

RAIL REPORT

January 2022

No. 735



There Will Be A January Meeting In Barnes Hall

The Current Denver Public Health Order Requires Masks To Be Worn By Everyone

Dreams Can Come True – Railroad Surprises

Presented Live And Via The Internet by Chip Sherman

January 11, 2022 • 7:30 PM

The long dormant Santa Fe Southern has new life breathed into it in the form of Sky Railways. New owners are bringing fresh ideas to the former 18-mile Santa Fe branch line between Lamy and Santa Fe, New Mexico.

The Rocky Mountaineer had a successful year in 2021. We will take a look at its Utah and Colorado first year operations. The Rocky Mountaineer is gearing up for a longer run in 2022.

See Page 6 For Information On How To Sign Up And Participate Online.

Please join us for an enjoyable, educational evening at Christ Church at 2950 South University Boulevard (University Boulevard at Bates Avenue) where there is plenty of off street parking at the rear of the complex. 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 2022 Calendar

February 8th Monthly Meeting and a program: "From Railfan To Railroader, Without Getting Railroaded" by Brad Swartzwelter.

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.

Dreams Can Come True – Railroad Surprises



Sky Railway (operating on former Santa Fe Southern) began public excursions on Friday, December 3, 2021. Saturday morning, December 4th, invited guests rode the train across a trestle near the 'Flintstone House' (upper left). The caboose is SFS 562 former Santa Fe 1972 Ce-9 built in 1943. The unique paint scheme was painted during summer by renown artist Joel Numina. – Photo © 2021 by Chip.

Sky Railway has Risen from the Santa Fe Southern

By Chip Sherman

There's a new tourist train operating in New Mexico called Sky Railway. Tourist train operations began December 3, 2021, with former Santa Fe Southern 93, GP16, two passenger cars, an open air car and caboose SFS 562. The train operation is different from the days when the Santa Fe Southern operated the 18-mile line.

Santa Fe Southern operated tourist operations until 2012 and briefly in 2014. Train operations ceased and the line became overgrown with chamisa (rabbit bush). Two locomotives, two cabooses, several freight cars and three

passenger cars were left around Lamy, New Mexico. There they languished for almost a decade.

In 2019, along came George R. R. Martin and three principal investors. They signed a deal in May 2020 and began refurbishing the track and train equipment. The chamisa was removed from the right of way and new grade crossing signals were installed on US Highway 285.

The new owners hired renowned artist Joel Numina to paint dragons on the locomotives and impressive fantasy scheme on the car exteriors. The three

The masthead features New York, Chicago & St. Louis RR locomotive 735 at Buffalo, New York, on April 27, 1957. – Photo from the Tom Klinger Collection.

Dreams Can Come True – Railroad Surprises

passenger cars interiors were extensively remodeled. New seats were installed in the coach.

Check out their website:
<https://skyrailway.com/adventures>

Locomotives still on the property:

Trips offered are Pablo's Magical Holiday, Sunset Serenade (started December 18, 2021), and Murder on the Lamy Line (started December 29, 2021).

SFS 07, GP7u built in 1952 as Santa Fe (ATSF) 1744.

SFS 93, GP16, nee-Louisville & Nashville 414.



Sky Railway had both their locomotives painted with dragons by renown artist Joel Numina. Sky Railway SFS 07, a GP7u, was Santa Fe 2744, built in 1952. The unit was parked by the Lamy Church, Lamy, New Mexico, on December 4, 2021. – Photo © 2021 by Chip.

The church, built in 1926, served as the Catholic church called Our Lady of Light. The Archdiocese of Santa Fe decommissioned the church in 1994, citing lack of attendance. The building then went on the market – Then came the film makers...

The New Mexico Film Office announced in 2015 that Sony Pictures Television and AMC produced a pilot for the TV show *Preacher*. The show was based on the comic-book series of the same name, which features a preacher in small Texas town who has the ability to make people do what he says.

A *Preacher* pilot was filmed for AMC. If the network chooses to purchase a full season of the show, producers would likely come back to the town. I noted "Filming in Progress" signs on the Amtrak Lamy depot in December 2021.



Union Pacific 5105 (leased to Rocky Mountaineer) had to back the Rocky Mountaineer passenger special across UP's Belt Line on Sunday, November 14, 2021. Two eastbound loaded unit oil trains from Helper, Utah, were on UP's Utah Junction Bypass north of Denver.

UP 6592, GE model C44ACM rebuilt 2019, was on a Helper, Utah, to Korf, Texas, loaded unit oil train set up 2x2x1 with 92-loads. – Photo © 2021 by Chip.

Election Results From The Annual Meeting

The annual meetings of the Rocky Mountain Railroad Club and the Rocky Mountain Railroad Historical Foundation were held on Tuesday, December 14, 2021, at Christ Church, 2950 South University Boulevard, Denver, Colorado, and virtually through Zoom. The annual election was held during these annual meetings.

Andy Dell was elected as President and Steve Subber was elected as Secretary. Current officers Dave Schaaf (Vice President), and Keith Jensen (Treasurer)

were re-elected.

Nathan Zachman was elected as a director. Directors Pat Mauro, and Debbie MacDonald were re-elected.

Ron Keiser and Michael Tinetti continue their term as directors. Past president Denny Leonard will continue on the board as President Emeritus.

We would like to thank the officers and board members completing their term for their service in the past year.



Rock & Rail applied a new paint scheme to their RRRR 401, a GP40. The unit was given upgraded electrical wiring, a new control stand, and this impressive paint scheme over recent months at the Rock & Rail Cañon City, Colorado, shop. First run in this scheme was done on December 2, 2021. The unit ran light on their Pueblo local run back to Portland, Colorado. – Photo © 2021 by Chip.

The 2022 Renewal Season Is Over

All current members received their renewal invoices in November. The club will perform seniority resequencing immediately after January 4th. The club plans to print and send out 2022 membership cards by the first week in February.

This will be the last *Rail Report* for those who have not renewed. Late renewals are always welcome. You can late renew at our web site:

www.rockymtnrrclub.org

Click on the **2022 Renew Now** link. This link comes down after January 18th. Following that date use the **Join** tab.

You can also renew by mail. Send your payment to the membership address:

Rocky Mountain Railroad Club
Membership Renewal
PO Box 620953
Littleton, CO 80162-0953

Senior members are those with 10 years or more. Their seniority number as a late renewal will decrease by only a half-step. All other members will get the next seniority number at the bottom on the list.

Processing and printing of membership cards for late renewals are completed on an as convenient basis.

Virtual Meeting And Program Access Instructions

To register ahead of time, please send an email to rmrrc-show@drgw.net asking for the RMRRRC virtual meeting address and password. Please send your request no later than the Monday night before the meeting and we will send you the meeting connection information. Please be patient as we all learn this new technology.

We will be holding the meeting via Zoom. Please ensure you have the Zoom client (<https://zoom.us/download>) installed on your computer, phone, or tablet before the event so that you're ready to go.

Zoom Meetings Will Also Be Live Streamed

As a view only option, Zoom supplies us the ability to live stream our meetings to YouTube. Those wishing to **only view** our meetings without the option to participate will not have to email us for a meeting ID and Password any longer. The club has our own YouTube channel. This channel is for posting our club meetings and significant events. After the live event you may still view the meeting any time at your convenience.

You can find our YouTube channel in several ways. The first is enter the URL shown below in your browser:

www.youtube.com/channel/UCPUDXhWLazlbsHFO9DUUeoA

For those whose typing skills are challenged by the URL above, a second method is search for "Rocky Mountain Railroad Club Channel" in the YouTube search bar or your search engine i.e. Google, Edge, etc. You may be surprised at all the items that come up. If you are familiar with YouTube and found the channel home page you can always subscribe. The third and last method is to browse our club web page. Right below the Facebook link is a new link to the YouTube live stream location.

The board believes live streaming may increase membership and make our meetings available to members who find it difficult to attend once we return to in person meetings.

Colorado Railroad Museum

A mask is required for Museum entry. They are currently operating at a reduced capacity. An advance admission purchase reserves entry at your desired time.

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

Colorado Railroad Museum Admission

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.

Intermountain Chapter, NRHS Events

The next chapter meeting will be Saturday, February 5th, at Malones Clubhouse Grill. For current meeting information email railbob@icloud.com or call 303-883-2435

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.

Please use this address for legal, commercial, Foundation donations, and general business: Rocky Mountain Railroad Club, PO Box 2391, Denver, CO 80201-2391

Club Information

Rocky Mountain Railroad Club
PO Box 620953
Littleton CO 80162-0953
Web: <http://www.rockymtnrrclub.org>
Email: rails@rockymtnrrclub.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/rockymtnrrclub

Club Officers

President	Andy Dell
Vice President	Dave Schaaf
Secretary	Steve Subber
Treasurer	Keith Jensen

Club Directors

Ron Keiser, Pat Mauro, Debbie MacDonald,
Michael Tinetti, Nathan Zachman

Membership Information

Membership in the Rocky Mountain Railroad Club may be obtained online at www.rockymtnrrclub.org or by sending the annual dues to the Club membership address:

Rocky Mountain Railroad Club PO Box 620953 Littleton CO 80162-0953	An associate membership for spouses and children is \$25.00 additional.
--	---

Regular membership dues are \$30.00 with email delivery of the <i>Rail Report</i> and \$45.00 if a printed, mailed <i>Rail Report</i> is desired.	Members joining after June may send a payment for half of the dues level they wish to join at for the remainder of the year.
---	--

International membership dues are \$45.00. Contributing membership is \$50.00. Sustaining membership is \$75.00. Patron membership is \$100.00.	Members of the Rocky Mountain Railroad Club are also members of the Rocky Mountain Railroad Historical Foundation, a tax exempt 501(c)(3) organization.
--	---

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 – Email: selectimag@aol.com

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

Items for the February *Rail Report* should be sent by January 7th.