch rod running through the sides and under the steps. The unit is held to the platform with two lag bolts into the frame near the top of each side.

Russ did a lot of scraping and preparation of the frame for the fascia. Old chipped paint and decayed wood was removed.



On December 7th, Club members served cookies and hot chocolate to hungry and thirsty museum visitors. Back row, from left, Mark Tomon, Ken Gow, Mona Tully, Matt Tomon. Front row, from left, Bob Tully and Denny Haeefele.

Roger used plastic wood to fill holes and areas where bad wood was removed. Liquid nails was forced into some cracks and holes. Sue put on preserving oil and then primed new wood.

We were not going to work on Saturday, November 23rd, as cold temperatures and snow were predicted. However, Denny Haeefele, Ken Gow and I spent a short day at the Museum. Ken and I installed the fascia with 4 wood screws, then nailed the roofing tin onto the fascia using 1-inch wire nails with small flat heads. As we nailed, caulking was used for additional waterproofing under the roof metal along

the top and upper edge of the fascia. Denny cut out, routed the slots and sanded a new side for the north steps. We drilled the holes and bolted the assembly together and onto the car by late afternoon. The new wood was primed in time to set up well just before temperatures dropped toward freezing.

Before we nailed it up, we used our new fascia to draw a pattern on wood for the east side. Our next effort will be to remove and replace the east end fascia, which is now in four pieces with splitting, separation and decay.

Trains Unlimited Tours Is The RMRRRC Official Tour Operator

By Steve Mason - Trip Chairman

After a year of negotiations and many meetings and e-mails, the RMRRRC Board of Directors is pleased to announce we have completed an arrangement with Trains Unlimited, Tours (TUT) of Portola, California to be our Official Tour Operator. Chris Skow, Tour Director, is a RMRRRC member. Our October 7th and 8th trip to the C&TS will be a joint tour and the October 9th trip to the D&SNG will be a joint trip.

Chris is also offering his entire catalog of tours exclusively to RMRRRC members at substantial discounts off regular tour price

and deposits. See the flyer in this *Rail Report* for more details. He will also give the RMRRRC \$50.00 for each member who books a tour directly with TUT. Members should have received a color catalog from TUT. If you have misplaced yours you can have him send you another one.

Contact TUT at:
Trains Unlimited, Tours
P.O. Box 1997
Portola, CA 96122-1997
Phone: 1-800-359-4870
E-mail: tut@PSLN.com
web site: www.trainsunlimitedtours.com

There is an exclusive website for RMRRRC members where we can check seat availability, pricing, discounts, etc. See www.trainsunlimitedtours.com/rmrrc/

You must identify yourself as a RMRRRC member and give your membership number. Bookings will be direct to TUT only and the pricing is not available through any travel agency or tour group operator.

Chris Skow was formerly a Western Pacific Conductor. He has been doing railfan tours for about 18 years.

Hot Chocolate And Cookies In The Rico

By Bob Tully

The Club again provided refreshments during the Santa Claus and train operation days of December 7 and 8 at the Colorado Railroad Museum. Hundreds of children, parents and grandparents toured the Rico, usually following a ride on the train and a visit with Santa in a caboose. About 45 gallons of hot chocolate and 1,500 cookies were handed out to rail enthusiasts, young and old.

Weather both days was somewhat brisk, partly cloudy with temperatures in the low 40's. We had fewer visitors than the past two years but as usual they expressed considerable appreciation for our efforts. There were generous contributions in both coins and bills, including several \$5 notes found in our donation jars.

On December 7th, Ken Gow, Denny Haeefe, Mark and Matt Tomon and Bob and Mona Tully enjoyed the day helping visitors. Matt spend much of the day on the footplate of Engine 20 helping children up and down the ladder and showing the interior of the cab as well as the tender. The kids, as well as a few adults, did a lot of bell ringing.

There were lots of photos taken of a young one in the engineer's or fireman's window. And it was not unusual to find a waiting line to get photographs taken of a family on the pilot. The four page

coloring sheets depicting locomotive, passenger car, caboose and safety signals, each with the Club's logo were available to the crowd.

About half of a 5-gallon bucket of rail spikes were given to various girls and boys. While visiting with a family with a 4-year old boy,

Mark offered a spike, and when there was concern about sharpness, he selected another. But, as with all the spikes, it was rusted and his mother again was concerned about that. Mark took the family to the roundhouse, buffed and polished the spike, and the parent said the young man would probably play with it until he was 15. The young visitor is likely to soon be a Club member as Mark usually gives quite a sales pitch with the membership application.

Ken and Mona greeted the people and offered cookies and napkins in the front



The December 8th crew at the Rico during Santa Claus days and train operations. From left, Roger Sherman, Bob Tully and Russ and Sue Stuska.

room, while Denny handled most of the hot chocolate dispensing in the kitchen.

On December 8th, Roger Sherman, Russ and Sue Stuska, Bob and Mona Tully were the hosts. Mona worked the front room with Roger during the morning shift, but left with our grandkids for the afternoon. Roger did a great job telling visitors about the Rico and its history as well as keeping the cookie trays full. Sue spent most of the day in the kitchen helping all with kind words and a cup of chocolate. Russ was good at keeping the crowd under control and effectively moving through the Rico while spending time telling those interested about this historic car.

I believe that each of us who worked this event had an enjoyable day and fun promoting the Club and helping children have a good experience with our rail history.

Colorado Rail Car Tour

Continued From Page 1, Column 2

Steve55mason@aol.com. The last day to sign up is Thursday, January 30, 2003. Sorry, no exceptions.

Colorado Rail Car is located at 1011 East 14th Street, Fort Lupton, CO. From the Denver area, go north on US 85 past the CO 52 overpass to the first traffic light at 14th Street on the north side of town. Turn right on 14th and cross the Union Pacific tracks. Colorado Rail Car is the big blue building on the left. Park in the employee parking lot. If you are going south on US 85, turn left at the light, cross the Union Pacific tracks and the factory is

on the left side.

Jim Gaudette, operating vice president, has arranged for several employees to conduct the tour. Wear appropriate footwear and clothing for a manufacturing environment. Keep in mind we may get dirty or greasy. Photography is allowed. I would suggest a tripod and possible tungsten or fluorescent filters for indoor lighting similar to the conditions at the Cheyenne Shops. If we finish touring near supper time, perhaps we could go as a group to the historic Depot Restaurant in Brighton for supper.

Caboose Hobbies

Continued From Page 1, Column 1

Duane and Joanna Miller. Club members will enjoy discounts including an extra 7% off manager's specials including books, videos, and DVD's and 15% off regularly priced merchandise. Save that gift certificate or special Christmas money and bring it along for these good deals.



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Swap And Shop - Book For Sale

MEMORIAL EDITION – *Denver South Park And Pacific* by M. C. Poor, excellent condition. \$200.00 postpaid.

Send a check to Frank Max, 33 Loughberry M.H.PK., Saratoga Sprs., NY 12866-8578.

Swap And Shop - Books For Sale

Colorado Midland by Morris Cafky, copy number 1050, signed by the author, includes dust jacket. \$250.00 or best offer. *Rails Around Gold Hill* by Morris Cafky, copy number 436, signed by the author. \$250.00 or best offer. *Denver South Park And Pacific* by M. C. Poor, copy number 69, signed by the author. \$250.00 or best offer. *Denver South Park And Pacific MEMORIAL EDITION* by M. C. Poor, with dust jacket. \$250.00 or best offer.

If interested in these books, please call Ed Lewandowski at 303-989-2861 and leave a message.

Intermountain Chapter, NRHS 2003 Event Schedule

January 4:	Jeffco Train Show	March 14:	Chapter Meeting: 7:30 PM
February 14:	Chapter Meeting: 7:30 PM SP&S 700 and Montana By Steam	April 18:	Chapter Meeting: 7:30 PM
		July 26:	Railfair

Trains Unlimited, Tours 2003 Trip Schedule

February 22 to March 8:	Cuban Rail Historian	July 19 to 27:	Steam in the Andes
April 19:	Sacramento Rail/Riverboat	August 16 to September 3:	Great Brazilian Railfan
May 3:	Sacramento Rail/Riverboat	October 5 to 11:	New England Colors
May 10 & 11:	McCloud Steam	October 7 & 8:	Rio Grande Photo Freight
May 17 to 25:	Canadian Rail Adventure	October 9:	Durango Photo Freight
June 4 to 14:	Alaskan Rail Adventure	October 7 to 9:	Rio Grande Photo Freight, Durango Photo Freight Combination
June 7:	Sacramento Rail/Riverboat	October 11 to 14:	Fall Colors Express
June 5 to 8:	White Pass Steam		
July 12 to 27:	Rocky Mountain Train Splendors		