

# RAIL REPORT

September 2010 • NO. 604



Rocky Mountain Railroad Club • Rocky Mountain Railroad Historical Foundation

## White Pass & Yukon

Presented by Bob Neher

September 14th, 2010 • 7:30 PM

Enjoy a White Pass & Yukon video presentation with fellow Club members.

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 – 2010

- October 16th    Annual Banquet at the Arvada Center.  
Program: Superslides Of The Club's 1966 Memorial Day D&RGW Excursion.
- November 9th    Meeting with program: 8mm Films From Rocky Club Trips From 1958 To 1960  
And Black Canyon And U.P. 844.
- December 14th    Annual Business Meeting.  
Program: Railroading With Tin Lizzies And Doodlebugs.

### RMRRRC Calendar – 2011

- January 11th    Meeting .

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.



Former club president Irv August passed away earlier this year and a tribute took place about a month ago along the old South Park line. Several friends who had kept in touch with him gathered on Kenosha Pass, Colorado, raising a toast with Irv's favorite "Old-Fashioned" cocktail. – Photo courtesy of Bill Bond.

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## From The President

By Dave Schaaf

I hope to see many of our members at the annual Club Banquet in October. We have a lot of door prizes this year, including tickets for steam trains.

Late August was busy with events in southern Colorado and northern New Mexico. To meet our deadline this month, we will have more coverage and photos in the next issue.

Union Pacific has agreed to donate former Denver & Rio Grande Western SD40T-2 locomotive #5401 to the Colorado RR Museum. This 1980 EMD "tunnel motor" is the second diesel of its kind to be preserved, as #5371 now resides at the Utah State Railroad Museum in Ogden.

The Regional Transportation District of Denver (RTD) broke ground in late August for the 22.8-mile East Corridor commuter-rail line to Denver International Airport. In addition to the East Corridor line, the project's first phase includes construction of a new maintenance facility, provision of the trains that will provide service on the line, and final design work on the FasTracks Gold Line and Northwest Rail Electrified Segment.

Fort Collins Municipal Railway car #21 suffered a broken axle on July 25. It's a major failure for this Birney car that was built in 1919. Efforts are underway to get new axles made. Their car #25 is still being restored as well.

## From The President



Union Pacific's 844 and Centennial 6936 (DDA-40X) handled the Denver Post Cheyenne Frontier Days train north across Terry Ranch approaching Speer, Wyoming, on July 24, 2010. UP 6936 was working to help the heavy train make the "Daddy of them All" events at Cheyenne, Wyoming. Seven dome cars were on the train! – Photo © 2010 by Chip.

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Work continues on RGS #20, still in the shop at Strasburg, Pennsylvania. The front flue sheet is welded in and the firebox is being final fit for welding. The frame is complete and ready for tramping. The driving boxes have been partially machined and will be final machined when tramping is complete. Staybolts are being made at this time. They will be starting the smokebox soon so it can be attached to the cylinder saddle, and then the boiler slipped into it.

A luxury train service owned by Denver billionaire Philip Anschutz has been mothballed even before its first trip. We

had mentioned in June that American Railway Explorer had proposed to begin running train excursions in the summer of 2011, with prices as high as \$1,500 a day per person. However, the company told travel industry officials in August that the venture's "operations have ceased."

There is talk that the old DSP&P station at Jefferson, Colorado, may be sold and moved out of the South Park area.

Members may contact me by e-mail at [ds5280@comcast.net](mailto:ds5280@comcast.net) or by phone at 303-988-3456.



Bruce Vincent, Managing Member of the West Corridor Historical Rail Cooperative, receives a “key” to D&IM No. 25 from Dave Schaaf, Rocky Mountain Railroad Club and Rocky Mountain Railroad Historical Foundation President.

– Photo © 2010 Bruce Nall.

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## A New Future For Interurban Car No. 25

By Dave Schaaf

The Denver streetcar and interurban rail system was converted to buses in the late nineteen-forties and early fifties. Denver & Intermountain car #25 was purchased by the Rocky Mountain Railroad Club to save it from being scrapped in October of 1950. It was operated for special excursions for about three more years until the end of electrification on the Golden line that ran along 13th Avenue through Lakewood. Stored outside in the Golden area during the mid-fifties, it was placed on static display at the Colorado RR Museum in 1958. Thirty years later, the Club made the decision to restore this car to its original condition of 1911, and moved it to a railroad

shed on the grounds of the Denver Federal Center. It was thought that this restoration would take just a few years.

In the most recent couple of years, our board of directors found out that the Federal Center is being re-developed for civilian uses, and the building where the car has been housed cannot stay there much longer. The restoration is now essentially complete, and the Board looked for a new future for the car, preferably in the Denver area.

The Denver Rail Heritage Society operates the Platte Valley Trolley on the west side of the river in downtown Den-

## A New Future For Interurban Car No. 25



From left, Lakewood Mayor Bob Murphy and Lakewood Councilman and Managing Member of the West Corridor Historical Rail Cooperative, Ed Peterson, successfully operated the Interurban on it's inaugural West Corridor Historical Rail Cooperative open house run. – Photo © 2010 Bruce Nall.

ver. The city of Lakewood, Colorado, has a great interest in its local history. Both of these entities had made offers to the Rocky Mountain RR Club and Foundation for Car #25. Through extensive negotiations, an agreement was reached for these two parties to form a non-profit organization to acquire the car, which then made an offer that the Foundation accepted. The new West Corridor Historical Rail Cooperative held its first open house in mid-August, to celebrate and introduce the public to the next step in the car's journey.

Plans are in place for this car to be housed in a railcar restoration facility and museum at the Oak Street station on RTD's new West Corridor line,

which is scheduled to open in 2013, nearly on the grade where it used to run. This facility would allow for additional restorations of other trolley cars and provide a regional history of urban transit, and create a destination stop for visitors. The vision is eventually to be able to use Car #25 for special runs on street trackage between Oak Street station and the Westland shopping area on Colfax Avenue. On occasion, Car #25 will make special appearances at the Platte Valley Trolley operation.

We intend to give updates as they become available. More information is available from [RailCoop@Lakewood.org](mailto:RailCoop@Lakewood.org) or at 303 987-7800.

## A New Future For Interurban Car No. 25

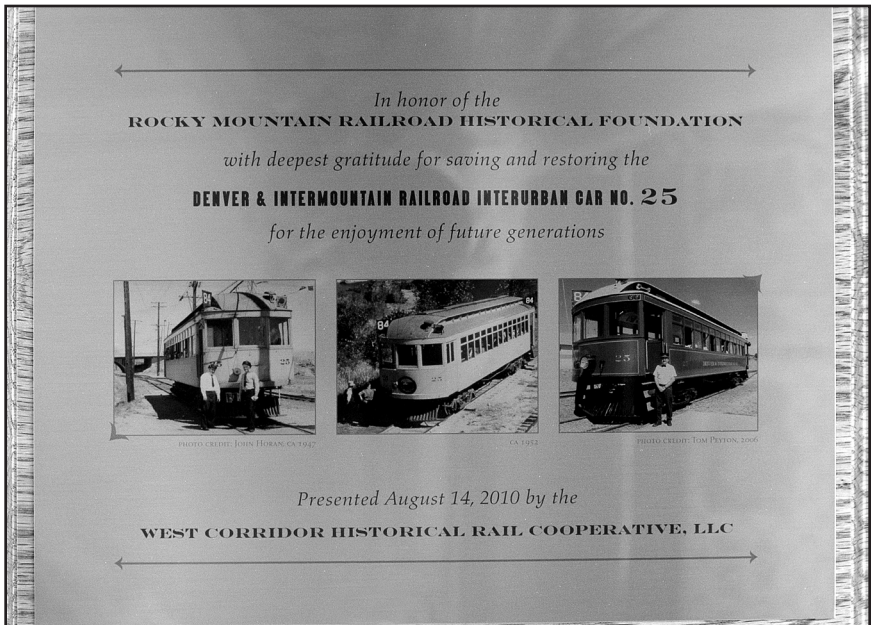


From left, Lakewood Councilman and Managing Member of the West Corridor Historical Rail Cooperative, Ed Peterson, Lakewood Mayor Bob Murphy, RMRRC President Dave Schaaf, DRHS Past President Tom Abbott with some original, pre-restoration parts from Interurban No. 25. – Photo © 2010 Bruce Nall.

## A New Future For Interurban Car No. 25

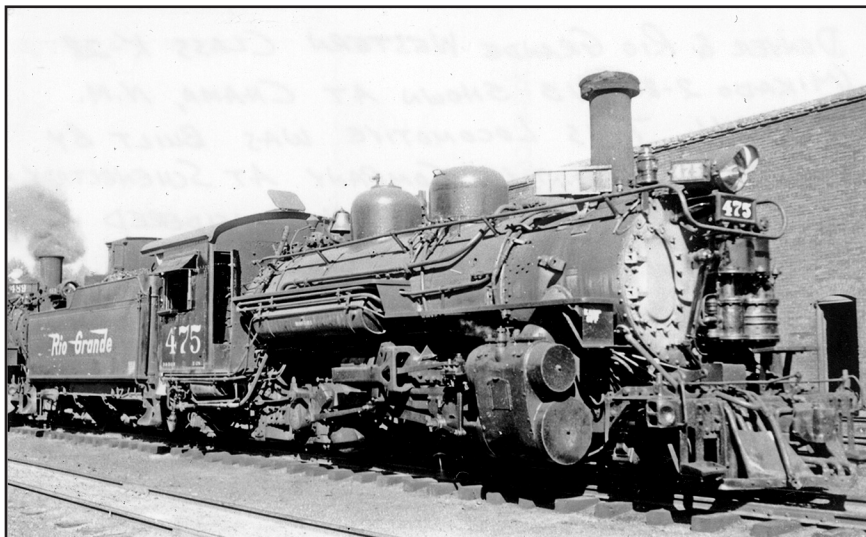


Bruce Vincent, Managing Member of the West Corridor Historical Rail Cooperative, presents Dave Schaaf and the RMRRC Board with a plaque honoring the work of the Rocky Mountain Railroad Historical Foundation over the last 20 years.

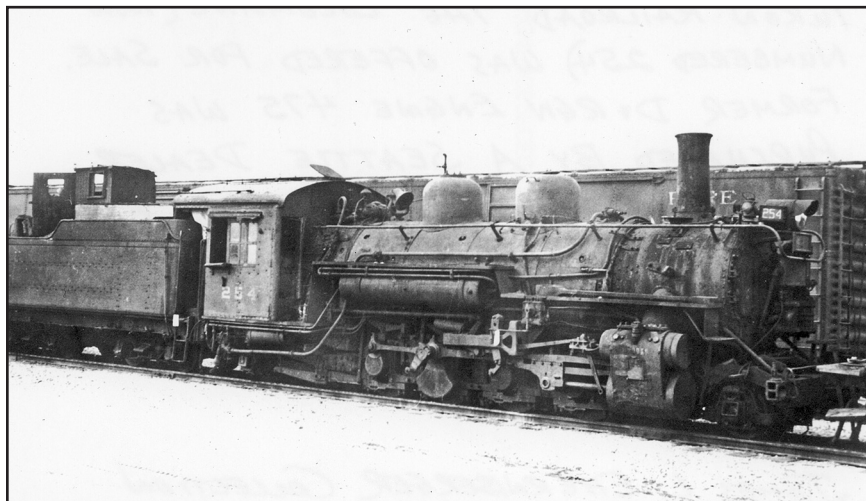


The plaque honoring the work of the Rocky Mountain Railroad Historical Foundation over the last 20 years. – Two photos © 2010 Bruce Nall.

## Narrow Gauge Locomotive Photo Gallery



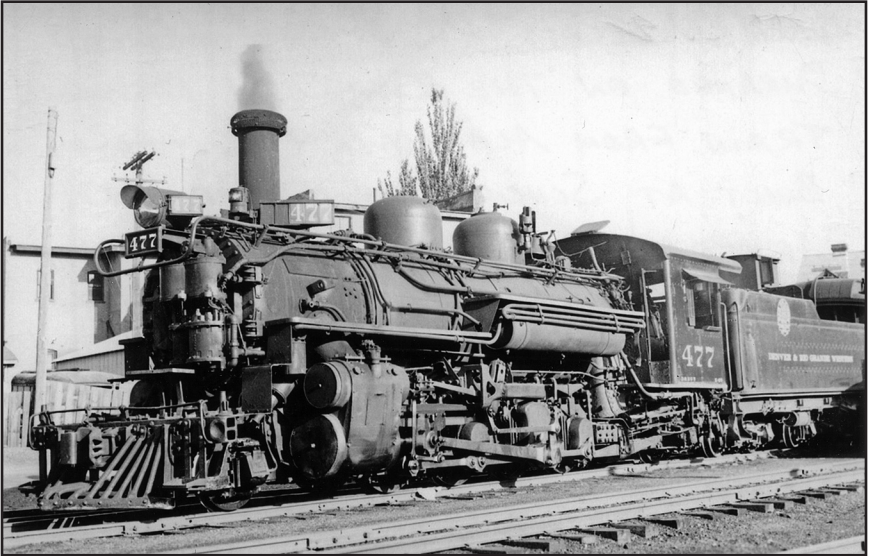
Denver & Rio Grande Western class K-28 (Mikado 2-8-2) is shown at Chama, New Mexico, in 1941. This locomotive was built by American Locomotive Company at Schenectady, New York, in 1923. Apparently considered surplus, seven of this class were purchased by the U.S. Army for use on the White Pass & Yukon in October 1942. Only engines 473, 476 and 478 were retained by the Rio Grande.  
– Photo from the James L. Ehernberger collection.



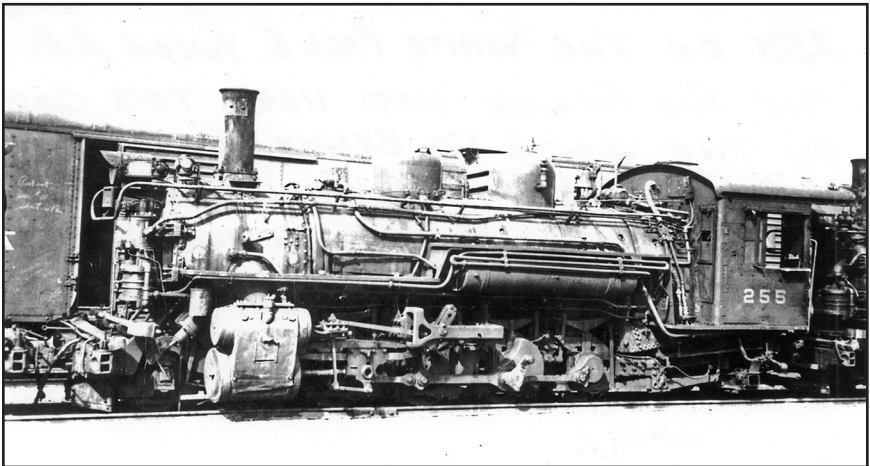
After service on the White Pass & Yukon Railroad, this locomotive was offered for sale. Former D&RGW engine 475 was purchased by a Seattle dealer and eventually scrapped in early 1946. The engine is shown here at Seattle in late 1945.  
– Photo from the James L. Ehernberger collection.



## Narrow Gauge Locomotive Photo Gallery



D&RGW class K-28 had arrived in Durango on the **San Juan** passenger train from Alamosa in 1940. Engine 477 was also built at Schenectady, New York, in 1923. After about three years service on the White Pass & Yukon during WW-II, the U.S. Army sold the engine to a Seattle dealer who could not find a buyer and scrapped the engine. – Photo from the James L. Ehernberger collection.



The former D&RGW 477 was numbered 255 on the White pass & Yukon Railroad. The Rio Grande had used this class on the Santa Fe Branch (abandoned in 1941) and on the Gunnison Passenger Train (discontinued in November 1940) and could spare them to the U.S. Army for Alaska service. The engine is shown here at Seattle in late 1945. – Photo from the James L. Ehernberger collection.

# R I C O .

## The Restored Rico At The Colorado Railroad Museum

By Donald Tallman and Bruce Nall

Club members were treated to a preview tour of the restored Business Car “Rico” with rides behind Engine 346 at the Colorado Railroad Museum on July 23rd, the day before the public debut of the historic Victorian railcar at Wild West Days.

“Rico” was originally a railcar on the Denver and Rio Grande and was later sold to the Rio Grande Southern and remodeled to a business car. This business car was used by well known pho-

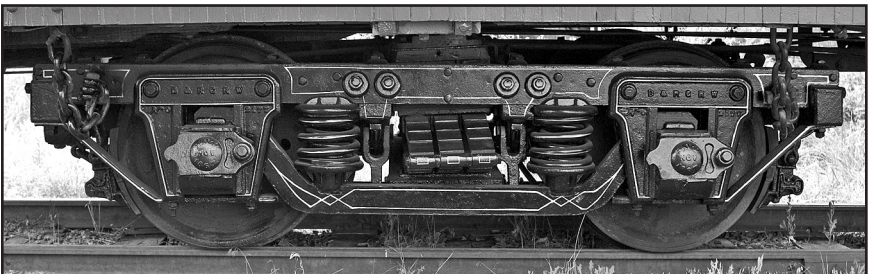
tographer William Henry Jackson in the 1890s on a photographic tour of Colorado.

“Rico” was extensively remodeled by the Rocky Mountain Railroad Club before it was donated to the Museum in 2006. The Museum has restored this famous railcar back to service. The exterior was repainted, while the interior was cosmetically restored and decorated to the 1890s.



The Rico stands ready for Club member passengers at the Club preview.  
– Two photos © 2010 Bruce Nall.

## The Restored Rico



Meticulous attention to the interior and exterior details of the restoration was apparent. – Three photos © 2010 Bruce Nall.

## The Restored Rico



The Business Car “Rico” with Engine 346 and two Denver & Rio Grande Western coaches were assembled by the Colorado Railroad Museum for Club’s special evening preview train. – Photo © 2010 Bruce Nall.



Club members and guests pose on and around the Rico’s rear platform with the Club’s historic drumhead used on many Club excursions over the years, appropriately lettered for a Rio Grande Southern Special. – Photo © 2010 Bruce Nall.

## Annual Club Luncheon Banquet Saturday, October 16, 2010

Please plan to join your fellow Club members and guests at the  
Rocky Mountain Railroad Club's Annual Banquet.

Black Forest cake, good friends, drawings for prizes and a special slide program – what better way to spend a Saturday afternoon than at the Club's annual Banquet? This year's banquet includes the re-establishment of a drawing for books, rail tickets, calendars and other gifts that each ticket holder will have a chance to win.

Our Luncheon Banquet will again be held at The Arvada Center for the Arts and Humanities, 6901 Wadsworth Boulevard in Arvada. Enjoy visiting with your railfan friends from 11:00 AM to Noon. Lunch will be served at Noon. The menu includes your choice of London Broil or Chicken Wellington. Both lunch choices include salad, vegetables, dessert and coffee or tea for only \$28.00 per person.

Please make your reservation using the insert in this *Rail Report*. **Reservations must be received – postmarks don't count – by Friday, October 8th** in order to meet the Arvada Center's deadline. We cannot issue refunds on cancellations received after October 8th. Last minute orders and / or "will calls" must be prepaid by credit card with the Club Treasurer at 303-781-8616.

**Don't Procrastinate — Make Your Reservations Today!**

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### See The Club's 1966 Memorial Day D&RGW Excursion

Following lunch, John Charles will present a "super-slide" show, using a vintage projector to show 2-1/4 square format color transparencies from the Fred Little estate. This program will feature the Club's 1966 Memorial Day excursion on D&RGW narrow gauge from Alamosa over Cumbres Pass to Durango and to Silverton. More than 340 members and friends rode this train which was the last Club sponsored trip on the D&RGW over Cumbres Pass.

**Join us for this great afternoon get together.**

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#### *In Remembrance* **David T. Mott**

Long time Club member, David T. Mott, passed away in June. He joined the Club in 1972 and held membership card number 119. In addition to the RMRRC, he was a member of the Colorado chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution.

## Colorado Railroad Museum 2010 Scheduled Special Operation Days

For information call 303-279-4591  
<http://www.coloradorailroadmuseum.org/event-listings>

SCFD Free Days:  
November 13

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  
September 17, 2010

Richard Luckin will present his latest PBS documentary, *Rails to Suburbia: The Strang Line and Overland Park*, produced for the Overland Park Historical Society. "Immediately at the door of Kansas City lies the garden spot of the world," an early promotional brochure proclaimed. While founder William B. Strang, Jr. may have overstated the case a bit, his planned community was nonetheless a desirable suburban retreat, almost from the start. Today, Overland Park is the second-largest city in Kansas.

*Rails to Suburbia* tells the story of his inter-urban railway, which ran from Kansas City to Olathe and providing a fast and efficient commute, through vintage photos, interviews with local historians and public officials, and narration, once again, from actor Michael Gross.

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**

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### **Club Information**

Rocky Mountain Railroad Club  
PO Box 2391  
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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:

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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 October Rail Report should be sent by September 17th.**



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*FIRST CLASS*

