



June 2024

RAIL REPORT

Rocky Mountain Railroad Club

Rocky Mountain Railroad
Historical Foundation

Issue 762

June 11 meeting in Barnes Hall at 7:30 pm ---

Chip Sherman will show us images and tell us about his recent visit to the restoration efforts in Silvis, Illinois. Quite a few locomotives and cars are now being refurbished there by the group called Railroading Heritage of Midwest America.

As we have in many recent years, we plan to take the month of July off. There will not be a July meeting.

UP Steam Restoration Work at Silvis Shop, Illinois



Union Pacific 3985 (left), 4-6-6-4 Challenger, and UP 5511, 2-10-2 Baldwin built in 1923, are undergoing restoration work at the Railroading Heritage of Midwest America (RRHMA) shop. At Silvis, IL, NRHS Spring Conference Tour on May 6, 2024. ©2024 Chip



At right, UP 6936, a DDA40X Centennial unit, rests in good company at the Railroading Heritage of Midwest America Silvis Shop, Silvis, Illinois, May 6, 2024. Iowa Interstate 6988, 2-10-2 QJ, was undergoing Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) federally mandated 1,472-day inspection.
©2024 Chip

Upcoming Events:

U.P. Big Boy 4014 is scheduled to depart from Cheyenne, Wyoming, on Sunday, June 30, en route to Roseville, California. Durango to Silverton service started on May 4.

Cumbres & Toltec Scenic RR opened on May 25. Summer season runs until October 19, 2024.

Silvis Shop Tour May 2024



The National Railway Historical Society donated funds to the Railroading Heritage of Midwest America (RRHMA) on May 6, 2024. Left to right; Tony White NRHS president, Steve Sandberg president & COO RRHMA accepted check, Mike Yuhas, and Cate Kratville-Wrinn. Some 50 folks toured the Silvis Shop at Silvis, IL. UP 3985 directly behind Steve. ©2024 Chip

The National Railway Historical Society held their 2024 Spring Conference in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Part of the conference offered 50 national NRHS members to attend an Operation Lifesaver fundraiser and ride on the Iowa Interstate Railroad's 3-car business train South Amana, Iowa, to the Silvis, IL shop.

The "Railroading Heritage of Midwest America" (RRHMA) opened their doors to the group. Steve Sandberg, President and COO of the RRHMA was our tour host. The trip was culminated with an NRHS donation to the RRHMA. The Silvis Shop is restoring UP Challenger 3985 and UP 5511, 2-10-2 (not operated since 1953), and the famous Centennial diesel 6936. The Union Pacific equipment arrived at Silvis in November of 2022. UP 3985 was retired from excursion service in 2020.



RRHMA has completed work on Union Pacific 6936 returning her to operation. Many hours were expended getting the Centennial ready to hit the rails. ©2024 Chip

National Railway Equipment (NRE) worked with RRHMA to install truck springs on UP 6936 in early 2024. Work was completed by April 2024.

On the 3985, all the metal on the boiler has been tested to confirm what exact material type it is. With this, RRHMA will be able to follow proper

steps during any future repairs. The stacks have been removed, as well as the rear tube sheet. The McGabe Flanger machine is used for bending the flange on flue sheets and has been rebuilt. It was being used in May 2024 on the flue sheet for the 3985.

UP 5511's stack pipes, branch pipes, and superheater header have been removed. The dry pipe has been removed for replacement.

BNSF 537, a B40-8CW unit, Paint Project - The BNSF donated unit 537 to the RRHMA in 2023. It was being prepped and repainted into a warbonnet paint scheme in May 2024. Red and silver paint and lettering was expected to cost \$65,000.

Southern Pacific business car "Stanford" was painted during the summer of 2023 back to the two-tone Southern Pacific Gray, bringing new life to this classic car built in 1928.



In memoriam

Long-time Club member David L. Gross passed away on June 2, 2024. Visitation and Requiem Mass information are on the web page of the Club. Photo courtesy of Joe McMillan.

Dave left an indelible mark on the steam railroading community with his efforts to record the last breath of steam at various locations across the globe. His love of railroading began at 15-years-old, when he grabbed a

camera and headed out on his first railfanning trip with life-long friend Jim Ehernberger. His photography and videography will forever be a part of railroading history. As a founding partner in the High Country Railroad in Golden, Colorado, an early and long-time member of the Rocky Mountain Railroad Club, a member of The Lexington Group, a volunteer for Midwest Old Threshers Association in Mount Pleasant, Iowa, and a first-generation steam preservationist, his legacy will live on in the hearts and minds of those who follow in his footsteps.

Como Roundhouse Doings



South Park Rail Society volunteers have been busy working on Klondike Kate #4 in recent months. Cylinder and driver alignment work was underway this Spring. ©2024 Chip



South Park Rail Society volunteers worked on switch to track 8 near the Como Depot, CO, Saturday, May 18, 2024. This was the first 2024 workday for the group. Road Master Alex Hois was on the scene recovering from his skiing accident. ©2024 Chip

Bob Stephan replaced the glass panels in the visitor's entrance doors damaged by the windstorm in 2023.

Chris Tom primed the new Como Roundhouse windowsills that will be installed this year. Boxcar 8311 with fresh paint was moved outside the Como Roundhouse. Colorado & Southern lettering was being applied.



CPKC's Final Spike Steam Tour used Canadian Pacific 2816, 4-6-4 named Empress, and CP 1401, FP9A. Train laid over at Knoche Yard, Kansas City, Missouri, May 12, 2024. This train continued to Mexico City, in early June. ©2024 Chip



Canadian Pacific 2816 was built by Montreal Locomotive Works in December 1930. Last revenue run was May 26, 1960. CP 2816 was approaching Nahant Yard near Davenport, Iowa, May 9, 2024. ©2024 Chip

Rocky Mountain Railroad Club Information

Author/photographer: Chip

Web: <http://www.rockymtnrrclub.org>

Email: rails@rockymtnrrclub.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/rockymtnrrclub

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 Officers

President	Andy Dell
Vice President	Dave Schaaf
Secretary	Steve Subber
Treasurer	Keith Jensen

Club Directors

Jim Ehernberger, Denny Leonard, Andrew Ludasi,
Debbie MacDonald, Kirk Thode, Nathan Zachman

Membership Information

Membership in the Rocky Mountain Railroad Club may be obtained online at www.rockymtnrrclub.org or by sending the annual dues to the Club address:

Rocky Mountain Railroad Club

Membership

PO Box 2391

Denver, CO 80201-2391

Regular membership dues are \$35.00 with email delivery of the Rail Report or \$50 if a printed, mailed *Rail Report* is desired.

Contributing membership is \$55.00.

Sustaining membership is \$75.00.

Patron membership is \$100.00.

An associate membership for spouses and children is \$20.00 additional.

Members joining after June may send a payment for half of the dues level they wish to join at for the remainder of the year. Members of the Rocky Mountain Railroad Club are also members of the Rocky Mountain Railroad Historical Foundation, a tax exempt 501(c)(3) organization.

Board Meetings

Members are always welcome to attend any board of directors meeting. Please contact any Club officer for the date, time and Zoom meeting information.

Newsletter contributions and items for publication should be sent to:

Chip Sherman, Editor

Email: rails@rockymtnrrclub.org

USPS Mail:

Rocky Mountain Railroad Club

Rail Report

PO Box 2391

Denver, CO 80201-2391