

# RAIL REPORT

June–July 2011 • NO. 613



Rocky Mountain Railroad Club • Rocky Mountain Railroad Historical Foundation

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## New Rail Transit Lines In The Denver Area

Presented by Kevin Flynn

June 14th, 2011 • 7:30 PM

Please join us for an exciting airborne tour of two new rail transit lines in the Denver area. Transportation expert Kevin Flynn of RTD will start with an overview of the Regional Transportation District (RTD) FasTracks plan to build several new transit lines. We will see modern computer-generated simulations to “fly over” the commuter rail (heavy rail) lines to Denver International Airport (DIA) and the Gold Line to Arvada/Wheat Ridge.

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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.**

### RMRRC Calendar

- |                |   |
|----------------|---|
| July 24th      | Denver to Cheyenne Steam Excursion.                                     |
| August 9th     | Meeting and Program, “Moffat Road Railroad Museumt in Granby, Colorado. |
| August 13th    | Annual open house with interurban car #25 at the Denver Federal Center. |
| September 13th | Meeting and Program.  |
| October 15th   | Annual banquet at the Arvada Center.                                    |

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.

## New Rail Transit Lines In The Denver Area



Simulation of the RTD EMU along Grandview Avenue in Arvada.  
– Rendering Courtesy of RTD.

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Both lines will start and end at Denver Union Station (DUS). On our airborne journey we will see the challenge of adding new rail lines in and out of DUS. The East Corridor threads its way out of DUS and soon parallels the Union Pacific along Smith Road, flies over I-70, and follows Pena Boulevard to end at a new rail station-hotel-terminal expansion at DIA. The future Gold Line roughly parallels the BNSF tracks out of DUS, crosses over the Jersey Cutoff, to the Utah Junction area, and then proceeds west along the UP tracks to C&S Junction, then along the BNSF tracks (Colorado Central) to Ward Road in Wheat Ridge.

Kevin Flynn, an accomplished speaker, worked for many years as the transportation reporter for the Rocky Mountain News. He is a local rail historian who now works as the EAGLE P3 Public Information Manager for RTD.



Another possible design for the RTD EAGLE P3 EMU.  
– Rendering Courtesy of RTD.

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The Federal Center station where buses will soon connect with light rail, as seen on May 23, 2011 – Photo © 2011 Dave Schaaf.

## Notes From The President

By Dave Schaaf

### A few RTD items:

In Lakewood, Colorado, RTD will celebrate the opening of the Federal Center Station, the first station to open on the West Corridor. The commemorative event will be held on Thursday, June 16 at 10 AM in the new Federal Center Station parking lot and will feature speakers from RTD, Lakewood, and the General Services Administration. The closure of Cold Spring Park-n-Ride and the actual start of bus operations and parking at the new Federal Center Station will be on Saturday, June 18, 2011.

Denver Transit Partners (DTP) was selected by RTD to design, build, finance, operate and maintain the East Rail, Gold Line, an initial segment of the Northwest Rail, and a Commuter Rail Main-

tenance Facility. DTP will be the first to utilize the commuter rail technology within the FasTracks program, and will display a mock train for the public at Union Station until June 18th. The web site is [www.denvertransitpartners.com](http://www.denvertransitpartners.com)

The Denver Union Station Project Authority (DUSPA) will be conducting free walking tours of the Denver Union Station redevelopment site this summer. The tours will be held at 4:30 PM on the first and third Thursdays of each month through September. The one-hour tour will depart from the main entrance of the historic station on Wynkoop Street. This walking tour will include information on the history of Union Station from the late 1800s to the present day and you can witness construction of the largest transportation redevelopment

**Due to the UP steam trip, there will not be a monthly meeting in July.**

## Notes From The President



The new RTD West Corridor station along Highway 6 at Red Rocks Community College in Lakewood, Colorado, on May 23, 2011. – Photo © 2011 Dave Schaaf.

project in North America first hand. Participation is limited to 25 people per tour. To reserve your spot, visit: [www.denverunionstation.org](http://www.denverunionstation.org).

We hope to see you on the special steam train from Denver to Cheyenne on July 24. The Rocky Club has participated in many events like this over its 70+ year history. Three groups are involved this year. Most members received by separate mail a flyer and a ticket order form for the July steam trip. All ticketing will be handled by the Cheyenne Depot Museum, and they have member lists to know who qualifies for discounts. You may order via the Depot's web site, [www.chyennedepotmuseum.org](http://www.chyennedepotmuseum.org) or

mail in the form. Their phone number is 307 632-3905, in case you have questions. Let them know that you are a Rocky Club member.

In mid-May, Union Pacific Railroad held a ceremony to open a new \$24 million yard located 20 miles west of Green River, Wyoming. The Blacks Fork Rail Yard took over two years to construct, and includes three tracks with the capacity to hold 150 cars each.

Directly across from the baseball park in Omaha, U.P. will set up steam engine #844 and a newer diesel unit for a public display, and 19-cars from its historic collection will be featured at private events

## Notes From The President



RGS motor #5 parked at the Dolores depot on March 29, 2011. The Colorado Railroad Museum is hoping to have all of the Galloping Geese present at a Goose Fest next year, but there will not be one in 2011. – Photo © 2011 Dave Schaaf.

during the College World Series (CWS). The corporation is calling its space “Union Pacific’s Home Plate” in reference to the railroad history and new era for baseball now intertwined in the area. On Union Pacific property, the showcase spot is a few blocks from the railroad’s original train depot and the starting location for the transcontinental railroad, which broke ground in 1863. Omaha’s new \$131 million TD Ameritrade Park, the new home of the CWS, is built on the site of former Union Pacific shops and rail tracks. U.P.’s display will be open 10 AM to 7 PM from June 17 through June 28 or 29, depending on when the championship series ends. The CWS opens on June 18. Engine #844 has been touring several Midwestern states since late May, and it should be returning to Cheyenne on July 3rd. Omaha/Council Bluffs Railroad Days take place on July

16 & 17 in Nebraska and Iowa.

<http://www.omaharailroaddays.com>

In the high mountains of Colorado, the Leadville, Colorado & Southern RR runs two standard gauge trains a day during most of the summer. They have fall color photo runs in September, and a few other specials too. Their contact info is 1-866-386-3936 or [www.leadville-train.com](http://www.leadville-train.com)

Rio Grande Scenic RR in Alamosa, Colorado, steam trips have only been scheduled once a year in the past to Antonito, but this season will feature ten steam runs on Wednesdays for a connection with the Cumbres & Toltec Railroad; one of the few standard gauge to narrow gauge connections remaining in North America. AM and PM departures are available. There are also runs to Mon-

## Notes From The President

te Vista, dinner trains, club cars, concert trains, the Rails & Ales, and photo specials. Call 877-726-RAIL (7245) for tickets or visit [www.coloradotrain.com](http://www.coloradotrain.com)

For updates on the Cumbres & Toltec, see [www.cumbrestoltec.com](http://www.cumbrestoltec.com)

In Durango, Colorado from August 18 to 21, 2011, the 13th Annual Railfest celebrates railroads and the men & women who work them. This 4-day weekend will feature the Eureka & Palisade #4, RGS Goose #5, special train events, and a World Fast Draw pistol competition. Also coming up, the 22nd Annual Fall Photo Trains on September 24 & 25. Two very special days, each with a different focus, and your last chance to see cars in Pullman green paint schemes. [www.durangotrain.com](http://www.durangotrain.com) or toll free: 888-TRAIN-07

America's Largest Railroad Celebration is coming in July. Train Festival 2011 will be July 21-24 in Rock Island, Illinois. Mainline excursions, railroad vendors, model trains, 7 locomotives under steam, miniature railroad, family activities, Mississippi riverboat excursions and more will be happening at the largest railroad event in the country. For more information and tickets, visit the website at [www.trainfestival2011.com](http://www.trainfestival2011.com)

The Department of Transportation announced that 15 states and Amtrak will be allocated the \$2 billion in high-speed rail money rejected by Florida. Amtrak is creating a "neighborhood watch" program to help keep people safe. Called "Partners for Amtrak Safety and Security," the program seeks to tap the inter-

est of rail fans, who already watch trains religiously, to keep an eye out for community safety. Amtrak will issue membership cards and offer training on what to watch for.

General Electric will start making freight locomotives in Fort Worth, Texas, next year in a project that should create 500 to 700 jobs in the next few years. Based on demand, the plant could build at least 250 units a year. G.E. has built locomotives in Pennsylvania up to now, where about 4500 employees have turned out up to 1000 units per year.

Electro-Motive Diesel is building SD70ACe locomotives at its London, Ontario plant for Ferromex. The Mexican railroad placed a new 44-unit order to help deal with expected rising volumes this year.

Canadian Pacific 4-6-4 steam loco #2816 will be on a public relations tour of western Canada from late June until early August. Proceeds from train ticket sales will benefit a children's charity. In other CP news, the railroad will phase out work at its Ogden shops in Calgary over the next year, with repairs moving to other shops in their system. Opened in 1912, Ogden is CP's last backshop for major overhauls, and the railroad has contracted work there to Alstom for the past decade. Like most railroads, CP will send its locomotives to contract rebuilders when major overhauls are needed.

New Mexico governor Susana Martinez claims that BNSF Railway never closed on the sale of its Raton Pass line, and she says the state no longer wants

## Notes From The President



The westbound California Zephyr with two commemorative Amtrak units leave Denver on May 20, 2011. – Photo © 2011 Dave Schaaf.

it. In 2008, the state had agreed to buy 180+ miles of track from Lamy to the Colorado border for future passenger use. In the meantime, BNSF has moved its freight to other routes, and only two Amtrak trains run each day. The governor wants money back from the railroad, but this will likely be a long story.

Union Pacific and Burlington Northern Santa Fe are spending heavily on freight networks to make way for growth. UP has increased its capital spending program, which includes \$300 million allocated to double-tracking its network in Nebraska. BNSF says that railroad is also investing to meet the need for more capacity in the next 25 years. A three-year, \$90 million project on the BNSF through Grand Island, Nebraska, should help lessen blocked crossings to the east and west of town. BNSF has said it plans to add a second track in this area. The section through Grand Island is unique, which is why it wasn't double tracked sooner. The project will require new bridges over the Platte River, the Wood River and the Union Pacific RR, as well as six bridges over streets.

Railroads are picking up the slack as grain barge unloadings at the Port of New Orleans have dropped sharply amid recent Mississippi River flooding. On the down side, railroad operations have also been affected by high water in several states.

Richard Steinheimer, “the dean of western railroad photographers”, passed away in May at 81. He was known for making great photos all over the country in various weather conditions, especially with the Southern Pacific, in a career that covered more than 50 years.

Eugene L. Huddleston, the author of several books on Chesapeake & Ohio steam locomotives, also passed recently at 80 years old.

Please take an occasional look at the Club's website. Color photos of current events are updated every few days on the news page. If need be, members can contact me at [ds5280@comcast.net](mailto:ds5280@comcast.net) or at 303 988-3456.

## Steam Locomotive Photo Gallery



D&RGW #3602 and #1803 are at Minturn with a 16-car Club excursion. The Denver-Bond-Minturn-Pueblo back to Denver July 23, 1950 excursion will shortly depart on its assault up Tennessee Pass. Delays including mechanical problems stretching the 6 AM Denver departure to a return to Denver about 19-hours later. Approximately 595 passengers had a very long trip.

– Bob Andrews photo, Tom Klinger collection



D&RGW #3619 is passing D&RGW #1803 just south of Minturn with Club members supervising the move. Read about this memorable move during the RMRR's special on July 23, 1950, in the Club publication, *Journeys to Yesteryear*, on page 30. – Bob Andrews photo, Tom Klinger collection.



## Photo Gallery



The Ft. Collins Municipal Railway #21 is parked in front of the Railway's car barn under a dark afternoon sky. The date is unknown.  
– Neal Miller photo, Tom Klinger collection.



On July 4, 1950, Ft. Collins Municipal Railway, Birney #22, is plying the streets of Ft. Collins, Colorado. This car was eventually acquired by the Rocky Mountain Railroad Club and was on display at the Colorado Railroad Museum for many years. – Bob Andrews photo, Tom Klinger collection.

## Current Railroad Events



Vestas Wind Systems' wind turbine components; blades, nacelles and rotors on a northbound UP train, the first one from the Brighton, Colorado, plant on May 13, 2011. The train took the siding at Ault, Colorado. – Photo © 2011 by Chip.



Union Pacific Railroad moved Vestas Wind Systems' first unit train to originate from the Brighton, CO, plant on May 13, 2011. The train was headed to Janesville, Wisconsin, delivering wind turbines to the Glacier Hills Wind Park project in Columbia County, east of Portage, Wisconsin. UP 8567 SD70ACe and 7870 took the Ault Siding, Colorado, for southbound Z-train on the Greeley Subdivision near sunset. – Photo © 2011 by Chip.

## Current Railroad Events



Amtrak 40th Anniversary units 156 (Phase I paint scheme) and 66 (Phase II scheme) on westbound California Zephyr at Utah Junction, north of Denver, on May 20, 2011. Amtrak 156 has a red nose. The Pecos Street overpass construction has prompted Union Pacific to relocate its signal bridge (foreground) at control point DS004 east of the under construction highway overpass. Above Amtrak 156 West is coal load on Utah Junction bypass track two and a coal empty on bypass track one. – Photo © 2011 by Chip



The Army moved 1st Maneuver Enhancement Brigade (1st MEB) by BNSF unit train from Yakima, Washington, to Fort Hood, Texas, via Fort Collins, Colorado, on May 28, 2011. BNSF 645 and 5408 handled the southbound train along the Front Range Subdivision just south of Owl Canyon Siding north of Wellington, Colorado. – Photo ©2011 Chip

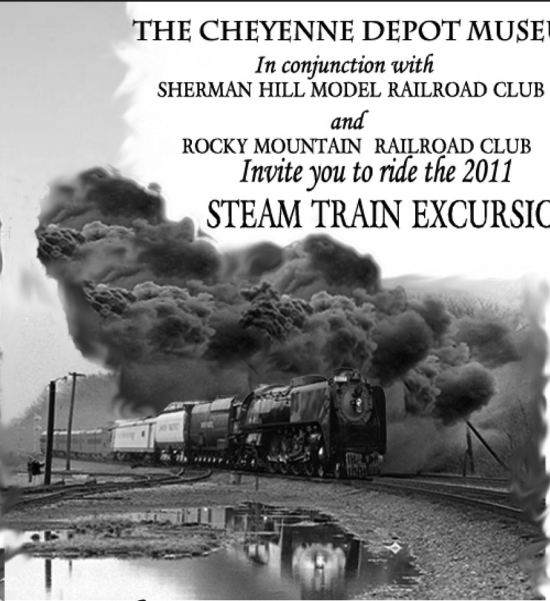
Sunday  
July 24th

## THE CHEYENNE DEPOT MUSEUM

*In conjunction with*  
SHERMAN HILL MODEL RAILROAD CLUB

*and*  
ROCKY MOUNTAIN RAILROAD CLUB

*Invite you to ride the 2011*  
**STEAM TRAIN EXCURSION**



### *Dome Seats*



**SOLD OUT**

~~Non-members \$170~~

~~Members \$140~~

### *Coach Seats*



*Non-members \$110*

*Members \$90*

*Train departs Denver at 1PM  
arriving at the  
Cheyenne Depot approximately  
5:00 PM. A photo run-by  
will be provided to passengers.*



To make reservations please contact the Cheyenne Depot Museum  
at 307-632-3905 or return order form to:

PO Box 2160\*Cheyenne\*WY\*82003

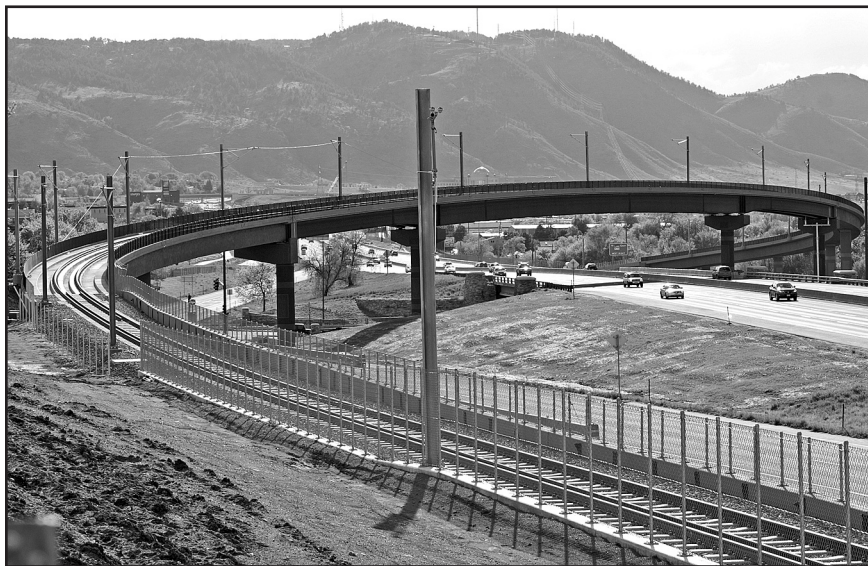
[info@cheyennedepotmuseum.org](mailto:info@cheyennedepotmuseum.org)

[www.cheyennedepotmuseum.org](http://www.cheyennedepotmuseum.org)

One-Way train ride. Bus transportation is available for \$30 from Cheyenne to Denver.

## **Dome Seats are Sold Out – Coach Seats Are Still Available Order Now!**

Club members should have received a flyer and a ticket order form for the July steam trip. All ticketing will be handled by the Cheyenne Depot Museum, and they have member lists to know who qualifies for member discounts. You may order via the Depot's web site, [www.cheyennedepotmuseum.org](http://www.cheyennedepotmuseum.org), or mail in the form. Their phone number is listed above, in case you have questions.



RTD West Corridor flyover of U.S. highway 6 at Indiana Street near Golden on May 23, 2011. – Photo © 2011 Dave Schaaf.

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## **RTD-guided tour of the West Corridor**

Members can sign up for an RTD-guided tour of the West Corridor. These monthly tours are open to the general public and may fill up quickly. There is not an option to register by telephone, only online, but this can be

done by anyone that has an e-mail address. This is so that RTD can keep you informed about times and locations and tour availability. Members, or their internet savvy friends, can sign-up at: [http://www.rtd-fastracks.com/wc\\_106](http://www.rtd-fastracks.com/wc_106)

### **June 17, 2011, West Corridor Tour Information**

Club members who signed up with RTD West Corridor and have a reserved seat for the next tour of RTD light rail construction on Friday, June 17, 2011, please meet the bus at the RTD Cold Spring Park-n-Ride a few minutes before 9:00 AM at GATE K. The bus will

say “special” on the front message board. Cold Spring park-n-Ride is located at 410 Union Boulevard. Take 6th Avenue to the Simms/Union exit and go south, turn east on 4th Avenue, and left into the park-n-Ride. The bus will return to this location at approximately 11:00 AM.

### *In Remembrance* **Robert Sanders**

Robert Sanders, who joined the Club last year, recently passed away. He owned some narrow gauge rolling stock and was building an extensive model railroad.

## Colorado Railroad Museum 2011 Scheduled Special Operation Days

For information call 303-279-4591

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

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German Heritage Festival:  
Cultural Event June 25 & 26

Buffalo Bill Wild West Days:  
Steam-Up Event July 30 & 31

Colorado Wine & Music Train:  
Cultural Event August 20

Day Out With Thomas: Themed Event  
September 10, 11, 17, 18, 24, 25  
**Reserved Admission Tickets Required**

Trick or Treat Train:  
Steam-Up Event October 29 & 30

Santa Claus Special:  
Steam-Up Event December 3, 10, 11 & 17

SCFD Free Days – Saturdays:  
January 8, March 12 & November 12

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### 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!

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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

### 2011 Event Schedule

For information call 303-298-0377

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

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**Dinner Meeting at Lone Star Steakhouse**  
June 17, 2011

June is a follow-up special, as Richard Luckin will present his long-awaited Amtrak program, *Amtrak: The First 40 Years, 1971 to 2011*.

There's a passenger train in the story of almost every American. Trains brought our forefathers to new lives, and they continue to take us on journeys of business, leisure, and love. Amtrak is writing a new chapter today. Whether it's the high-speed Acela Express, the corridor trains, or the long-distance trains, Amtrak is providing transportation alternatives for 21st century Americans. This will be the PREMIER showing of the program in the Rocky mountain area. Come on out, and "All Aboard!"

There will not be a program in August, summer vacation for all. Go out and ride trains!

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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**

Dave Wagner, Dave Goss, Mike Tinetti, Bernie Watts,  
Nathan Holmes, Andy Dell, John Charles.

### **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 August Rail Report should be sent by July 15th.**



BOX 2391  
DENVER, COLORADO 80201

***FIRST CLASS***

