



RAIL REPORT

November 2007

No. 575

Rocky Mountain Railroad Club • Rocky Mountain Railroad Historical Foundation

San Luis & Rio Grande

Presented by Sherm Conners and Joe McMillan

November 13, 2007 • 7:30 PM

On September 20th and 21st, 2007, Trains Unlimited, Tours ran two round-trip excursions between Alamosa and La Veta. A photo freight ran on the 20th and a passenger train on the 21st, both behind former Southern Pacific 2-6-0, 1744. Sherm will present a 30-minute video on the passenger train and Joe will show a selection of digital images of the photo freight.

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.

RMRR Calendar

December 11 Meeting	Annual Meeting – Winter Program
January 8, 2008 Meeting	To Be Announced
February 12, 2008 Meeting	To Be Announced
March 11, 2008 Meeting	To Be Announced
April 8, 2008 Meeting	To Be Announced

The Club's future program listing is limited to three or four months. This will provide members adequate advance information for planning. Proposed 2007 meeting dates are shown. Due to circumstances beyond our control programming and dates are subject to change without notice. Please contact Joe McMillan at jmcmillan20@comcast.net or phone 303-456-4564 with program ideas.

Notice Of Annual Meetings

The annual meetings of the Rocky Mountain Railroad Club and the Rocky Mountain Railroad Historical Foundation will be held on Tuesday, December 11, 2007, 7:30 PM at Christ Episcopal Church, 2950 South University Boulevard, Denver, Colorado. These meetings are called for the purpose of electing Officers and Directors for both organizations. At these meetings the Club or Foundation may conduct any other business as may properly come before these meetings.

From the President

By Jim Ehernberger

Over eighty people attended the luncheon / banquet on September 29th at the Lakewood Country Club. The program "Remembering Otto Perry" was magnificent, and we must thank Dave Gross for time spent making this production, and, of course, Ed Gerlits with his fine informative narration. Many long-time members (including several former Club Presidents) were in attendance and we were especially honored to have Rich Kindig and Irv August (card holders number one and two) there, too. While many did not know Otto personally, I am sure they left with a lot more knowledge of one of Denver's leading rail photographers than what they knew before this presentation. Again, our thanks to Dave and Ed for a job well done!

Al Chione graciously donated a supply of 2008 Rio Grande Southern all-color calendars, enough for each household in attendance. This was a special treat for everyone and we certainly wish to thank him for his kindness. Other favors included prints from the Union Pacific steam program showing the heritage steam locomotives, as well as excess USGS maps we had on hand.

Luncheon / banquet arrangements

this year were handled by Herb Edwards and everything moved like clockwork. Carolyn and Jimmy Blouch took care of the check-in list of reservations at the reception area in their usual efficient manner. These, and any other volunteers involved, deserve a great big thank you from all of us to show our appreciation for their dedication and efforts.

In October we were treated to a general slide show by Tom Klinger. The presentation covered "the rockies" from Colorado to New Mexico, Nevada, Utah, Montana, Canada and Alaska. Tom's variety of photography included close-up views and many spectacular scenes from perches high-up the mountains looking down into canyons, where the real trains almost looked like they were on a model railroad. Thank you Tom for preparing and presenting this program that provided us an opportunity to see railroading over such a broad area.

The Trains Unlimited, Tours La Veta Pass special movements in September were well worth the time for everyone participating. The weather cooperated and everyone had a great time. The photo locations (chosen by Club member Richard Reiff of Pueblo) were very nice

From the President



San Luis & Rio Grande eastbound passenger special near Fir, Colorado, on September 21, 2007 – Photo © 2007 Jim Ehernberger.

and the run-bys were spectacular at each and every location with Club members Earl Knoob at the throttle, and John Charles as fireman. The former Southern Pacific mogul (engine 1744, built in 1901) put on a great performance. If you missed this trip, plans are in the works for a repeat performance next year by Trains Unlimited, Tours.

Our 2007 fund raising campaign is underway, and we appreciate all donations received so far. If you have not sent your contribution, please do so as we need to review the future plans for the Car 25 project.

I am looking forward to seeing you at the November meeting where you

will have an opportunity to view Sherm Connors videos made on the recent passenger special over La Veta Pass. Joe McMillan will add a short section covering the freight special from the previous day, so this will be a great evening.

If calling on the telephone, please identify your call as “Railroad Club Business” so I will know your call is not a telemarketer pest. 7 to 9 PM is preferred. Thank you very much.

Members may contact me at:
RMRRCPresident@sisna.com
Phone: 307-637-4011
Rocky Mountain RR Club – President
PO Box 2391
Denver, CO 80201-2391



San Luis & Rio Grande westbound mixed freight special at Occidental, Colorado, on September 20, 2007. – Photo © 2007 Jim Ehernberger.



San Luis & Rio Grande westbound regular passenger train at Fir, Colorado, on September 20, 2007. – Photo © 2007 Jim Ehernberger.



San Luis & Rio Grande westbound special between Occidental and Fir, Colorado, on September 21, 2007. Trains Unlimited, Tours ran two days of steam excursions out of Alamosa, Colorado and over remote La Veta Pass with both freight and passenger train consists pulled by ex-SP 1744. These excursions are planned to be repeated in May and September 2008. – Photo © 2007 Jim Ehernberger.

Additional photos by Christopher Muller can be viewed at www.steamphotos.com



The San Luis & Rio Grande Ford Econoline van north of Antonito en route to Alamosa, Colorado, with three passengers off the C&TS connection on September 22, 2007. – Photo © 2007 Jim Ehernberger.



The San Luis & Rio Grande Ford Econoline van approaching the Conejos River crossing north of Antonito en route to Alamosa, Colorado, doing 30 mph on September 22, 2007. – Photo © 2007 Jim Ehernberger.



The interior of Interurban Car No. 25 shows the nearly complete restoration.
– Photo © 2007 Bruce Nall.

Foundation Donors Are On Track For 2008 Campaign

The goal of \$10,000 needed to complete the restoration of Interurban Car No. 25 has been met halfway thanks to the following people who have given so generously this last month.

The Foundation board and the volunteer workers still need your financial help to meet the overhead expenses and finish final work in 2008. Please remember that all donations are tax deductible. Every donation whether large or small contributes greatly to the over all need.

Thanks to all 2007 / 2008 donors:

Roy Altenbach, Stuart Anderson, F.H. Bahm, Robert Bartholic, Perry Becker, Thomas Beckett, Ron Booth, Charles Boubelik, Michael Bryans, Erwin Chaim, Bruce Curtis, Dan Davis, Herbert Edwards, Richard Erickson, Albert Fowler, Zona Fowler, Robert Fryml, David Gaines, Frank Gill Sr.,

Thomas Giovale, Vernon Glover, Anthony Hall, Carl Hammergren, Roy Hargrave, Allen C. Harper, Leroy Hester, James Hill, Michael Hoenig, Richard Hoffmeister, Ed Hunsaker, James Hurt, Floyd Jarvis III, Josiah Jenkins, Lynn Johnson, Robert Kanard, Robert Kellar, Joseph Kida, Glenn Kindle, Don Kliebenstein, Walter Lopex, Gordon Messick, David Mott, John Newell, Dennis Opferman, Tom Parker, Dr. A.M. Patten, Robert Pederson, Herb Poynter, Richard Ralston, Carl Reich, Glenn Riddervold, David Rodd, David Salter, Ardie Schoeninger, Thomas Sharratt, Ted Sherman, Thomas Shugre, Sr., Shelby Smith Jr., Dean Tecklenburg, Dr. H.P. Thode Jr., ThomasToft, Harold Topping, Charles Ulmann, Robert Vickery, Randall Vienot, Chard Walker, Dr. R. Walker, Arthur Wallace, Charlotte Williams, Robert Williams, Andrew Wittenborn, E.S. Wright, Jim Yust.

Current Railroad Happenings — A Photo Gallery



Union Pacific 844 puts on a show in Peck, Kansas, on September 9, 2007. The train was on one leg of the 2007 Oklahoma Centennial Sooner Rocket tour celebrating Oklahoma's Centennial. The train was on public display as the Oklahoma Centennial Sooner Rocket in various communities along the railroad's west central Oklahoma line and other communities in the Midwest. Peck is south of Wichita, Kansas. — Photo © 2007 James Fullerton.



Union Pacific moved several unit pipe trains from Kaiser, California to the Kyle Railroad at Limon, Colorado, in October 2007. UP SD70M 3867 and 4739 were on a 40-car train headed to Limon on 10/12/07. It changed crews at York Street, Denver, before continuing east on the Limon line. — Photo © 2007 by Chip.

Current Railroad Happenings — A Photo Gallery



UP 1460 is an EMD GP40-2, built in March 1966 as SSW 7605. It became SSW 7965, and then got its Union Pacific number patch in December 2005. It was in the 36th Street yard in Denver on October 17, 2007. – Photo © 2007 Dave Schaaf.



Denver Rock Island Railroad switcher 1083 works the recycling plant north of the Denver stockyards on October 9, 2007. – Photo © 2007 Dave Schaaf.

Current Railroad Happenings Trains Unlimited, Tours — Rocky Mountain Express



SILVER SOLARIUM was about to duck into tunnel two on the former Denver & Rio Grande Western RR heading into the snowy Colorado Rockies 10/17/07. Amtrak 5, the California Zephyr, departed Denver two hours late because one of the P42DC locomotives suffered a traction motor fire and set out the unit at McCook, Nebraska. Train passed Union Pacific Railroad's Fox Junction, Denver, at 10:06 AM. — Photo © 2007 by Chip.

Trains Unlimited, Tours Is The RMRRRC Official Tour Operator

Trains Unlimited, Tours (TUT) is the Club's official external tour operator. Chris Skow, Tour Director, is a RMRRRC member.

Chris offers his entire catalog of tours to RMRRRC members — most at

substantial discounts off regular tour prices. The Club also receives a donation of \$25 to \$50 per person for every TUT trip booked by a member. Members should receive a color catalog from TUT each year. Upcoming tours are also listed on page 14 of this Rail Report.



Three original California Zephyr cars chartered by Trains Unlimited, Tours for their Rocky Mountain Express were on the westbound Amtrak #5 on October 17th. Seen here approaching Pinecliffe, Colorado on a cloudy morning are domes SILVER LARIAT and SILVER SOLARIUM, with sleeper SILVER RAPIDS in between. – Photo © 2007 Dave Schaaf .

Trains Unlimited, Tours Fulfills “Shiny Train” Wish Brayden’s First Dome Car Encounter

By Chip Sherman

Do you remember your first train trip? Do you recall your first dome ride? A meeting with Steve Rasmussen at Cabbie Hobbies on 10/14/07 perked up Steve’s interest in riding the Trains Unlimited, Tours Rocky Mountain Express trip with former California Zephyr cars: dome round-end observation lounge with bar SILVER SOLARIUM, sleeper SILVER RAPIDS and dome diner SILVER LARIAT. Steve’s son had expressed an interest in riding the “Shiny Train” (Amtrak’s California Zephyr) but the opportunity had never arisen for him nor his family to ride.

Steve made calls to the TUT offices on Monday and was able to obtain two tickets aboard SILVER LARIAT for Wednesday, 10/17/07. Was his son in for a treat!

Brayden, age 5, was wide eyed when his Dad lead him aboard the shiny silver Budd built cars parked on track two early Wednesday morning. Climbing the steps into the warm SILVER LARIAT, up the narrow stairs to the dome they settled into the table up front with an unparalleled dome view looking forward. Brayden’s Dad wisely put them

Brayden's First Dome Car Encounter

on the side where they'd see the Front Range vistas at Plain and up South Boulder Creek Canyon.

Amtrak was running over an hour late due to a traction motor fire on one of the P42DC locomotives that chilly October morning. Brayden didn't mind as SILVER LARIAT served passengers pumpkin bread, a fruit tray and pancakes with bacon – Brayden loved the pancakes.

Amtrak arrived and the three cars were added to Amtrak's 9-car Superliner train making for a 12-car train out of Denver. By 10:06 AM the train rolled onto the former Denver & Rio Grande Western RR rails at Fox Junction just west of I-25. Storm clouds were covering the state as the train headed for the Front Range.

Brayden was thrilled with the dome view riding through the tunnels. They came so fast and provided a unique experience only a Budd dome can. Snow was encountered between Plain and Crescent. The swirling flakes made for a surreal world.

The train passed the newly extended Tolland Siding where hyrail trucks and workers labored on the east end to complete the project. Where the old General Railway signals once stood on the old east end was a ballast train. On the west end of that siding was the Union Pacific's westbound North Yard, Denver to Provo, Utah train with eight units. The train had backed into Tolland Siding to allow Amtrak train five to pass!

Brayden and his Dad enjoyed riding the Dutch doors through Byers Canyon as snow flurries fell. Who doesn't remember their first Dutch door experience? Riding through the twisting turning canyon with the Colorado River far below and the highway across the canyon was an unforgettable father - son experience.

West of Byers Canyon and Parshall, Amtrak train with P42DC #8 up front was stopped by a small rock slide. UP's slide detector fence was activated and two westbounds: UP 5531 on a westbound freight train and Amtrak's California Zephyr were delayed until maintenance of way crews checked the slide. Rocks had hit the fence and two rocks actually came near the north rail. The rocks were pushed aside and the trains continued west after about an hour delay. UP 5531 West took the Flat Siding allowing Amtrak to race ahead.

Glenwood Canyon was reached at dusk. Brayden marveled at the snow falling in the darkened canyon and enjoyed watching the cars whizzing by on nearby I-70 across the Colorado River. All too soon they arrived at Glenwood Springs over four hours late. They were due at 1:53 PM and actually arrived at 6:35 PM. Mom was still waiting patiently on the depot platform for their arrival.

Brayden and his Dad were unconcerned with the late arrival and happy with the additional time spent on the train. They walked through the rain to the front of the train for one final photo! He'll never forget this train ride.

Brayden's First Dome Car Encounter



Taking his first trip on the “big shiny train” was Brayden Rasmussen, age 5, aboard the SILVER SOLARIUM. His Dad, Steve, was thrilled to have an opportunity to ride dome cars between Denver and Glenwood Springs.

– Photo © 2007 Steve Rasmussen.

Trains Unlimited, Tours 2007, 2008 Tentative Trip Schedules

Discounts on tours are available to Club members.

Just provide your Rocky Mountain Railroad Club membership number.

For TUT information call 1-800-359-4870

or visit our Club web page at: www.trainsunlimitedtours.com/rmrrc/

November 8-15 Mexican Copper Canyon
Rail Adventure

The complete 2008 trip schedule is available

February 16-18 Snowflake Express

March 15 Yosemite Express

April 12 Domes Down The Valley

April 27-29 Arizona Rails

May 3-4 La Veta Pass Explorer

May 12-18 Western Maryland &
West Virginia Railfan

May 24-26 Domes Over Donner Pass

May 24 - June 3 Steam In Poland

June 4-16 German Rails

June 5-10 White Pass Railfan
Spectacular

June 14 Pacific Coast Domes
South

Colorado Railroad Museum

2007 - 2008 Scheduled Special Operation Days

For information call 303-279-4591

http://www.crrm.org/train_trips.htm

Santa Claus Special December 1 - 2

Early 2008 Schedule

Bunny Express March 22

Post Income Tax Days April 19 - 20

School's Out Steam Up May 31 - June 1

Father's Day Steam Up June 14 - 15

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, telephone 303-279-4591.

Intermountain Chapter, NRHS

2007 Event Schedule

For information call 303-298-0377

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

Monday, November 12, 2007: Annual Banquet at Rossi's Catering. We are pleased to have Tom Rader, founder and Colorado Railcar president, as our guest speaker. Tom's program will include tales of the Grande Luxe Railroad and what's happening at Colorado Railcar.

Our evening feast consists of Prime Rib, chicken breast à l'orange, green bean amandine, potatoes lyonnaise, garden salad with two dressings, tomato salad, lemon cream pie, and beverages. Cost is \$17 per person. Dinner reservations only for the evening's events. Call the Chapter office at 303-298-0377. All reservations and cancellations must be made by Noon on November 12. If you must call Rossi's (303-296-1144), please be sure they take your name, along with the number in your party. Cash bar at 6:30 PM, dinner at 7:00 and the banquet events begin at 8:00 PM.

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Club Information

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Web: <http://www.rockymtnrrclub.org>

Club Officers

President	Jim Ehernberger
VP - Projects	Darrell Arndt
VP - Programs	Herb Edwards
Secretary	Roger Sherman
Treasurer	Jimmy Blouch

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
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PO Box 620579
Littleton, CO 80162-0579

Fax: 303-978-0402
E-mail: selectimag@aol.com

Items for the December Rail Report should be sent by November 14th.



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FIRST CLASS

