

# RAIL REPORT

December 2021

No. 734



Rocky Mountain Railroad Club • Rocky Mountain Railroad Historical Foundation

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**There Will Be A December Annual Meeting In Barnes Hall**  
The Current Denver Public Health Order Requires Masks To Be Worn By Everyone

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## **Trains from the Sky: Railfan Using Modern Technology**

Presented Live And Via The Internet by Kevin Morgan

December 14, 2021 • 7:30 PM

As technology advances in our ever-changing world, railfans have, for the past few years, had a new tool available to them in their arsenal in their pursuit of train photography. In this show, we will not only look at some of the pictures from the air, but go over the technology itself. Entry costs for a drone, and what you need to know to safely and legally fly a drone.

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See Page 14 For Information On How To Sign Up And Participate Online.

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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. 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 2022 Calendar**

- |              |   |
|--------------|---|
| January 11th | Monthly Meeting and program, "From Railfan To Railroader, Without Getting Railroaded" by Brad Swartzwelter. |
| February 8th | Monthly Meeting and a 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 or 303 988-3456.

## Trains from the Sky: Railfan Using Modern Technology



On a crisp Memorial Day morning, the westbound Zephyr is on time just east of Cliff. The California-bound train is passing through the last tunnel in the Tunnel District (when heading west), tunnel 29. This also happens to be the shortest tunnel in the Tunnel District at only 78 feet in length. The train is about to cross South Boulder Creek as it approaches a clear signal at East Cliff, about 36 miles west of Denver Union Station. – Photo © Kevin Morgan.



For much of the year, the eastbound Zephyr departs Denver after dark. However, in the summer months, there is still a bit of light when it heads east. Here, just days before the official start of summer, the Chicago-bound train is right on time as it passes by Barr Lake, about 18 miles east of Denver Union Station. – Photo © Kevin Morgan.

The *Rail Report* masthead features New York, Chicago & St. Louis RR locomotive 734 at Cleveland, Ohio, in 1956. – Photo from the Tom Klinger Collection.

## Trains from the Sky: Railfan Using Modern Technology



The West Black Thunder loadout was built a little over ten years ago, and the sheer scale of the loadout is impressive. A conveyor belt system brings coal from the actual mine, several miles to the east. The conveyor belt rises up and over the triple track main and into the massive concrete tipple. In this shot, a train loads underneath said tipple, while two SD70ACes bring up the tail end of a westbound empty on Main 2. – Photo © Kevin Morgan.



After waiting for a handful of westbounds, this eastbound coal load now has a clear signal at Bridger Jct. to head east on the BNSF Canyon Sub on Main 1. – Photo © Kevin Morgan.

## December Cheer From RMRRC President Denny Leonard

It is great to be meeting again in person and to see each other!

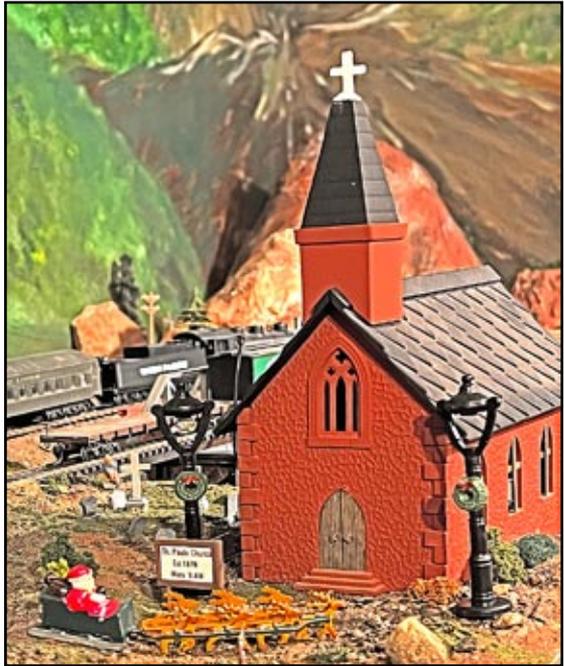
Merry Christmas – as you can see, Santa Claus is pulling up to St. Pauls church in Ouray. The snow is late in coming!

The Christmas season in the mountains was always one of celebration and veneration which continues today. Georgetown is still a Christmas treat in the mountains and many of the other towns that the narrow gauge served are a joy to visit.

The Polar Express story is always fun and options to ride the story line to the North Pole can be had at the CRRM and various other railroads in the state. The Polar Express at the CRRM is sold out.

Our organization has helped preserve the history of Colorado railroads and continues to by our yearly grants. There are many worthy projects for the Rocky Mountain Railroad Club Historical Foundation to consider. Grants soon will be requested so they can considered this spring. Please consider year end giving to the historical foundation.

Oh, and please pay dues by the end of the year to protect your seniority number (one of the treasures of the club) and so that we can run the club. Our new



St. Pauls church in Ouray on Denny's model Lake City and Ouray Railroad.  
– Photo © 2021 Denny Leonard.

dues and RMRRC *Rail Report* delivery structure helps put the club budget in balance. This club has so much value to members and history. I am sure we all support our legacy!

It is good to again remind everyone that at our December meeting we will vote for four officers and three board members for the Rocky Mountain Railroad Club and the Rocky Mountain Railroad Historical Foundation to serve for 2022. Nominations will be made by our nominations committee and also can be made by any member. Please see meeting notice in the *Rail Report* and on our RMRRC webpage.

## December Cheer From RMRRC President Denny Leonard

This is my last term as President, and I want to thank all the officers, committee chairs and members of the Board of Directors for their efforts and dedication on the various projects we accomplished.

It is hard to express the joy and pleasure it has been for me to lead the club that has meant so much to me as a member for many years.

I send a big thanks also to all the club members who make the club possible because each of us do!

Please feel free to contact me by email at [denny@amerm.com](mailto:denny@amerm.com) or my cell (303) 809-9430.

**A Very Merry Christmas and a wonderful 2022 to all.**

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### Nominating Committee Report

By Nathan Holmes, Andy Dell, and Dave Schaaf

As the year comes to a close, it once again is time to think about leadership candidates for the Club and Foundation for 2022. The election will be held at the annual business meeting in December.

We would like to thank all of the officers and board members, completing their term for their service this year. That includes officers Denny Leonard, President; Dave Schaaf, Vice President; Andy Dell, Secretary; and Keith Jensen, Treasurer. In addition, board members Nathan Holmes, Pat Mauro, and Debbie MacDonald are completing their 2-year term this year.

The Nominating Committee proposes

a slate of candidates consisting of Andy Dell for president; Dave Schaaf, Vice President; Steve Subber, Secretary; and Keith Jensen, Treasurer. In addition, as board members Nathan Zachman, Pat Mauro, and Debbie MacDonald for director.

Anyone wishing to nominate anyone or themselves for an officer or director position should contact the nominating committee: Dave Schaaf, Nathan Holmes or Andy Dell through the Club website or by mail to the Club PO Box.

Nominations may also be made from the floor at the December Club meeting.

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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 14, 2021, 7:30 PM at Christ Church, 2950 South University Boulevard, Denver, Colorado, and virtually through Zoom. 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.

# Rocky Mountain Railroad Club

## Rocky Mountain Railroad Historical Foundation

Annual Meeting Minutes – December 8, 2020

Held via Zoom due to COVID-19 restrictions

The Rocky Mountain Railroad Club Annual Meeting was called to order by President Leonard at 7:34 PM with 23 in attendance.

### The Minutes

Pat Mauro moved to dispense reading the minutes of the 2019 Annual Meeting, copies of which were available for members. The motion was seconded by Michael Tinetti and passed on a Zoom voice/chat vote.

### Treasurers Report

No presentation

### Nominations Committee

The report of the Nominating Committee: The slate of Officers endorsed for nomination were:

President – Dennis J. Leonard  
Vice-President – Dave Schaaf  
Secretary – Andy Dell  
Treasurer – Keith Jensen

As Directors (2-year terms):  
Steve Subber, Ron Keiser,  
Michael Tinetti

The 3 directors below enter the 2nd year of their terms and are not up for election:

Nathan Holmes, Debbie MacDonald,  
Pat Mauro

Nominations were opened to the floor for additions. None being offered, Nathan Holmes moved to accept the slate of proposed Officers and Directors for the year 2020. The motion was seconded by Ron Keiser. Vote of unanimous consent and passed.

Dave Schaaf gave a report of some recent rail news.

Pat Mauro gave a report on the South Park society. Como received a box car and a couple semi loads of ties. Plans to rebuild the water tank with private funds that were received. Work days coming up in 2021.

Wally Weart report the C&S coach from Idaho Springs went to Georgetown for restoration. Disher trucking took it up there yesterday. Progress made on the trolley car #4. Seats recovered etc.

There being no further business, Wally Weart moved the meeting be adjourned. The motion was seconded by Nathan Holmes. The vote was unanimous and passed. The meeting adjourned at 7:53 PM.

A presentation with pictures and video was made by Scott Lothes of the Center for Railroad Photography and Art. Numerous questions were answered after the presentation which ended at 9:15 PM.

The next Annual Meeting will be held at a suitable date for the membership in 2021

Respectfully submitted,  
Andy Dell, Secretary

*Note: The Club and Foundation Annual Meetings were combined in 2020.*

## Renewal Process Reminder for December

The club sent the renewal notices out last month. If you cannot find yours, please request a replacement by sending an email to [rails@rockymtnrclub.org](mailto:rails@rockymtnrclub.org). The club will email you a replacement. You can mail a request for a new invoice to the club membership post office box at Rocky Mountain Railroad Club, PO Box 620953, Denver, CO 80162-0953.

Each renewal form has spaces to correct any errors in your contact information. This includes the spelling of your names and addresses. We do not have phone numbers for many of you, so please add that information. For those desiring to renew by check, just mail the invoice in with corrections, the membership level you selected, and mail it to the address listed at the bottom of the invoice. Members, if you have an email account, please make sure we have the correct information. We use an email notification service.

On the home page of our club web site, [www.rockymtnrclub.org](http://www.rockymtnrclub.org) you may renew electronically. Click on the highlighted:

### [2022 Membership Renewal Digital](#)

and fill in the information asked. Online payment is by PayPal only.

Here is an introduction taken from the PayPal web site: [www.paypal.com/us/webapps/mpp/how-paypal-works](http://www.paypal.com/us/webapps/mpp/how-paypal-works)

PayPal is an electronic commerce company that eases payments between parties through online fund transfers. PayPal allows customers to set up an account, that links your credit card, checking accounts, or make a onetime payment without opening an account. Signing up for a personal account is free.

**The membership year is January 1st through December 31st of each year. The board changed the dues structure. Regular members who receive their *Rail Report* by email-PDF have a reduced dues rate. Regular members who receive their *Rail Report* by USPS-paper copy pay more a year. To keep membership seniority in RMRRRC, your dues for the upcoming year must be paid by December 31st.**

There is no longer a grace period. The club re-sequences the membership during the second week of January. If you wish to keep your seniority, please make sure you have renewed by then. Members, with 10 years seniority and are late renewing, the sequencer shall increment their seniority number by half a position step from the current year number. Members late renewing with less than 10 years seniority the sequencer gives the next highest number at the bottom of the list.

The club mails membership cards to the first week of February.

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## Leadville, Colorado & Southern Railroad Announces Their Holiday Express For Winter 2021 – 2022

Their first winter operations were just announced! Travel through the snowy Colorado mountains on a memorable trip on their train decorated with lights. Information: [leadville-train.com/uncategorized/holiday-express-coming-winter-2021-22](http://leadville-train.com/uncategorized/holiday-express-coming-winter-2021-22)

## Rocky Mountain Railroad Historical Foundation Funded Grants

### 2015 Grant Recipients:

Ridgway Railroad Museum – Digitize 1200 RGS dispatcher sheets  
Como Roundhouse – Restoring the turntable to operation  
DSP&P Historical Society – Como Depot interpretive signage  
Colorado & Southern Railway Society – Restoring caboose 1006  
Durango RR Historical Society – Restoring D&RGW reefer 39

### 2016 Grant Recipients

Golden Spike Chapter RLHS – Axle bearings for D&RGW 223  
San Juan County Historical Society – Materials to rebuild Silverton Northern  
Galloping Goose Historical Society – Interpretive signage for Dolores depot  
Ridgway Railroad Museum – Towards constructing their car shed  
Train Mountain Railroad – Repainting D&RGW caboose 01431

### 2017 Grant Recipients

DSP&P Historical Society – Electrical work on the restored Como depot  
Durango RR Historical Society – Continued restoration work on D&RGW #39  
Pueblo Railroad Museum – Painting tender of ATSF 2912  
South Park Rail Society – Repairs on Klondike Mines #4

### 2018 Grant Recipients

Hinsdale County Historical Society – Relocate D&RGW combine 211 to Lake City  
Ridgway Railroad Museum – Ties and security cameras for new property  
South Park Rail Society – Brake work on Klondike Mines #4  
DSP&P Historical Society – Acquiring DSP&P boxcar 608  
Salida Museum – Repainting Koppers 0-4-0T

### 2019 Grant Recipients

Brad Swartzwelter – Display for Moffat Cup in Union Station  
South Park Rail Society – Restoration of C&S gondola #4319  
Pine-Elk Creek Improvement Association – DSP&P history signage for Pine Grove  
Ridgway Railroad Museum – Interior woodworking for RGS coach 252

### 2020 Grant Recipients

DSP&P Historical Society – C&S boxcar 8311 restoration  
South Park Rail Society – Restoration of D&RGW stock car 5743  
Ridgway Railroad Museum – RGS Motor #1 rear axle rebuild  
Letterpress Depot – repairs to Englewood Santa Fe depot and station sign  
Colorado & Southern Railway Society – Siding and paint for C&S caboose 1006

### 2021 Grant Recipients

Teller Historic and Environment Coalition – Moving Colorado Midland boxcar  
Denver, South Park & Pacific Historical Society – Como water tank  
Pine-Elk Creek Improvement Association – Repairs and painting of drop bottom gondola  
Galloping Goose Historical Society – Freight cars for display in Dolores  
Kyle Colley – Stabilizing and restoring D&RGW RPO 119

## Rocky Mountain Railroad Historical Foundation

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P.O. Box 2391  
Denver, Colorado, USA 80201-2391

December 2021

Dear Members:

Our organization has helped preserve the history of Colorado railroads over the years and continues preservation through our yearly grants. There are many worthy projects for the Rocky Mountain Railroad Historical Foundation to consider every year. Grant proposals will soon be requested to be considered this spring.

The importance of supporting the Foundation is to keep our program viable. Preserving and educating history is one of our principal club activities.

Please consider year end giving to the Rocky Mountain Railroad Historical Foundation. Even small gifts add up. The Foundation is a 501(c)(3), tax exempt, non-profit organization. Based on individual tax circumstances, the donation may be tax deductible.

Please join me in participating this year. Please note that PayPal will not be available for donations and we request payment by check or cash at meetings.

Sincerely,



Denny Leonard  
Rocky Mountain Railroad Historical Foundation President

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Mailed 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

## Recent Narrow Gauge Happenings



Locomotive #168 rounding the curve at Lava Tank on October 24, 2021. This was on the last day of the 2021 season for the C&TS and #168 was pulling an extra behind the regular train, both trains carrying ticketed members of the public.  
– Photo © 2021 Keith A. Jensen.



D&RG 168 on Ferguson Trestle on the C&TS the morning of September 27, 2021, on a charter organized by Lerro Photography. – Photo © 2021 Keith A. Jensen.

## Recent Narrow Gauge Happenings



D&RG 315 (renumbered as 425) at Lava Tank on the C&TS on the morning of September 28, 2021, on a charter organized by Lerro Photography.  
– Photo © 2021 Keith A. Jensen.



RGS 20 at Calico Cut on the C&TS, on September 29, 2021, on a charter organized by Lerro Photography. – Photo © 2021 Keith A. Jensen.

## Club Publishing Landmarks – 1961

By Dave Goss

Over the years, the Club has been widely recognized for its publishing of Colorado railroad history. Beginning with Mac Poor's *Denver South Park & Pacific* in 1949, the bar was set high for quality writing. Morris Cafky's *Rails Around Gold Hill* in 1955 continued the tradition, which was followed in 1959 with *The Pictorial Supplement to Denver South Park & Pacific* by Ed Haley, Dick Kindig and Mac Poor. By early 1961 more than 3,000 copies of this volume printed by World Press had been sold at \$15 a copy. Philip Ronfor provided a painting for the dust cover and several of his color paintings were included in the book along with those by Richard Ward.

In December of this year, the Club received one of the 1961 Awards of Merit of the American Association for State and Local History. The award was given for *The Pictorial Supplement to the Denver South Park & Pacific*, described as "an outstanding volume in a specialized field of popular history." As reported in the *Rocky Mountain News*, "The award winning book supplements a lavish history of the vanished Colorado narrow gauge railroad published by the Club ten years ago. The association is a professional organization of state and local historical agencies in the United States and Canada. It sponsors *American Heritage*, the hardbound magazine of American History."

The Pictorial Supplement was an unqualified success both financially for the Club and by virtue of the prestigious award. Five more hardbound publications followed as well as two substan-

tial soft cover histories as well as maps, timetables, booklets and eventually VHS and DVD videos. The Club's reputation for quality research and publishing was firmly established.

Another printing accomplishment this year was the distribution to each Club member, at no cost, of the 48-page booklet *Where Steam Still Serves* published by the Great Western Sugar Company. The booklet was only available to members whose dues were paid (\$3.00) and contained drawings and photographs of the company's steam locomotives including one of the Club's excursions over the line.

In that same year the Club also printed its annual Roster listing over 830 members. The Club's Memorial Day Narrow Gauge Excursion was documented with an 18-page booklet with excerpts including text from a 1903 tourist guide titled *Over the Range to the Golden Gate*. Three hundred and eighty-eight passengers from 23 different states and Canada rode the three-day trip.

1961 also provided for two trips that were more routine then, but impossible to do now. The Annual Dinner was at the Harvest House in Boulder with transportation behind C&S No. 638. In September the Club hosted a joint Colorado & Southern and Great Western Railway excursion from Denver to Loveland behind C&S No. 638. The train was turned over to GW No. 51 and No. 75 for the mileage over the Eaton Branch to Longmont, where No. 638 took over for the return to Denver. Trips with C&S No. 638 continued only one

## Club Publishing Landmarks – 1961

more year as the locomotive was retired in December 1962. The last trip behind Great Western steam was in September 1962.

Perhaps taken for granted in 1961, today we have only memories of those

steam excursions of sixty years ago. Fortunately, we still have available to us the histories that the Club published to remind of narrow gauge and standard gauge railroading in Colorado. We thank our early members for their foresight.

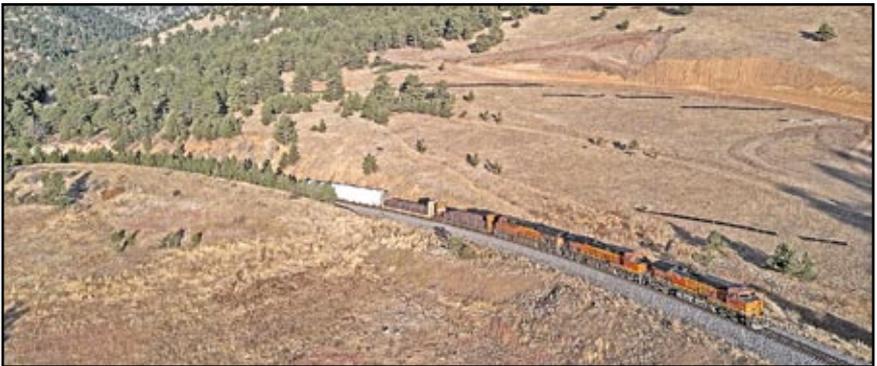
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## Current Railroad Happenings



The Royal Gorge Route acquired two Budd built full length dome cars from the Iowa Pacific bankruptcy sale held the summer of 2021. CRFX 510 lettered Eastern Flyer was at Cañon City & Royal Gorge RR shop area Cañon City, Colorado, on October 17, 2021. The car was built as Santa Fe 510. – Photo ©2021 by Chip.



Westbound BNSF 5468, C44-9W, moved the Denver, to Provo, Utah, manifest past new home construction in Coal Creek Canyon, Colorado, on October 30, 2021. Canyon Pines homes are being built to the west and north of tunnel one. – Photo ©2021 by Chip.

## **Virtual Meeting And Program Access Instructions**

To register ahead of time, please send an email to [rmrrc-show@drwg.net](mailto:rmrrc-show@drwg.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.

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### **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](https://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>

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### **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 chapter is starting to resume meetings and events.

For current meeting information email [railbob@icloud.com](mailto: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](mailto:rails@rockymtnrrclub.org)  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/rockymtnrrclub](http://www.facebook.com/rockymtnrrclub)

### Club Officers

President	Dennis Leonard
Vice President	Dave Schaaf
Secretary	Andy Dell
Treasurer	Keith Jensen

### Club Directors

Nathan Holmes, Ron Keiser, Pat Mauro,  
Debbie MacDonald, Steve Subber, Michael Tinetti.

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### Membership Information

Membership in the Rocky Mountain Railroad Club may be obtained online at [www.rockymtnrrclub.org](http://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 *Rail Report* and \$45.00 if a printed, mailed *Rail Report* 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.

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### 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](mailto:selectimag@aol.com)

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

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Items for the January *Rail Report* should be sent by December 3rd.