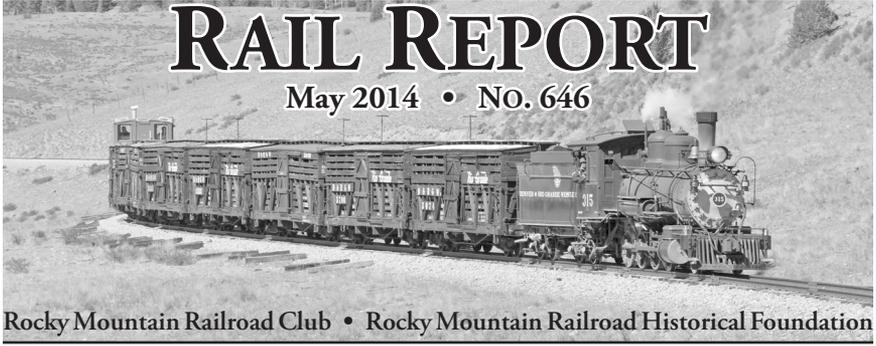


# RAIL REPORT

May 2014 • NO. 646



Rocky Mountain Railroad Club • Rocky Mountain Railroad Historical Foundation

## Colorado Midland – A Wildflower Excursion

Presented by Mel McFarland

May 13th, 2014 • 7:30 PM

It is time to think about May flowers, not snow! Lets go on a Colorado Midland Wildflower Excursion with member Mel McFarland, Colorado Midland author and now retired Manitou and Pike's Peak Cog Railway Conductor. The Colorado Midland was famous for day trips to 11 Mile Canyon, as usual we will see things along the way and share a bit of history too.

Mel will also talk about a new edition of his book, *The Midland Route*.

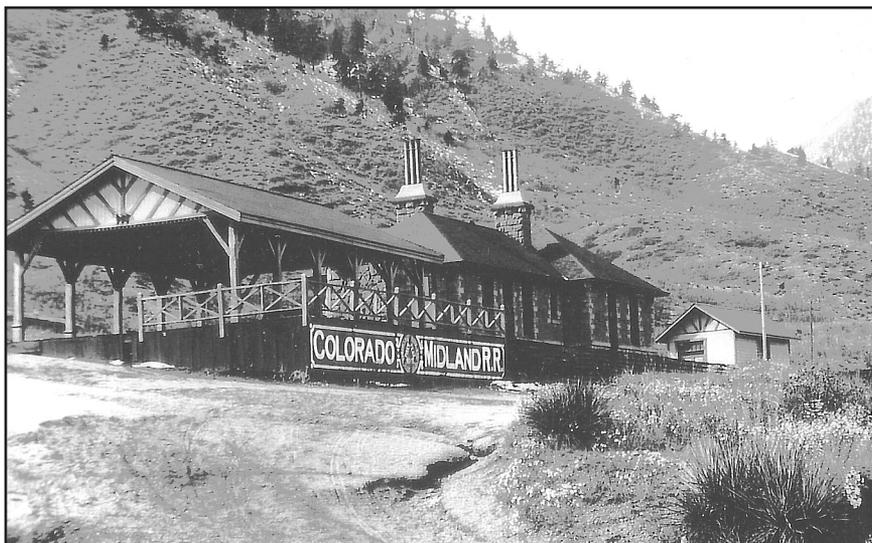
Please join us for an enjoyable, educational evening at Christ Episcopal Church at 2950 South University Boulevard, University at Bates, where there is plenty of off street parking at the rear of the complex. Enter into Barnes Hall, where we hold the monthly meetings, on the mid-south side doors. Please 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.**

### RMRRC 2014 Calendar

June 10th	Meeting and Program, "Slide and Video Potpourri."
July	There is no meeting this month.
August 12th	Meeting and Program by Chuck Albi, "The Rail Photography of Otto Perry."
August 16th	Strasburg Trip – Urich Locomotive Works, the Comanche Crossing Museum, 15-inch gauge steam at the Comanche Crossing & Eastern Railroad and a movie in the 1938 theater.

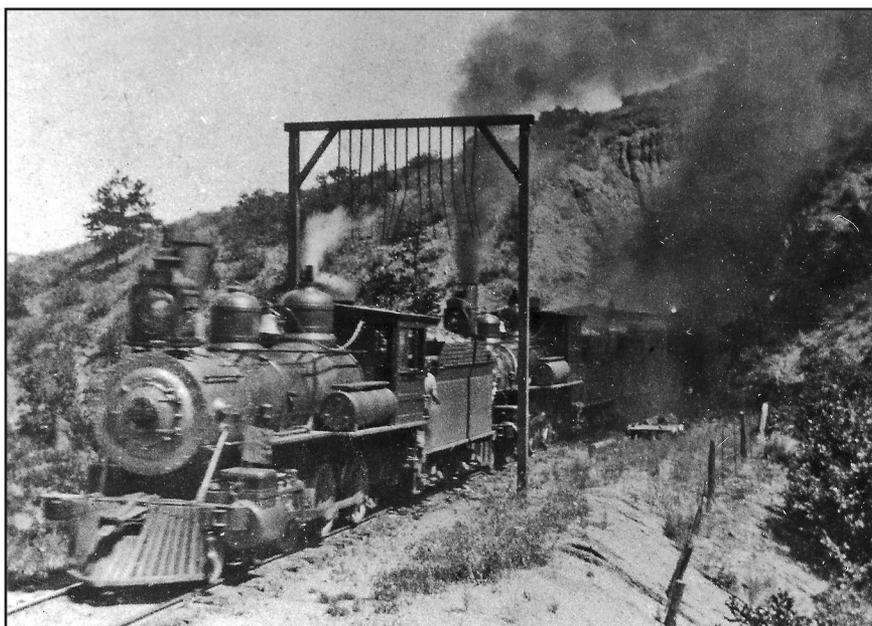
Due to circumstances beyond our control, programs and dates are subject to change without notice.  
Please contact Dave Schaaf with program ideas at [ds5280@comcast.net](mailto:ds5280@comcast.net) or 303 988-3456.

## Colorado Midland – A Wildflower Excursion



The Colorado Midland's depot in Manitou was a stop on the Wildflower Excursions, just in case no one could find it, there was a big sign!

– Photo from the Mel McFarland collection.



A passenger train blasts out of one of the Manitou tunnels, charging up the 4% grade to Ute Pass. – Photo from the Mel McFarland collection.

## Notes From The President

By Nathan Holmes

First, I just want to encourage anyone interested to participate in our “Slide Potpourri” night on June 10. This is a night where we open the projector and encourage members to show some of their photography. The night is fast approaching, so it’s time to start looking through those dusty yellow boxes and long ignored files. It’s always a great time seeing all the historic scenes our members have captured over the years, so even if you don’t want to show anything yourself, be sure to see what others dig up! More details can be found below on this page.

We’ve had a good bit of interest in our two proposed trips just from the announcement in my column in March. After last year’s SLRG trip cancellation I had some concerns, but the number of responses so far is very promising.

The trip to Strasburg is definitely a go at this point. There’s been a lot of

interest, but there’s also plenty of space for more. We’ll meet out in Strasburg at 9:00 AM on Saturday, August 16th. Over the course of the day, we’ll visit the Uhrich Locomotive Works, the Comanche Crossing Museum, enjoy lunch and live 15-inch gauge steam at the Comanche Crossing & Eastern Railroad, and have the opportunity to watch a movie in the 1938 theater, for those that would like to stay a bit later in the afternoon. A sign-up form will be included with the June and July newsletters. Because we’ll need to have an exact count of people for lunch, the deadline for having your sign-up and payment to us will be August 1. There will be a per-person charge of \$20 to cover lunch and costs.

As for our Creede trip, we’re still working on the details. Expect more details and a sign-up form in the July newsletter with a September 9 deadline, which should still give everyone plenty of time to plan and sign up.

### Are You Ready To Share? June Is Slide and Video Potpourri Night

Just a reminder – the June general meeting will feature our famous “Slide Potpourri,” where club members can bring 12 to 15 slides or digital images, or 5 to 8 minutes of railroad-related video to show off. We’ll have a 35mm slide projector, digital projector and laptop, and DVD player available. If you need something else, let us know and we’ll do our best to accommodate.

To avoid any technical difficulties the night of the show, we’d like to compile any digital images or digital video files in advance. We’ll build a show for each presenter – just send us the images and the order in which to show them. We’d ask that images be resized to no larger than 1920x1080, and then emailed to [rmrc-photos@drwg.net](mailto:rmrc-photos@drwg.net) or brought to the May meeting on a CD-R or USB drive. **Thanks!**



## Notes From The President

For those who want a little less tour and a little more work, that's something we're considering as well. The Club has a long history of preservation projects, but we no longer have any equipment of our own to maintain and restore. Pat Mauro, one of our board members who is also actively involved with the Park County Historical Society, is working on arranging some railroad-related work days that could use some extra manpower. If anybody else knows of any candidate projects, let a board member know and we'll make sure to announce it in the meetings and get it in the newsletter (if we know far enough ahead of time).

It's hard to believe, but our annual banquet is also fast approaching. So many people remarked that they enjoyed the change of venue last year that we're going to try it again. No, we're not going back to the Chophouse. It was a great thing to do for our 75th Anniversary, but we'd have to raise ticket prices significantly to do it every year. Thanks to the efforts of Denny Leonard, one of our board members, we've looked at other historic venues in downtown Denver that can accommodate our usual crowd

at a price that fits our budget. We've settled on a candidate for this year and are working through the details. It's not a done deal yet, but it's a very historic venue that's a stone's throw from Union Station. I think it'll be just as much of a hit as last year turned out to be.

On the digital front, Dave Schaaf has finally made our presence on Facebook public. We're hoping it will serve two goals: to allow club members a common place to share and communicate outside of meetings, and to show the world what our fine organization does. It also will help us communicate last minute events and opportunities to members faster. For those of you who use Facebook, just point your browser to <http://facebook.com/groups/rockymtnrclub> and show your support.

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.



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



Denver RTD East Rail Line construction had two tracks laid through the future Peoria Station on March 27, 2014, near the new Peoria Street overpass in Aurora, Colorado. CSXT 137 west had empty unit oil tank car train from Louisiana headed to Carr, Colorado, to load crude oil. – Photo © 2014 by Chip.

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## Information For The Rail Enthusiast

By Dave Schaaf

Union Pacific #4014 has moved from California to Wyoming. This Big Boy locomotive is set to be restored to operating condition over the next few years. The Cheyenne Depot Days event in May might give fans a chance to see the engine in person. Online at:

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

The annual one-way railfan move of the U.P. Frontier Days train from Denver to Cheyenne will be Sunday, July 20 at 1 PM. Three different seat prices, and option for bus return. A different consist this year, with steam engines down for maintenance the passenger train will be powered by E-9 diesels.

See [shermanhillrails.org](http://shermanhillrails.org) online.

Any other questions call 307-701-8444

Former Georgetown Loop operators Lindsey and Rosa Ashby are selling some of their narrow gauge equipment. The Baldwin 2-8-0 engines and Shay #14 are available for lease, and over 40 cars may be sold. Diesels 130 & 140 and the Tahoe car will stay at the CRRM.

Durango RR Historical Society is the independent, non-profit group that restored loco #315 and is working on the Silverton Northern engine house. It has always been the commitment of the DRHS to preserve a representative collection of narrow gauge cars that played a part in the heritage of southwest Colorado, restore them and put them on public display. They are looking to get grants from the State Historical Fund, and documentation and photos will

## Information For The Rail Enthusiast



One of the Amtrak commemorative units led the eastbound California Zephyr out of Denver Union Station on April 24, 2014. Near the depot, it passed a few cars that had derailed at low speed on a transfer between the BNSF and UP yards.  
– Photo © 2014 Dave Schaaf.

help a lot. If you have papers or pictures of the following D&RGW cars before 1976, let me know and I can forward the information: Outfit Tool 04351, Outfit Bunk 04432, Stock Car 5564D, Stock Car 5627, Flat 6215, Flanger OT – OT was originally built for the Crystal River Railroad sometime after 1887 and acquired by the D&RG in 1920.

The operating season is underway at the Georgetown Loop, and steam comes later in the month. The C&TS runs May 24 – October 19, with the Geology Special on June 22, and RGS motors in October. The D&S is now traveling all the way to Silverton, WP&Y is open, Leadville train starts May 24. D&RG Creede branch season begins May 26, South Fork to Wagon Wheel Gap. Fort Collins trolley runs on weekends.

Rio Grande Scenic RR season opens May 23 at Alamosa, concerts and beer, but may not have steam this year. Also in Alamosa, the Friends of 169 are working to restore the only potentially operational T-12 4-6-0 of D&RGW fame, and could use some donations.

Heber Valley runs six days a week in Utah. Conway Scenic RR is in its 40th season in the White Mountains of New Hampshire. East Broad Top in Pennsylvania will not run this year.

The Mt. Rainier Scenic RR Steamfest is planned for July 19 in Washington. Six locomotives are scheduled to steam at that event. Train Expo 2014 should have seven locos in steam at the June 20 to 22 gathering in Owosso, MI.

[www.michigansteamtrain.com](http://www.michigansteamtrain.com)

## Information For The Rail Enthusiast



Last February the BNSF delivered two modified EMD SD70ACe's (9130 and 9131) and the liquefied natural gas fuel tender (BNSF 933501) to the DOT test center in Pueblo from Topeka, Kansas. BNSF Engineering cars # 83 "Canyon Diablo" and # 82 "Kootenai River" joined the set later this Spring. Now that the test center completed their work, the consist may be going to Raton Pass for high altitude testing. The locomotives and tank car must remain as a semi-permanently coupled set as the tender keeps the locomotives fueled. There are glycol hoses between each unit – the glycol is used to heat the LNG causing it to vaporize and turn into a gas which is injected with a small amount of diesel to cause combustion in the prime movers. – Photo © 2014 Nathan Zachman.

Texas State RR 2-8-2 #400 has been restored, and now wears its former look as Magma Arizona Railroad #7. Based in Rusk, it has been over ten years since this 1917 Baldwin had run, and it is a past movie star.

The volunteers working on SP #18 made more progress on this narrow-gauge steam engine at a work weekend in April. See [carsoncolorado.com](http://carsoncolorado.com)

Amtrak has found the need to modify the schedule of the Empire Builder between Chicago and the Pacific Northwest. Traffic delays on the BNSF in North Dakota have caused three hours to now be added both east and westbound.

Denver Union Station's underground bus facilities will open in mid-May, and all the amenities of the renovated depot should be open by the middle of July.

The Federal RR Administration has approved a \$1.65 million grant to the Colorado Department of Transportation to rebuild parts of the Great Western Railway that were damaged by flooding in September 2013.

Doris Osterwald authored numerous guidebooks on Colorado tourist railroads, selling over a million copies of the various titles. Her books were of interest and help to serious and casual railfans alike. Formerly a Rocky Club member, she was just days away from her 93rd birthday when she passed on in March. Another recent loss is prolific photographer and collector Bruce Black, well-known to many in our Club.

Members may contact me by e-mail at [ds5280@comcast.net](mailto:ds5280@comcast.net) or by phone at 303-988-3456.

## Bunny Express Train – Colorado Railroad Museum



Families enjoyed stepping back in time while riding the Bunny Express Train pulled by a steam locomotive that is over 130 years old. – Photo © 2014 Bruce Nall.

D&RGW No. 346 is the oldest operating steam locomotive in Colorado. Built by Baldwin in 1881, No. 346 ran for the D&RG until 1947. While on loan to Colorado & Southern in 1936 it was wrecked in a runaway on Kenosha Pass and was rebuilt by Chicago Burlington & Quincy Denver shops. Purchased in 1950 by Colorado Railroad Museum founder Bob Richardson, No. 346 is the Museum's premiere operating engine and runs regularly during steam-ups.

## Bunny Express Train – Colorado Railroad Museum



Many eager families lined up to ride the Colorado Railroad Museum's Bunny Express Train on Saturday, April 19, 2014. The rock of the rails transported riders into spring while the Easter Bunny and Spike the Railyard Hound handed out candy. The Denver Garden Railroad Society operations were popular and face painting and a portrait artist added entertainment.

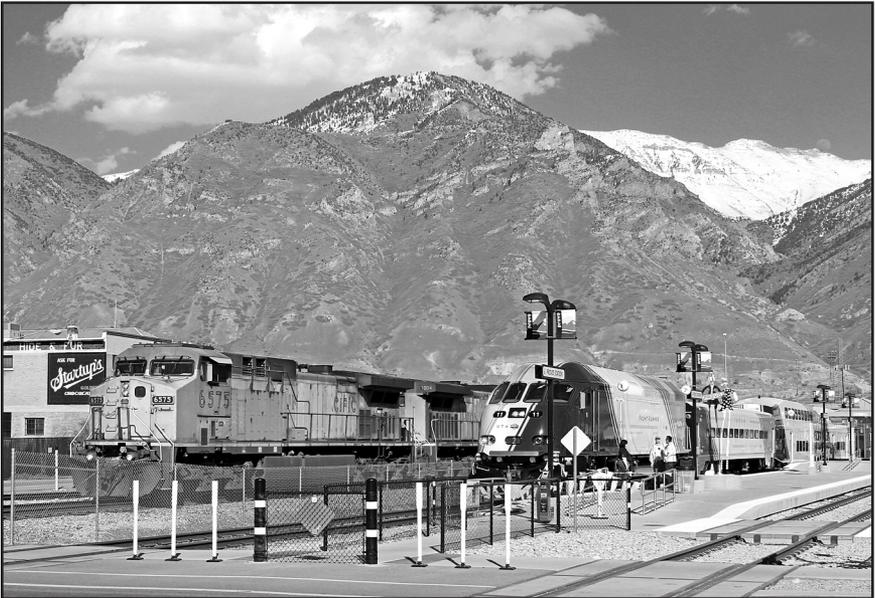
– Photo © 2014 Bruce Nall.



The Bunny Express Train passes “No Agua” on April 19, 2014, transporting riders during the Colorado Railroad Museum's Easter tradition.

– Photo © 2014 Bruce Nall.

## Current Railroad Happenings



Train and commuter rail activity in Provo, Utah, on April 10, 2014. Ridership on FrontRunner commuter rail lines in Utah doubled in 2013 to 3.8 million trips, the largest percentage increase in the USA. The increase was boosted by opening a new 45-mile line from Salt Lake City to Provo in December 2012, and was an extension of the FrontRunner line from Ogden that opened in 2008. Nationwide, light rail ridership increased 1.6 percent in 2013. Cities that showed double digit gains in 2013 included Denver, New Orleans, and San Diego.

– Two photos © 2014 Dave Schaaf.

## Current Railroad Happenings



The FXE 4645 led Ferromex loaded grain train from Sterling, Colorado. Ferromex 4075, SD70ACe, passed condos and new apartments that have been built along the Platte River Rail Corridor, Denver. On a snowy April 3, 2014, the unit train ran via Joint Line to El Paso, Texas. – Photo © 2014 by Chip.



Norfolk Southern 8102, Pennsylvania Heritage unit, worked BNSF unit oil train in April 2014. NS 8102 came from Texas up the Joint Line on April 19, 2014. The unit oil train loaded at Swan Ranch along I-25 south of Cheyenne, Wyoming. NS 8102 was the rear distributed power unit on BNSF's Cheyenne to Korf, Texas, train U CHEKRF 003t. Train was in the Joint Line sag north of Palmer Lake, Colorado, on April 21, 2014. – Photo © 2014 by Chip.

*In Remembrance*

Jim Dyson

Long term member, Jim Dyson, passed away on February 15, 2014. Jim was a professor of microbiology and spent his retirement years in Big Sur, California. Jim is remembered for his rich collection of 1950s Rocky Mountain narrow gauge photos.

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

— From The *Denver Post* —

The Rocky Mountain Railway club held a lively meeting last night at the American house, and B.H. Hawkins, master mechanic of the D&RG, read a paper on "Do Locomotives Slip Their Drivers without Steam in Cylinders?" T.A. Hedenrahl, the expert of the Westinghouse Air-Brake Co., also spoke upon "The Handling of Air-Brake Trains."

— December 23, 1900

The Rocky Mountain Railway club was entertained at its regular meeting last evening by an illustrated lecture from Dr. Herman Von Schrenck, who has inaugurated a series of lectures to be delivered before the club on technical subjects. Samples of wood were exhibited, and pictures thrown on a screen by means of a stereopticon. — October 19, 1902

Traffic Manager C.L. Wellington of the Colorado & Southern will read a paper this evening before the Rocky Mountain Railway club upon "Traffic Making and Its Causes." The subject is of great interest to all business-

men, and no man is better qualified to treat the subject than Mr. Wellington. The club meets once a month and is steadily growing. Its success is in an important degree due to Mr. A.D. Parker, general auditor of the Colorado & Southern, who is now president of the club.

— December 20, 1902

The Rocky Mountain Railway club will hold its monthly meeting this evening at 7:30 in the assembly room of the union depot. Men come from points 300 and 400 miles distant to attend the discussions at these meetings.

The paper of the evening, "Problems in Power Transmission by Leather Belt," will be read by Herman A. Giese of Charles A. Schieren & Co. It is promised that the greatest authority on locomotive construction in this country will give a stereopticon lecture on the latest developments in locomotives in the near future.

— October 17, 1903

## Current Railroad Happenings



Union Pacific 949, E9A built May 1955, moved UPP 209 Howard Fogg steam generator (with a new, smaller generator installed) to North Yard Wheel Shop to get cars' wheels turned before going to California. The train came from Cheyenne, Wyoming, as the P CYDV 15 on April 15, 2014. The train crossed the Denver Water Canal as it moved west on the Belt Line towards North Yard north of Denver. – Photo © 2014 by Chip.



CitiRail (CREX) 1202 and 1349 were pressed into BNSF Joint Line helper service in mid-April 2014. The units were pushing a southbound BNSF coal load at Larkspur, Colorado, on April 21, 2014. – Photo © 2014 by Chip.

## Colorado Railroad Museum 2014 Scheduled Special Operation Days

For information call 303-279-4591

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

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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

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### Colorado Rails and Cocktails - An Evening of Colorado History

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.

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### 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.

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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

### 2014 Event Schedule

For information call 303-883-2435

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

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**Friday, May 16, 2014**

**Dinner Meeting and Program at IHOP**

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

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### 90 Years Of Chicago Traction

Chicago, as the center of American railroading, also had a great network of urban and interurban lines. The DVD we will watch traces the history of the Chicago Surface Lines from 1900 to 1990 and includes predecessor cable cars and other electric services and the famous EL. One could well compare this with Denver, which also had cable cars and an important rail network – which included cable cars and, now, talk of bringing back a streetcar line.

Ron and Betty Vander Kooi lived in Chicago for about 20 years. He taught at the University of Illinois and was active with various historical and advocacy railroad groups there.

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### 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.

## **Publishers Statement — Rocky Mountain Rail Report**

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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](mailto:selectimag@aol.com)

**Items for the June 2014 Rail Report should be sent by May 13th.**

ROCKY MOUNTAIN



BOX 2391

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