

# RAIL REPORT

July 2014 • NO. 648



Rocky Mountain Railroad Club • Rocky Mountain Railroad Historical Foundation

**Please Remember:  
There Is No Meeting In Barnes Hall In July**

## See You In Strasburg

August 16th • Meet in Strasburg at 9:00 AM

Tour Uhrich Locomotive Works And The Comanche Crossing Museum

See Some Live Steam Model Railroading At The Comanche Crossing & Eastern

Lunch Is Included

The Club now takes Visa and MasterCard

## RMRRRC 2014 Calendar

- August 12th Meeting and Program by Chuck Albi, "The Rail Photography of Otto Perry."
- August 16th Strasburg Trip – Uhrich Locomotive Works, the Comanche Crossing Museum, 15-inch gauge steam at the Comanche Crossing & Eastern Railroad and a movie in the 1938 theater.
- September 9th Meeting and Program.
- October 11th Annual Banquet at the Oxford Hotel in downtown Denver.
- November 11th Meeting and Program.
- December 9th Annual 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.

DENVER &  
INTERMOUNTAIN  
INTERURBAN  
CAR NO. 25

OPEN HOUSE  
10 AM – 2 PM  
AUGUST 9, 2014

DENVER FEDERAL CENTER  
BUILDING NO. 78, GATE 1



*The Annual Tradition Continues!*  
**The City of Lakewood's Interurban Car 25 Open House**  
*Free Rides, Weather Permitting*

Enter the Denver Federal Center at Gate 1 on Kipling Street South of 6th Avenue. Once inside the gate follow the yellow signs to building No. 78.

All adults need a government photo ID (i.e. drivers license) to enter the Federal Center. Sorry, pets are not permitted.



The Leadville, Colorado & Southern ran something other than their usual tourist trains in late May. Railroad crews have been rebuilding track and crossings through Leadville with the help of 1714 and its work train, here on May 28, 2014.  
– Photo © 2014 Nathan Holmes.



D&RGW narrow gauge caboose 0576, originally built in 1886, was moved from a city park to a new spot at the end of F Street in Salida, Colorado, on March 31, 2014. Plans are to give the caboose proper grab irons and paint next season, restoring it to a more historic appearance.

– Photo © 2014 Nathan Holmes.

---

## Notes From The President

By Nathan Holmes

Thank you to all who helped make our June Slide Potpourri night an outstanding success – almost too much so. As of Sunday morning, I had only heard from one member other than myself who had slides to show. I was getting a bit concerned, so I asked them to run a bit long and even threw a few extras in my own show. There was a very real fear we'd have ten minutes of slides followed by digging out the Otto Perry DVDs. Being a tremendous procrastinator myself, I should have had a bit more faith that things would come together at the last second.

Thankfully, we had an excellent turnout and lots of varied material. I apologize if anyone's backside was a bit tired by the end of the night, but hopefully you all enjoyed the experience.

July's the last month to sign up for our outing to Strasburg, Colorado, to visit the Uhrich Locomotive Works, the Comanche Crossing Museum, and the Comanche Crossing & Eastern live steam railroad. While the trip isn't until August 16th, we need all sign-up forms and payment by August 1st so that they

## Notes From The President

can buy supplies and plan to accommodate us for lunch. Be sure to sign up soon so you don't forget and miss out!

Planning for the fall Creede trip is still in the works, but is running a bit behind and it's largely my fault. I apologize, but we'll have sign-up forms in the August and September issues. Likewise, banquet sign-ups will be available in August as well.

I'd encourage all of you who are on Facebook to join the Rocky Club online at <http://www.facebook.com/groups/rockymtnrrclub> It's a handy way to keep in touch with your fellow club members, and a faster way for us to post important announcements. Often we get announcements that due to the lead times in getting the *Rail Report* written, edited, printed, and mailed are too late to be of any use. Wally does an excellent job of keeping our main website's news section up to date, but this gives us just yet another means to let members know about last minute opportunities.

As I was trying to figure out what to say in this month's column, I was contemplating the fact I've been in this position for six months now, and thinking back on what's gone well and what has been more of a challenge. Every time I think I'm finally over the learning curve,

I find there's so much more that I don't know. Soon, it'll be time for the nominating committee to be thinking about next year's officers and directors. If you're interested in helping lead the Rocky Club, now's the time to start thinking about it. There's always room on the board for some new members, and having some new people with fresh ideas on the board is never a bad thing. For the most part, board members just help in setting direction for the club and work on the details of coordinating trips, projects, and monthly programs. It's probably a commitment of an extra 4-6 hours every month, including the board meeting that typically runs for a couple hours. Board members are elected for two-year terms, with half up for re-election each year. If you think this is something you'd be interested doing, let someone on the board know and we'll pass your name along to the nominations committee.

Just one last reminder: there is no general meeting in July. Enjoy the evening off, and we'll see you all back in August.

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@ndholmes.com](mailto:me@ndholmes.com), or by phone at 719-235-1286. Please don't hesitate to reach out to me.

---

---

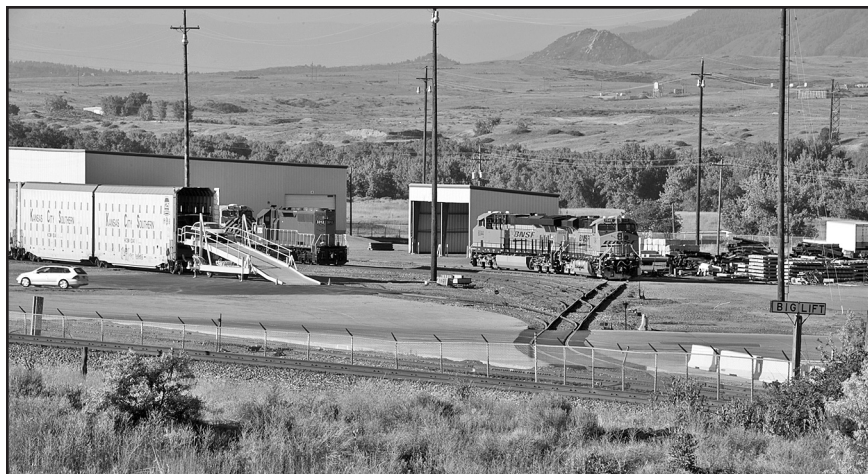
### *In Remembrance* Robert F. Johnson

Robert F. Johnson, a member of the Club since 1961, holding seniority number 35, passed away on March 13, 2014 at the age of 88. Bob always enjoyed the meetings and the many trips he went on with his wife Wilma.

---

---





BNSF's Auto Unloading Facility opened June 1, 2014, along the Joint Line at Big Lift, Colorado, south of Littleton. Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe (ATSF) built the Big Lift Intermodal facility. In recent years BNSF had Savage subcontract the facility as a transload operation. Savage has now moved to Irondale at Commerce City, Colorado. ITSX 3312, SD40-2, (red unit next to auto unloading ramp) is assigned to switch Big Lift. BNSF and leased CitiRail units are based at Big Lift as Joint Line helpers. – Photo © 2014 by Chip.

---

## Information For The Rail Enthusiast

By Dave Schaaf

The BNSF Railway capital commitment for 2014 is about \$5 billion, a new record and \$1 billion more than 2013. Included are 229 bridge projects, and 3.6 million ties. \$400 million will be used just in North Dakota projects. Some 2013 expansion projects are scheduled for completion this summer, such as the Front Range Automotive Facility at Big Lift south of Denver and expansion of the Pearland Intermodal Facility near Houston, Texas. BNSF has offered to donate the Spanish mission-style Northern Pacific depot built in 1929 in Cheney, Washington, to the community if residents will relocate it.

Colorado-based OmniTrax will take on their ninth short-line with the 32

mile Sand Springs Railway in Oklahoma. OmniTrax will also soon manage the Brownsville & Rio Grande International Railroad in south Texas. Both of these railroads come with real estate to be developed.

Union Pacific has opened a new \$418 million logistics facility and yard in Santa Teresa, New Mexico, which is just west of El Paso, Texas. This helps to alleviate rail traffic jams where the Golden State Route from Chicago joins the Sunset Route. Trains can be re-fueled up to an hour faster at this new hub, which also has 56 miles of fiber-optic cable to speed up data transfer. U.P. may have as many as 600 new jobs open here.

## Information For The Rail Enthusiast



Three units posed for attendees at the North Carolina Transportation Museum's "Streamliners at Spencer" on May 30, 2014. – Photo © 2014 Joe McMillan.

A severe shortage of pipeline capacity by next year is expected to cause rail shipments of oil to triple in western Canada in a couple of years.

More than 20 E & F unit diesels were in attendance at the "Streamliners at Spencer" event in North Carolina recently. Nearly 9300 tickets were sold for the four day show that brought fans from six countries.

If you have internet access, look for updates and color photos on the Club website and Facebook page. Members may contact me by e-mail at [ds5280@comcast.net](mailto:ds5280@comcast.net) or by phone at 303-988-3456.

### Some events coming up include:

The 4th annual rail fair at the depot in Pueblo, Colorado, is on August 2 & 3. Tickets are \$5, and train rides are available.

The City of Lakewood's Interurban Car 25 Open House is August 9th from 10 AM to 2 PM

True West Railfest celebrates 132 years of railroading in Durango, Colorado, from August 14 - 17.

The National Narrow Gauge Convention is in Kansas City, September 3 - 6.

## Information For The Rail Enthusiast



The North Carolina Transportation Museum's "Streamliners at Spencer" on May 30, 2014. – Photo © 2014 Joe McMillan.



There were night photography opportunities for attendees at the North Carolina Transportation Museum's "Streamliners at Spencer" on May 31, 2014. – Photo © 2014 Joe McMillan.



## Current Railroad Happenings



Construction is moving fast at the new maintenance facility for the RTD Gold Line to Arvada. Here on June 4, 2014, just north of 48th Avenue and east of the U.P. north yard in Denver. – Photo © 2014 Dave Schaaf.



The BNSF intermodal facility lies between the U.P. and RTD tracks. The new RTD bridge can be seen at the upper right. – Photo © 2014 Dave Schaaf.

## Current Railroad Happenings



Amtrak 156, P42DC Phase I Heritage, led new Siemens electric motors model ACS-64 612 and 613 (dead in transit from California) along with Amtrak 116 on the eastbound California Zephyr, train 6, along flooded Colorado River east of Kremmling, Colorado, Memorial Day, May 26, 2014. The train was approaching Troublesome Siding on UP's Moffat Tunnel Subdivision. – Photo © 2014 by Chip.



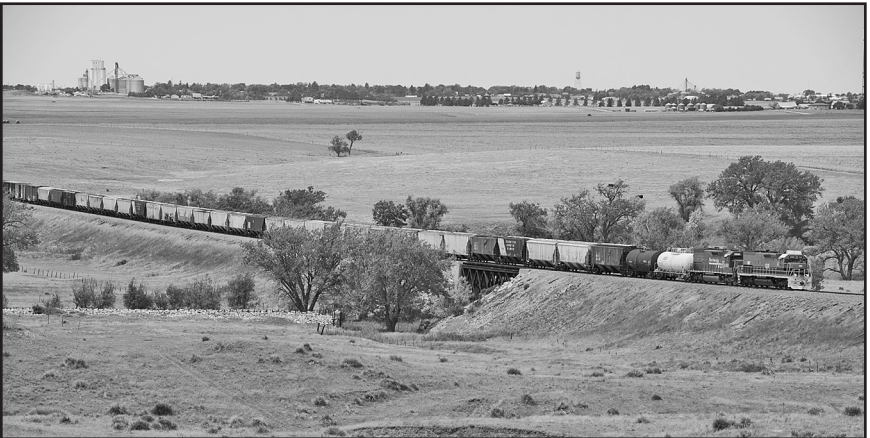
CitiRail (CREX) 1202 and 1349, ES44AC, were in Joint Line helper service June 9, 2014 bringing BNSF 6421 and 5701 back from Palmer Lake headed to Big Lift. Units were northbound passing Castle Rock, Colorado. – Photo © 2014 by Chip.



## Current Railroad Happenings

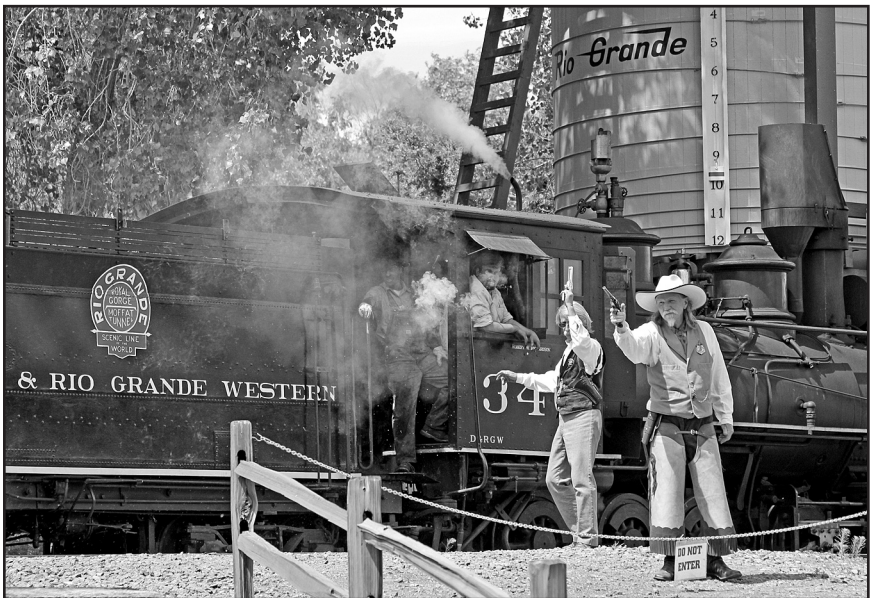


Orange painted Kyle Railroad 3098, SD45T-2, and Kyle 9362 spliced former Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific RR signals (out of service) at milepost 496.9 at Flagler, Colorado, on June 3, 2014. The train was picking up loaded covered hoppers and spotting empties at the grain elevators at Genoa, Arriba and Flagler, Colorado, with engineer Steve Price. – Photo © 2014 by Chip.



Kyle Railroad 3098 and 9362, SD45T-2's, ran between Limon, Colorado, and Goodland, Kansas, servicing grain elevators at Genoa, Arriba and Flagler, Colorado, on June 3, 2014. The train crossed the former Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific RR built bridge over the Republican River east of Flagler, Colorado. – Photo © 2014 by Chip.

## The Wild West Returns To The Colorado Railroad Museum



Re-enactors of the old west in action June 21, 2014, during “Wild West Day” at the Colorado Railroad Museum. D&RGW engine #346 pulled the train, which included RPO car #60 and coach #280. – Two photos © 2014 Dave Schaaf.

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 last of several articles about the club provided by Dan Edwards.

---

**Railway Club May Dissolve**  
**President of Rocky Mountain Railway Club Warns**  
**Members That the Institution May be Disbanded**

— *Rocky Mountain News*, December 25, 1904 —

On account of a lack of interest on the part of a large proportion of its members, there is more than a passing probability that the Rocky Mountain Railway Club may be disbanded in the near future. W.J. Schlacks, president of the club at Colorado City, has issued a letter on the subject to all its members in which he says:

“Denver is one of the greatest railroad centers west of the Mississippi, which fact should be a guarantee of the healthy condition of the Rocky Mountain Railway Club, unless we can be accused of not displaying interest in the intercourse of railroad men, which can be best had at the meetings of a club, which has been demonstrated to be the best medium to such interchange of ideas throughout the railroad world.

“I regret very much the extremely weakened condition of the Rocky Mountain Railway Club, which I cannot convince myself was any fault of mine, but which I must say has been due more to the lack of interest displayed by the general members than to any other cause. As president of the club last year, I did my utmost to incite the members to renewed efforts in the club’s behalf, but only with moderate success. This year has been even worse than last, and I feel that unless more lively interest can be shown in the club than has been the case for the last three years, it is only natural that we should conclude that the Rocky Mountain Railway Club is an institution not desired by the railroad men in general.

“We have agreed to await your decision in this matter.”

*Note:* Our Rocky Mountain *Railroad* Club is in its 76th year and has long outlasted the life of the Rocky Mountain *Railway* Club, which appears to have folded after only six years. Let’s hope our president never has to write a letter like the one above! See you at the meetings!



## Club Trips Over The Rio Grande Southern



On May 29, 1949, the Rocky Club's charter over the Rio Grande Southern paused at Brown to take on water. The trip ran from Ridgway up to Telluride, and would return the next day. – Photo from the Nathan Holmes Collection.



In 1951, the Rocky Club had the honor of sponsoring the last steam-powered passenger train on the Rio Grande Southern. The trip ran from Ridgway to Telluride on September 1st and then returned the next day. Here the train is working up the Ridgway side of Dallas Divide. – Photo from the Nathan Holmes Collection.

## Colorado Railroad Museum 2014 Scheduled Special Operation Days

For information call 303-279-4591

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

---

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

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, July 18, 2014**

Dinner Meeting and Program at IHOP

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

---

Please contact the Intermountain Chapter directly for information on programs.

---

### Dinner Meeting Notes:

We conduct our dinner meetings at the International House of Pancakes (IHOP) located at 5280 Wadsworth By-pass in Arvada, Colorado. Go to 53rd Ave. and turn east, you will be there. Lots of parking and well lit. We have the back room from 5:30 PM to 8:30 PM. The food is good and priced right. The menu is varied, offering breakfast, lunch, and dinner items available all day. No reservations are required, though IHOP management has been informed to expect 20-25 people, so plan to attend the program and support the Chapter.

No minimum dollar amount of food 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 PM and the program begins approximately at 7:00 PM. Please arrive accordingly to be served in time to enjoy your meal, the fellowship, and the program.



## **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	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](mailto:selectimag@aol.com)

**Items for the August 2014 Rail Report should be sent by July 18th.**

ROCKY MOUNTAIN



BOX 2391

DENVER, COLORADO 80201

