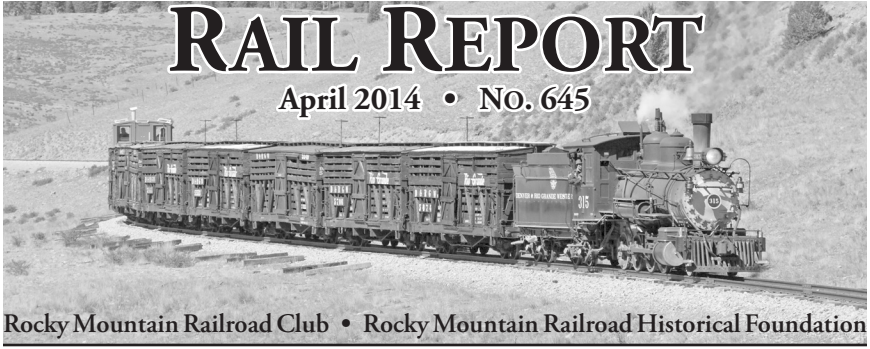


RAIL REPORT

April 2014 • NO. 645



Rocky Mountain Railroad Club • Rocky Mountain Railroad Historical Foundation

Chasing Chinese Steam

Presented by Doug and Barbara Geiger

April 8th, 2014 • 7:30 PM

In May of 2006, Barbara and Doug, together with 18 other enthusiasts traveled to northeast China to see and record some of China's last working steam engines in normal service. Although too late to witness mainline steam, the group visited many coal branch railroads. Through video and still photography, Doug and Barbara will show you several varieties of standard gauge 2-8-2s and narrow gauge 0-8-0s performing their everyday tasks of hauling passengers and freight. They will also share with you some of their experiences in this part of China where few foreigners venture.

Please 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 2014 Calendar

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| May 13th | Meeting and Program, "Colorado Midland" by Mel McFarland. |
| June 10th | Meeting and Program, "Slide and Video Potpourri." |
| July | There is no meeting this month. |
| August 12th | Meeting and Program, |

Due to circumstances beyond our control, programs and dates are subject to change without notice.
Please contact Dave Schaaf with program ideas at ds5280@comcast.net or 303 988-3456.

Chinese Steam Operations



Frequent passenger trains in Hegang carry workers to and from the local coal mines. – Photo © 2006 Barbara Geiger.



A rare double-header combination of two JS class locomotives pull a coal train just outside Yuanbaoshan. – Photo © 2006 Barbara Geiger.



New power – SLRG 9925, the Rio Grande Scenic’s latest passenger locomotive, sits in the Alamosa yard in late February. 9925 was built as CB&Q E9A 9995, and was later rebuilt by Morrison-Knudsen as Metra E9AM 9925.

– Photo © 2014 Nathan Holmes

Notes From The President

By Nathan Holmes

I’d like to invite everyone to participate in a long-standing Rocky Club tradition at the June regular meeting – the “Slide Potpourri,” where our members get to show off a small bit of their own railroad photography or collections. We haven’t done one of these in a few years, and they’re generally a huge amount of fun because of all the old and unusual subjects our members dig out of their collections.

Any Club member is welcome to show and narrate 10-15 still images or 5 minutes of video. We want to keep things short so that we can fit in as many different presenters as possible. In addition to traditional 35mm slides, digital images and video are certainly

welcome. However, in order to prevent all sorts of digital confusion the night of the show, I’d ask that anyone with digital images re-size them (a maximum of 1920 pixels wide or 1080 pixels high is recommended) and either give them to me on a USB drive or email them to rmrrc-slideshow@drgw.net by June 8th. That gives me time to assemble them into individual shows that we know will run smoothly on meeting night. As for video, most digital formats (including burned to DVD) should work – just bring them on USB. If you want to show traditional film movies or some non-standard size slide, please contact us so we can make arrangements to have a projector ready.

Notes From The President

Outside of the general meetings and programs, it's now getting to be trip season, and as I mentioned the board is working on a number of small, affordable trips this year. One of last year's hits was our trip on the Creede Branch, done in cooperation with the Rocky Mountain Division of NARCOA (North American Rail Car Operators' Association) and the Denver & Rio Grande Historical Foundation that owns the line. It looks like we will be able to do it again this year.

Unlike 2013's spring Creede Branch trip, this year the plan is to do a similar trip in the fall, around the time the trees should be in full color along the line. We're trying to align with the motorcar operators for the weekend of September 26-28, with the idea that most of our members would probably be there on Saturday. The event will work much like last year, leaving in the morning and running from South Fork to near Creede and back. In the off time, you'll be able to view the cars, talk to their owners, and see them show off their cars. Members will be able to ride along with any motorcar operator that's willing to take on a passenger (which is usually most of them – the NARCOA operators that I know are friendly folk, always interested in sharing their hobby with others who love railroading). Assuming a similar turnout of both motorcar operators and Rocky Club members as last time, we'll also need one of the line's rail vehicles to transport the rest of us. At the various stops, we'll trade off so that everybody has a chance to ride where they'd like. The price will likely be very similar to last year – probably \$30-35 – just to cover costs.

The other trip that's really gaining traction is a day trip out to Strasburg, Colorado, on a Saturday in early August. Cliff Smith of the Comanche Crossing Museum was our speaker at the February general meeting, and we've decided to take him up on his invitation for the club to visit the museum this summer. We'll visit the Comanche Crossing Museum, the Comanche Crossing & Eastern 15-inch live steam railroad, and the Uhrich Locomotive Works as well. Exact details are still being worked out – stay tuned for the exact date and cost.

In order to plan for how many people we'll need to accommodate, we need to start a list of how many want to go. If anyone interested in going could contact me (email ndholmes@drwgw.net or call 719-235-1286) and let me know which trip, how many people are interested, and contact information for when tickets officially go on sale, I'll start keeping a list. Being able to gauge interest will really help the board in planning. Don't delay – if we get too many interested people, those who express interest early will get first dibs on tickets, and if we get very little interest trips may be scratched from the calendar.

Other trip possibilities are still being worked, so don't despair of neither of these strikes your fancy.

As a parting thought for this month, we now have a final count on 2014 renewals. The club had a net loss of approximately thirty members between 2013 and 2014. So, remember that challenge I issued to all of you back in January – the one about encouraging oth-

Notes From The President



The massive Union Station train hall canopy is fully installed, shown here on March 12, 2014. RTD's commuter rail lines, including the line to Denver International Airport, are scheduled to start operations in 2016. On Friday, May 9, the public can join the grand opening celebration from 11 AM to 6 PM along 17th between the light rail station and the historic building with a planned ribbon cutting and opening ceremony to be held at Noon at 17th & Wewatta, in front of the new Wewatta Pavilion. – Photo © 2014 by Dave Schaaf.

ers to come to club meetings and/or to join the club? How are you all doing on that? I believe it's a reversible trend, and to that end I'm going to keep reminding every one of you about it. If you're looking for a reason to invite folks, Slide Potpourri Night in June would be an excellent opportunity to draw in new members. Remember, everyone is welcome at our meetings, member or not,

but without members there won't be any more meetings

I'm always available to answer questions, talk about ideas, or address concerns from club members. You can reach me through my personal email at me@endholmes.com, or by phone at 719-235-1286. Please don't hesitate to reach out to me.

2014 Membership Cards

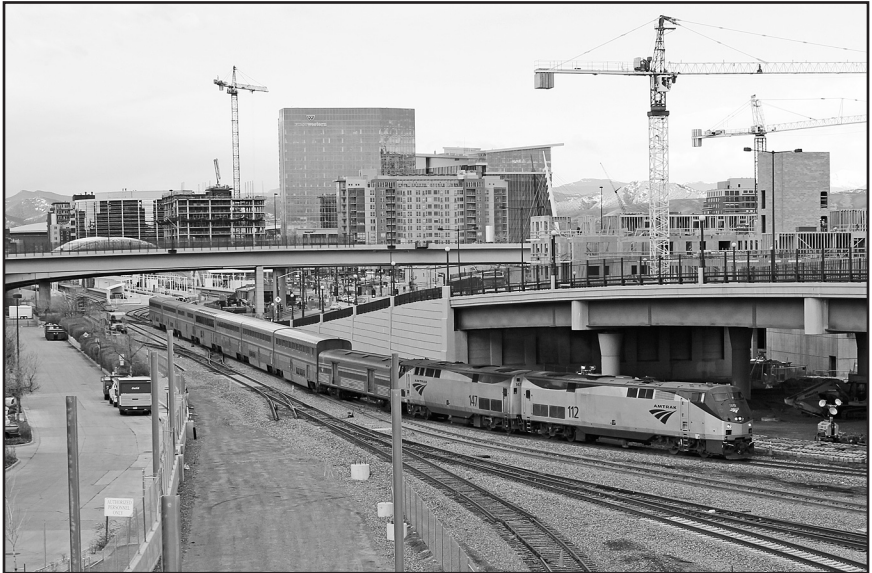
Membership cards were mailed in late March. If you have not received your 2014 card by mid-April, contact us by sending an email to rails@rockymtnrclub.org

or by mail at Rocky Mountain Railroad Club, PO Box 2391, Denver, CO 80201-2391 to request another membership card.

Amtrak Returns To Denver Union Station

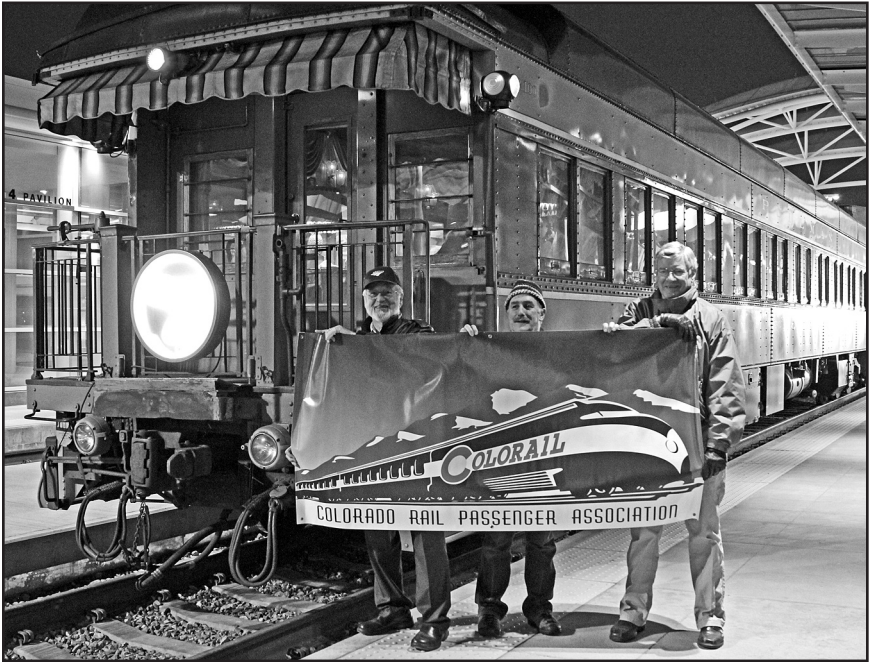


Opening weekend signs welcomed Amtrak back to Union Station.
– Photo © 2014 Dave Schaaf.



The curved temporary Amtrak platform near the “Amshack” office was demolished just days after the passenger trains returned to Union Station and was gone by March 11, 2014. The new RTD Airport Line tracks will be in the graded area at left.
– Photo © 2014 Dave Schaaf.

Amtrak Returns To Denver Union Station



The first train into Denver Union Station since the tracks were re-configured was the eastbound California Zephyr on February 28, 2014. Members of C.R.P.A. welcomed the passenger train. The man in the middle was escorting private car Virginia City to Chicago for a charter trip. – Photo © 2014 Dave Schaaf.



The second train into Denver Union Station in 2014 was the westbound California Zephyr on a cold Saturday March 1st morning. – Photo © 2014 Dave Schaaf.

Current Railroad Happenings



Denver RTD's East Rail Line after snowfall on February 26, 2014 between Peoria and Havana Streets near Union Pacific's Roydale (at right), looking west toward Denver. Welded rail had been laid for the two track line. – Photo © 2014 by Chip.



BNSF 5033 on baretable (empty truck trailer) Denver to Chicago train B DENCH11 10a, passed the former Chicago, Burlington & Quincy RR Akron, Colorado, depot. The station remains were it was built but is owned by Akron. General Railway Signals (note one displayed right of depot) are being replaced along BNSF's Akron Subdivision in 2014 account newer signals required with pending Positive Train Control implementation. – Photo © 2014 by Chip.

Mountain Post Railroad



Army 8-wheel Strykers on DODX 40168 at Hogans Alley Siding in Denver on February 6, 2014. 88 Strykers were on the first BNSF train from Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington. 364 vehicles were being shipped into Fort Carson to create a Stryker Brigade Combat Team. ©2014 Chip.

Bunny Express Train – Colorado Railroad Museum

Saturday, April 19th • 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

The Colorado Railroad Museum will host its annual event and Easter tradition, the Bunny Express Train – transporting people into spring with train rides and candy.

It will be full day of Easter fun

exploring the 15-acre rail yard and visiting the Easter Bunny.

For information call the Museum at 303-279-4591 or 800-365-6263 or visit online at:

ColoradoRailroadMuseum.org.



9th Annual Cheyenne Depot Days

May 17th & 18th, 2014

Saturday 9 AM to 5 PM & Sunday 9 AM to 4 PM

Admission is \$10 and good for all activities all weekend

- Union Pacific Steam Shop Open House
- Sherman Hill Show At Frontier Park
- Live Miniature Steam
- Amtrak Exhibit Train
- Rolling Stock Display
- Rail Art Show & Sale
- Mini Trains & Exhibits
- Union Pacific Diesel Simulator
- Model Displays, Hobbyists & Vendors

Special Guests: Harry Brunk & Anna Lee Ames

121 West 15th Street in Cheyenne, Wyoming

For Information call 307-632-3905 or see www.cheyennedepotmuseum.org

Mountain Post Railroad



The Mountain Post maintains four Army owned locomotives in a two track engine house / office, Building 238, at the Fort Carson' Railhead. Two National Railway Equipment GenSet's, Army 6506 and 6512 were waiting their next call to work on February 18, 2014. – Photo © 2014 by Chip.



Army 4611, the oldest EMD unit on the post, is in the engine house on February 18, 2014. The inspection pit is in the foreground. – Photo © 2014 by Chip.

Mountain Post Railroad



Army 4653, a GP40M-2 (rebuilt / upgraded 2004), running from Union Pacific's Kelker connection to the Fort Carson Railhead crossed Fountain Creek with inbound 8-wheeled Stryker vehicles on February 18, 2014.

– Photo © 2014 by Chip.



The Mountain Post is home to two National Railway Equipment GenSet's model 3GS21B; Army 6506 and 6512 (at left) outside the engine house with 4653 on February 18, 2014. – Photo © 2014 by Chip.

“Ride Denver’s Rails” – A Presentation by Kevin Pharris

At The Forney Museum of Transportation

4303 Brighton Boulevard in Denver

Saturday April 19th, 2014 at 1 PM

Author and local history tour expert Kevin Pharris will speak about his recent book, *Riding Denver’s Rails: A Mile High Streetcar History*, which outlines both the past and present of Denver transit developments. Enjoy a discussion of the varied stops the transit system made as it grew along with the city, from the early horse cars of the Denver Horse Railroad Company and the steam-powered Colfax Avenue Railway to the running

cable cars of the Denver Tramway and the electric trolleys of the South Denver Cable Railway Company.

There is a special \$2 discount for RMRRC members off the charge of \$12 for non-members or \$20 for a dual ticket valid for two people. Please bring your Club membership card for the discount. All prices include a visit to the museum!

Long before the founding of the Rocky Mountain Railroad Club in 1938, there was another railroad club in Denver: The Rocky Mountain Railway Club, established in 1900.

This is the third of several articles about the club provided by Dan Edwards.

Brown’s System of Discipline

— *Denver Post, October 17, 1900* —


The next regular meeting of the Rocky Mountain Railway club, which will be held in Denver, October 20, will be highly interesting to railway men. Two officials will address the meeting.

Charles Dyer, general superintendent of the Colorado & Southern, will read a paper on “Brown’s System of Discipline.” G.W. Rhodes, assistant general superintendent of the Burlington & Missouri, will open a discussion on “Causes of Railway Train Delays.” Mr. Rhodes is the mechanical expert of the C.B.&Q. and was formerly superintendent of machinery in the big shops at Aurora, Ill. He comes from Lincoln, Neb.

The meeting will be called to order at 7:30 p.m. at the American house, Sixteenth and Blake streets, by President J.H. Manning, master mechanic of the Union Pacific at Cheyenne. Secretary S.N. Mitchell of the Denver & Rio Grande issued the call [for the meeting] today. Many new members will be admitted, and the organization is rapidly increasing its membership. Nearly 150 names are now on its rolls.

“Brown System of Discipline” is that of keeping a record of every employee’s conduct and deciding his promotion by the marks on his record. It is attracting much attention in the East among advocates of impartiality.


Club Archive Arrivals



**ROCKY MOUNTAIN
RAILROAD CLUB**

Historic
**HOTEL
COLORADO**

A Full-service Hotel "Since 1893"



Rio Grande Zephyr

We are glad that you will be joining us on April 23rd and 24th for this year's excursion to Glenwood Springs on the Rio Grande Zephyr. We are all looking forward to a memorable trip!

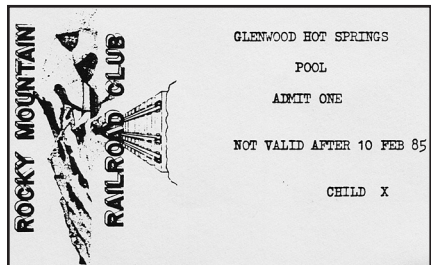
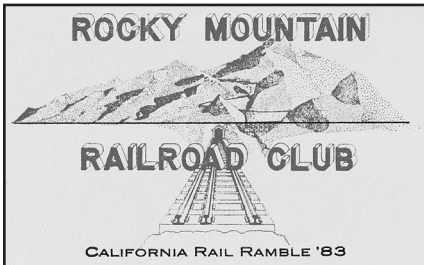
In anticipation of some questions that you may have concerning the details of our trip, we hope that the following information will be of help.

SATURDAY, APRIL 24, 1985

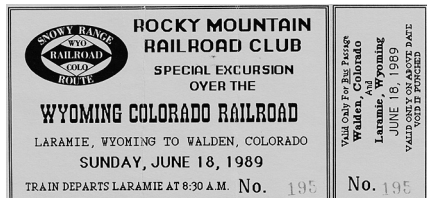
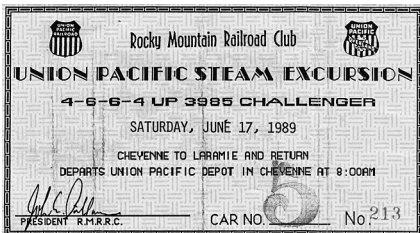
Parking at Denver's Union Station (17th & Wynkoop Streets) - The fee at the depot's parking lot is \$2.00 per day. When you leave your car, note the number of your parking space and put your money in the slot in the red deposit box that corresponds with your parking space number. You will have to deposit a total of \$4.00 for the two days we will be on the trip. One dollar bills may be used, but insert them separately. Do not fold them together.

Boarding the Train - After parking, please proceed to que for boarding in the depot. There will not be any tickets issued to members of our group for this trip. The enclosed badge(s) will serve as your ticket. If necessary, replacement badges will be available.

Departure time for the Rio Grande Zephyr is scheduled for 7:30 a.m. The first call for boarding will be about 7:00 a.m.



Dick Lawrence sent examples of Club activities including this set of items from the Club's Rio Grande Zephyr excursion to Glenwood Springs in 1983.



Jimmy Blouch sent tickets from Club excursions including these two missing from the archives for Club trips in 1989.

Colorado Railroad Museum 2014 Scheduled Special Operation Days

For information call 303-279-4591

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

Bunny Express Train Saturday, April 19
Wild West Day Saturday, June 21
Dinosaur Express Train Saturday, July 19

Day Out With Thomas
Saturdays & Sundays
September 13, 14, 20, 21, 27 & 28

Trick or Treat Train
Saturday & Sunday, October 25 & 26

Santa Claus Special
December 14, 15 & 21

Colorado Rails and Cocktails - An Evening of Colorado History

The Lonely Pyramid Hill on Sherman Hill,
April 11

Railroad Stories: Kate Shelley, June 20

Denver's Street Car Suburbs, August 29

Firing on the Grande, October 10

The American Hobo, December 12

Advanced Tickets Required,
21 and older only.

Ride The Rails Saturday

Train rides every Saturday. Catch a ride behind one of the Museum's steam or diesel locomotives in passenger cars from different eras in Colorado railroad history or on the uniquely Colorado Galloping Goose. Rides operate 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

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

2014 Event Schedule

For information call 303-883-2435

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

Friday, April 18, 2014

Dinner Meeting and Program at IHOP

Dinner 6:00 PM, Program 7:00 PM.

Colorado Railroad Museum Update

Donald Tallman, Executive Director of the Colorado Railroad Museum will provide an overview of current operations and a look into the future. Donald has been the museum's Executive Director for the last 5 years and has increased the visitations from a little over 60,000 to nearly 100,000 last year through his outreach programs and outstanding team.

Dinner Meeting Notes:

The dinner meetings are at the IHOP at 5280 Wadsworth Bypass in Arvada. Go to 53rd and turn east, you will be there. Lots of parking and well lit. We have the back meeting room from 5:30 to 8:30 PM. The food is good and priced right. The menu is varied from breakfast, lunch, and dinner items available all day. IHOP management has been informed to expect 20-25+ people, so please plan to attend the program and support the Chapter. When you arrive tell the IHOP personnel you're with the railroad club.

No minimum dollar amount of food to purchase is required to attend, but please order something. The gratuity will NOT be pre-added to your dinner check. You'll calculate your own. Dinner orders begin at 5:30 and the program begins at 7:00 PM. So, please arrive accordingly to be served in time to enjoy both your meal and the program.

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Club Information

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

Club and Foundation Officers

President	Nathan Holmes
Vice President	Dave Schaaf
Secretary	Roger Sherman
Treasurer	Keith Jensen

Club and Foundation Directors

John Charles, Andy Dell, Don Hulse, Dennis Leonard,
Pat Mauro, Charles Moffat, Mike Tinetti, Nathan Zachman.

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

E-mail: selectimag@aol.com

Items for the May 2014 Rail Report should be sent by April 18th.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN



RAILROAD CLUB

BOX 2391

DENVER, COLORADO 80201

