

RAIL REPORT

January 2009 • No. 587



Rocky Mountain Railroad Club • Rocky Mountain Railroad Historical Foundation

D&RGW Standard Gauge Snow Fighting Equipment

Presented by Jerry Day

January 13th, 2009 • 7:30 PM

The presentation will be a brief history of D&RGW standard gauge snow fighting operations from 1890 to the present. It will include photographs of the equipment used and of snow fighting operations all over the system. The presentation is based on many years of research and actual incidents and stories shared by D&RGW crews. Several members of the Club worked on these trains and contributed photos and information. Example photos are on the next page.

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

February 10th	Meeting
March 10th	Meeting
April 14th	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 programing and dates are subject to change without notice. Please contact Joe McMillan at jmcmillan20@comcast.net or phone 303-456-4564 with program ideas.



Snow fighting equipment on the Pleasant Valley Branch in Utah.
– Photo © 1968 Mike Davis.



Clearing the line on Soldier Summit in Utah. – Photo © 1983 Steve Seguire.



New officers and directors at the Annual Meeting. Standing from left, Treasurer Keith Jensen, Director Andy Dell, Director John Charles, Director Joe McMillan, Secretary Roger Sherman. Seated from left, Foundation Vice-President Darrell Arndt, Club Vice-President Pat Mauro, President Dave Schaaf.

– Photo 2008 Bruce Nall.

From The Incoming President

By Dave Schaaf

Happy New Year to all! I am honored to be asked to serve as the President for 2009. Knowing the stature of many of the preceding presidents, it's a bit humbling to be in this position. While I have not been in this Club nearly as long as most of the members, I intend to do as much as I can to help the Club prosper and hopefully even grow a little.

I would like to thank the 2008 officers for their service to the Club. Roger Sherman will again be our Secretary, while Jim Ehernberger, Herb Edwards, and Jimmy Blouch will take a step back from several years of hard work for the organization. Other than Roger and myself, the officers for this year are VP Club - Pat Mauro, VP Foundation - Darrell Arndt,

and Treasurer - Keith Jensen. The Board members are Joe McMillan, Don Hulse, John Charles, and Andy Dell.

We have a great program lined up for the January meeting. Jerry Day will give a presentation on standard gauge snow fighting on the D&RGW after 1890. He is also planning to show this program in Helper, Utah, in the spring if that is closer to home for you. Jerry has been researching various aspects of the Denver & Rio Grande Western for over 30 years. He is currently working on two different books about snow fighting on the Rio Grande. The first one will feature equipment, and the following book will likely be about the operations of that equipment.

From The Incoming President

RGS #20 Update

New Structure in Alamosa

Work continues in Strasburg, Pennsylvania. The locomotive is getting a new firebox, staybolts, and flues. Most of the exterior boiler shell will be original. A lot of repair work has been done on the frame. The tender is getting refurbished at this time too.

The San Luis & Rio Grande Railroad is building a one-stall engine shed with an inspection pit for their steam locomotive. This simple building will be near the old sanding tower and the east wy.

Galloping Goose Events

The Colorado Railroad Museum held a "Goose Fest" the weekend after Thanksgiving. It was the first time in about ten years that their three RGS motors were in operation at the same time. Recent repairs and restorations to motors #2, #6, and #7 allowed them to show off for the 1,000 folks that came out to see and ride them that weekend. The Museum has plans for a larger Goose event, with other visiting Geese, in the spring of 2009.

Bad Luck in Texas

On November 30th near Fort Worth, the Grapevine Vintage Railroad suffered a serious failure on their standard gauge steam locomotive. Former SP #2248 lost it's fireman's side main rod and the cylinder casting was broken. It seems likely that this 1896 Cooke ten wheeler will be repaired to run again on this section of old Cotton Belt trackage.

Santa Specials

The CRRM had about 1,800 people come through the doors on the second weekend in December to visit with Santa in the caboose and ride in one of the four cars pulled behind #346. The Cumbres & Toltec ran sold-out Santa trains from Chama up to about Dalton and back. The Durango & Silverton ran several Polar Express story trains, as well as their New Year's Eve special. In Michigan, the Huckleberry Railroad made some snow runs with former Rio Grande 2-8-2 #464. The Sumpter Valley Railway in Oregon also ran steam specials for a couple of weekends in December.

New Amtrak Leader

The National Railroad Passenger Corporation Board of Directors announced in late November that it had chosen Joseph Boardman, a nationally recognized transportation industry professional, to become president and chief executive officer of the company, effective November 26, 2008. Boardman offers nearly 34 years of experience in the surface transportation industry at city, county, state, and federal government levels; most recently as the administrator at the Federal Railroad Administration. Joe Boardman fills the position following the departure of Alex Kummant earlier in November. Chief Operating Officer William Crosbie served as acting CEO in the interim.

Members may contact me at 303-988-3456 or e-mail ds5280@comcast.net



RGS motor #2 in a snowy scene at the CRRM Goose Fest.



Just before sundown on November 30, 2008, RGS motor #7 takes the last group of passengers around the loop at the CRRM. – Two photos © 2008 Dave SchAAF.



Locomotive 346 passes the newly rebuilt “Headington” water tank at the CRRM during the Santa steam-up on December 13, 2008. – Photo © 2008 Bruce Nall.

Notable 2008 Colorado Railroad Museum Accomplishments

- Moving the Rotary snowplow and Locomotive 4455 across the street to prominent display on the Museum Grounds.
- Remodeling the lower level exhibit gallery.
- Hosting a symposium and new exhibit “America and the Passenger Train.”
- Building the new “Headington” Water Tank based on the Jack’s Cabin Tank.
- Completing the restoration of RGS Goose 2, 6, and 7.
- Completing the first phase of a major track reconfiguration.
- Hosted a record “Day Out With Thomas” event - attendance over 23,000.
- Nearing completion of the restoration of Caboose 49 and Locomotive 191.
- Receiving the donation of the collection of David Myrick.
- Receiving important funding for operations from the SCFD.
- Receiving a major grant from the North American Railway Foundation.



Locomotive 346 and four cars full of visitors to the Santa steam-up on December 13, 2008. – Photo © 2008 Bruce Nall.

The Colorado Railroad Museum Announces Their 50th Anniversary Year Schedule of Special Events 2009 is packed with excitement!

Mark your calendars for these special events at the Colorado Railroad Museum:

- April 11 — Bunny Express With Steam Locomotive!
- May 9 and 10 — Mother Goose Event - Goosefest
- June 20 and 21 — Father's Day Train - Steam And Geese
- July 11 — 50th Anniversary Event and Fundraising Dinner *
- July 12 — 50th Anniversary Steam Up With 346 and Geese
- July 24 through 26 — Buffalo Bill Days - No Train But Lots Of Activities!
- August 8 — Wine and Cheese Fundraiser Event - 5:30 to 7:30 PM *
- August 8 and 9 — Dog Days of Summer Steam Up!
- September 12 and 13, 19 and 20, 26 and 27 — Day Out With Thomas *
- October 10 — Oktoberfest Fundraiser Steam Event
- October 24 and 25 — Halloween Train Steam
- December 12 and 13 — Christmas Train Steam

* Additional fee events. Admission to regular events is free for RMRRC Members.

See the new museum website at www.coloradorailroadmuseum.org



Looking Back At The Blizzard Of The Century In 1949

By Jim Ehernberger

Sixty years ago, in January of 1949, several railroads in many western states were snowbound. This view of a Burlington locomotive buried in snow was taken near Ashby, Nebraska. Ashby is located about fifty miles east of Alliance, in the Nebraska sandhills.

It all started about a week before Thanksgiving 1948, the Union Pacific Kansas line was tied up resulting in the City of St. Louis returning to Denver after spending two days in eastern Colorado. Cold temperatures and heavy snows prevailed until January 2nd when a storm lasting three nights blew in east of Sherman Hill. The UP had five trains (three of them streamliners) marooned between Cheyenne and Sidney, Nebraska. It was this storm that provided the photo shown above. More than a week was required clearing major routes, and some branch lines in Nebraska, Colorado and Wyoming were tied up for at least 50 days!

It seemed one storm followed another, and again the UP was tied up west of Laramie two weeks in February. Twenty eastbound passenger trains were held at Green River, Wyoming, and returned to Salt Lake City to be detoured over the Rio Grande. Snow fighting equipment was poorly maintained and broke down. Private contractors were hired with heavy equipment. This same storm buried the Burlington and Northwestern lines all across central Wyoming and Nebraska and parts of South Dakota.

The ranchers suffered heavy livestock losses. The continual winds blew snow where highways and rural roads were impossible to keep open, President Truman declared the storm stricken area a National Emergency, and the military were called to the rescue. Airlifts dropped hay to livestock, food and fuel supplies, and medicines to farms and ranches, no doubt saving these areas from suffering greater losses.

Foundation Fundraising Report

By Jean Gross

As 2008 ends I would like to report the final results of the successful and final fundraising drive for the restoration of Car No. 25. The total is over \$10,000. Without the following member's support the restoration could not have been completed to this point. Car 25 is a thing of beauty thanks to the long hours spent by volunteers who worked on the various aspects of the project and thanks to many companies for their donations of materials and labor. Two members during this year requested matching donations from their employers, hence doubling the members' contributions. The project is ongoing as Car 25 has yet to find a home, but I trust that under the new board there will be a satisfactory resolution.

As chairman of the fundraising for the Foundation, I have enjoyed working with all of you generous and dedicated members to the mission of preserving and restoring historical railroad equipment to further the education of railroad history in the western states.

Donors:

Tom Abbott, Charles H. Albi, Roy E. Altenbach, Larry Anderson, Stuart S. Anderson, Warren M. Anderson, Edward Arbuckle, F. H. Bahm, Robert L. Bartholic, Gregory S. Bates, Perry Becker, Thomas J. Beckett, Kenneth S. Blonski, Ron Booth, Charles Boubelik, Marjorie F. Braisted, Robert Brewster, Michael P. Bryans, Richard Burkholder, Arthur M. Butler, Thomas E. Caldwell, Erwin Chaim, R. D. Christal, John T. Cook, Mark J. Crutcher, Bruce F. Curtis, Dan Davis, Gerald W. Deucher, Herbert

S. Edwards, Richard B. Erickson, Albert H. Fowler, Zona Fowler, Robert Fryml, Frank Fuller, David Gaines, Bud Gamel, Richard Gamewell, Alan Golin Gass, Frank P. Gill Sr., Thomas Giovale, Vernon J. Glover, David C. Goss, Richard Hague, Anthony J. Hall, Carl Hammergren, Roy Hargrave, Allen C. Harper, Steve Haynes, Frank R. Head, Leroy V. Hester, James Hill, Michael Hoenig, Richard Hoffmeister, Andrew Hornbrook, Ed Hunsaker, James E. Hurt, Floyd A. Jarvis III, Josiah Jenkins, Lynn Johnson, Robert Kanard, Robert Kellar, Joseph Kida, Glenn Kindle, Don Kliebenstein, Bob Lashell, Fred & Rita Lochner, Walter Lopez, Jack MacLennan, John Manley, Gordon McCulloh, Gordon Messick, Ken Milne, Ms. S. Martha Montevallo, Alvan E. Morrison, David T. Mott, Bruce Nall, John Newell, Dennis Opferman, Tom Parker, Dr. A. M. Patten, Beyer R. Patton, Robert F. Pederson, Herb Poynter, David A. Rainey, Richard M. Ralston, Carl Reich, Glenn Riddervold, David Rodd, David Salter, Ardie Schoening, Roger E. Seliga, Richard Severance, Thomas Sharratt, Dan Sherer, Ted Sherman, Thomas F. Shugrue, Sr., Shelby Smith Jr., William Sweet III, Donald K. Tautz, Dean Tecklenburg, Dr. H. P. Thode Jr., Michael M. Tinetti, Jim Titsworth, Thomas Toft, Harold Topping, Charles Ulmann, Robert Vickery, Randall Vienot, Chard Walker, Dr. R. Walker, Arthur Wallace, Ronald L. Welch, Sidney White, Charlotte Williams, Robert Williams, Hugh H. Wilson, Philip Wise, Andrew Wittenborn, Philip Woeber, E. S. Wright, Harrison Wroton, Lynn Yehle, Tom Young, Jim Yust.

Current Railroad Happenings



Cheyenne Air National Guard Technical Sergeants (left) Mark Hill and Craig Kenyon were invited to ride the BNSF's 9-car passenger special along with Wyoming State dignitaries on 11/19/08. They enjoyed their meal aboard diner LAKE SUPERIOR – BNSF 10. VALLEY VIEW – BNSF 29 is a club lounge car, ex-ATSF 62. – Photo © 2008 by Chip.

BNSF Business Car Special at Cheyenne, Wyoming

By Chip Sherman

BNSF had a passenger special on the road in November 2008. It visited California, Colorado and Wyoming

The Cheyenne train was set up with BNSF 7586 on the north end and BNSF 7439 on the south end for push pull running between Cheyenne, Wyoming and Federal Siding (north of Cheyenne). The train included full length dome BAY VIEW, dining car LAKE SUPERIOR, business car RED RIVER and club lounge VALLEY VIEW.

Invited Wyoming dignitaries and military personnel (both active duty and retired) rode the 9-car BNSF train at 1:00 PM and 3:00 PM which took the train through FE Warren Air Force Base – home to the 90th Missile Wing and Headquarters, 20th Air Force, of Air Force Space Command.

On 11/20/08, the train operated a trip in the morning and then ran south on the Front Range Subdivision back towards Topeka, Kansas, home of BNSF's business car fleet.

Current Railroad Happenings



BNSF saluted those that serve (military active duty and retired) by operating two passenger runs out of Cheyenne, Wyoming, to the Federal Siding north of Cheyenne. Helping direct passengers and ride 3:00 PM train were (left) Olivia Delatorre and Ann Kimsey of Company K (note K on their caps). BNSF full length dome BAY VIEW – car 31 (ex-ATSF 60) was on the 9-car train on 11/19/08.

– Photo © 2008 by Chip.

Denver Rail Heritage Society Meeting

The Denver Rail Heritage Society will meet on Thursday evening, January 15 at the REI sporting goods store near 15th and Platte. Keith Kirby will be presenting views of trains and some buses in the Denver area in the late 1960's. Included will be views of the Denver Zephyr, Union Pacific City trains, and the last days of the Rocket and the Colorado Eagle. Busses of the Denver Tramway and Denver Metro Transit will be seen along with views of downtown Denver before urban renewal. The meeting starts at 7:15 PM and all are welcome. Please park in the underground garage.

Current Railroad Happenings



San Luis & Rio Grande RR (Permian Basin Railways) 459 saw service on the passenger runs over La Veta Pass during the 2008 season, shown here with an Alamosa to La Veta, Colorado, train east of Fir, Colorado, on June 15, 2008. Unit 459 was shipped by Permian Basin Railways from Alamosa, Colorado, via Union Pacific to American Motive Power at Dansville in western New York State in November 2008. – Photo © 2008 by Chip.

San Luis & Rio Grande RR Sends F40M-2F 459 to Dansville, NY

By Chip Sherman

The Permian Basin Railways short line San Luis & Rio Grande Railroad operating over the rugged Sangre de Cristo mountains released another ex-Canadian American, ex-Amtrak F40M-2F from the southern Colorado rail line that crosses La Veta Pass. SLRG 459 made one of its last trips in Colorado on November 14, 2008, between Monte Vista and Alamosa, Colorado. It was noted at Union Pacific's North Yard in Denver on Thanksgiving Day, 11/27/08. It likely left Denver on 11/29/08 bound for North Platte en route to American Motive Power in Dansville, New York.

The 459 still had Canadian American on the conductors' side along with the Canadian American herald. The engineer's side had a SLRG herald under the cab window from its latest assignment working the former Denver & Rio Grande Western RR lines emanating out of Alamosa.

The SLRG replaced the EMD built F40PH's in 2007-2008 with GE built B39-8 units numbered in the 8500's. SLRG rosters 8542 and 8577 in red with yellow lettering paint scheme.

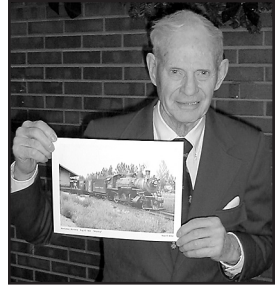
In Remembrance
Alfred Dunst

We received word that member Alfred Dunst passed away on November 22, 2008.

In Remembrance
Neal Miller

We received word that member Neal Miller passed away on December 18, 2008. He would have been 86 in April. He held membership card number 5.

Neal was an accomplished photographer. His main interest was railroad photography, but he also spent a lot of time making color views of scenery, mostly in Colorado. Neal left a legacy dating back more than 40 years by presenting a photograph annually to Club members at the December meeting.



Neal Miller with his annual gift photograph at the December 2002 Club meeting.

In Remembrance
Bob Shank, Sr.

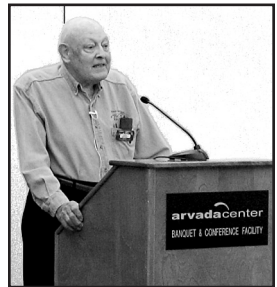
We received word that Bob Shank, Sr. recently passed away in Durango.

In Remembrance
Harrison C. "Hatch" Wroton

We received word that member Harrison C. "Hatch" Wroton, passed away on December 1, 2008. He was 84. He retired from Martin Marietta in 1990 after working for them since 1946.

Hatch was always interested in photography and took photographs with his Speed Graphic. He also made 16-mm movies and recently presented one of his railroad movies at the Club's Annual Banquet earlier this year.

He is survived by his wife, June, children, Diane, John and David, their spouses, 11 Grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren.



Hatch Wroton introducing the program at the Club's Annual Banquet earlier this year.

Trains Unlimited, Tours 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/

February 14 - 16	Valentine Snowflake Express	April 2 - 25	Australian Rail Explorer
February 14 - 15	Western Maryland Winter Photo Freight	April 12	California Gold Express South
March 9 - 10	Arizona Explorer	April 15 - 24	New Orleans And Cajuns Express
March 27	California Coast Express South	April 25	Domes to San Diego
March 28 - 29	Central Coast Wine Express	April 26	California Gold Express North
March 30	California Coast Express North	May 2 - 3	La Veta Pass Photo Freight
		May 8 - 14	Seattle, Victoria & Northwest Express

Colorado Railroad Museum 2009 Scheduled

Special Operation Days

For information call 303-279-4591

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

April 11	Bunny Express With Steam
May 9-10	Mother Goose Event
June 20-21	Father's Day Train
July 11-12	50th Anniversary Steam
August 8-9	Dog Days of Summer Steam
September 12-13, 19-20, 26-27	Day Out With Thomas
October 24-25	Halloween Train Steam
December 12-13	Christmas Train Steam

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

2009 Event Schedule

For information call 303-298-0377

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

Friday, January 16, 2009: Dinner meeting at Lone Star Steakhouse. Richard Luckin will present *Mexico Rail Odyssey: The Tour of Discovery*. This unfinished PBS-style program is 22-minutes long. Included in the program is a history of the Copper Canyon rail line.

Please call in your reservations to the Chapter office, as usual (303-298-0377).

Saturday, January 31, 2009: Twelfth Annual Jeffco Train Show, Jefferson County Fairgrounds. Come on out to our Mid-winter Model Train and Railroadiana Swap Meet and Sale. Fairgrounds are located at 15200 West 6th Avenue Golden, Colorado.

Early-bird access to vendors: From 7:15 AM to 9:00 AM. Admission is \$10 and good for all day. Public Show Time: From 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Public Admission: \$5.00 per adult; \$1.00 children 5 thru 12; under 5 free.

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Club Information

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Club Officers

	President	Dave Schaaf
	VP - Foundation	Darrell Arndt
	VP - Club	Pat Mauro
	Secretary	Roger Sherman
Web: http://www.rockymtnrrclub.org	Treasurer	Keith Jensen

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 February Rail Report should be sent by January 16th.



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