

# RAIL REPORT

February 2010 • NO. 598



Rocky Mountain Railroad Club • Rocky Mountain Railroad Historical Foundation

## Steam Locomotives of the Katy Railroad

Presented by John Charles

February 9th, 2010 • 7:30 PM

Steam Locomotives of the Katy Railroad is a digital program on the history and development of steam locomotives on the Missouri Kansas Texas (Katy) Railroad. Covering everything from the 4-4-0s of 1880 to the last use of steam in the early 1950s, the program will include roster shots and a lot of action photos as well. The program ends with a selection of excellent color action shots by Emery Gulash.

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.**

Please note: Due to scheduling changes at the Church, beginning in April our meeting night will change to the second Wednesday of the month.

### RMRR Calendar

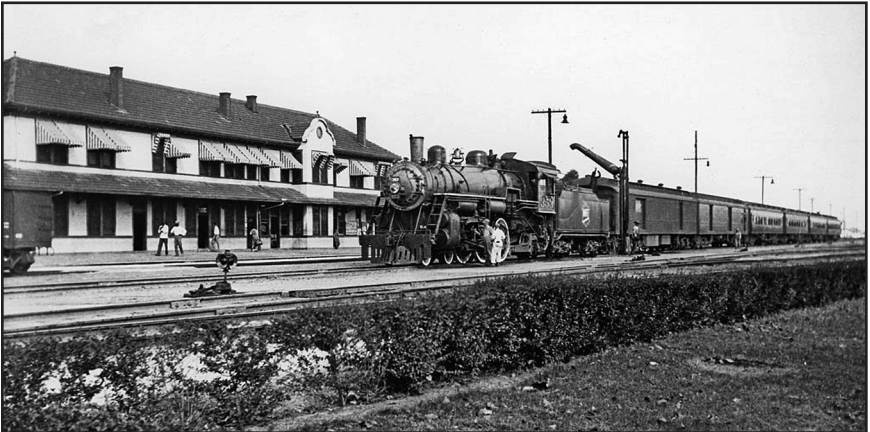
March 9th	Meeting, and PeruRail program.
April 14th	Second Wednesday Meeting, with program to be announced soon.
May 12th	Second Wednesday Meeting, with program to be announced soon.

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

## Steam Locomotives of the Katy Railroad



MK&T 4-4-0, 310 on train No 35, the Mineola Branch passenger train, at Greenville, Texas, in 1922. – Photo from the John Charles collection.



MKT 4-6-2 353 with train No 24 at Smithville, Texas, in 1936.  
– Photo from the John Charles collection.

---

### Membership Renewals For 2010 Were Due on December 31, 2009

If you have not mailed your dues for 2010, please send your renewal as soon as possible.

---

### Narrow Gauge Trips For Club Members

The Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad is offering discounts to Club members for this year's Railfest excursions (<http://www.durangorailfest.com>). Your Club Officers are also working with the Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad on a special photo charter in May. Watch the Club website and *Rail Report* for details.

---



Rotary and Spreader trains went dead at Giltner, Nebraska, MP 10, after a morning of snow fighting on January 13, 2010. The Giltner subdivision is a 28-mile diagonal running SW out of Aurora, Nebraska, connecting just east of Ravenna to Hastings, Nebraska. – Photo © 2010 Daren Genau.

---

## From The President

By Dave Schaaf

Several days worth of cold weather and drifting snow caused difficulties for railroads in Nebraska, Iowa, and surrounding states in January. Many trains were delayed or cancelled, and plows and snow spreaders saw action on various subdivisions where they are seldom used.

There will be no Denver-based Ski Train for this winter season. Iowa Pacific Holdings had planned to operate it with some equipment from their San Luis & Rio Grande operation in Alamosa, Colorado. The needed cars and locomotives had been assembled from a variety of sources. Agreements would have been necessary from both Union Pacific for the trackage, and with Amtrak for the crews and safety inspection for passen-

ger train authorization. One of the big hurdles was the cost and level of liability insurance to be required. Approximately 13,000 tickets had been pre-sold for the planned 70th season, which then had to be refunded.

Railway Age magazine has reported that in 2009 more than 1,100 passenger railcars were delivered to various operators in the US and Canada, with a majority of these for transit agencies. On order are at least 2,500 more cars as of the end of last year.

Amtrak is planning to get over 100 new locomotives for its fleet, of which most of these would be electric units. Other projects include improvements to tracks and switches at Chicago Union

## From The President



BN Rotary 972559 works west on it's second time on the Giltner subdivision in a week, due to wind blowing cuts full again. Seen coming under the I-80 overpass near MP3 on January 13, 2010. – Photo © 2010 Daren Genau.

---

Station, and construction of new maintenance buildings for passenger railcar equipment in Los Angeles, California, and Hialeah, Florida. This year marks the tenth anniversary for Acela Express service on the Northeast Corridor. In March, Amtrak will deploy WiFi technology on Acela Express and make it available to every passenger initially free of charge. In late 2010, Amtrak will complete a program to upgrade the interior of all Acela Express trainsets to increase passenger comfort and amenities, including leather seating, improved tray tables, and better outlets to power laptop computers, DVD players and other electronic devices.

On January 8th, a double-stack intermodal train carrying 618 containers departed the Dallas Intermodal Terminal destined for Long Beach and Oakland, California. As the longest train ever run

on Union Pacific, the consist included three locomotives on the head end, two sets of two locomotives throughout the train, and two locomotives on the rear. Technicians were on board to test a new version of Locotrol from General Electric, in order to check it's ability to run three remote consists of power units. This train had a total of 854 axles, at over 18,000 feet long (almost 3 1/2 miles). That's one way to keep a lot of trucks off of the highways.

I spoke recently with Club member Karl Schaeffer of the Ridgway Railroad Museum in southwestern Colorado. They have been working hard to catalog a large batch of Rio Grande Southern RR paperwork that they've acquired from the Colorado RR Museum. They are making an easy to find filing system for the 120 different D&RGW-style form numbers. This will be helpful for

## From The President



BN Rotary 972559 on the Giltner subdivision near MP6 on January 13, 2010.

– Photo © 2010 Daren Genau.

---

authors and other researchers in the future.

Galloping Goose #4 has been undergoing a cosmetic restoration at Ridgway, and has now been approved for a limited return to operational status. This Goose is owned by the volunteer fire department in Telluride, and they have given the OK to make it operable for short trips at low speeds. There are no plans to try and run it from either Durango or Chama. All of the engine's cylinders are in good shape, and without having to do a major overhaul of all of the running gear, it appears that it could be working by 2011 in order to participate in a Goose gathering at the CRRM in Golden, Colorado. There is hope that motor #3 from California might be able to attend next year too.

The Association of American Railroads (AAR) has reported that 2009 saw total carload traffic on US railroads at its low-

est levels since at least 1988, when the AAR's data series began. In December, most train-hauled commodities showed growth compared with that period a year earlier. The number of stored rail cars also began to drop in that month.

Late last year, Omaha billionaire Warren Buffett announced that his Berkshire Hathaway Inc. would make a \$44 billion buyout of BNSF Railway. This transaction is expected to close in the first quarter of this year, taking the publicly traded company private. Many observers see this deal as a positive indicator for the rail industry, and Buffett is expected to take a hands-off approach with the existing management of the railroad.

Our Club's internet address is listed in the back of this issue. Please check the web site now and then for updates and color photos. Members can contact me at 303 988-3456, or by e-mail at ds5280@comcast.net.

## Colorado Railroad Events



For the 2010 season, several Cumbres & Toltec rider boxcars will be on loan to Historic Rail Adventures of Georgetown, operator of the Georgetown Loop Railroad. For more information about the Georgetown Loop or to purchase general tickets, go to [www.GeorgetownLooprr.com](http://www.GeorgetownLooprr.com) or call 1-888-456-6777.

– Photo © 2008 Dave Schaaf.

---

---

### Denver, South Park & Pacific

#### DSP&P Historical Society 2010 Convention

The Convention will be based in Frisco and cover the area of the Ten Mile to Climax, Frisco/Dillon, Keystone, Breckenridge to the top of Boreas Pass. The dates are the 3rd weekend in August; Friday, Saturday, Sunday 8-20, 21, 22.

On Friday, registration is from 9 AM to Noon at the Community Center on 3rd street, just 1 short block south of Main. Friday afternoon tours include Frisco, the Frisco charcoal kilns, the south edge of Lake Dillon, just yards from where Dickey was, then the Keystone depot.

Saturday includes a non-railroad alternative program consisting of a downtown Breckenridge Historical walking tour guided by the Breckenridge Heritage Alliance. The railroad portion will travel to Breckenridge, see the last remaining trestle bents in town, stop at the Breckenridge railroad museum, and then drive up Boreas Pass road to have a box lunch in the Boreas Pass Section house.

See <http://www.dspphs.org> for more information.

---

---

### Smoke Across The Prairie: Railroad Days VIII

Smoke Across the Prairie is a free program that is always held on the third Saturday of February (This year February 20) at the Town Museum on Main Street in Fort Morgan, Colorado.

The morning is planned to be filled by local model railroaders and the afternoon will have programs and speakers including Club members Tom Klinger and Dave Schaaf.

## Current Railroad Happenings



Ex Coors SW8 in clean paint rounds the curve near MP 4 on the San Luis Central nearing the home shop at Monte Vista in the evening on January 7, 2010.  
– Photo © 2010 Daren Genau.



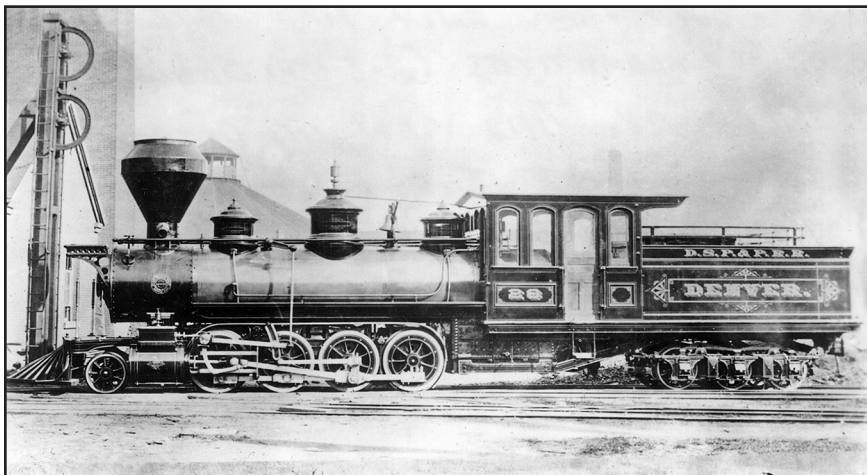
HDENAMA rolls south under the Hwy 24 overpass at Kelker, on the Joint Line with two Ferromex GEVOs in tow on January 10, 2010. – Photo © 2010 Daren Genau.

## Narrow Gauge Locomotive Photo Gallery



Denver South Park & Pacific engine 15 is shown at the Mason Machine Works plant at Taunton, Massachusetts, with the original ornate paint job in October 1879. The South Park purchased 19 similar 2-6-6T (Bogie) type locomotives from this builder. Reports indicate that this locomotive ended its days on the Utah & Northern and was probably scrapped by 1890.

– Photo from the James L. Ehernberger collection.

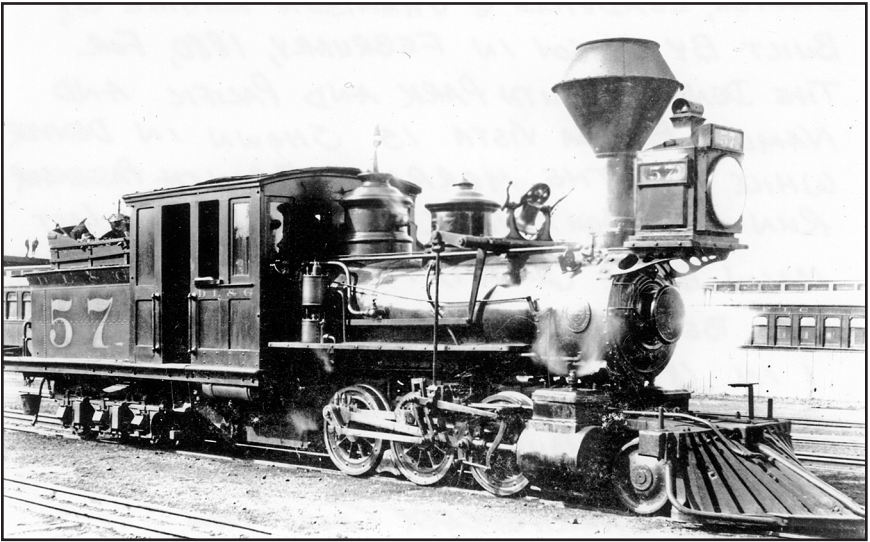


The South Park only had four larger 2-8-6T Bogie locomotives similar to number 28. This view was from the Mason factory prior to shipment of the locomotive in October 1880. Photos of this class of engine are scarce.

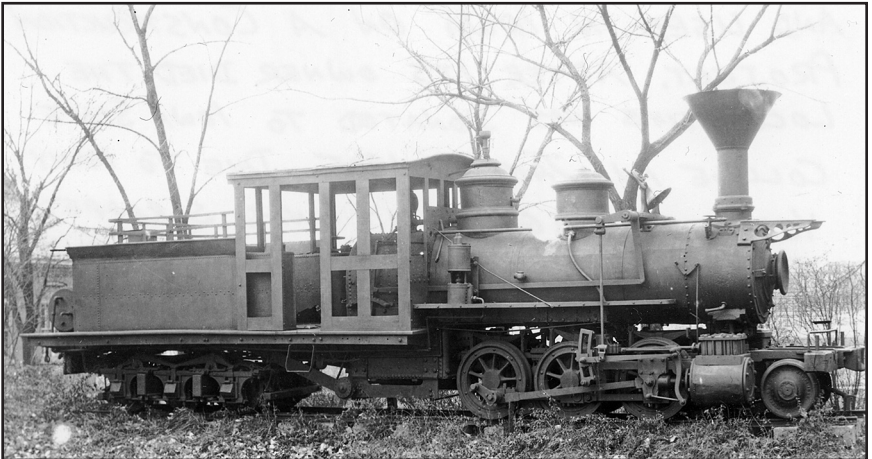
– Photo from the James L. Ehernberger collection.



## Narrow Gauge Locomotive Photo Gallery



Denver, Leadville & Gunnison engine 57 was built by Mason in February 1880 for the Denver South Park & Pacific. Originally named "Buena Vista" the engine is shown here on the Morrison Branch passenger run about 1895. This was the last Mason Bogie (2-6-6T) type used at Denver and became Colorado & Southern No. 1 in 1899. This was the last of a fleet of 19 Masons with this wheel arrangement built for the DSP&P. – Photo from the James L. Ehernberger collection.

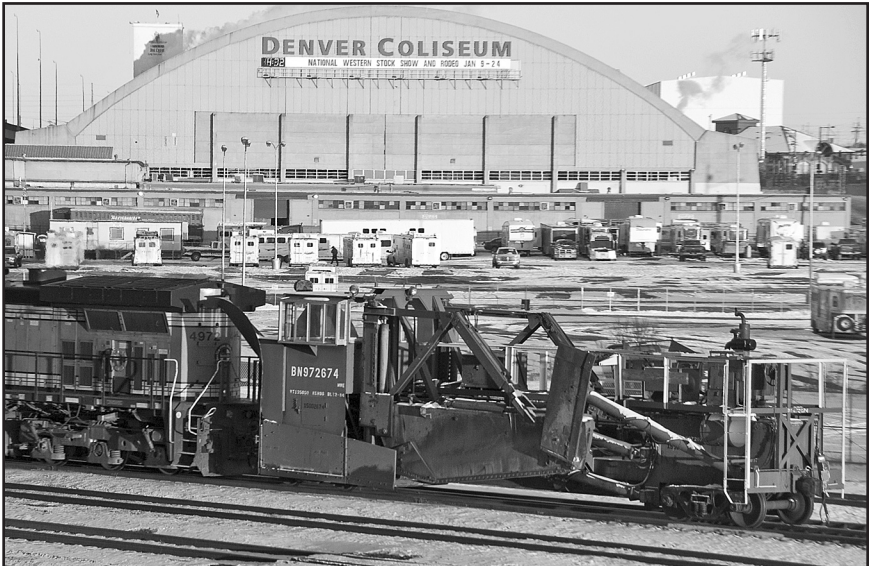


Colorado & Southern engine 1, 2-6-6T, formerly DL&G 57 was sold in 1899 and used in Iowa on a construction project. After its owner died, the locomotive was donated to Iowa State College at Ames in 1905. Due to many years of neglect it was scrapped in November 1942 for WW-II. More information is in the *Colorado Rail Annual No. 12*. – Photo from the James L. Ehernberger collection.

## Current Railroad Happenings



BNSF 717 and 4972, Dash 9-44CW units, departed Denver's BNSF 38th Street Yard with Jordan spreader BN 972674 at sunset on January 7, 2010. The Jordan spreader, built in March 1984, is based at Denver. Drifting snow across Nebraska had Amtrak's California Zephyrs annulled on January 8, 2010. The eastbound Amtrak train 6 that arrived on January 7, 2010, stayed in Denver Union Station on track two with two loaned Union Pacific units: UP 5762 & 6621.



At 4:32 PM, January 7, 2010, BNSF Jordan spreader BN 972674 passed the Denver Coliseum and ducked under Interstate 70 beginning its journey to fight drifting snow in Nebraska. – Two photos © 2010 by Chip.

## Current Railroad Happenings



ZDENCHI takes a detour to Chicago Via the ex-Sante Fe on January 8, 2010. Seen here rounding the curve at Pueblo Union Station, with CSX SD60 in the new paint job. Trouble in Nebraska with blowing snow prompted the reroute.

– Photo © 2010 Daren Genau.



Hulcher lifted BNSF 6252 back onto the rails at BNSF's 31st Street Yard in Denver on December 27, 2009. BNSF ES44AC 5828, also derailed at right, awaits its turn. The units arrived pulling the Provo, Utah, to Denver train H PVODEN. No one was injured in the minor derailment. – Photo © 2009 by Chip.

## Current Railroad Happenings



Drink and cigarette stand occupies the round-end observation area on Hickory Creek. A holiday charter brought New Jersey based Hickory Creek to Denver Union Station on December 30, 2009. The car was sold by New York Central in 1968 to Ringling Brothers Circus. Check out *Highballing on the Moonlight Lady*, authored by Rhett Coates, pages 9-17 in *Bandwagon*, September-October 2008, Vol. 52, No. 5, the Circus Historical Society publication. – Photo © 2009 by Chip.

## Current Railroad Happenings



Striking into Denver about two hours off the advertised was Amtrak train 5, the California Zephyr, with former New York Central Hickory Creek bringing up the markers on BNSF's Brush Line west of Barr, Colorado, December 30, 2009. This Pullman Standard built in 1948 car for the New York Central's 20th Century Limited is now operated by Startrak, Inc. Aboard Raymond W. Clauss prepared his six charter guests for their Mile High City visit. – Photo © 2009 by Chip.



Large windows offered passengers impressive views. The car was at Denver Union Station, track one, on December 30, 2009. – Photo © 2009 by Chip.

## Colorado Railroad Museum 2010 Scheduled Special Operation Days

For information call 303-279-4591

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

### SCFD Free Days:

January 9, March 20, November 13

April 3                      Bunny Express Train  
May 8 & 9                Mother's Day Goosefest  
June 26 & 27

GermanFest – Presented by MillerCoors  
July 24 & 25    Buffalo Bill Wild West Days  
August 21                      Wine Train  
August 21 & 22                KidFest

### Day Out With Thomas

September 11, 12, 18, 19, 25, & 26

October 30 & 31        Trick or Treat Train  
November 27 & 28

### Thanksgiving Goosefest

December 4, 11, 12, 18

Santa Express Train

### 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, telephone 303-279-4591.

## Intermountain Chapter, NRHS

### 2010 Event Schedule

For information call 303-298-0377

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

### Dinner Meeting at Lone Star Steakhouse

February 19, 2010

Richard Luckin will present his latest historical PBS documentary, *Packard: An American Classic*. The program traces the 59-year history of one of America's finest classic automobiles. Television/movie actor Edward Herrmann hosts this documentary. We know you'll want to come see another of Richard's classic productions.

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.

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

The Rocky Mountain Rail Report (ISSN 1040-9223) is published by the Rocky Mountain Railroad Club and the Rocky Mountain Railroad Historical Foundation.

First class postage paid at Denver, Colorado.

Postmaster, send address changes to:

Rocky Mountain Rail Report, PO Box 2391, Denver, CO 80201-2391

### **Club Information**

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

### **Club and Foundation Officers**

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

### **Club and Foundation Directors**

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

### **Membership Information**

Membership in the Rocky Mountain Railroad Club may be obtained by sending the annual dues to the Club address listed above.

Regular membership dues are \$35.00. Overseas regular membership dues are \$45.00.

Contributing membership is \$50.00. Sustaining membership is \$70.00.

Patron membership is \$100.00. Golden membership is \$500.00.

An associate membership for spouses and children is \$25.00 additional.

Members joining after April may send a payment of \$3.00 for each month remaining in the year.

Members of the Rocky Mountain Railroad Club are also members in the Rocky Mountain Railroad Historical Foundation, the non-profit arm of the Rocky Mountain Railroad Club.

### **Board Meetings**

Members are always welcome to attend any board of directors meeting. Please contact any Club officer for the date, time and location.

### **Newsletter Contributions**

Newsletter contributions and items for publication should be sent to:

Bruce Nall, Editor  
Rocky Mountain Rail Report  
PO Box 620579  
Littleton, CO 80162-0579

Fax: 303-978-0402  
E-mail: [selectimag@aol.com](mailto:selectimag@aol.com)

**Items for the March Rail Report should be sent by February 12th.**



BOX 2391  
DENVER, COLORADO 80201

***FIRST CLASS***

