

RAIL REPORT

August 2017 • No. 683



Rocky Mountain Railroad Club • Rocky Mountain Railroad Historical Foundation

Selling Sunshine, The Florida Trains

High Definition Blu-ray Video Presented by Richard Luckin

August 8th, 2017 • 7:30 PM

This program explores how America's railroads moved masses of rail passengers from the wintry Northeast and Midwest to the warm, sandy beaches of Florida.

Enjoy behind-the-scenes looks at the lucrative routes



and colorful trains that traveled to the Sunshine State from the late-1800s to today!

Narrated by Michael Gross, this is the first comprehensive documentary to chronicle this important aspect of American

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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. 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 2017 Calendar

- August 5: Denver and Intermountain Interurban Car No. 25 Open House.
- August 11-14: San Juan Corkscrew Turntable Tour.
- September 12: Monthly Meeting and Program.
- September 17: Colorado Live Steamers Open House.
- October 14: Annual Luncheon Banquet at The Denver Athletic Club.

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.

Selling Sunshine, The Florida Trains

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Copies of the DVD are available from the Kalmbach Hobby Store.

passenger train travel.

The program also traces the development of Florida and stories about two Florida developers, Henry Flagler and Henry Plant. Henry Flagler's Florida East Coast constructed the line to Key West which was destroyed by a hurricane in 1935.

Various on-camera interviews were conducted with people who rode and worked on some of the famous trains including the "Silver Meteor" and the "Florida Special."

Historic footage from the 1950s and 1960s as well as up-to-date video of Amtrak, Tri-Rail, SunRail current operations including the new Brightline operation are included in the program.

A Club Trip To The Colorado Live Steamers Open House

Sunday, September 17th – 10:00 AM

We are running a trip to an open house for the Colorado Live Steamers in Byers, Colorado. There is no Club cost for the trip but it would be gracious for our visitors to make a small donation of \$5.00 or \$10.00 to the Live Steamers group.

They will have all kinds of small steamers and you can ride over the extensive trackage. They have bridges, deep cuts, and a long tunnel as well as an operating signal system. Food and drink can also be purchased there.

To get there, go east from Byers on US-36 and turn north on the Calhoun-Byers Road (as marked) 6-1/2 miles past 72nd Avenue. The Colorado Live Steamers will be on the left. Part of the road is gravel but it is a good road in dry weather. If you cross Bijou Creek you have gone too far.

The official Rocky Mountain Railroad Club Day is Sunday, September 17th but the Open House is also Friday, the 15th and Saturday the 16th.

For Rail Report 683, the masthead photo features the only surviving Denver & Rio Grande Western standard gauge steam locomotive, Number 683, in Denver on September 1, 1938. – Photo from the James L. Ehernberger Collection.



Passenger Equipment at the Colorado RR Museum was moved for maintenance and restoration on June 15, 2017. – Photo © 2017 Debbie MacDonald.

President's Report

By Steve Mason

I previewed our August program by Richard Luckin. This is a wonderful program for the entire family. It is about the Florida trains and how they came to be. There is background of the development of Florida from a very primitive place to eventually become what it is now. Two men developed Florida. Henry B. Plant built big hotels on the West Coast of Florida and inland and developed railroads to get people to his hotels in the winter. Henry M. Flagler, a retired Standard Oil partner, took his vast fortune to build hotels at St. Augustine, Palm Beach, and Miami. He had a network of railroads anchored by the Florida East Coast Railway and steam-

ship lines. To fulfill his own challenge, he built the Overseas Railway which went from Miami to Key West. The idea was to be just that much closer to the Panama Canal which was built at the same time. Come see the show and bring your family or a friend to see how it all plays out.

I am easy to reach. The best way is by phone at 720-371-8536. My e-mail is stevemason647@gmail.com. If something is of concern or if you are pleased about something let me know. I am here for you. Many of you are my friends going back many years and it is a pleasure to serve you. – *All Good Wishes, Steve*

Rocky Mountain Railroad Club And Historical Foundation Board Meetings

Board meetings are usually held the first Monday after a regular monthly meeting at Nocolo's Pizza, 7847 W. Jewell Ave. in Lakewood. We eat dinner at 5:30 PM and the Board meeting starts at 6:30 PM followed by the Foundation meeting. Meetings last to around 8:00 PM. Any member / visitor wishing to address the Board will be inserted first into the agenda. I personally urge any of you to attend and tell us what we need to address or tell us what we have done that pleases you. We earnestly solicit your input! Before and after the meetings we informally visit and you are welcome to participate. You are always welcome!



The rebuilt Silverton Railroad's Guston Depot. – Photo © 2017 Steve Mason.



The Silverton Railroad Grade. – Photo © 2017 Steve Mason.

Corkscrew Gulch Turntable And Silverton Area Field Trip

August 11th – 14th

The Corkscrew Gulch Turntable trip will be a driving day on August 11th and 14th. Possible meeting points are King Soopers west on US-285 at Aspen Park at 8:00 AM and later at 1:00 to 2:00 PM at Lake City then supper at 7:00 PM at the Pickle Barrel on Greene Street in Silverton. The primary meeting point on August 12th in Silverton will be at the Brown Bear Cafe at 7:30 AM with a secondary meeting point at County Road 31 at 9:00 AM. COR 31 is NOT marked since someone has stolen the number plate. It is the first right turn below the Idarado Mine trestle and is only a steel pole.

I will be in my Yellow Wrangler. My phone is 720-371-8536. If you are coming from Ouray, cross Ironton Park and as you pass the Corkscrew Gulch Jeep Road turn off, the road starts to climb. At the next right hand turn look for my yellow jeep on the outside of the curve. I will take us in through the road maze

to the trailhead for the Corkscrew Gulch Turntable. We will also stop at the Guston Depot with a short length of track, re-built several years ago which by the Ridgway Railroad Museum crew.

I want to start hiking about 10:00 AM so we are out of there by Noon when it is likely there will be afternoon showers. The trail is at 11,300 feet so be sure you can handle a hike of .8 mile in and .8 mile out at that altitude.

Bring water, an extra change of socks and good hiking shoes as we will be walking on old rotted ties in places. Bring mosquito repellent and sunscreen as there is little UV protection at 11,300 feet. Candy bars are a good idea. So is TP. *The Rainbow Route*, by Sloan and Skowronski, has good history and photos.

At conclusion of the hike we can vote on other railroad things to do. If you want to have a picnic lunch, bring one.

Food, Drink, and Socialize at the Club's Annual Banquet Luncheon

October 14, 2017

The Club invites you for a fall afternoon of socialization at the Denver Athletic Club. The club hosts one event each year whose main purpose is for club members and their significant others and friends to meet, enjoy a good meal, partake of adult beverage and most especially converse

with fellow rail enthusiasts. Please don't be bashful, plan on joining us on October 14th for relaxation. The doors open at 11:00 AM. Rule G is suspended for the gathering, so we will have a cash bar to excite your spirits.

The DAC has a parking garage on the corner of 14th and Welton. There are entrances on 14th as well as Welton. For special events such as ours, the parking fee is \$7.00. If you desire a little exercise you can ride light rail, get off at the Convention Center Station and walk two blocks up 14th through the parking garage to the entrance of the DAC. Those coming in on the A,B,G, and W lines take the shuttle from Union Station to the stop nearest Welton or Glenarm, then walk over two blocks to 14th. Moral of the story, it is easy to get there so don't stay home.

Oh, did we mention the menu? The consumables begin with a Caesar salad,



Denver Athletic Club Parking

rolls and butter. You have a choice of London Broil (Marinated and broiled flank steak topped with mushroom Madeira sauce) served with oven roasted red potatoes and a fresh vegetable medley or Sesame-Crusted Salmon Pan seared in sesame oil and finished with ginger soy sauce; served

with sticky rice and stir-fried vegetables. The tables will be set with your choice of coffee, iced tea, and water.

This year Jim Ehernberger will present a program featuring charter member William Van Patten's slides of the Club's early excursions. The Club operated some very rare and unique excursions including the annual Alamosa to Silverton three-day narrow gauge excursions and the Midland Terminal trip in 1949. There will be door prizes of course following the program, so don't leave early.

The reservation form is the insert so don't hesitate, fill it out, pick your main course, write the check or credit card information and mail it in. You know we accept reservations at the meetings too. For the digitally inclined there is PDF reservation form at the web site www.rockymtnrrclub.org which can be Emailed back to us. See you there and don't be late.



The Como Depot.
– Photo © 2017 Denny Leonard.



New track heading to the Como roundhouse.
– Photo © 2017 Denny Leonard.

Como Work Day

By Pat Mauro

The Club's Como workday was June 24th. The weather made for a great work day, assisting with their ongoing projects. Pat Mauro with Steve Mason, ran the rail drill. Other volunteers continued laying rail toward the roundhouse.

We also worked on tamping and leveling the track. The switch in front of the depot is also being reworked. The need for a head stock at the rail joint of the stub switch is needed, and we installed a two tie set of switch ties for switch stand mounting.

Since June 24th, member Jeff Ramsey went to Silver Plume and fabricated the head stock, working with the Georgetown Loop Railroad (GLRR). We appreciate the GLRR crew assisting with the

project, and thank them for their help.

We had a great lunch in the Como Hotel, served by owner David Tompkins. In the afternoon, we set more rail on the main line heading towards Gunnison. The day was very successful, as the project continues on.

As of now, everything is still on schedule, to have steam rail traffic in Como on Railroad Day, August 19th! It will be the first time in 80-years, since the last passenger train ran in Como. The project is a great example of how our rail groups work together, and the result is that Como will be a rail haven once again. Thank You! For more updates on the Como project, go to southparkrail.com or call Pat Mauro at 303-838-7740.

Don't Forget Boreas Pass Day Activities On Saturday, August 19th.

Como Progress Update



Work is underway again on restoration of the DSP&P stone roundhouse built in 1881 and the turntable pit at Como, Colorado. Colorado Summit Construction started the turntable restoration project in late June 2017. Jeff Ramsey is in the turntable pit with newly cut and placed ties on June 29, 2017. The South Park Rail Society is the organization charged with the care and restoration of the roundhouse and returning an operational steam locomotive to the South Park of Colorado. – Photo 2017 by Chip.



In the Como roundhouse on June 29, 2017, at left is the end of Denver South Park & Pacific (DSP&P) Railway No. 3 coach, named Geneva, later DSP&P 63, built in 1878 by Barney and Smith Company of Dayton, Ohio. The car became Colorado & Southern coach 56. At right are wood exhaust smoke stacks removed from the roundhouse roof. – Photo 2017 by Chip.

**SHARE YOUR
STORIES!**

If you were a passenger
in the day, we want to
hear about it.



**DENVER & INTERMOUNTAIN
INTERURBAN
CAR NO. 25 OPEN HOUSE
10 a.m.–2 p.m.
August 5**



**Denver Federal Center
Building No. 78, Gate 1**

Roll into the past with free trolley rides from restored 1911
Car No. 25, oral histories, historic photos and related kids activities.

FREE RIDES
(Weather Permitting)

*All adults need a government photo ID (i.e. driver's license)
to enter the Federal Center. Sorry, pets are not permitted.*

Lakewood.org/HistoricTransit • 303.987.7850





A tapered pillar is all that remains of the fountain at Mt. Alto Park and the chimney is all that is left of the pavilion. Mount Alto was where the railroad held dances and the specialty was “Moonlight Rides” on the return trip. Doug Geiger (second from left) is holding open Forest Crossen’s book, *Switzerland Trail of America*, with Chris Suber, Bob MacDonald, Jim Hurt and Dan Edwards. This was down leg from Gold Hill Road to Sunset. – Photo © 2017 Bob Brewster.

Denver, Boulder & Western Field trip

By Steve Mason

Seventeen attendees in six four-wheel drive vehicles went on the field trip. We stopped at the Maxwell Pitch and Orodell, turned up Pennsylvania Creek at Salina, drove past Melvinia and stopped at Wall Street. We saw the James E. Bailey Assay Office and the massive foundations of the Gold Extraction Mill towering 60 feet over the road.

Driving further to Sunset then to Eldora and later the flats east of Nederland. Next stop was Sugarloaf Station.

Doug Geiger brought along his *Switzerland Trail of America* by Club past

president Forest Crossen. This provided a look at historic photos to compare with what the terrain looks like now.

Bill Gould led us north towards Ward and we stopped at an overlook where we could see quite a bit of the DB&W road bed high on the south wall of Left Hand Canyon. We drove north to look over the Ward depot, the only building left of the DB&W.

Nearly everyone ended the day with drinks and food at the “Boulder Depot,” the old Boulder Union Depot that was moved from 14th & Canyon.



Engine #40 had pulled trains for years at the Georgetown Loop. It moved to the Colorado Railroad Museum in Golden from 2004 until May of this year. It is being overhauled and the plan is for it to run again in 2018. To the right in the Silver Plume, Colorado, engine house is #111, shown here on July 6, 2017. Both Baldwin locomotives had worked in Central America before coming to Colorado.
– Photo © 2017 Dave Schaaf.

Information For The Railroad Enthusiast

By Dave Schaaf

Amtrak chairman Wick Moorman will share duties with and advise his incoming successor Richard Anderson until the end of this year. Mr. Anderson has experience leading both Northwest and Delta airlines, and his father had worked for the Santa Fe in Texas. Amtrak will build a new 31,000-square-foot locomotive shop in Seattle. This shop will service long-distance trains the Empire Builder and Coast Starlight, as well as Amtrak Cascades and Sound Transit Sounder trains.

Oregon Rail Heritage Foundation hosted a steam run with the S.P. #4449

in June that carried over 500 riders about 500 miles. They had great assistance from many volunteers and the BNSF and City of Prineville railways.

Fort Wayne RR Historical Society ran Joliet Rocket excursions to downtown Chicago with Nickel Plate Road #765 in June. The four short steam trips carried over 2,500 passengers.

Union Pacific will run E9 units for a passenger fund-raiser a few days after the Nebraska 150 Special. This train from Omaha to Columbus, Nebraska, will benefit the UPRR Museum Association.

Information For The Railroad Enthusiast



Georgetown Loop Railroad engine #111 working to climb the hill to Silver Plume on July 13, 2017. – Photo © 2017 Dave SchAAF.

Some coach seats may still be open for the August 13th ride. Check online at www.uptraintix.com

Santa Fe steam loco #3415 will make a few runs in September & October in Abilene, Kansas. www.asvrr.org

William L. Withuhn passed away at 75. He is best known for his nearly 30-year career at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History, where he was curator of transportation. He was a noted author, USAF veteran,

and certified as an engineer of steam locomotives. Pacific NW steam and logging preservationist Tom Murray died recently. He worked to create Camp 6, and later the Mount Rainier Scenic Railroad in Washington state.

We mentioned in March that the Black Mesa & Lake Powell in Arizona could be losing its coal business. It now appears that the electric powered rail line is converting to diesel, and two new GE ET44AC locomotives will be working on this railroad.



Karl Rethwisch power washing the 2912 tender on June 3, 2017, to prepare for painting. – Photo © 2017 Paul Brown.

2912 Tender Painting Progress

By Petar Sredojevic

The Pueblo Railroad Museum received a 2017 Rocky Mountain Railroad Historic Foundation grant for re-painting their Santa Fe #2912 steam locomotive tender.

They kicked off the 2912 tender task by power washing the trucks and the rest of the tender. Workers used the one power washer and when not washing, they scraped tar off of the wheels.

Additional power washing and hand sanding continues to get some of the stubborn spots ready to accept paint.



Petar Sredojevic power washing the trucks. – Photo © 2017 Paul Brown.

Events of Railroad History: The Only First Class Car

The *Denver Republican*, May 21, 1895

Contributed by Dan Edwards

Last April 9, a cell phone video of a Dr. David Duo being forcibly removed by security officers from an overbooked United Airlines flight went viral on social media, was broadcast on TV networks and caused a national outcry. We rail fans may believe with certainty that such a thing could never have happened on a train. Well, it did, and although the circumstances were different, the result was the same: personal injuries and a lawsuit!

John H. Rhinehardt commenced suit in the District court yesterday against the Midland Terminal Railroad for \$5,000 damages. The petitioner alleges that in April 1895 he purchased a first-class ticket from Victor to Colorado Springs. When the train came along, the passenger coaches consisted of a combination smoker and a Pullman. He entered the smoker, and the smoke made him ill, as he was not addicted to it and was not a strong man anyway. He became so much annoyed that he left the smoker and entered the Pullman, The conductor in the Pullman demanded his ticket or money for a ride. Rhinehardt showed him a first-class ticket over the Midland and insisted that he should be allowed to ride in the Pullman because it was the only first-class

car on the train.

The conductor did not look at it in the same light and proceeded to put Mr.. Rhinehardt off the car. He was unable to do so and called on the porter, and together they wrestled with the irate passenger, but he held his place. When the train arrived at Gillette, Rhinehardt was turned over to a constable. This officer, the petitioner asserts, did not have a warrant but held him until the train left for Colorado Springs. The delay and the struggle threw him into a fit of sickness that cost him over \$100 in doctors' bills, and he has not fully recovered from the excitement of the occasion. He demands \$5,000 from the railroad company in satisfaction of the indignities that were heaped upon him.

An Intermountain Chapter, NRHS Invitation To Ride The Leadville, Colorado & Southern

Saturday, September 16th

The Intermountain Chapter, NRHS, is planning to ride the Leadville, Colorado & Southern on Saturday, September 16th. They will charter a bus to take people from Denver to Leadville.



The cost for the bus and train ride has not been finalized.

Call trip leader, Bob Brewster, at 303-642-0555 for information, costs, and to sign up.

Colorado Rails and Cocktails At The Colorado Railroad Museum

An Evening of Colorado History

Travel back to a time when railroads shaped the American West.

Dome Cars with Rich Luckin

August 4th – 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM

Join PBS documentarian Rich Luckin as he shares the history of the domed passenger cars from their inception in the 1940s through today's examples in Alaska and Canada. Using his film, *Dome Car Magic*, Luckin draws on historic film footage, interviews and comments by railroad officials, historians and travelers who rode those trains.

Find out what it was like to ride in a Vista-Dome with this entertaining presentation.

Buffalo Bill, Trains and the Wild West

September 1st – 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM

Historian Bob Autobee discusses the story of Buffalo Bill from the perspective of the railroad. Not only did William F. Cody get his famous nickname, Buffalo Bill, from his time working for the railroad but he used trains throughout his career.

Autobee shares the unique and interesting ins and outs of this famous American who created today's image of the "Wild West."

Reserve Tickets at 303-279-4591 or Online at ColoradoRailroadMuseum.org

Admission includes two beverages of your choice: beer, wine or soda and light snacks. Doors open at 5:30 PM for early enjoyment of Museum displays and the presentation starts promptly at 6:30 PM. Presentation length varies by event and the doors close at 8:00 PM. Advance tickets are required. Admission: \$15 for members and \$20 for non-members.

21 And Older Only

Colorado Railroad Museum

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

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>.

Wednesday, August 16, 2017

Dinner Meeting at Red Lobster, 4455 Wadsworth Blvd., Wheat Ridge, Colorado

Dinner at 5:30 PM – Meeting begins at 7:00 PM

Program: Rocky Mountain Express by Steve Mason

Building the Canadian Pacific through the Canadian Rockies.

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Club Information

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Club and Foundation Officers

President	Steve Mason
Vice President	Dave Schaaf
Secretary	Roger Sherman
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Club and Foundation Directors

Andy Dell, Nathan Holmes, Dennis Leonard, Pat Mauro,
Debbie MacDonald, Michael Tinetti, Nick Valdez.

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. New members who join in-person at a meeting will be given a free copy of the Club history book

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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Items for the September 2017 Rail Report should be sent by August 18th.