



RAIL REPORT

Rocky Mountain Railroad Club

Rocky Mountain Railroad
Historical Foundation

October 2023

Issue 754

Upcoming Programs:

Please join us at our October 10 meeting in Barnes Hall, when Frank Keller will join us via Zoom to give a photo tribute for the Centennial year of the Alaska Railroad.

In his words --- My first show is a celebration of my 15 years on the Alaska Railroad and their 100th anniversary since driving the gold spike. My second show is a program I gave at Winterail in 2022, which was titled North to Alaska. The first photo here is a shot in Spencer Valley. The other one shows the centennial unit at Petersen, Alaska.





We meet in person for a no cost show at 7:30 pm in Barnes Hall, on the south side of the church at 2950 S. University Boulevard Denver, Colorado. Or Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86251105134?pwd=VWRwRUVCbVoyTzhwMWhYbm5scTlqdz09> Meeting ID: 862 5110 5134 Passcode: 496652

Upcoming Events:

Intermountain Chapter, NRHS, meets Saturday, October 14

The Intermountain Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society invites all Rocky Club members and friends to our monthly luncheon meeting at 12 Noon at Malones Clubhouse Grill, NE corner of the 64th & Indiana shopping complex in Arvada. Lunch at noon, or even a bit earlier

for socializing, and program at 1:00. Lunch is by individual settlement.

Our very familiar presenter will be Rick Clarke, retired from RTD and, more recently, from LA Metro where he was Chief Program Management Officer. Rick will cover: (1) recently completed and underway LA rail construction projects, (2) upcoming major projects, (3) Metrolink Commuter Rail, and (4) railroads around southern California. Rick will also touch on his role at our own RTD.

This will be a most interesting program for rail advocates and it could offer some insight into Colorado's proposed rail future. See you there!

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ColoRail meeting on Saturday, October 21

The Colorado Rail Passenger Association invites all Rocky Club members and friends to its Fall Meeting, at the Guild near the Englewood light rail station and library.

Socializing starts at 8:00 AM and the meeting at 9:00 AM. ColoRail is Colorado's premier rail and transit advocacy organization, launched in 1989 to save Denver Union Station against the threat of repurposing or demolition. The Fall Meeting will feature discussion of a number of topics including Front Range Passenger Rail, Amtrak, Winter Park Express Ski Train, and more. Visit colorail.org for more information as it becomes available.

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The Royal Gorge Route Polar Express starts November 19, 2023 and runs till December 24th (Christmas Eve).

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**Rocky Mountain Train Show - Holiday 2023
November 25th & 26th
The Ranch Events Complex
5280 Arena Circle Loveland, CO 80538**

President's column

Andy Dell

It has been a busy summer and unfortunately not all good for me personally. Thank you to all who participated in the survey. That gave our board of directors some insight as to the pulse of the membership. I will address here several of the decisions made at the September board meeting.

Printed Rail Report for members subscribing to the printed report:

The printed Rail Report remains to be a challenge since Bruce Nall retired last December from the exceptional job he had done for 25 years. There are enough members that would likely drop membership if the printed report went away and so the board voted to outsource the mailing of the Rail Report. This should alleviate some of the delay with me having to go get the printed newsletters from the printer, print mailing labels, apply mailing labels and stamps and finally drop them off at the post office. Then they are lost in the USPS system and hopefully find their way to your doorstep if you subscribe to the printed report. Printing costs and postage amongst other things have increased in price over the last few years and the board will be discussing price increases for the printed report as costs have remained the same for a few years now. That being said, if you don't like the increase in cost, now would be a great time to switch to the emailed Rail report.

Membership renewal for 2024:

As Denny Leonard did a great job last year writing an article on membership renewal, I will just reuse that article and make the appropriate changes for the 2024 year. See Denny's article below. We have not voted on potential dues increase for the printed Rail Report yet but one decision made was to drop the International membership plan. In the past, this different price helped cover the additional postage fees the club incurred to mail the Rail Report overseas to those members. As the four international members have all switched to the email version, we didn't see any point in charging them extra. That being said, International members, please renew as a General member with the emailed Rail Report unless you are feeling generous and wish to renew as a Contributor or higher level.

Meetings at the church:

For now we will continue to meet at the church monthly with potentially the month of May being off in favor of our now annual picnic at the CRRM. The picnic may be a different month as we have not confirmed any plans yet, so stay tuned to the Rail Report for that information. We are continuing to struggle to find folks to help with the technical side of running the meeting as well as finding presenters and presenters that are available to present locally. That being said if we have some months where the presenter is not presenting locally and we don't have volunteers to run the meeting locally, we may need to have a Zoom only meeting on a given month. There is also the potential for a month with no presenter and we may have to cancel the meeting that month. Our program chair will try to

provide this information with plenty of advance notice but some things are out of our control.

New President needed!

I have been President for nearly two years now and am finding myself a bit burned out. I don't feel I have the time or energy needed to do a good job of leading the club and handling various things that I put on my plate as there were not enough volunteers for certain tasks. If no one steps up to volunteer for this position, I commit to be being President again in 2024 but just know several tasks will likely get more delayed depending on my work load at the time.

I feel it is time to hand off the baton to the next person that would like to give it a shot. The main requirements are access to email and the Zoom platform. A basic understanding of email management and MS Word is great as well. Generating a monthly Board of Directors agenda and conducting a monthly meeting over Zoom for ~ 2 hours is the main task. Other tasks include responding to occasional emails from members or other rail related individuals takes a few minutes a week. Writing a column each month for the Rail Report is nice but not required as I have cut back to once a quarter if even that. Being present at monthly meetings either in person or via Zoom is also a good thing to portray the face of the president of the Railroad Club but not necessary. Anyone interested in running for president, please email me at andydell76@gmail.com. I don't do phone calls much anymore as my tinnitus makes it hard for me to hear on the phone.

Renewals Are Around the Corner By Denny Leonard, Past President and Membership Volunteer

Our next membership year runs from January 1, 2024, to the first Monday in January 2025. The renewal season is the two months prior with the renewal process beginning in November. The club mails 2023 membership renewal invoices the first week of November. The club uses the USPS for invoice delivery. Please be on the lookout for this mailing. We know it is easy to overlook with all the solicitations you get in your mailbox. The response to paper invoicing is higher than with inserts in the Rail Report or by electronic mail. The Club is holding the Regular membership prices at two levels. The cost of production and delivery is the basis for the different prices. For Regular members who receive their newsletters through email, the yearly membership is \$30.00. For Regular members who receive their newsletters by USPS mail, the yearly membership is \$45.00. For a Contributing, Sustaining or Patron level member the delivery method is their choice. As International members receive their newsletters by email

only, we have dropped that category as it is no longer necessary. International members, please renew as a Regular member.

Please consider taking the Rail Report by email, the digital color is great. Renewing using PayPal helps the Club. If you are sending a check, there will be a delay in both the check being cashed and membership roster being updated as we only go to our PO Box downtown as schedule allows. Seniority numbers mean a great deal to some and have little meaning to others. Those who consider it important should make sure to renew on time. I consider seniority numbers to be a historic and important part of membership in the Rocky Mountain Railroad Club, but please realize that managing the numbers is a HUGE task.

— PLEASE — Do Not Be Late Renewing The renewal must be received by January 2, 2023, to maintain your seniority. Late renewals will likely receive a new beginning roster number!

Abilene & Smoky Valley RR Steam Engine Due for Major Inspection

The Abilene and Smoky Valley Railroad was founded in 1993 as a heritage railway, dedicated to preserving the legacy of the railroad industry in Kansas by highlighting the interconnectedness of railroads, the people, and the land in our state. An all-volunteer organization, the A&SV runs regular excursions, private charters, school field trip excursions and dinner trains between Abilene and the neighboring Dickinson County community of Enterprise. The railroad operates on track that was initially laid by the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Railroad in 1886.

Passengers on the A&SV do more than just ride trains. Since we are a living history museum project, you can experience train operations firsthand by touring our engines, talk with crew members and observe them doing their jobs, and hear the stories of how the Rock Island and other railroads once provided dependable transportation service that was the lifeline of a burgeoning regional agribusiness economy. You will board the train at Abilene's historic Rock Island Depot in Old Abilene Town and ride in antique passenger and freight cars, including a wooden coach that was manufactured for the Missouri-Kansas-Texas railroad in 1902.

The Abilene and Smoky Valley is the only steam railroad in Kansas. We use Santa Fe 3415, a century-old Baldwin "Pacific" locomotive (built 1919) that our volunteer staff rebuilt after the engine sat in Abilene's Eisenhower Park for 40 years. Santa Fe 3415 is our railroad's superstar, attracting thousands of railfans to Abilene since the engine made its first run on our rails in 2009. The engine has been featured in railroad publications and TV programs, including the PBS "Tracks Ahead" series. In 2022, the Saturday

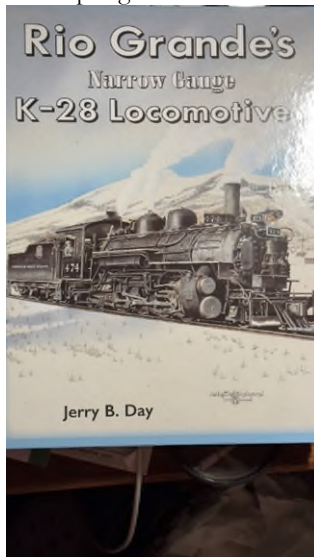
Evening Post's website named the A&SV as one of America's best steam train rides.

Thanks to Ross Boelling, president and general manager, and Dak Dillon Photography for hosting the A&SV's first photographer's special day.

Former Santa Fe 3415 will wrap up some 28 trips in 2023 in October 2023. The 1472-inspection is due and will require 3415's flues to be removed and inspected. This major inspection is expected to take 1 or 2 years. Fortunately, diesel #4 will be keeping the trains rolling between Abilene and Enterprise, Kansas.



A&SV's former Santa Fe 3415, Pacific type 4-6-2, crossed the Smoky Hill River near Enterprise, Kansas, September 15, 2023. American Heritage helped paint the train a uniform paint scheme in Spring 2023. ©2023 Chip



New Rio Grande's Narrow Gauge K-28's Locomotive book by author Jerry B. Day was released in August 2023. ©2023 Chip

Book Review Rio Grande's Narrow Gauge K-28 Locomotives by Jerry B. Day

Author Jerry Day signed his new book 'Rio Grande's Narrow Gauge K-28 Locomotives' at the 43rd National Narrow Gauge Convention.

The well researched book was published by White River Productions, P.O. Box 48, Bucklin, Missouri 64631.

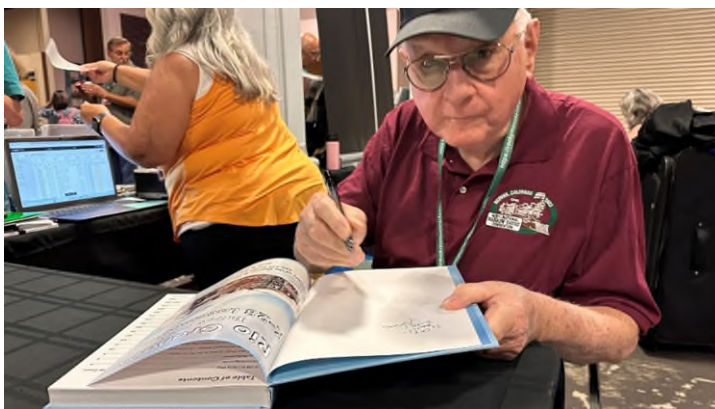
Jerry included a K-28 territory map on the inside cover, eleven chapters that start with New Power Comes to the Narrow Gauge. Chapter 8 covers K-28's In the Movies.

The images are well produced. Numerous photographers are featured; Robert Richardson, Frank Kelly, and John Horan. The map of the Durango, CO, yard on page 137 clearly illustrates the Durango Yard layout back in the 1952.

Example of his writing; "Though a long-time Baldwin buyer, Rio Grande ordered 10 new narrow gauge, outside frame Mikados from American Locomotive Works (Alco) in 1923. Designated K-28 (for Mikado, 27,540 pounds of tractive effort) the new K-28's quickly proved adept at hauling D&RGW passenger consists as well as the freight systemwide, paving the way for the larger K-36's and K-37's locomotives that followed."

Rounding out this book is an excellent index with a fold-out line drawing of D&RGW 474 and 476 -Impressive way to round out the book.

Jerry B. Day's book is available at White River Productions for \$79.95. www.whiteriverproductions.com



Jerry Day signed his new book at the 43rd National Narrow Gauge Convention that had 1166 attendees at Denver, CO, September 1, 2023. ©2023 Chip

Federal Railroad Administration Inspected Union Pacific – Raised Concerns



Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) inspectors visited Union Pacific's Bailey Yard at North Platte, Nebraska, during July and August 2023.

“The compliance of the rolling stock ... on the UP network is poor and UP was unwilling or unable to take steps to improve the condition of their equipment,” Bose wrote to UP CEO Jim Vena, President Beth Whited, and Eric Gehringer, executive vice president of operations.

“Additionally, it was clear throughout the focused inspection that UP did not take steps to improve the condition of their rolling stock as the defect ratio did not improve over time,” Bose said.

UP in August 2023 furloughed 94 locomotive mechanical employees and recently furloughed 44 carmen across the system due to lower freight volumes and the storage of 200 locomotives.

“This begs the question — was UP’s failure to act to improve the condition of their rolling stock during the FRA’s focused inspection a result of not having the personnel to make the necessary repairs because of the recent furloughs?”

It was not immediately clear whether the furloughs occurred before or after the FRA inspection blitz. The furlough of 94 shop workers was announced in the week of Aug. 21.

Union Pacific, in a statement to Trains News Wire on Saturday, defended its safety practices and staffing levels.

“Union Pacific will never compromise on the safety of our employees. Safety is always our first priority, and we are reviewing and will address the concerns raised by the FRA,” spokeswoman Kristen South says. “There is no correlation between recent furloughs and Union Pacific’s ability to address mechanical repairs. We have the appropriate staffing for all crafts, and always leave a buffer to allow for the natural ebb and flow nature of our business. Finally, we have worked for years with FRA inspectors and respect the work they do. We have the same goal — safety.” (Info courtesy Kalmbach Media and the FRA)

Rocky Mountaineer Power Back on Train



The Rocky Mountaineer RMRX 8020 & 8021 returned to their 10-car train as of September 2023. The units received maintenance during the summer at UP's 36th Street Yard, Denver, CO. Union Pacific units were used on the summer trips. Denver, CO September 17, 2023 Rockies to the Red Rocks (Moab, Utah) train. ©2023 Chip

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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

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Regular membership dues are \$30.00 with email delivery of the Rail Report or TBD if a printed, mailed *Rail Report* is desired.

Contributing membership is \$50.00.

Sustaining membership is \$75.00.

Patron membership is \$100.00.

An associate membership for spouses and children is \$25.00 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:

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