

RAIL REPORT

May 2012 • NO. 623



Rocky Mountain Railroad Club • Rocky Mountain Railroad Historical Foundation

Standard Gauge Steam of Cuba

Presented by John Charles

May 8th, 2012 • 7:30 PM

The May program is a slide show of standard gauge steam in operation during the sugar cane harvest from eight different trips between 1990 and 2001. See mostly American built engines ranging from a 0-4-0 handling a few cars to 2-8-2s with 30 odd loaded cars of sugar cane. We will see engines built as early as 1878 and as late as 1935 all working hard to get the sugar cane to the mill.

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 2012 Calendar

June 12th	Meeting and Program.
July	No July Meeting Or Program At The Church.
August 14th	Meeting and Program.
September 24 & 25	Cumbres & Toltec Narrow Gauge Fall Photo Charter Trip.
September 27 & 28	Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Fall Photo Charter Trip.

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

Standard Gauge Steam of Cuba



No. 1534, a former main line 4-6-0, spent it's last years hauling sugar cane. Here it waits for it's next assignment at Central Juan Avila. – Photo © John Charles.



No 1910 was built by Alco-Brooks in 1923 for the Cuba Railroad. It was one of the largest class of engines in Cuba, and spent most of it's life as heavy main line freight power. No 1910 was the last of its class to see service, and by the 1990s it was hauling sugar cane to the mill at Central Ifrain Alfonso.

– Photo © John Charles.

75th Anniversary Committee

Watch for 75th anniversary updates here.

Notes From The President

By Dave Goss

Last month in my column, I mentioned that Al Knicklebine has donated a number of items to the Club to be used in fund raising for Car 25. Since then, I have discussed the process with Therese Thompson of Lakewood's Heritage, Culture and the Arts Alliance [a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, just like our Foundation]. We believe that others might be interested in supporting an auction (perhaps on-line) with donation of additional items. To ensure each donor receives credit for their tax-deductible donation, we will have the Rocky Mountain Railroad Historic Foundation or the Heritage, Culture and Arts Alliance serve as recipients of any donations for this future auction.

Details are still to be worked out, but if you would like to donate books, memorabilia or funds for Car 25's continued preservation and support, we will offer this as an opportunity later this year. All gifts will be acknowledged by letter. As we finalize any plans for an auction, we will keep you advised. If you aren't sure how to get any donations to the Foundation, you can contact me or any Board member and we will try to arrange pick up of your gifts.

I had the opportunity recently to visit Cape Town, South Africa and spent some time learning about railroads near there. East of Cape Town is an area known for its produce (apples, grapes

and other fresh fruit) in the Overberg Region. From where I stayed, I could see the rail line that connects this region by rail which goes all the way to Bredasdorp the southernmost railway station in Africa.

During the fruiting season (February to May), the line hosts trains daily that climb from sea level at Cape Town over 1,362 foot high Sir Lowry's Pass (the summit of which I could from my bedroom window) to the towns of Elgin and Caledon. The grade is 1 in 40 and in the steam era (which ended in 1975) the line mostly used Garratts (4-8-2+2-8-4) and various classes of 4-8-2's. The steepness of the pass and weight of the fresh fruit usually limited trains to lengths of 25 cars or less.

Today, the line is dieselized but it is still common to see three to five locomotives on a train. I only saw two trains during my stay, but they were triple-headed freights of fifteen cars each, east bound to Cape Town where the fruit is shipped mainly to Europe and Asia. Trucks have taken much freight off this specific rail line, but it is still fun to see some unusual motive power at work in places one might not get to visit very often.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at dave@dcgoss.com or call me at 303-693-9933.



The Colorado Railroad Museum is working to connect many of its display tracks to the roundhouse area to facilitate maintenance on the equipment. This view looks across the picnic area and parking lot toward the turntable on April 6, 2012. – Photo © 2012 Dave Schaaf.

Information For The Rail Enthusiast

By Dave Schaaf

In Cheyenne, Wyoming, Depot Days will happen on May 19th and 20th with a lot to see. Some of the attractions are: open house at the UP steam shop, Harry Brunk's world famous C&S inspired narrow gauge 800 plus square-foot layout in the attic at the depot, Car 57 will be open for viewing and continues to make steady progress, 1913 CA UP caboose 2516 hopes to make an appearance, prior to the start of its major restoration. The Ice and Events center will once again host the Sherman Hill model railroad club's show. The miniature steam train of Wasatch RR Contractors will be running. The depot lobby will be full of models being exhibited, as well as the Lionel O gauge layout from Denver. The Depot art exhibition will be in full

swing too. Free trolley and bus shuttles between all locations once again. All of this for about five bucks per person.

As mentioned in our last issue, this year's Goosefest at the CRRM will have ALL of the Geese in attendance. This complete gathering of RGS motors may never happen again. Considerable costs are being borne by the Museum in order to get these special vehicles together. If you would like to make a donation to the cause, here is how – "To make the donations legally tax deductible they need to be made out to the Colorado Railroad Museum and earmarked for the CRRM's Goosefest event June 16-17, 2012. Send donations to the Colorado Railroad Museum, 17155 W. 44th Ave.,

Information For The Rail Enthusiast



On March 31, 2012, BNSF 9171 brought this coal train to its destination at the Xcel Energy plant in Englewood, Colorado. This is near the end of track on the old line to South Park. This batch of coal had originated at the Black Thunder Mine in northeast Wyoming.— Photo © 2012 Dave Schaaf.

Golden, Colorado 80403. Please give your name and address and a receipt will be mailed for tax purposes.”

Beginning in 1952, the city of Boulder, Colorado had a short narrow-gauge train on display in Central Park. The engine was a Brooks 1898 2-8-0 that began as Colorado & Northwestern #30 and later became #74 for the C&S and finally the RGS. Two cars were placed with the locomotive. Coach #280 was formerly on the Denver & Rio Grande, and a caboose was saved from the Rio Grande Southern. That caboose was blown up by vandals with dynamite in 1958. A replacement caboose was obtained later. Caboose 04990 dates to 1896, and was built as a D&RG boxcar. It was rebuilt into a caboose in Alamosa in 1919, sold to a farmer in 1950 for use as a shed, and then moved to the park in downtown Boulder in 1976. Many

years later it was finally restored by the Boulder County Railway Historical Society, only to be set on fire by hooligans. By the end of 2009 it was restored again, and has been kept in a warehouse until now. The coach was restored and moved to the Colorado RR Museum in 2001. In the past few years, the engine received repairs from Uhrich Locomotive Works and West-Side Locomotive, both in Colorado. In April, the locomotive and tender were re-united with these cars at the CRRM. The City of Boulder has been happy with the treatment the coach has gotten, and has worked out a long-term lease for all of these pieces to stay at the Museum.

In honor of National Train Day, Virginia & Truckee McKeen motorcar #22 will operate at the Nevada State Railroad Museum in Carson City on May 12. This is the only operating McKeen

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BNSF 4380 rolled north with Denver to Tacoma, Washington, (Q DENTAC 22) repositioning intermodal containers to a Pacific Ocean port on October 22, 2008. Mason Street in Fort Collins will be closed one week in July 2012 for major rail and road work. The track will be rebuilt into a center median track similar to Atwood Street in Longmont, Colorado. The northbound only (one way) South Mason Street will become a two way street. – Photo © 2012 by Chip.

car, built in 1910 and run until 1945, restored two years ago.

Galloping Goose #5 will visit the Cumbres & Toltec twice this year, in early July and late in September. Reservations By Phone: 1-888-286-2737

Durango & Silverton NG RR has added a new open-air observation car to its roster. Named the “Knight Sky”, the glass-topped car is similar to the 2006 observation “Silver Vista”. Both cars were built in Durango by Melcher Brothers Machine Works. In a first for the D&S, this 29,000-pound, 30-seat car has roller bearing trucks.

Iowa Interstate will operate public trips with one of its Chinese QJ-class 2-10-2s next month. On June 2, two fundraising steam trips will operate from Mitchellville to Newton, Iowa on the railroad’s ex-Rock Island main line. Later in June, a QJ will pull NRHS excursions as well.

BNSF Railway will be replacing the track on Mason Street in downtown Fort Collins, Colorado between July 23-29 this summer. The annual meeting of the Friends of the Burlington Northern railroad will be held this year in Amarillo, Texas from June 13 to 18th. The Friends of the BN is a Historical Society focused on the Burlington Northern Railroad and the BNSF Railway. web

Information For The Rail Enthusiast



This image was made from the eastbound California Zephyr on March 28, 2012, at Clay siding on the UP Moffat line. A coal train sits at Rocky siding, while the local waits to enter the main line after Amtrak passes by.

– Photo © 2012 Dave Schaaf.

site: www.fobnr.org. CB&Q caboose fans may be interested in a big new book, *The Burlington Waycars*. It has over 1200 photos, 100+ drawings, and 768 pages. See www.TheBurlingtonWaycars.com

With tie replacement work on its normal route through Colorado, Amtrak's California Zephyr will detour over UP's Overland Route between Denver and Salt Lake City, May 16-22 and June 1-7. The detour includes operation over famed Sherman Hill between Cheyenne and Laramie, Wyoming. This line has not seen regular passenger service since Amtrak's "Pioneer" was discontinued in 1997.

September 14-16 are the dates for Rail Fest in North Platte, Nebraska in 2012.

Five hundred or so railroading engineers from the U.S. and 10 other countries gathered at the Pueblo Convention Center in Colorado to learn about "metallurgy, physics, remote sensing and the latest advances in rail technology." The recent event was hosted by the Transportation Technology Center Inc.

Union Pacific says that its Chairman, President and CEO James Young will take a medical leave of absence while being treated for cancer.

Denver & Rio Grande Western Photo Gallery



D&RGW 3808 - 3082 - 3026 & 3 more units are on the westbound freight #187 east of Agate, Utah, on June 26, 1980.

– Jim Ozment photo from the Tom Klinger Collection.



D&RGW 3076 - 5922 - 3105 and 2 more units are on train #181 at Provo, Utah, on October 20, 1974. – Jim Ozment photo from the Tom Klinger Collection.

Denver & Rio Grande Western Photo Gallery



D&RGW 3083 and 9 more units are on an eastbound freight passing a track crew near Thompson, Utah, on November 21, 1978.
– Jim Ozment photo from the Tom Klinger Collection.



D&RGW 5400 and 4 units are on train #134 east of Whitehorse, Utah, on June 26, 1980. – Jim Ozment photo from the Tom Klinger Collection.

Denver & Rio Grande Western 463



DRGW 463 arriving in Antonito from the Friends restoration space in Monte Vista on Saturday, March 31, 2012. The 463 is scheduled to return to service on a pre-season Friends of the Cumbres & Toltec charter on May 15, 2012, about a decade since the engine's last run. – Photo © 2012 by Nathan Holmes.



Fitting the driver boxes / brasses back on the axles of DRGW 463 in Antonito before they could do the lift. – Photo © 2012 by Nathan Holmes.

Current Railroad News And Notes



Engine #30 / #74 at the CRRM on April 24, 2012, with a few pieces still to be installed on the locomotive. – Photo © 2012 Dave Schaaf.

The Platte Valley Trolley Starts Its 23rd Year

The Platte Valley Trolley started its 23rd year on April 14th. The Trolley operates every Friday–Saturday–Sunday, weather permitting; departing every 30 minutes leaving Confluence Park / REI starting at Noon with the last run leaving at 3:30 PM.

The Riverfront Ride is approximately 30 minutes and fares are \$5.00 for Adults (13 and over) and \$2.00 for children (4 through 12). Tickets may be purchased from the Trolley conductor, the Aquarium and the Children’s Museum.

The scenic ride rolling along the west bank of Denver’s South Platte River is from the Confluence Park / REI stop southwest to Old Colfax and return, making stops at the Downtown Aquarium and the Children’s Museum of

Denver. A map of the Trolley stops, is at www.denvertrolley.org. A recorded message with the basic information is available at 303-458-6255.

The Trolley provides fun and informative rides through the South Platte Greenway, so come and ride on Denver’s best kept secret!

The Trolley is operated entirely by volunteers from the Denver Tramway Heritage Society and began service in July, 1989. The Trolley is a replica of an open car using authentic 1925 streetcar components from Melbourne, Australia.

The Trolley is available for charter and volunteers wishing to learn how to operate our trolley are most welcome.

Current Railroad News And Notes



WSL Shay #9 is coming back together at Silver Plume, Colorado, here on April 24, 2012. The plan is to have it running this summer. – Photo © 2012 Dave Schaaf.

National Historic Landmark Nominations – Locomotive #3415

Thanks to *Kansas Preservation*, a Kansas Historical Society Publication

Abilene Steam Locomotive #3415 is the first in Kansas to be Nominated to the National Register. Currently, there are more than 65 locomotives listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

ATSF #3415 is a Class 3400, Pacific type 4-6-2 passenger engine built by Baldwin Locomotive Works in 1919. This engine originally burned coal, but was converted to oil in the 1930s. It was operated by the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railway for 34 years, then donated to the City of Abilene, Kansas, in 1955.

The locomotive is now situated on an abandoned segment of the Rock Island Railroad track that is used by the Abilene–Smoky Valley Railroad, an organization that operates a railroad museum and excursion train. It is one of only three 4-6-2, 3400 class Pacific-type steam locomotives remaining in Kansas, and the only one that is operational. It is nominated for its significance in the areas of engineering and transportation.

The recently restored engine will operate for the fourth season on a limited schedule in Abilene, Kansas. Phone: 785-263-1077 or 888-426-6687.

DENVER ← CO
TO
 CHEYENNE ← WY
 ONE WAY TRAIN
 RIDE

2012 STEAM TRAIN EXCURSION

Book online at cheyennedepotmuseum.org

TRAIN
 DEPARTS DENVER
 AT 1PM. ARRIVING
 AT THE
 CHEYENNE DEPOT
 APPROXIMATELY 5PM.

A PHOTO RUN-BY
 WILL BE PROVIDED
 TO PASSENGERS.

BOARDING LOCATION
 TO BE ANNOUNCED
 DUE TO GRAND
 CENTRAL STATION
 CONSTRUCTION.

SUNDAY JULY 22ND



July 22nd 2012 Steam Train Excursion Order Form

Name _____ Email _____
 Address _____
 City _____ ST _____ ZIP _____
 Phone # _____ Are you a member of any of the following organizations? (please circle one)
 Rocky Mountain Railroad Club Cheyenne Depot Museum Sherman Hill Model Railroad Club

Credit Card # _____ EXP date _____ Check enclosed _____

With Bus ride purchase please select one of the following:

AM Bus purchase: Cheyenne to Denver trip; PM Bus purchase: Denver to Cheyenne trip

	Quantity	Amount	Subtotal
Member, Dome		\$140	
Non-member Dome		\$170	
Member, Coach		\$90	
Non-member Coach		\$110	
Bus Fare AM PM		\$30	
Museum Membership purchase			
		Total	

Cheyenne Depot Museum
 Membership Levels

- Fireman — \$35
- Flagman — \$50
- Conductor—\$100
- Engineer —\$250



To Make reservations, please contact the Cheyenne Depot Museum at:
 Phone: 307-632-3905 or return order form to P.O. Box 2160 Cheyenne, WY 82003
 or book online at cheyennedepotmuseum.org
 Questions can be directed to info@cheyennedepotmuseum.org



Colorado Railroad Museum 2012 Scheduled

Special Operation Days

For information call 303-279-4591

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

Dinosaur Train	May 19
Goosefest	June 16, 17
Colorado Wine & Music Train (Fundraising Event)	July 21
Day Out With Thomas	September 8, 9, 15, 16, 22, 23
Trick or Treat Train	October 27, 28
Santa Claus Special	December 8, 15, 16, 22

Ride The Rails Saturday

July 21
August 18,
October 20, November 17

Galloping Goose Rides

May 5, 12, 26,
June 2, 9, 23, 30,
July 7, 14, 28,
August 4, 11, 25,
September 1, 29
October 6, 13
November 3, 10, 24
December 1, 29

2012 SCFD Free Museum Admission Days

Saturday, May 5

(Rides on the Galloping Goose must be purchased separately on SCFD free days)

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.

Colorado Railroad Museum Goosefest News

A limited number of Goosefest VIP all access passes may be available for an extra fee. Check with the Colorado Railroad Museum for details.

Intermountain Chapter, NRHS

2012 Event Schedule

For information call 303-298-0377

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

Dinner Meeting At Lone Star Steakhouse

May 18, 2012

The program is *Rio Grande Ski Train*, presented by local railroad historian and photographer, G. Steve Patterson. At the request of the Aurora Historical Society, Steve prepared a digital slide show about the history of Denver's Ski Train, from its beginning to its conclusion. The program was designed from an historical perspective, and the 135 images introduce you to three men most responsible for the train's existence.

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. **Change in following times:** dinner will be from **5:30 to 7:00 PM**. The evening's **program begins at 7:30 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.

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Club Information

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Club and Foundation Officers

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

Club and Foundation Directors

John Charles, Nathan Holmes, Andy Dell, Dan Edwards,
Mike Tinetti, Nathan Zachman, Dave Schaaf, Randy Worwag.

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 June – July 2012 Rail Report should be sent by May 18th.



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