

RAIL REPORT

May 2018 • No. 692



Rocky Mountain Railroad Club • Rocky Mountain Railroad Historical Foundation

The Western Half of the Santa Fe Railway

Presented by Joe Blackwell

May 8th, 2018 • 7:30 PM

Joe will present Santa Fe Railway images he made during the 1970s and up to the 1995 BNSF merger. His photographs cover the AT&SF main line and branches from California east to Kansas City.

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.**

RMRRC 2018 Calendar

- May 19 & 20: Cheyenne Depot Days.
- June 2: Summer Work Day on the caboose in Bailey.
- June 12: Monthly Meeting and Program.
- June 30: Steam at Como.
- July: There is no monthly meeting in July.**
- July 21: Picnic At The Colorado Railroad Museum.
- August: Argentine Central Tour.
- August 11: Denver & Intermountain Interurban Car 25 Open House.

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.

The Western Half of the Santa Fe Railway



A Delta airlines jet approaches LAX as a westbound “Extra Harbor” train passes at the LAIRPORT station in El Segundo, California. – Photo © Joe Blackwell.



A westbound hot shot is passing the westbound “Harbor” train stopped at Frost station in Victorville, California, picking up rear end helpers.

– Photo © Joe Blackwell.

For Rail Report 692, celebrating the Club’s 80th Anniversary, the masthead features Union Pacific EMD DD-35 #80 at Provo, Utah, on April 22, 1978.
– Emil Albrecht Photo from the James L. Ehernberger Collection.



80th Anniversary Events

Summer Work Day – June 2

We will help replace the end sill on Caboose 10600 in Bailey's McGraw Memorial Park. See more information on page 6.

Steam at Como – June 30th

We are planning to ride behind 2-6-2, Klondike Kate #4, at Como. We will see two 80th celebrations since the last South Park train ran in Como in 1938. See more information on page 7.

RMRRC Picnic – July 21st

Our picnic featuring Dickey's BBQ will be held in the pavilion at The Colorado Railroad Museum from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM. This will be a family event so plan on setting aside time for bringing your kids and grand kids. The picnic cost is \$15.00 per person. Club members can enter the Museum at no charge by showing their current membership card.

Argentine Central Tour – August

This driving tour is limited to "four-wheel drive Jeep Wrangler or equivalent only – no exceptions" due to the grade, and short turning radius at pull-offs.

Denver & Intermountain Interurban Car 25 Open House – August 11

Free Rides at the Denver Federal Center, weather permitting.

Leadville, Colorado & Southern Fall Color Train Ride – September 22nd

Colorado Live Steamers – September 15th

Annual Banquet – October 13th

We will return to The Denver Athletic Club for our luncheon banquet.

Annual Meeting – December 11th

Watch For 80th Anniversary Event Updates

The Officers and Directors are continuing to plan the exciting events for the Club's 80th year and due to circumstances beyond our control, events and dates are subject to change without notice.

President's Report

By Steve Mason

Last month brought the successful conclusion of the disposal of the Club's 16-mm films. Otto Perry shot 16-mm film as early as the 1930s and showed these at Club meetings in the 1950s and occasionally later. They were also used by commercial producers. When Lucian Sprague was general manager of the Uintah Railroad at Mack, Colorado, he commissioned 16-mm movies of the Uintah and the 2-6-6-2 mallets. We also had logs of what was on those reels that Dave Gross assembled.

Michael Tinetti became point man on this project. He brought it to our attention at a Board meeting in November 2017. We also invited other principals to that meeting, Jimmy Blouch, Jim Ehernberger and Dave Gross who is still officially the Club Video Chairman. Dave Goss was asked, but was traveling. These past presidents were asked for their views and were given a vote on the current Board. The extended Board did a great job in deciding how to dispose of this collection. I want to thank all involved and all I have listed personally and bring it to the attention of the members. I particularly want to thank Michael Tinetti for a job well done.

We still have books at our storage unit. We are slowly getting objects we are storing down to manageable levels.

Attention All Members

Please make sure we have up to date email addresses. Sometimes an opportunity presents itself to do an event on very short notice. We can notify you through email if we have your address. There are situations developing where this could occur. One time in the past when we only had a couple of hundred members we were notified by Union Pacific that the 9000 was headed to California and would we like to rent it Denver to Cheyenne? Yes we did! It was to go through on a Sunday in a week. So everyone was called on the phone and we ran a last minute trip. Surely you have all seen a photo of that trip in a snow storm.

If a friend says they didn't get the *May Rail Report*, have them call me and we will sort it out. I have called everyone who did not renew for 2018. I left messages for people not home and sorry to say I found we lost several members. Talking to widows is not a delightful job, but it is necessary. On behalf of all of you I offered my sincere condolences.

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.

Rocky Mountain Railroad Club And Historical Foundation Board Meetings

Board meetings are usually held the first Monday after a regular monthly meeting at Nicolo'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 Films of Otto, Irv and Lucian Have a New Home

By Michael Tinetti

Trains express life when they are in motion. Fans through many decades captured that motion in 8 and 16-mm motion picture film. Today is the era of digital electronic imaging, where almost everyone images with their cell phones. Between the celluloid film age and today the analog video era was the rage.

Our club started its film collection in 1971 with the purchase from the Otto Perry estate for \$3,000.00 of over 50,000 feet of 16-mm film thus amassing a historically significant collection. We have enjoyed viewing segments of the collection at meetings and banquets over the years. In 1983 we purchased 12,000 feet of film for \$5,000.00 from Irv August.

The collection resided at the Xcel Energy (was Public Service) Corporate Record Center from before April of 1993 to March 15, 2018, a period of 25-years. This archive now resides in its new permanent preservation facility, the American Heritage Center (AHC) in Laramie, Wyoming. The collection ownership was decided to the AHC and complements the 800 boxes of photo and historical data separately donated by Jim Ehernberger.

The board took this action for the following reasons. First, Club past presidents Jim Ranniger and Dave Goss, who arranged the storage, have both retired from Xcel as has Pete West who also maintained the storage. The current employees of the record center wondered what and why the cabinets were there. It was a possibility that without constant attention the material might be disposed of without our knowing. Second, the topical materials commercial value was transferred over the years to numerous video/DVD releases sponsored by the club. A list is on page 159 of the club

history, *Journeys to Yesteryear*. Third, the value of the material to historians and researchers needs preservation and accessibility. This last item is represented in part of the AHC mission statement, “To preserve a clearly defined set of primary sources and rare books — reflecting the written, visual, and audio history of Wyoming, the Rocky Mountain region, and select aspects of the American past — and to make those sources accessible to all.”

The collection donated to the AHC consisted of 123 – 400-foot reels of Otto Perry 16-mm film and all descriptive documents, 34 – 400-foot reels of Irv August 16-mm film with descriptive narratives, and four 50-foot 16-mm reels of Lucian Sprague film. In order to assist in the creation of research index aid and limited digital transfers, the Rocky Mountain Railroad Historical Foundation provided a stipend of \$5,000.00 to the AHC so it can promote and encourage public interest in railroad ethos and history.

The board was impressed with the cooperation shown by the personnel at Xcel record storage in assisting us with the transfer of materials. We would especially like to mention Eva Owen who was instrumental in opening a combination lock, which has defied club presidents and board members for many years, by contacting the safe and lock companies for the secret trick to open it. She also arranged for the removal of a padlock whose key was lost.

The life and times of railroad values and history come to life in these films. They are now permanently preserved and available for railfans historians and anyone to view and be inspired by their contents.



The deteriorated end sill on caboose 10600. – Photo © 2018 Pat Mauro.

RMRRRC Work Day In Bailey, Colorado – June 2nd

By Pat Mauro

The Club work day is planned to start at 10:00 AM, June 2, 2018, at McGraw Memorial Park. To get to the park – from Highway 285 at the bottom of Crow Hill at the turn in Bailey, turn east on Wellington Lake Road. McGraw Memorial park is on your right behind Bailey Discount Liquors.

We will be rebuilding the end sill on caboose 10600. We had a previous work day on the caboose, and she needs help again. The end sill has been deteriorating and is in dire need of being rebuilt.

New end sills have been constructed,

and with some prep, they will be ready to install. We may need to drill some end sill bolt holes. We will remove the old end sill and then install the new sill on the west side of the caboose. New bolts have been purchased for the install. The new sill will be pre painted.

Bring tools if possible. We will visit one of the BBQ restaurants in the area for lunch.

Outdoor projects are always based on the weather. For those who are interested in assisting, and what to bring, please contact Pat Mauro at 303-838-7740.

In Remembrance Tim Todd

Tim Todd of Aurora, Colorado passed away on June 4, 2017. He joined the club in 1986 and held seniority number 150 at the time of his passing.

RMRRRC 80th Anniversary Train Ride in Como – June 30th

By Pat Mauro

In celebration of the Club's 80th anniversary and 80-years since the last train left Como, we will be riding the rails behind steam in the Como yards. It was probably not a coincidence that the club was started in 1938, as the rails were being removed from Como. The founders of the Club would be pleasantly surprised operations have actually returned.

Plan on being in Como in the morning. Operations are planned to start about 10:00 AM. We can ride all day and the handcar will also be available. A club group picture will be assembled at some point. Sign up at meetings.

Tickets are \$20.00. Ticket sales will benefit both the Club and the South Park Rail Society. The Club drumhead

will be on the end of the train, as is traditional on Club trips, with a new 'Como' label on it. Commemorative tickets will be printed for the event. Call Pat Mauro at 303-838-7740 for details.

Projects in Como were the subjects of our February program. Come to Como this summer to watch the progress of the rail being laid or even help out. See southparkrail.com for details on the work days this summer, as we start to head towards Denver with our track laying project.

Klondike Kate Operating Schedule

June 30th & July 1st
August 18th (Boreas Pass Railroad Day)
August 19th
September 1st & 2nd

In Remembrance

William Belknap Anderson

William B. Anderson, of Littleton, Colorado passed away on October 24th, 2017. He joined the club in 2010 and held seniority number 322 at the time of his passing.

In Remembrance

David Christian Ulmer, Jr.

Dr. David C. Ulmer, Jr., of Longmont, Colorado, passed away on January 2, 2018. He joined the club in 2010 and held seniority number 399 at the time of his passing.

He was an active volunteer at the Colorado Railroad Museum and wrote guidebooks to help visitors and kids get the most out of their time there. He wrote *Fumey*, a story for kids about the adventures of the Galloping Goose in the Colorado mountains, published in 2016.



Locomotive 3967 is shown coupling to the train prior to departure from Laramie over "The Hill." One stop was made at Borie to let me and other passengers off and then a speed run was made back to Denver, arriving in time for dinner. It was a memorable day for everyone.

– R. H. Kindig photo from the James L. Ehernberger Collection.

The May 17, 1953 Union Pacific Club Excursion

By James L. Ehernberger

Sixty-five years ago, May 17, 1953, the Club operated their first Union Pacific excursion between Denver and Laramie, Wyoming. I had read about this train about to operate and contacted the local UP ticket agent regarding the possibility of getting on the train. He was very cordial, and said that it would not be a problem to board the train at the Borie interlocking tower, located nine miles west of Cheyenne. There were a few other passengers waiting for the train when my folks took me to Borie. I was fifteen, and did not have a driver's license. The locomotive was Challenger number 3967. It was requested by then Club President Everett Rohrer, and was freshly painted for this trip.

After boarding the train, we went to Buford and took siding. Passengers were

let off and they proceeded to photograph the double-headed trains. This was the last Sunday such operation would take place over the top of Sherman Hill because the alternate main line via Harriman was to be placed in service the following week. Typical in high altitude country, it clouded over, and after about two hours, rain came and it changed to small hail. The passengers re-boarded and the train went to Laramie.

At Laramie, some passengers went to town to eat, while the serious fans headed over the footbridge over the yard tracks to the roundhouse. It was a typical day on the UP with plenty of steam power being serviced. The shop men even arranged to pull out the old 1242, an 1890 Cooke ten-wheeler under repairs, and made it available for photos.

The May 17, 1953 Union Pacific Club Excursion



The Laramie terminal was “open house” for the excursionists. In those days there was no concern about liability releases, or being on company property taking photographs. No one even got a scratch as far as I know. In fact, if they did bump themselves, they would have been too embarrassed to admit it. Joseph Schick, a charter member of the Club, pointed his camera toward the Laramie coal chute where three Big Boy locomotives were being serviced.

– Joseph Schick photo from the James L. Ehernberger Collection.

While on this trip I became acquainted with numerous rail fans. Club members were wearing badges, and many names were familiar like R. H. Kindig, Otto Perry, Joseph Schick, etc. My camera was mediocre and not high quality, but I became impressed with the big

cameras some of the people were using. Regardless, it was my introduction into the Club. I soon joined, and now think back on the great excursions and social times that the rail fan world has. Because of the Club, many friendships had lasted well over 50 years.

Visit Cheyenne During Depot Days

Depot Days will be held Saturday and Sunday, May 19th & 20th, 2018, from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM at the Cheyenne Depot. There will be exhibits and tours of the historic UP roundhouse and Wasatch RR Contractors. The Union Pacific Steam Shop will be open for public viewing. The best parking is at the Frontier Park Exhibition Hall. A trolley will escort people to and from the steam shop with departures scheduled every 30-minutes from in front of the Depot.

For information call the Depot at 307-632-3905 or the Sherman Hill Model Railroad Club at 307-634-1617

The Depot Days website is: www.cheyennedepotmuseum.org/depot-days

The May 17, 1953 Union Pacific Club Excursion Photo Album



The Club requested engine 3967 for their Denver-Laramie special train. The train made a brief stop for water at La Salle and Carr, and picked up about a half dozen passengers at Borie and then proceeded to Buford where it took the siding. The passengers were let off and milled around the area waiting for action on Sherman Hill. This was the last Sunday that double-headers would operate over the top of Sherman Hill, as one week later the newly constructed line through Harriman was placed in service. The Harriman line had a less steep grade so helpers were not required. Here the locomotive was on the siding at Buford.

– James L. Ehernberger photo.



UP 3941 & 3997, both 4-6-6-4 Challengers, on a westward Extra pass through Buford, Wyoming at 10:44 AM, with 59 cars at 40 mph.

– George Trout photo from the James L. Ehernberger Collection.

The May 17, 1953 Union Pacific Club Excursion Photo Album



Only one diesel passenger train passed by during the lay-over at Buford, and that was the City of St. Louis (Train No. 9) with three ALCOs with PA number 601 on the point. Eight different steam locomotives were photographed at this location (including helpers returning light) that morning. The weather changed, with heavy clouds, and rain that turned to small hail, therefore everyone hurriedly re-boarded the special train, and went on to Laramie.

– Joseph Schick photo from the James L. Ehernberger Collection.



Otto Perry was among the photographers on the excursion that day, and he photographed westbound Train No. 27, the “San Francisco Overland,” at 11:30 AM, hauling 18 cars, and making 50 mph. While the glory days of this train had changed, it appears that the head-end consist included seven cars of express and mail. This was the final action scene at Buford that morning.

– Otto Perry photo from the James L. Ehernberger Collection.

D&RGW Derrick #029 Moved from Denver to Granby



D&RGW derrick #029, on the siding at Tolland waiting for Amtrak #6. The derrick was built in 1913 as D&SL #10300 by Industrial Works in Bay City, Michigan. The Denver & Salt Lake Railway was merged into the Denver & Rio Grande Western RR in 1947. Number 10300 was originally painted black, and then silver some time after the merger. This steam derrick was stationed in Denver until 1978, when it was re-assigned to Salt Lake City. At about the same time, it was converted from coal to oil as a fuel, and later was retired by the Rio Grande in the late 1980s. It returned to Denver in December of 2000, as part of a private collection in storage at the Burnham yard. This relic would be long gone if not for the efforts of Richard Sumsion in Utah and Daniel Quiat in Colorado. – Photo © 2018 Dave Schaaf.



The Derrick approaching Tunnel 1, west of Denver near Plainview, on April 14, 2018. – Photo © 2018 Nathan Holmes.

Images of America Rollins Pass

Through The Lens Of Time

Saturday, May 12, 2018 – 11:30 AM to 3:00 PM

At The Alamo Drafthouse Cinema, 7301 S Santa Fe, Littleton, CO 80120

Celebrate the book launch of *Rollins Pass* with local authors B. Travis & Kate Wright. Special remarks by archeologist Jason L. LaBelle, PhD. Featuring two rare films: *The White Desert* with live piano by Hank Troy and *Stone and Steel at the Top of the World*.

Limited Availability – For Information and Tickets see:
www.thewhitedesertrollinsspass.com

Midland Days

9th Annual Midland Days Symposium

"A Hundred Years of the Midland"

Saturday, May 19, 201 – 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Hosted by the John Wesley Ranch - Divide Colorado
21285 Highway 67 South, just before Mueller State Park

Conversations about "Midland" railroad history featuring presenters Art Crawford, Mel McFarland, Tom VanWormer and Dwight Haverkorn with David Martinek moderating and presenting. The Colorado Midland ran from Colorado Springs to Grand Junction via Leadville from 1887 to 1918 when it was abandoned. The RMRRC published the 1965 book, *Colorado Midland* by Morris Cafky, now long out of print.

Advanced Reservations: \$55.00 per person (includes lunch and drawing)
Walk-ins are welcome (\$60.00 per person) but seating and lunch is not guaranteed
Call 719-213-9335 or email MidlandDays@yahoo.com for information.

Intermountain Chapter – NRHS

Leadville, Colorado and Southern Railroad Trip

Saturday, June 23, 2018 – Leave at 9:00 / 9:30 AM, Return approximately 7:00 PM

Ride a chartered bus to Leadville to ride the Leadville, Colorado and Southern Railroad. The bus will depart Denver Union Station at 9:00 AM, also stopping at the Jeffco Government Center RTD garage at 9:30 AM, returning approximately 7:00 PM. Lunch is on your own in Leadville, followed by the train excursion at 2:00 PM. The westbound bus route is along Highway 24 following the Tennessee Pass rail line.

The cost is \$49 including the bus and train – a bargain considering the 2018 train tickets are priced at \$41. Please direct questions to Bob Brewster at railbob@q.com.

Mail reservation requests and payment to Intermountain Chapter - NRHS,
C/O Robert Brewster, 11300 Shimley Rd, Golden CO 80403-8565.

The Denver Trolley at Confluence Park

The 2018 regular riverfront season begins on May 24, 2018, with the Trolley operating Thursday through Monday from 11:00 AM with the last Trolley departing at 5:00 PM.

Colorado Live Steamers Calendar of Events

May 12th – Scheduled “Work” day.

May 19th – Scheduled “Steam Up Run” day.

As always, if the weather is bad please call to see if any of these events have been cancelled.

Contact numbers are: Mark & Linda Adcock 303-469-0299
or mlmakingtracks@gmail.com

Jerry & Earline Bernard 303-424-3547 or jbernardb533@gmail.com

The best way to reach us, also the fastest, is by e-mail.

To get to Colorado Live Steamers, go east of Byers, CO from I-70, Exit 316 on US-36 east about 2-3 miles and turn left on Calhoun-Byers Road. Go north 6-1/2 miles past 72nd Ave and turn left at the yellow farm house.

Colorado Railroad Museum 2018 Special Events

May 12th – Steampunk At The Station

July 18th – Dinosaur Express Train

October 27th – Trick Or Treat Train

Day Out With Thomas:

September 8, 9, 15, 16, 22 & 23

The Polar Express Train Ride:

November and December

Colorado Rails and Cocktails – An Evening of Colorado History

August 3 – Colorado Rails and Cocktails: Locomotive 20

September 7 – A Ticket to Tomahawk!

November 2 – Train Wreck!

Admission includes two beverages of your choice: beer, wine or soda and snacks. Doors open at 5:30 PM and the bar opens at 6:00 PM. The presentation starts promptly at 6:30 PM and the doors close at 8:00 PM. Admission: \$20 for members and \$25 for non-members.

RESERVE TICKETS ONLINE – 21 and older only. – Advance tickets required.

For information call 303-279-4591 or <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

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

Dinner Meeting at Red Lobster, 4455 Wadsworth Boulevard, Wheat Ridge, Colorado

Wednesday, May 16, 2018 – Dinner at 5:30 PM – Meeting begins at 7:00 PM

Publishers Statement — Rocky Mountain Rail Report

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Club Information

Rocky Mountain Railroad Club
PO Box 2391
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Web: <http://www.rockymtnrrclub.org>
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www.facebook.com/rockymtnrrclub

Club and Foundation Officers

President	Steve Mason
Vice President	Dave Schaaf
Secretary	Dennis Leonard
Treasurer	Keith Jensen

Club and Foundation Directors

Andy Dell, Nathan Holmes, 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:

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

E-mail: selectimag@aol.com

Items for the June 2018 Rail Report should be sent by May 18th.