

RAIL REPORT

December 2014 • NO. 653

Rocky Mountain Railroad Club • Rocky Mountain Railroad Historical Foundation

Annual Meeting

Short Lines and Long Freights – Strasburg Trip Video

Presented by Nathan Zachman and Keith Jensen

December 9th, 2014 • 7:30 PM

Nathan will present a short digital slide show set to music on various short lines from around the country.

Keith will present a video of the Club's trip to Strasburg highlighting the Comanche Crossing Museum, Urich Locomotive Works, and the Comanche Crossing & Eastern Railroad. The museum features the railway station and artifacts from life on the plains. The tour of the locomotive works included a 15-inch gauge caboose and locomotives under construction and a demonstration in the foundry. This was followed up with a picnic and train rides at the Comanche Crossing & Eastern Railroad behind both steam and electric 15-inch gauge locomotives.

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 2015 Calendar

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| January 13th | Meeting and Program, "Soo Line, Milwaukee Road, and DSS&A," by Ron Kaminen and Dave Rasmussen. |
| February 10th | Meeting and Program, "Pueblo" by Bruce Barrett. |

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.

Short Lines and Long Freights



Kyle 9345, ex-Southern Pacific SD45T-2, leaving Bethune, Colorado, after spotting a few empty grain cars at the small grain bins for the local COOP. The Kyle operates the ex-Rock Island Line from Limon, Colorado, to Phillipsburg, Kansas, and has been taken over by the Genesee and Wyoming Railroad.
– Photo © Nathan Zachman.



Cimarron Valley 3024, an ex-Rio Grande GP30, leads a long string of empty grain cars past a few grain elevators west of Ulysses, Kansas. This trackage is the was built by the Santa Fe as the Satanta Branch, now the CVR Manter Sub, and runs from Satanta, Kansas, to Pritchett, Colorado. – Photo © Nathan Zachman.

Strasburg Trip



The Club tour of the Uhrich Locomotive Works locomotives under construction and a demonstration in the foundry. – Photo © 2014 Keith Jensen.



The Club riding behind a 15-inch gauge locomotive on the Comanche Crossing & Eastern Railroad. – Photo © 2014 Keith Jensen.



2014 Officers and Directors back row from left: Mike Tinetti (Director), Roger Sherman (Secretary), Nathan Zachman (Director), Nathan Holmes (President) Pat Mauro (Director), Dave Goss (2013 President), Dennis Leonard (Director), and Charles Moffat (Director). Front row from left: Dan Edwards (2013 Director), Don Hulse (Director), Dave Schaaf (Vice President), Keith Jensen (Treasurer) and Andy Dell (Director). – Photo © 2013 Bruce Nall.

Notes From The President

By Nathan Holmes

You'll all receive this just before the Club's annual general business meeting, where we'll take care of our usual year-end business, including electing next year's officers and directors. As I finish my first term and we as a board struggle to find candidates to fill open seats, I thought this might be a good chance to talk a bit about what it takes to run the club behind the scenes.

The most routine part of our jobs, and the one that's most visible to the general members, is the monthly general meeting. The actual dates get picked about six months out and reserved with the church, and then on meeting night we'll show up a bit early and set things up, and stay a bit late to tear things down. That's the easy part – the challenge is

actually finding and scheduling the monthly presenters. Sometimes we'll get an interested member or group offering to present, but more typically it's a lot of asking around by board members to see who might have something of interest. Usually we like to know what we're doing for shows 3-4 months out, but there have been times that we haven't known until a month or so head of time.

Many months, the biggest time commitment by the board is our monthly business meeting. Typically, we all meet for dinner on the Monday night after the regular meeting and will spend two or three hours working through club and foundation business. Some of this is planning for programs as described above, but it's also about budgeting,

Notes From The President

proposing and planning upcoming trips, working on banquet plans, dealing with donations and outstanding bills, and doing more long-range planning as to where we want to take both organizations.

Outside of the board meetings, everyone usually has a couple of tasks accomplish. They're usually not terribly time consuming – maybe a few hours over the following month. During the slow months – typically November through April - usually it amounts to talk to so-and-so about doing a show, work on donations, pay bills, work on membership renewals or cards, create and mail the Rail Report (or, in my case, write my ever-late column), update the website, etc. From May through October is really the busy season, since that's when there are also trips and the banquet to be planned. During those months, the workload gets a bit heavier. Trips typically have someone who volunteers to lead, and they're primarily responsible for details. The banquet, on the other hand, is always the most intense, with a million little details to manage, from door prizes to pricing and contracts to lining up a “banquet grade” speaker that everyone will enjoy.

It's not a full time job, but it's often a stretch to get what needs to be done scheduled in between our day jobs, family, friends, and just other commitments. Still, none of this stuff just happens on its own. I'm thankful I have a very competent, committed group of people on the board that I've come to rely on to help make this all look easy. Even having been on the board for four years, it's

been a steep learning curve in my first year, and I couldn't have done it without them. We all have our day jobs and other commitments, but we do it because we value the club and realize that without somebody to take care of the details behind the scenes, seventy-six years of tradition could fall apart very quickly.

The club will be what its members put into it, and so I encourage those of you who haven't served to think about taking a more active role. Maybe you don't have time to be a full board member right now, but often we could use someone who wants to lead a trip, write an article for the newsletter, or even beat the bushes for interesting monthly programs. There are a myriad of ways to volunteer in the club, but the first step is answering the call.

In other news, you should have received your membership renewal reminder in the mail in late November. If you didn't, or haven't renewed already, I'd just like to give you a little reminder. As usual, we won't redo the seniority numbers for at least a month into the new year, but don't delay and risk losing out.

I wish each and every one of you a wonderful holiday season with friends and family, and we'll see you again in 2015.

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, or by phone at 719-235-1286. Please don't hesitate to reach out to me.

A Call For Nominations For The Rocky Mountain Railroad Club and The Rocky Mountain Railroad Historical Foundation

The election will be held during the annual meetings of the Rocky Mountain Railroad Club and the Rocky Mountain Railroad Historical Foundation on Tuesday, December 9, 2014, 7:30 PM, at Christ Episcopal Church, 2950 South University Boulevard in Denver.

Current officers Nathan Holmes (President), Dave Schaaf (Vice-President), Roger Sherman (Secretary) and Keith Jensen (Treasurer) and directors John Charles, Andy Dell, Don Hulse,

Mike Tinetti and Nathan Zachman have agreed to serve another term. Denny Leonard, Charles Moffat and Pat Mauro will continue their term as directors. Director John Charles will be stepping down.

Any member wanting to volunteer or nominate a member for either an officer or director position should contact the nominating committee, Andy Dell or Nathan Holmes through the Club website or by mail at the Club PO Box.

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 9, 2014, 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.

In Remembrance

Alan C. Braga

Alan C. Braga passed away in Casper, Wyoming, on August 28, 2014, at the age of 80. Alan was 12 year member who carried seniority number 32.

In Remembrance

Sanford A. Goodrick, Jr.

Sanford Alonzo Goodrick, Jr. of Mishawaka, Indiana, passed away on Friday, September 22, 2014, at the age of 93. Mr. Goodrick was a 66 year member who joined the club in 1948. He held seniority number 1.

Sandy was a lifelong rail fan, influenced by his grandfather, a senior conductor on the South Shore. He combined his interest in trains with an interest in photography and became a sought-after source for slides of various rail lines. His photographs have been included in Under Milwaukee Wires and Grand Trunk Western in Color and were the sole source for Tracksides on NYC's Western Division.

Current Railroad Happenings



Union Pacific 4742 with Kansas City Southern 4802 sit with heavy metal north-bound on the Joint Line south of Englewood, Colorado, on October 28, 2014, at the Oxford Street Station along Denver Regional Transportation District (RTD) line to Littleton. Fort Carson shipped nine trains via Union Pacific to the National Training Center in California for Army exercise. – Photo © 2014 by Chip.

Did You Lose Your Renewal Invoice?

The renewal invoices were sent out last month. If you cannot find your please contact us by sending an email to rails@rockymtnrrclub.org and request a replacement which will be sent to you. If you do not use digital media you can sent us a request for a new invoice to the club post box at Rocky Mountain Railroad Club, PO Box 2391, Denver, CO 80201-2391.

Each renewal form has spaces provided to correct any errors with your contact information. Members if you have an email account please make sure we have the correct information. We plan on using an email notification service next year.

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

2015. To maintain membership in RMRRCC, your dues for the upcoming year should be paid by December 31st.

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

The Club would greatly appreciate if all of our members renew by the end of year. We do allow for a month grace period in January. The re-sequencing of seniority numbers is performed the first week in February. If you wish to keep your seniority please make sure have renewed by then.

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

The Polar Express™ at the Colorado Railroad Museum



Santa (Wally Weart) hands out sleigh bells before the train ride while Conductor (Robert Kramer) looks on. – Photo © 2014 Bruce Nall.

For the first time in the history of the Colorado Railroad Museum, the story of The Polar Express™ is being theatrically re-created so families can be immersed in the sights, sounds and intrigue of this classic children's tale. Train rides are Fridays, Saturdays & Sundays through December 28, 2014, with additional train rides on December 22 and 23. Times are 4:30 PM, 6:00 PM and 7:30 PM. Each train ride lasts approximately 75 minutes.

The Polar Express™ at the Colorado Railroad Museum



Dancing chefs and waiters (from front, Katelyn Columbia and Missy Moore) and Conductor (Scott Tuffield) perform before serving cookies and the “Hot Hot Chocolate” while Producer (Rick Bernstein) makes sure all goes well and Conductor (Robert Kramer) looks on through the window.

– Two photos © 2014 Bruce Nall.



The Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad's Polar Express Train Ride Runs through January 3rd, 2015

Based on the award-winning book by Chris Van Allsburg and adapted to the big screen in 2003, the story of a child's Christmas Eve journey comes alive onboard THE POLAR EXPRESS™!

For Details see <http://www.durangotrain.com/events/polar-express%E2%84%A2>

The Polar Express™ at the Colorado Railroad Museum

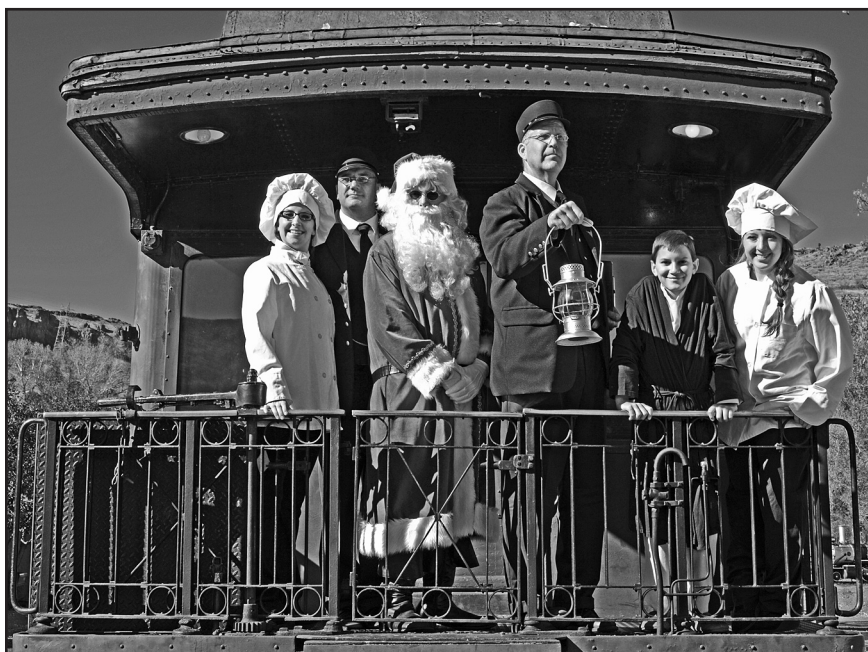


Blue level ticket holders enjoy the lavishly decorated CB&Q Business Car No. 96.
– Photo © 2014 Bruce Nall.

The Polar Express™ at the Colorado Railroad Museum



Conductor Robert Kramer calls “All aboooooard!” – Photo © 2014 Bruce Nall.



The performers that bring the story by Chris Van Allsburg to life, from left: Missy Moore, Scott Tuffield, Walter Weart, Robert Kramer, Peter Cabrera, Katelyn Columbia. – Photo © 2014 Bruce Nall.

Current Railroad Happenings



The weather for the Chama Steam Classic on October 25 was perfect with three steam locomotives heading up a 21 car freight with K27 No. 463 in the lead. Sponsored by Jay Wimer, he asked a modest amount to be an “official” train chaser and provided detailed locations for the best photographs.

– Photo © 2014 Kenneth Jessen.



As part of the Chama Steam Fall Classic, Dave Taylor organized photographers on the evening of October 24th for a night photo shoot. Taylor set up fill lights and strobes. Once everything was operating, he counted down prior to setting off the strobes. Using an open shutter technique, the results were excellent.

– Photo © 2014 Kenneth Jessen.

Events of Railroad History:

The Big Snow Plow

From the *Denver Republican*, December 2, 1885

Research By Dan Edwards

The article deals with an era in American history where racist ideas and policies were commonplace, and is presented to show the difference in attitudes even during that era, as well as to contrast them with today.

Engine No. 912 of the Union Pacific is being fitted up with one of the largest and most effective snow plows in the country. The plow weighs four tons, is 12 feet wide and 16 feet high at the wings, and can throw snow 40 feet on either side of the track. This gigantic snow shovel is balanced on the front of the pilot platform, being securely braced by bars running along the frame behind the cylinders and bolted to uprights reaching to the back of the plow. The shear or edge is some eight feet beyond the pilot platform and just escapes the rail. This plow is shod heavily with iron.

The engine's balloon stack is replaced by an open straight stack, as it was found by last winter's experiences

that a balloon stacked engine stood a poor show behind a snow plow in a heavy drift. This plow killed 36 head of cattle last winter in a cut where they had wandered and were shut in by drifts.

The engineer and fireman behind that machine do not find life as rosy as it might be. The engineer cannot see ahead, so he goes it blind, and as No. 912 weighs 45 tons, when she strikes a drift, if there are any cattle or Chinamen around, they are sent flying six ways for Sunday as the expression is. And the beauty of it is that they never know what hurts them. Both runner and fireman generally get wet and may be out two days in that shape before getting any rest. Railroad men don't view any prospect of taking No. 912 with favor.

RTD's First Commuter Rail Cars Arrive In Denver

The first rail cars that will be part of RTD's electric commuter rail lines in 2016 arrived in Denver on Thursday, November 20, 2014. The cars are assembled in Philadelphia and shipped four at a time by freight railroad.

Tour the new train cars at the Union Station commuter rail platform directly behind Union Station in downtown Denver during an open house on Wednesday, December 3rd through Saturday, December 6th from 11 AM to 7 PM each day.

These rail cars will be used on four FasTracks lines, the East Rail Line to Denver International Airport, the Northwest Rail Line to Westminster, the Gold Line to Arvada/Wheat Ridge and the North Metro Rail Line to Thornton.

The steel car shells were manufactured at Hyundai Rotem's plant in South Korea, then shipped to the company's plant in Philadelphia for fitting and assembly of various components including wheel trucks, brakes, seats, propulsion system, flooring, doors and windows.

Georgetown Loop Railroad

Santa's North Pole Adventure (Ends January 4)

Santa returns to pass out more presents and treats. Join Santa and his helpers aboard decorated, enclosed, heated coaches on weekends through December 14th, then daily through December 24th. After the holiday, from December 26 through the 4th of January, except January 1st, Santa comes back on vacation, and will be passing out goodies to the little ones.

Holiday Lights Trains (Ends December 31)

Offered on Friday and Saturday evenings through December, this ride allows you to relax from your shopping endeavors and enjoy beautiful synchronized holiday music & a light show in the forest above Georgetown. Winding through the beautiful snow covered Colorado Rocky Mountains in our enclosed heated coaches is a unique wintertime experience.

Colorado Railroad Museum

2015 Scheduled Special Operation Days

For information call 303-279-4591 or <http://www.coloradorailroadmuseum.org/event-listings>

Colorado Rails and Cocktails – An Evening of Colorado History

A series of adult lectures that will take you back to the time when railroads shaped the American West. Relax, enjoy a beverage, and learn!

2015 Series:

February 6 – Life of a Railroad Station Agent
Telegrapher

April, 17 – Hell on Wheels: Wicked Towns
Along the Union Pacific Railroad

June 12 – I've Been Working on the Railroad:
The Life & Times of a Gandy Dancer

August 28 – Zephyrettes & Courier Nurses

October 9 – Railroad Stories: Otto Mears

November 13 – Railroading in the Rockies

Tickets include a beverage of your choice: beer, wine or soda and snacks. Doors open at 6:00 PM for early enjoyment of attractions.

Admission for events: \$12 for members and \$15 for nonmembers. Advanced Tickets Required, 21 and older only.

Advance ticket purchase is recommended and will be available shortly. Please call 303-279-4591 or visit our Online Depot General Store to order tickets.

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 Events

For information call 303-883-2435 or see <http://www.cozx.com/nrhs>.

There is no December Meeting

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

Items for the January 2015 Rail Report should be sent by December 12th.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN



RAILROAD CLUB

BOX 2391
DENVER, COLORADO 80201

