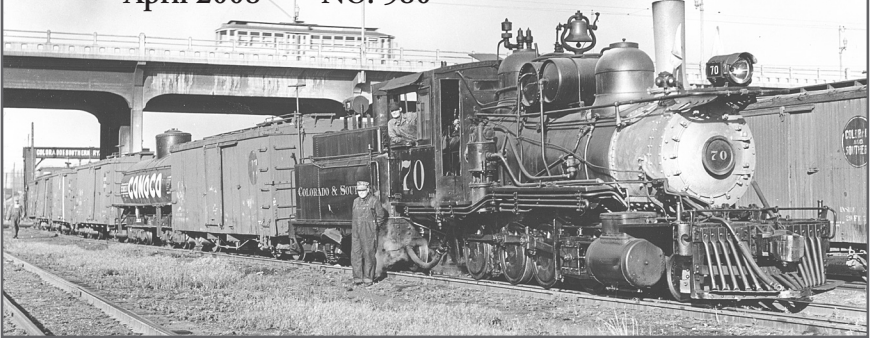


RAIL REPORT

April 2008 • NO. 580



Rocky Mountain Railroad Club • Rocky Mountain Railroad Historical Foundation

The Garratts of Zimbabwe

By Bill Botkin

April 8, 2008 • 7:30 PM

Rhodesia, located in Southern Africa, embarked upon a steam re-building program in 1978. That program included rebuilding 86 Garratt-type locomotives, which continued in regular service as Rhodesia gained independence in 1980 as Zimbabwe. Bill Botkin's slide program explains the rebuilding program, provides background on Rhodesian Railways and illustrates the Garratt steam operations that existed in Zimbabwe in the early 1990s.

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.**

RMRRRC Calendar

May 13th Meeting: The UP Train Robbery Era In Wyoming

May 31st Manitou & Pikes Peak Trip

The Club's future program listing will provide members adequate advance information for planning. Proposed 2008 meeting and event dates are shown. Due to circumstances beyond our control programing and dates are subject to change without notice. Please contact Joe McMillan at jmcmillan20@comcast.net or phone 303-456-4564 with program ideas.



Jim Ehernberger shows Dick Kindig the mile marker sign Dick rescued from Silver Plume as Ron Hill looks on. The sign with the highest number on the Clear Creek lines was donated to the Museum. – Photo © 2008 Chip Sherman.

From the President

By Jim Ehernberger

Here we are and another month slipped by very quickly with a number of activities taking place.

The Colorado Railroad Museum is to be commended for sponsoring the Richard H. Kindig Day event on March 1st. The museum staff and volunteers not only worked hard to make this a complete success, but they provided a tent and food. To top it off, engine 346 was under steam providing rides in the restored coach, complete with oil lamp fixtures. Governor Ritter signed a pro-

clamation declaring the day officially Richard H. Kindig Day in Colorado. One portion of the proclamation stated: “Richard is respected worldwide for his extraordinary photographic and writing talents,” and another paragraph read: “The State of Colorado recognizes and honors Richard Kindig for his distinguished works as a Colorado photographer and for his inspired vision that has laid the path for many other photographers to follow.” About 150 people enjoyed the ceremony and the weather cooperated with temperatures in the high

Manitou & Pikes Peak Trip — Saturday, May 31st

A Club charter on the Manitou & Pikes Peak will depart from the M&PP station at Manitou at 10:40 AM and return about 3:10 PM, with two photo stops en route. A single unit diesel cog car will be provided.

The fare is \$48 and limited to 78 adults only. A box lunch is included.

Ticket reservations may be made immediately. Cancellations prior to May 15th will be refunded less a \$15 fee. If the train sells out we will maintain a “wait list” and advise if space becomes available.

From the President



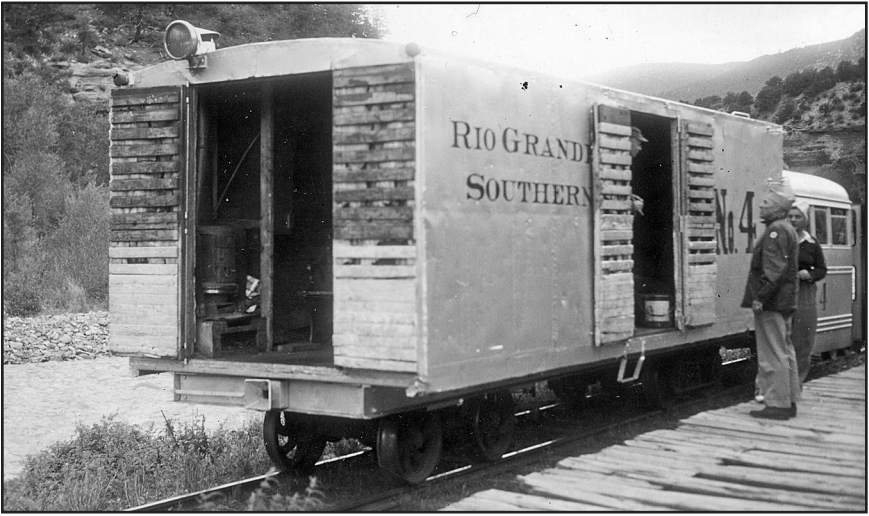
RGS Motor #3 at Telluride, Colorado on July 13, 1946. – Joseph Schick photo.

60s. It was a perfect day to honor a great person.

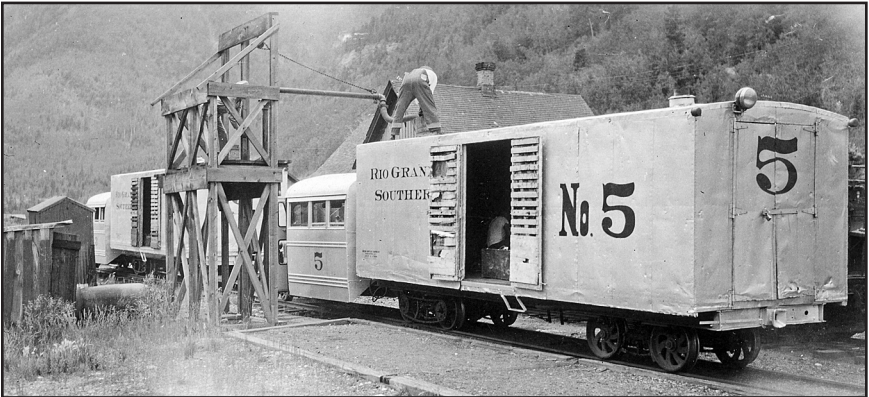
The March meeting was well attended. No doubt many people wanted to see railroading in Cuba since that country has been almost “off limits” for travel by Americans. In addition, John Charles is a fine photographer and provided excellent views of the country (not just trains) along with a great narrative. Maybe sometime in the future he will offer another presentation in another part of the world where he has traveled.

In 1946 the Club operated a two-day excursion over the Rio Grande Southern chartering one of their “busses” – better known as a Galloping Goose. The first part of the trip out of Ridgway using motor number 3 worked fine until a breakdown occurred leaving Vance Junction. Goose number 4 operating on the regular run was switched to take our group to Durango. The number 4 had just replaced the number 5 at Telluride because of a burned connecting rod. On the following day the number 5 had been repaired and was sent to Dolores to handle our group, but it developed

From the President



The RMRR Club Charter return trip to Ridgway, Colorado at Placerville, Colorado on April 14, 1946. Passengers also rode in the box, with the rear doors open allowing spectacular vistas for riders.



RGS Motor #5 taking on water at Telluride, Colorado on July 13, 1946.
– Joseph Schick photo.

another rod problem, so the number 4 handled the special into Ridgway where a wheel fell off after its arrival. Just another typical operation on the RGS!

In May of 1947, a two-day steam excursion was operated between Ridgway

and Dolores on the RGS. Engine 20, later purchased by the Club, handled the special train on the first day but leaky flues prevented its use on the return trip and Denver & Rio Grande Western engine 319 handled the return movement. This was the only time a class C-18,

From the President



RGS Goose #3 had a broken pulley shaft and Goose #4 came to the rescue below Ames south of Vance Junction on an RMRRC trip on July 13, 1946. E. L. Rohrer is in the overseas cap with John Ryland behind him.

2-8-0 locomotive handled a Club excursion, so perhaps fate was in our favor.

Two years later, in May of 1949, another RGS two-day excursion operated between Ridgway and Telluride (and Pandora) on the first day; and on the second day operated Telluride to Lizard Head and then returned to Ridgway. This trip featured former Colorado & Southern locomotive number 74, which had been acquired by the RGS during the previous August.

The final Rio Grande Southern excursion was a duplication of the May 1949, special using the same engine number 74. The return to Ridgway on September 2, 1951 signified the very last passenger train operated by the RGS. At the end of that stock season, in November of 1951, the railroad shut down forever.

During that era arrangements could easily be made to do some unique things on almost all of the railroads in the region. Later on the larger railroads were

From the President



RGS 20 at Brown, Colorado, with RMRRC special on May 30, 1947.
– R. H. Kindig photo.



RGS 20 at Placerville, Colorado on May 30, 1947.

no longer in the passenger business and Amtrak became the sole survivor on May 1, 1971. The lack of and location of equipment has made it nearly impossible to make trips, other than on the tourist lines, where people have an option to

ride at their convenience, or plan their vacations around operations of interest. Trains Unlimited Tours handles trips on some tourist lines in this region. See page 14 of this *Rail Report*. Remember, Club members get discounts on their trips.



D&RGW 319, leased to the RGS crossing Upper Gallagher Trestle, Lizard Head Pass, Colorado on May 31, 1947. – R. H. Kindig photo.



D&RGW 319 with RGS excursion train at Trout Lake, Colorado on May 31, 1947. – R. H. Kindig photo.

From the President



RGS 74 near Lizard Head, Colorado on May 29, 1949. – Jack Pfeifer Photo

Some of the finest rail photography is presented at Stockton, California once a year at an event known as Winterail. March 8th was the date for this event this year. In addition to the first class near-professional presentations, a rail memorabilia show also takes place.

Driving to Stockton, a brief stop was made at Ely on the Nevada Northern (tourist railroad) which is shut down for the season. At Virginia City the old Virginia & Truckee Railroad has been rebuilt as a tourist operation. The Nevada State Railroad Museum in Carson City is worth a visit. Most of the rolling stock is off of the V&T. The museum is currently restoring a McKen motorcar and when completed in 2009, will be the only operating McKen in the USA.

The California State Railroad Museum at Sacramento was the next stop. Even though I had visited this museum several times, it is always nice to view the exhibits and rolling stock. Everything is nicely positioned and their restorations appear in “like new” condition within

their roundhouse.

After Winterail, a stop at Fisherman’s Wharf in San Francisco allowed time to photograph trolley cars. Many cars represent different US cities in authentic paint schemes. They also have quite a fleet of trolley cars from Italy.

Georgia Hoenig, one of our Cheyenne members, passed away recently due to complications after surgery. Georgia and her husband Mike have been active donors to our Car 25 project. We send our sympathy to Mike and the family.

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

Please note my new e-mail address. If calling on the telephone, please identify your call as RMRR Club business so I will know your call is not telemarketing. Thank you. 7 to 9 PM is preferred.

Current Railroad Happenings — A Photo Gallery



Yard engine, UPY 661, shows a few battle scars on this EMD GP15-1 at North Yard in Denver on February 26, 2008. – Photo © 2008 Dave Schaaf.



Led by BNSF 6238, the coal load from Caballo Mine in Wyoming is bound for Smithers Lake, Texas. It was passing Riverside Cemetery in Denver on February 26, 2008. – Photo © 2008 Dave Schaaf.



San Luis & Rio Grande #8542 and #8577 with former Holland America Westours full-length domes crossing the Rio Grande River as they leave Alamosa, Colorado, on March 9, 2008. – Photo © 2008 by Chip.

Rio Grande Scenic Domes over La Veta Pass

By Chip Sherman

What a view invited guests had making the first trip between Alamosa and La Veta, Colorado, crossing La Veta Pass at Fir using the former Holland America Westours full-length domes on Sunday, March 9, 2008! The Rio Grande Scenic Railroad purchased five full length domes in 2007 that were delivered to Alamosa, Colorado, in December 2007. The domes first outing included Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad Commissioners Lon Carpenter, Pete Foster, Randy Randall and his wife. The commission is a bi-state commission, appointed by the Governors of New Mexico and Colorado.

The train had two domes; RPCX 510-Chulitna and 554-Eklutna, along with coach RPCX 5060 were coupled to San Luis & Rio Grande (SLRG) Railroad

B39-8 8542 and 8577 wearing burgundy with yellow lettering. The locomotives have lost their LMX gray scheme in favor of this new eye-catching image.

The passenger special departed Alamosa after 2:00 PM passing the site of SLRG's new locomotive and car shop building. The facility will be 150 x 175 and cost an estimated \$3 million. When completed later this summer, it will hold four maintenance tracks (with space for a fifth) as well as the company's new offices. The train passed the former Denver & Rio Grande Western RR shops, now demolished – just a patch of open space – and crossed the Rio Grande River east of town. The clouds faded away as the train crossed the San Luis Valley and climbed the Sangre de Cristos passing Forbes Park into the snow covered pass.

Rio Grande Scenic Domes over La Veta Pass



San Luis & Rio Grande servers set tables aboard former Holland America Westours full-length dome 510 on March 9, 2008. – Photo © 2008 by Chip.

Aboard dome 510, a former Atchinson, Topeka & Santa Fe Railway car, Clark Johnson, owner of private car CARITAS, took in the rugged terrain. The car was built by Budd in 1954 and delivered to Santa Fe as ATSF 510. It was the first of eight domes, ATSF #506-513 placed in “El Capitan” and “Chicagoan/”Kansas Cityan” service. These cars had a 28 seat bar-lounge downstairs and a room for a courier-nurse. Two years later, the “El Capitan” went hi-level, and the ATSF domes moved to the “Chief.” The car went to Auto Train renumbered 522. Holland-America Westours operated the car in Alaska from 1987 until 2002. It acquired the name Chulitna during its Alaska service days.

The former Denver & Rio Grande Western RR line operated by San Luis

& Rio Grande RR operates between Walsenburg west via La Veta (the town) across the Sangre de Cristos to Alamosa.

The locomotives were wyeed at La Veta as passengers disembarked to take in the warm March afternoon. Dinner preparations were made aboard dome 510 for the trip westward.

Passengers enjoyed a choice of tenderlion medallions or Seafood Caribbean (shrimp, scallops tomatoes and scallions in a mildly spicy cream sauce). Sunset found the group finishing their dinners with chocolate ganache & hazelnut mousseline covered in a light & dark chocolate pyramid shell. A fine way to finish the Rio Grande Scenic Railroads first dome journey.

Current Railroad Happenings



Richard H. "Dick" Kindig. – Photo © 2008 Bruce Nall.

Richard H. Kindig Day

At The Colorado Railroad Museum

By James L. Ehernberger, President, Rocky Mountain Railroad Club

Congratulations, Richard, upon being recognized by the Governor of Colorado who has designated this special day in your honor. You not only deserve this tribute but you have certainly earned it. You are indeed a legend to each and every one of us.

On behalf of all Rocky Mountain Railroad Club members, past and present, I want to express appreciation for all of your efforts and time you spent to

make the Club the strong and viable organization it has been over the past 70 years.

We know that at the time, seventy years ago, you and a small group of men who were drawn to the Denver Union Station, each pursuing an interest in railroads, never dreamed that some would become lifelong friends, pass this interest on to, in some cases their fourth generation, influence countless people

Current Railroad Happenings



Ron Hill started the event. The photograph of D&RGW 3602 charging up Tennessee Pass was presented to the CRRM. – Photo © 2008 by Chip Sherman.

whom you never met, to become interested in and knowledgeable of Colorado railroads and come together to form an organization that has members around the world and is recognized world wide for its activities and accomplishments.

Your involvement and editorial efforts on the Club's books contributed to their being recognized many years after their publication as the authoritative source

on the subject as well as setting high standards for future authors and an example for researchers. The number and quality of your photographs are an outstanding example of preserving an aspect of the past as heritage for the future.

We wish to extend our gratitude to you not only for the memories you have given us but also the ways by which you made it possible for us to have them.

Rocky Mountain Railroad Foundation

By Jean Gross

It is with great pleasure that I can announce that the Foundation's goal of \$10,000 has been met. Congratulations to all steady supporters of the restoration of Car No. 25. The latest contributors who put the amount raised over the top are Tomas E. Caldwell, Beyer R. Patton and Roger E. Seliga.

Everyone of you who helped finan-

cially to achieve this goal, pat yourself on the back and know that the trolley has been restored only as a result of your support and the long hours of the volunteers working on No. 25.

Donations are always accepted, as the housing expenses continue. Please remember that all of your donations are tax deductible.

Trains Unlimited, Tours 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/

April 12	Domes Down The Valley	June 14	Pacific Coast Domes South
April 27-29	Arizona Rails	June 21	Domes to San Diego I
May 3-4	La Veta Pass Explorer	June 25 - July 3	Great Britain Steam Adventure
May 12-18	Western Maryland & West Virginia Railfan	June 26-30	Santa Fe Express
May 4-11	Sierra Madre Express I	July 4-5	San Diego Independence Day Express
May 24-26	Domes Over Donner Pass	July 12	Domes To San Diego II
May 24 - June 3	Steam In Poland	July 16-21	White Pass Railfan Spectacular
June 4-16	German Rails		

Colorado Railroad Museum 2008 Scheduled

Special Operation Days

For information call 303-279-4591

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

Post Income Tax Days	April 19 - 20
School's Out Steam Up	May 31 - June 1
Father's Day Steam Up	June 14 - 15
4th Annual Wine & Cheese Event	July 19
Back to School Train	August 9 - 10
Political Whistle Stop Train	August 22 - 23
Day Out With Thomas	September
Halloween Train	October 25 - 26

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

2008 Event Schedule

For information call 303-298-0377

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

Friday, April 18, 2008: Dinner Meeting at Lone Star Steakhouse. Former Denver Post journalist, book author, and avid history and train fan Dick Kreck will talk about the history of the Denver Post Cheyenne Frontier Days train trip from Denver to Cheyenne, complete with a slide show. In 1993, he co-authored, with our Chapter Historian Kenton Forrest, "The Denver Post's Cheyenne Frontier Days Train" as part of Colorado Rail Annual 20.

Dinner meetings are now in the Alamo Room of the Lone Star Steakhouse at 7450 W. 52nd Avenue, Arvada (exit north on Wadsworth off I-70). Reservations are STILL necessary. Please call the Chapter office by the Thursday before the program at 303-298-0377. "Social Hour" is 6:00 to 7:00 PM. We'll order dinner from 6:45 to 7:15 PM. The evening's program begins at 8:00 and should end around 9:00 PM.

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Club Information

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	VP - Foundation	Darrell Arndt
	VP - Club	Herb Edwards
	Secretary	Roger Sherman
Web: http://www.rockymtnrrclub.org	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:

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Rocky Mountain Rail Report
PO Box 620579
Littleton, CO 80162-0579

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

Items for the May Rail Report should be sent by April 10th.



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