

# RAIL REPORT

November 2017

No. 686



Rocky Mountain Railroad Club • Rocky Mountain Railroad Historical Foundation

## Railroading In The Harz Region Of Germany

Presented by Bryan Bechtold

November 14th, 2017 • 7:30 PM

Colorado is not the only place where you can still enjoy narrow gauge steam railroading. The Harz Railway of Germany puts on a daily steam spectacle over its 87 miles of track. Bryan Bechtold will present a photographic survey of the railway taken in October, 2016.

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.**

### RMRRRC 2017 Calendar

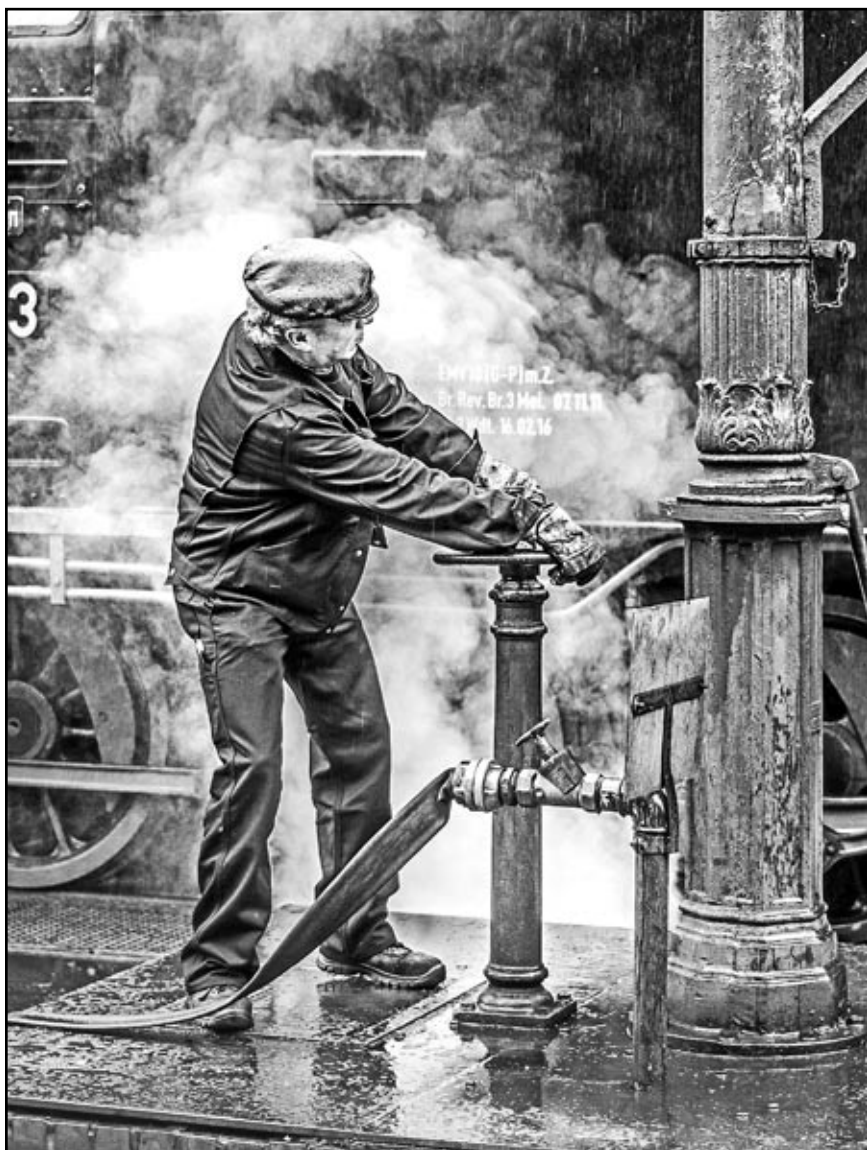
December 12: Annual Business Meeting, Program and Treats.

### RMRRRC 2018 Calendar

- January 9: Monthly Meeting and Program.  
January 18: Club Evening at Caboose Hobbies.  
February 13: Monthly Meeting and Program.  
February 24: Ski Train Trip.  
March 13: Monthly Meeting and Program.

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](mailto:ds5280@comcast.net) or 303 988-3456.

## Railroading In The Harz Region Of Germany



There are plenty of iconic steam scenes to be had on the Harz Railway, like this stop for water at Drei Annen Hohne. – Photo © 2016 Bryan Bechtold.

For Rail Report 686, the masthead photo features Canadian Pacific Railway class D10b locomotive 686. – Canadian Pacific Railway photo from the James L. Ehernberger Collection.

## Railroading In The Harz Region Of Germany



A stubby meter-gauge Harz Railway 2-10-2 begins its climb from Drei Annen Hohne to the top of Brocken Mountain. – Photo © 2016 Bryan Bechtold.



After departing the Wernigerode High School halt there is a short segment of street running that adds another layer of personality to the Harz Railway. – Photo © 2016 Bryan Bechtold.

## **November Is The Month for Membership Renewal**

This year the Club will again send a renewal invoice to each member. Some households will receive more than one renewal. Expect to see the renewal invoices in your mail box this month before Thanksgiving. 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 address.

We use an email notification service on a random basis. I know many of you are bombarded with electronic advertising and notices from various groups. The club try's to limit the number of notices to important reminders, news and emergencies.

**The membership year is January 1st through December 31st of each year. There will be no increase in dues for 2018. To maintain membership in RMRRC, your dues for the upcoming year should be paid by December 31st.**

Multimember households should re-

turn 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.

This year we have added a new check off line. The invoice has a provision if you desire to make a tax deductible contribution to the Rocky Mountain Rail Road Historical Foundation. The foundation was founded in 1990 as an tax deductible arm of the club. The Foundation supports the preservation of historical railroad artifacts for restoration, exhibition and/or operation.

Your membership cards will be mailed to you in the month of March. More information about this mailing will be provided at a later date.

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

Any member wanting to volunteer or nominate another member for either an officer or director position should contact the nominating committee, Nick

Valdez or Nathan Holmes at the November Club meeting or contact them through the Club website or by mail at the Club PO Box.

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## **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 12, 2017, 7:30 PM at Christ 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.



Jim Ehernberger presented the annual banquet program featuring William Van Patten's slides and also demonstrated his first professional camera, the Graflex. – Photo 2017 Dave Schaaf.

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## President's Report

By Steve Mason

### Banquet Report

Comments I received at the banquet indicated it was a success. We had 55 attend and since we have around 200 in the Denver Metro area that is one in four, a good showing. The Denver Athletic Club is a wonderful facility. Dennis Leonard arranged for us to be in this private club. If you see Dennis, please

thank him. We had a choice of salmon or steak. Both were prepared excellently and the way vegetables and new potatoes were arranged looked appetizing and tasted good.

The conversation is as important as the food and program. Bob Wilson sat at my table and lucidly explained why the crossing gates are not able to work

### Rocky Mountain Railroad Club And Historical Foundation Board Meetings

Board meetings are usually held the first Monday after a regular monthly meeting at Nicolò'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!

## President's Report



Hailey MacDonald (left) and Tristan Honor enjoyed the banquet with Director Debbie MacDonald. – Photo © 2017 Debbie MacDonald.

on the “A” line and “G” line for RTD. He further explained why ordinary track circuits will not work. See your directory to contact Bob.

Chuck Ullman from West Chester, Pennsylvania, donated four banquet tickets to be used for children or potential members. It is an amazing gesture of support. The Club thanks you, Chuck.

Debbie MacDonald brought her two grand kids, Hailey MacDonald and Tristan Honor, on two of those tickets. Hailey called out the door prize numbers and Tristan delivered the prizes. Debbie also stopped at Mineral Boulevard from Colorado Springs and they all rode light rail to the banquet, a first for Tristan. So in spite of having lunch with us “old fogeys,” they both told me they had a good time.

## President's Report



Club president Steve Mason (left) handles the door prize drawings with help from Vice-president Dave Schaaf. Tristan Honor and Hailey MacDonald (at right) delivered door prizes to attendees. – Photo © 2017 Debbie MacDonald.

David Stielgo was another one using the donated tickets. He wanted to see what it was that we did. He really liked the food as we both had steak. He really liked Jim Ehernberger's Show. We both go to the same coffee bakery week days and Saturday. Overall, David had a terrific time.

The fourth donated ticket was used by Marie Hauser-Adee. She had salmon and loved it. She lived in Switzerland where there are many trains on frequent schedules. She was also at the Colorado Live Steamers at Byers.

Jim Ehernberger put on a terrific show of William Van Patten's slides. Mr. Van Patten was a charter member. Jim knew all the charter members and oth-

ers and told us stories of them. Mr. Van Patten's slides included the Midland Terminal trip, a number of D&RGW trips in the Black Canon and Marshall Pass. There were quite a number of slides on the RGS trips using 2-8-0 #74. Jim also described photos he had taken displayed on easels.

He also showed us the progression of Union Pacific calendars starting in the late 1930s. The story Jim told of his first professional camera, the Graflex, enthralled the audience. It was unbelievably expensive, the equivalent of a quarter of the cost of a new car. In fact the railroader who sold it to him got Jim a job as a Call Boy to make sure it was paid off.

## President's Report



Many Club and Foundation officers and directors attended the banquet. From left, Director Dennis Leonard, Secretary Roger Sherman, Treasurer Keith Jensen, banquet program presenter Jim Ehernberger, President Steve Mason, Vice President Dave Schaaf, Directors Debbie MacDonald, Michael Tinetti, Pat Mauro, and Andy Dell. – Photo 2017 Denny Haeefe.

The Audience really enjoyed the Q & A when they asked Jim about his railroad career. I've seen him give many programs. He always does an excellent job. A very good one is "The Blizzard of '49", but this one surpasses that one.

I wish we had a prize for the member to attend from the greatest distance. Mr. Richard Lawrence from Arlington, Texas, flew up and was at the banquet.

Everyone received a door prize. Books were donated by Dave Goss, Shirley Fagen, the estate of Jakob Bakker and there were also books from the Club archives. Linda Fike donated KCS scratch pads and rule books. Denny Haeefe donated a red globe lantern and the Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge RR donated two round trip tickets. On Behalf of the Board and Officers plus all the guests we thank you.

### Annual Club and Foundation Elections

Elections for the Club and Foundation officers and directors will happen in December. After many years of service as Club and Foundation secretary, Roger Sherman is retiring from that role. Current Director Dennis Leonard has agreed to be nominated to take over as Club and Foundation secretary. That does leave an open director position for any member wanting to get involved in the Club and Foundation operation.

Please contact President Steve Mason to volunteer for the vacant director position or to ask questions.

I am easy to reach. The best way is by phone at 720-371-8536. My e-mail is [stevemason647@gmail.com](mailto:stevemason647@gmail.com). If something is of concern or if you are pleased about something let me know.



# The Foundation Helps Bring Electricity To The Como Depot

By Bob Schoppe

The Denver South Park & Pacific Historical Society received a Rocky Mountain Railroad Historical Foundation grant to fund half of the cost to install electricity in the restored Como depot. The other half of the cost came from the Denver South Park & Pacific Historical Society. The work was completed in August on budget.

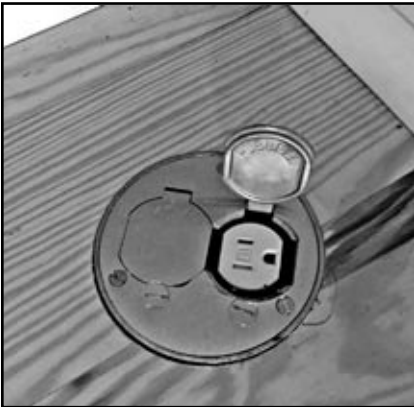


The new 50-Amp electrical service panel was an asset the depot never had. – Photo © Bob Schoppe.



The new service powering a computer and monitor to play movies is a huge step forward into converting the depot into an effective interpretive museum. The internet access also added was something never imagined when the depot was in service.

– Photo © Bob Schoppe.



The unobtrusive installation of electric service in restored, finished, passenger waiting spaces and the ticket office keeps the historic look of the rooms. These will power showcase displays lighting the photo archive and power PA systems during events.

– Photo © Bob Schoppe.



Electrical service in the freight area was done with sturdy industrial equipment.

– Photo © Bob Schoppe.

## 80th Anniversary Events

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### Caboose Hobbies Evening

Our events for 2018 will start on Thursday, January 18th with a night at Caboose Hobbies, 10800 W. Alameda, Lakewood, Colorado, 80226 from 5:30 PM to closing at 7:58 PM. Caboose will issue Club members a 10% off coupon for one time use that will be good on Thursday, January 18, Friday, January 19, and Saturday January 20. Please note that Caboose only takes cash or credit cards, NO CHECKS.

The reason for this advance notice is that every family asks, “What do you want for Christmas?” Now instead of the reply, “Nothing, I have everything I want,” you can say, “Get me a gift certificate at Caboose Hobbies – the Club is getting a discount in January and I will use it then.” They will be happy because they get you a gift you want and you are happy as you can use it towards that RS-3 or UP-FEF-3 you’ve wanted.

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### Ski Train Trip

On Saturday, February 24, a Club group will take the Ski Train from Denver to the Winter Park Ski Resort and return. The trains are nearly sold out so there is no price break for groups.

The Board decided to send out trip information by email. Make sure you update or supply your email with

your membership renewal so you can receive last minute trip and event announcements.

If you are riding, please call Steve Mason at 720-371-8536 or email [stevemason647@gmail.com](mailto:stevemason647@gmail.com) so he can make a list of members riding. We will eat lunch together and decide other activities when there.

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### Watch for 80th anniversary event updates here

The Officers and Directors are planning exciting events for the Club’s 80th year.

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## Railroad Web Sites of Interest

U.S. Railroad Radio Frequencies for every major railroad:  
<http://www.whrc-wi.org/railfreqs.htm>

The Santa Fe Railway Historical and Modeling Society:  
[sfrhms.org](http://sfrhms.org)

Loren B. Joplin presents Santa Fe Passengers Trains, Lightweight and Diesel Era:  
[santafe.gmbus.com](http://santafe.gmbus.com)

## Current Railroad Happenings



Dakota Southern Railway (DSRC) 37, SD38 ex-McCloud RR 37, pulled a westbound train past retired/derelict UP 6925, DDA-40X Centennial, at Chamberlain, South Dakota, on October 3, 2017. The former Milwaukee Road Prairie Line was upgraded by the Dakota Southern Railway during 2015 to 2016.

The UP 6925 story: The DDA40X Centennial was purchased for its 645 parts as the two bad ordered (B/O) prime movers had fifteen reusable power assemblies which could have been swapped into DSRC ex-MILW SD's with 16-567C blocks which had been upgraded with 645 power assemblies. The DSRC discovered the B/O engines were not original but drop-in heavy-block 645's, probably from SD40's. DSRC stripped some parts and Morrison-Knudsen bought the 645 blocks after inspection confirmed the crankshafts were not damaged. The blocks became cores for rebuilding and installation in commuter locomotives. The spare truck, minus wheel sets, came from the UP 6906. – Photo © 2017 by Chip.



BNSF 6237, ES44AC, a southbound coal load stopped at the sag and met northbound BNSF 5380, Alliance, Texas, to Portland, Oregon, train Q ALTPTL, on the Joint Line, north of Palmer Lake, Colorado, on October 20, 2017. The BNSF Pikes Peak Subdivision offers intermodal variety!  
– Photo © 2017 by Chip.

## Current Railroad Happenings



The Rio Grande Railroad RIO VISTA (repainted April 2017) in Cañon City, Colorado, on October 20, 2017.

Originally Milwaukee Road (CMSP&P) 56 became CN 2403 FRAISER in January 1965 then CN 2703 in April 1974, VIA 2703 in March 1978 and was retired in June 1981. In April 1983 it went to Great Western Tours thru J Baldwin, then in February 1984 it went to Tour Alaska as TAIX 7091 (800485) MT. SUSIYNA, P & O Princess California Sun Express, Amtrak 9312 (HEP) in 1990 AT service, Holland America Westours 56 KNIK in 1995, entered service in 1996.

Listed for sale June 2002, the name recycled to Holland America new custom built dome #1051. It was sold September 2005 to Cañon City & Royal Gorge Railroad (CRRX reporting marks). – Photo © 2017 by Chip.

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### 2018 Klondike Kate Como Operating Schedule

May 26th & 27th

June 30th & July 1st

August 18th & 19th – Boreas Pass Railroad Day is August 18th

September 1st & 2nd

Schedule updates for the South Park Rail Society are online at:

[www.southparkrail.com](http://www.southparkrail.com)

[www.facebook.com/southparkline](https://www.facebook.com/southparkline)

The Denver, South Park & Pacific Historical Society 2018 convention is tentatively planned for August 16 through 17 in Frisco, Colorado. See [dspphs.org](http://dspphs.org)

## Current Railroad Happenings



The Red River Valley & Western RR marked their 30th Anniversary with a Friends of the 261 train. This trip was operated for RRV&W employees and their families from Breckenridge, Minnesota, to Kindred, North Dakota, here near Galchutt, North Dakota, on June 3, 2017. The SILVER CLUB (built in 1948) Chicago, Burlington & Quincy 250 has undergone an extensive restoration in 2015 and 2016 at the Friends of the 261 shop in Minneapolis, Minnesota. – Photo © 2017 by Chip.



UP 3027, SD70ACe-T4, Tier 4, with UP 3019 & 3014 led train M NYRO-14 (North Yard, Denver, to Roper Yard, Salt Lake City, Utah, here at Utah Junction north of Denver on June 14, 2017. Progress Rail performed the Tier 4 test to Grand Junction, Colorado, where the three Tier 4's came off. – Photo © 2017 by Chip.

*In Remembrance*

**Mark Bonomo**

Mark Bonomo, 84, of Denver, passed away October 10, 2017. He did not renew for the current year due to illness. In his last active year, he held seniority number 71 and was a 44-year member who joined the Club in 1973.

Mark was a chemical engineer and a long-time member of the Colorado Mountain Club. He enjoyed mountain climbing and railroading. He loved classical music and was an avid Cubs fan.

*In Remembrance*

**Robert E. Balzer**

Robert E. Balzer, 90, of Topeka, Kansas, passed away July 24, 2017. He was a 50-year member of the club joining in 1967. He held seniority number 50 at the time of his passing.

He was born July 19, 1927 in Hutchinson, Kansas. His beginnings were in the Mennonite traditions and he made his living as a mail carrier. In retirement he spent many hours sharing his love of the rails with others. When able he loved his time in the mountains exploring old rail lines.

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**Colorado Railroad Museum Polar Express Tickets Are Sold Out**

**Colorado Rails and Cocktails At The Colorado Railroad Museum**

Reserve Tickets at 303-279-4591 or Online at [ColoradoRailroadMuseum.org](http://ColoradoRailroadMuseum.org)

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**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>.

Tuesday, November 7, 2017 – 5:30 PM TO 8:30 PM

2017—2018 Chapter Planning and Board Meeting

Red Lobster, 4455 Wadsworth Blvd., Wheat Ridge, Colorado

Members are invited to participate. The Board of Directors will be planning the Chapter's meetings and events. Your ideas would be very welcomed and helpful for planning for the upcoming year.

## **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.

First class postage paid at Denver, Colorado.

Postmaster, send address changes to:

Rocky Mountain Rail Report, PO Box 2391, Denver, CO 80201-2391

### **Club Information**

Rocky Mountain Railroad Club  
PO Box 2391  
Denver, CO 80201-2391  
Web: <http://www.rockymtnrrclub.org>  
Facebook:  
[www.facebook.com/rockymtnrrclub](http://www.facebook.com/rockymtnrrclub)

### **Club and Foundation Officers**

President	Steve Mason
Vice President	Dave Schaaf
Secretary	Roger Sherman
Treasurer	Keith Jensen

### **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:

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

E-mail: [selectimag@aol.com](mailto:selectimag@aol.com)

**Items for the December 2017 Rail Report should be sent by November 15th.**