

RAIL REPORT

January 2014 • NO. 642

Rocky Mountain Railroad Club • Rocky Mountain Railroad Historical Foundation

From Durango to Darjeeling: Steam from Colorado to the East Coast to India

Presented by Dan Edwards
January 14th, 2013 • 7:30 PM

Dan's program includes trips behind steam power in Colorado, the Midwest, and on the East Coast in the 1970s and 1980s. Some of those standard gauge engines have long since been retired from service.

There are photos taken on several trips Dan made over India's famous Darjeeling Himalayan Railway, a 2-foot gauge built by the British in 1881 and now a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The railway gains 7,000 feet in elevation over a distance of 51 miles, taking a leisurely ten hours to complete the journey. A strike by contract workers, who had not been paid for months, and landslides caused by monsoon rains in India idled steam power on the line during Dan's visit in 2012. The program also features photos of Nepal's only railroad, an obscure 20-mile, 2-foot, 6-inch gauge line constructed in 1934.

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

February 11th	Meeting and Program by Cliff Smith of the Comanche Crossing Historical Society.
March 11th	Meeting and Program
April 8th	Meeting and Program
May 13th	Meeting and Program, "Colorado Midland" by Mel McFarland.

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.

Darjeeling And Nepal



Darjeeling Himalayan Railway's 780 at Ghoom, India, on March 8, 1995.
– Photo © Dan Edwards.



Janakpur Railway's "Rama" at Janakpurdham, Nepal, on March 8, 1995.
– Photo © Dan Edwards.



Officers and Directors back row from left: Mike Tinetti (Director), Roger Sherman (Secretary), Nathan Zachman (Director), Nathan Holmes (Incoming President) Pat Mauro (Outgoing Vice President, Incoming Director), Dave Goss (Outgoing President), Dennis Leonard (Incoming Director), and Charles Moffat (Incoming Director). Front row from left: Dan Edwards (Outgoing Director), Don Hulse (Director), Dave Schaaf (Incoming Vice President), Keith Jensen (Treasurer) and Andy Dell (Director). Director John Charles was not available for the photo.
– Photo © 2013 Bruce Nall.

Notes From The President

By Nathan Holmes

As we say goodbye to 2013, I'd like to express my gratitude to our outgoing president, Dave Goss, and our sole departing board member, Dan Edwards. Thank you both for your service to the club. I'd also like to recognize everyone who served as a director, officer, on one of the anniversary committees last year, for without your tireless efforts, we wouldn't have had such a fantastic celebratory year. I'm humbled now, as in the past, that the club has asked me to follow such class acts.

Now that the 75th celebrations are behind us, it's time to look forward to the

next 25 years and start thinking about how the Rocky Club will maintain and build on our tradition. Organizations like ours are struggling to attract the next generation of railroad enthusiasts. Increasing costs and liability concerns are making it more difficult to run the unique and affordable trips we have in the past. Changing demands for members' free time and finances have reduced our ability to directly engage in preservation and education, such as the we did in restoring D&IM car 25. The next quarter century is being ushered in with some daunting headwinds.

Notes From The President



On Friday, December 20, past presidents Dave Goss (right) and Dave Schaaf (left) met with Michelle Nierling and Jeff Murray of the City of Lakewood. They delivered several boxes of items that have been donated to our Foundation to be used for fund-raising for the future of D&IM car #25. – Photo by City of Lakewood staff.

I'm going to use my first column as a rallying cry. These coming challenges are different, but not worse than our club members have faced and overcome in the past. Our members have written some of the definitive references on Colorado railroad history. Our members have saved and rebuilt priceless historic equipment. Our members have organized fan trips that have been attended by enthusiasts from around the world and remembered for decades. Most of all, our members have become a club of friends, young and old, bound together

by a common interest. The fact that the club is still active 75 years after it was founded is a testament to our members' commitment to it.

In that spirit, I offer up a challenge to each of you. Over the coming year, I would challenge each member to find one thing that they can contribute to build up the Club. That might be as simple as inviting a friend to a meeting to show them what we're all about and why they should be a part of it. It could be writing an article for the newsletter,

Notes From The President



The Rocky Mountain Railroad Society Swissair departure from Chicago in September 1970 on a trip that included six special steam trips. The trip was not an officially sanctioned Club trip, but most of those in the photo were members or spouses of members, with the exception of Hyppa, Rommel and Kingsford. From left: Dorothy Max, Charlie Max, Mac Poor, Clela Poor, Ed Haley, Bill Gordon, Wan Haley, Lillian Stewart, Art Hyppa (Lakewood Travel), Dee Smith, Don Smith, Betty LeMassena, Elsie Ryland, Charlie Ryland, G. W. Friedrich, Dick Kindig, Roger Kingsford and Keith Rommel (Swissair Denver Representative).

– Photo by Bob LeMassena from the Ed Haley estate.

or submitting photos or news articles for the website. It could be undertaking something larger, like organizing a trip or a volunteer work session on a preservation project. There are hundreds of ways, large and small, that people can contribute, and I believe that everyone has something to give. Those of us who serve you on the board or as officers are here to help and facilitate, and we want

to hear what you are willing to contribute to our club's future.

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.

In Remembrance

Ed Gerlits

Ed Gerlits, 79, a Denver native, passed away on December 17th at Pomona, California, after developing double pneumonia. He was in California assisting the Union Pacific steam crew working on moving engine 4014 by handling crowd control situations.

Ed was a 62 year member who joined the Club in 1951 and held seniority number was 7. He served as President of the Club in 1979 and 1980 and handled numerous trips for the Club serving as Trip Chairman for many years.

He was a co-author of the video, Last Steamers of the Colorado and Southern and left a legacy over the years. After college at CSU, he served two years in the U.S. Army, and when that tour was over he worked as a Fireman during a couple of summer seasons for the Rio Grande at Durango. Looking back, Ed took on many tasks involving Colorado tourist lines. He worked with the Colorado State Historical Society developing the Georgetown Loop operation. He did most of the track work rebuilding the Cripple Creek & Victor line. For twenty years he and his friends were involved with the two-foot gauge train at Heritage Square, near Golden, Colorado.

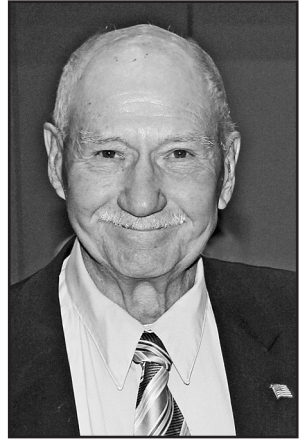
Ed was responsible for the preservation of several pieces of rolling stock for the Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad, ex-Rio Grande caboose 0500 (from the Alamosa narrow gauge museum), and ex-Rio Grande Southern locomotive number 42. Ed also negotiated the locomotive swap allowing the D&S to acquire engine 486 (from the Royal Gorge), by trading it for former Rio Grande engine 499.

His life-long interest was always steam power, and he sought projects involving steam traction engines, and railroads. Ed had experience rebuilding steam equipment, and he maintained a fantastic library. He was often consulted for advice and details relative to this type equipment.

He traveled in the United States, Mexico, Central and South America, and Wales where he enjoyed visiting steam powered railroads.

He will be missed, but we know that working around the Big Boy, as he did during his last days, was no doubt the ultimate goal for him.

The memories are from Jim Ehernberger who first met Ed on the Club's UP 3967 excursion in 1953 – 60 years ago. The photo is from the 2012 Club banquet © 2012 Dave Schaaf.



Ed Gerlits And The Narrow Gauge



Ed Gerlits (left) and Dave Gross during the first days of the Cripple Creek & Victor RR operation in Cripple Creek, Colorado, in June 1988.
– Photo © 1988 Dan Peterson.



Ed Gerlits (right) on a two-foot gauge High Country Railroad coach at Heritage Square, near Golden, Colorado, on October 14, 1973. Dan Peterson (at left on the coach platform) was one of the HCR partners. – Photo © 1973 Dan Peterson.

Current Railroad Happenings – Union Pacific Dale Junction



A three-way meet on October 13, 2013, at Dale Junction, Wyoming, where three U.P. main lines converge into two near the Hermosa tunnels.

– Photo © 2013 Dave Schaaf.



Looking east on October 13, 2013, from the Dale Junction location of the photo above, toward the spot where track #3 diverges to the right.

– Photo © 2013 Dave Schaaf.

Current Railroad Happenings – Union Pacific Dale Junction



A westbound freight on October 13, 2013, with three older units on the head end that were ready for auction, having the road name already blacked out.
– Photo © 2013 Dave Schaaf.



U.P. 7372 climbs eastbound with a container train, just about to enter the Hermosa tunnel on October 13, 2013. – Photo © 2013 Dave Schaaf.

Note: The Dale Junction photo locations are west of the famed Sherman Hill. The photo group was allowed on private land with the express permission of the ranch owners.

Current Railroad Happenings – Uintah Railway Business Car



The Colorado Railroad Museum has been restoring Uintah Railway business car B-8 shown here on November 14, 2013. This narrow gauge car was built for the D&RG in the 1870s and was later sold to the Uintah in the late 1920s. A combine car from the Uintah is also being refurbished now at the museum.

– Two photos © 2013 Dave Schaaf.

Merry Christmas From The Great Western Railway



The Great Western Santa train left County road 15 on the former Burlington Northern line to Fort Collins, Colorado, and ran east into Windsor, Colorado, on December 7, 2013. – Photo © 2013 Bryan Bechtold



The train traveled to the Windsor Heritage museum where an estimated several hundred people waited to greet Santa and Mrs. Claus in sub-zero temperatures on December 7, 2013. – Photo © 2013 Bryan Bechtold

Current Railroad Happenings



Kyle 3098 West departed Genoa, Colorado, and made a daylight run to Limon, Colorado, to interchange with Union Pacific Railroad on December 23, 2013. 3098 is the first and only Kyle locomotive to receive the Genesee & Wyoming orange paint since G&W purchased RailAmerica in 2012. – Photo © 2013 by Chip.

In Remembrance
Stanwood C. Griffith

Stanwood C. Griffith, 87, passed away on November 2, 2013 at Ashton, Illinois. He was a 63 year member who joined in 1950 and held seniority number 4. He played bassoon in the University of Illinois Concert Band and in the Rockford Symphony

In Remembrance
Chip Irwin

Chip Irwin passed away in November 2013. He was a 29 year member and held seniority number 191. Chip donated his very fine collection of Railroad Memorabilia and related items to the Club and Foundation.

**75th Anniversary Commemorative Items Are Still Available
For Sale To Members At Club Meetings And On The Club Website:**

- Anniversary DVD: *Journey to Yesteryears – 1938-2013* (\$15.00)
- Baseball caps with embroidered logo, choice of khaki or black (\$18.00).
 - 16 ounce glass mug with logo (\$10.00)
- 75th Anniversary logo patch (\$4.00) • Enameled logo lapel pin (\$5.00)

Books and Prints for Sale

Club member Ed Haley is selling a number of books, memorabilia and railroad prints in his collection. Several were his father's and include titles such as *Denver South Park and Pacific* (both Memorial edition and Pictorial Supplement) by Poor; *Colorado Midland* by Cafky and *Rails Around Gold Hill* by Cafky. Other items include a 1907 Argentine Cen-

tral Railway Pass and a several Howard Fogg prints including, "The Rio Grande Challenger."

If interested please contact Ed for a complete listing: Edward R. Haley, 15099 East Bellewood Drive, Aurora, Colorado 80015, Phone 303-699-1765, email erhaley@concast.net.

Election Results For Officers And Directors For The Rocky Mountain Railroad Club Historical Foundation

At December's annual Club and Foundation meeting, Nathan Holmes was elected President and Dave Schaaf as Vice President. Dennis Leonard and Charles Moffat were elected as Directors to fill the seats currently held by Dave Schaaf and Dan Edwards.

Current officers Roger Sherman (Secretary), Keith Jensen (Treasurer) and Directors John Charles, Andy Dell, Don Hulse, Mike Tinetti and Nathan Zachman have agreed to serve another term. Outgoing Vice President Pat Mauro will now serve as a Director.

Renewal Time is Running Out

Renewal invoices were sent out last November. If you cannot find yours please contact us by sending an email to rails@rockymtnrrclub.org and request a replacement. If you do not use digital media you can send a request for a new invoice to the Rocky Mountain Railroad Club, PO Box 2391, Denver, CO 80201-2391. You may also renew in person at the January Club meeting.

Each renewal form has spaces provided to correct any errors with your contact information. Members, if you use email please make sure we have the correct information.

The membership year is January 1st through December 31st of each year. There will be no increase in dues for

2014. Multimember households should return each membership form, but a single payment for the household is desired.

The Club's hope was that all of our members had renewed by December 31, 2013. January is our grace period and time is running out. The re-sequencing of seniority numbers is performed the first week in February. If you wish to keep your seniority number please make sure you have renewed by then. It takes a couple of weeks for the cards to be printed.

Your membership card will be mailed to you in a mid-March. More information about this mailing will be provided in the February *Rail Report*.

Colorado Railroad Museum 2014 Scheduled Special Operation Days

For information call 303-279-4591

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

Black On Track Saturday, February 8
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

Historic Castles of Colorado, February 21
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 303-298-0377

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

The Intermountain Chapter Will Not Have An Annual Jeffco Train Show In 2014

Friday, January 17, 2014

Dinner Meeting and Program at IHOP

Richard Luckin presents his newest documentary, *Grand Central: An American Treasure*. See the final edited version and learn how the program was produced. In this documentary the story of the world's largest train terminal is told by historians, railroaders and architects. With roughly 650 weekday train arrivals and departures on 44 platforms, Grand Central still functions smoothly after a century of operation. Every day 750,000 people come through the terminal. Of these 200,000 are just visitors. In this video YOU will be one of those visitors to Grand Central.

Dinner Meeting Notes:

We conduct our dinner meetings 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
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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 February 2014 Rail Report should be sent by January 17th.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN



BOX 2391
DENVER, COLORADO 80201

