



RAIL REPORT

Rocky Mountain Railroad Club

Rocky Mountain Railroad
Historical Foundation

April 2023

Issue 748



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 free 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. Our next meeting is on April 11th at 7:30pm Mountain Time.

Michael Pannell will talk about many discoveries in Colorado and Wyoming of Union Pacific, Colorado & Southern, and other antique railroad cars. He manages an organization called High Plains Railroad Preservation, and has done work for the towns of Como and Arvada, Colorado.

To join the Zoom meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86251105134?pwd=VWRwRUVCbVoyTzhwMWhYbm5scTlqdz09>



Upcoming Programs:

April 11 - program by Michael Pannell of Cheyenne

May 14 - Club picnic and steam event at the Colorado RR Museum in Golden, Colorado. This would take the place of the monthly meeting. More details to come regarding this Mother's Day gathering.

Upcoming Events:

Possible Club visit to Colorado Live Steamers in September.

August 30 - September 2; National Narrow Gauge Convention at Crown Plaza Hotel in Aurora, CO

President's Column by Andy Dell

Welcome to Spring, April is already here!

Plans are progressing for the **picnic at the Colorado Railroad Museum on May 14**, so keep that date open on your calendar. See also the article below in this newsletter.

Denny and I have been working on the membership seniority numbers and I should have the cards mailed out this week.

I will keep this short so that I can get everything sent out and finished by the end of the week.

Club Picnic and Steam Up at the Colorado Railroad Museum

— Sunday, May 14th —

We realize this is Mother's Day but it is when they will have a steam train operating and the pavilion available. The Club has an opportunity for another daytime picnic at the Colorado Railroad Museum in Golden. On Sunday afternoon, May 14th, we will have the use of the pavilion at the Museum, and their train will be steam-powered that weekend. The meal will be served at 3pm and the train ride at 4pm or shortly thereafter. This should give members enough time to do family things with mom in the morning or at noon and then come out to the museum for the picnic and train ride starting at 3pm.

As with any event using antique equipment, there is the possibility of changes to the engines and cars. We have been told the train crew will be putting together a special consist for us of traditional older equipment in the afternoon. The museum runs the option of an additional-cost train ride for most visitors. These depart on the hour and half-hour through the day. You and everyone in your party will need to check-in at the ticket window in the Museum store so please get here a little early and head to the depot building. We will make sure that you are on the list of paid participants and put a wristband on you. The wristband is required for admission, our train ride, and your meal. Please wear your Club name tag.

Tickets are \$42 per person including the lunch buffet with your choice of BBQ brisket or BBQ pulled chicken. We also plan to have burnt end baked beans, cole slaw, slider buns, individual chip packages, cookies, and Pork Barrel BBQ sauce. There will also be water and soft drinks provided. Order tickets online by May 5th and pay with a credit card through PayPal on the Club website at: www.rockymtnrrclub.org or mail your check in time to arrive by **May 5th** to:

Rocky Mountain RR Club –
May Picnic PO Box 2391
Denver CO 80201-2391

Please include attendees name(s) and dinner choice(s) of BBQ Brisket or BBQ pulled chicken with your order. Note: Tickets will not be available after May 5th or at the event. This event will take the place of our regular monthly meeting for May. (There will not be a meeting at Barnes Hall in May)



Vice President Dave Schaaf and President Emeritus Denny Leonard with the train crew outside the roundhouse at the May 16, 2021 picnic. ©2021 Andy Dell



Photo from the August 2020 picnic. ©2020 Andy Dell

2023 Mini Grant Applications

Do you have a railroad history-related project that could use a small financial grant for this summer? The Rocky Mountain Railroad Historical Foundation is looking for up to five individuals or organizations who have a summer project that could use up to \$1000. Full details and the application form can be found on our website:

www.rockymtnrrclub.org/index.htm

Applications must be received by USPS or email no later than April 30, 2023.

The board will review applications at the May board meeting, and the 2023 recipients will be announced in the June 2023 Rail Report.

Rocky Mountain Railroad Historical Foundation Donations

PayPal is not an option for Foundation donations. Donations should be by personal check made out to “Rocky Mountain Railroad Historical Foundation” and sent to:

Rocky Mountain Railroad Historical Foundation
PO Box 2391
Denver, CO 80201-2391

DRGW AX-41 Jordan Spreader Rushed to Wyoming March 2023



Rush Move - Denver & Rio Grande Western lettered AX-41

Jordan spreader was rushed from Granby, CO, storage via Denver, CO, to Rawlins, Wyoming, March 5 & 6, 2023. Snow needed to be cleared from the UP's Overland Route.

The DRGW lettered Jordan spreader had been stored at Granby, CO, since its last snow moving event in 2009 (?). UP 3041, SD70AH-T4 Tier 4 was rushed to Granby on March 4th to retrieve AX-41. Sunday morning the special eastbound move was at Rollinsville, CO, on March 5, 2023. ©2023 Chip



Union Pacific 3041 East crew waited at Pinecliffe, CO, for westbound UP train North Yard, Denver, to Grand Junction, CO. AX-41 had a maintenance of way guy riding the Jordan spreader. March 5, 2023. ©2023 Chip

UP Moved Oshkosh Defense New Trucks to Colorado



Union Pacific handled an Oshkosh Defense unit train between Janesville, Wisconsin, to Fort Carson, Colorado, train S JAFD-25 with 48-loads. Joint Light Tactical Vehicles (JLTV) model numbers M1278, M1279 utility, M1280 general purpose, & M1281 were moved to the Mountain Post.

Army M1280 General Purpose trucks built by Oshkosh Defense were shipped from Janesville, Wisconsin, to Fort Carson, CO, via Union Pacific unit train. The special train was approaching Strasburg, CO, Feb 28, 2023 on UP's Limon Subdivision.

In January 2017, the U.S. Air Force announced it was considering acquiring Joint Light Tactical Vehicles (JLTV) for its security forces that protect missile launch facilities. The vehicles are used by security forces, explosive ordnance disposal teams, para-rescue and personnel recovery units, tactical air control party teams, and special tactics forces. At this time, released documents revealed no further planned JLTV procurement for the period FY 2019–22, but the service was known to want to replace its entire fleet of 3,270 HMMWVs with JLTVs. In its 2018 budget the Pentagon requested \$1.143 billion for the program. The DoD requested 2,110 JLTVs for the Army, 140 for the Air Force, and 527 for the Marines.

A second Oshkosh Defense unit train was handled by Union Pacific across eastern Colorado on March 8, 2023.





Union Pacific sold off about 55 Genset model 3GS21B units to LTEX Rail Services in February 2023. These environmentally friendly units were used in California and Texas. They were not successful yard units. None saw service in Colorado - only stored at Denver and Grand Junction, CO. UPY 2718 at lower right. Photo at Denver, CO, January 22, 2023 by Chip.

Union Pacific Sold Gensets to LTEX Rail Services

Union Pacific came to an agreement to sell off their Genset switchers that have been stored in recent years. LTEX Rail Services acquired some 55 3GS21B units.

Union Pacific once touted Gensets as-
The “next generation” Genset switcher is equipped with six traction motors instead of the four found on traditional rail yard locomotives. The two additional traction motors help push rail cars over an incline, or hump, where gravity then propels the cars to destination-specific tracks.

These Gensets provide increased power with six traction motors, while maintaining the environmentally friendly standards of the previous four-traction motor models.

Union Pacific pioneered the Genset, beginning in 2002.

Larry's Truck and Electric (LTEX) purchased and had moved from storage the UPY Gensets.

Union Pacific completed in 2013 a Genset locomotive fitted with diesel particulate filters to further reduce particulate matter emissions beyond normal low levels.



Example picture of a modern Genset locomotive: Open doors show how the two gensets are placed on the unit. The front of the UPY 2005 is on the right. ©2023 David Lustig

BNSF Moves Passenger Cars

BNSF operated a 12-car passenger special from Topeka, Kansas, via Colorado March 7 & 8, 2023 to Helena, Montana. Train had BNSF 4250 up front with BNSF 3272 on the rear.

Included on the special was dome car Canyon View, remodeled by the BNSF's Topeka Shops. The car was originally built for the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy RR as Silver Veranda dome observation lounge used on the Denver Zephyr.

In Montana - The Big Sky Passenger Rail Authority is pushing to ensure the old North Coast Hiawatha, which crossed the state's southern tier until 1977, is included in the FRA's final Amtrak Daily Long-Distance Service Study.

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill in 2021 included language written by Sen. Jon Tester that directed the U.S. Secretary of Transportation to study the

restoration of such long-distance routes and included \$15 million in federal funding to do so.



BNSF 35-Canyon View dome observation lounge on Topeka, KS, to Helena, Montana, 12-car officer special at La Junta, CO, March 7, 2023. ©2023 Chip

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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 address:

Rocky Mountain Railroad Club

Membership

PO Box 2391

Denver, CO 80201-2391

Regular membership dues are \$30.00 with email delivery of the Rail Report and \$45.00 if a printed, mailed *Rail Report* is desired.

International membership dues are \$45.00.

Contributing membership is \$50.00.

Sustaining membership is \$75.00.

Patron membership is \$100.00.

An associate membership for spouses and children is \$25.00 additional.

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. 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 Zoom meeting information.

Newsletter contributions and items for publication should be sent to:

Chip Sherman, Editor

Email: rails@rockymtnrrclub.org

USPS Mail:

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