



# RAIL REPORT

Rocky Mountain Railroad Club

Rocky Mountain Railroad  
Historical Foundation

December 2023

Issue 756



Our guest presenter for the December 12 meeting will be Richard Farewell. His short program will highlight the Alco diesels of the Chicago & Northwestern in the late 1970s. Rich found these first and second generation units in the twilight of their service when they were assigned to the lightweight rails out of Huron, South Dakota.

We may also have a look at some assorted images by other photographers. Photo above by Richard Farewell.

**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

## **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, 2023, 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.

In the December meeting, we will elect the board of directors and officer positions for the 2024 year. Following this official brief Annual Meeting, a short show will be presented and soda-pop and cookies will be provided. We hope to see you there.

The nominating committee would like to provide the following names for positions for 2024:

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

For a two-year director term:

Jim Ehernberger  
Andrew Ludasi  
Debbie MacDonald  
Nathan Zachman

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

## **Membership Renewal for 2024**

Renewal season is now upon us. The cost of everything has increased significantly in the last few years. Insurance costs, postage, printing, storage fees and bookkeeping fees have all steadily increased during the period of time since the last dues increase. The board of directors voted in the October meeting to increase the dues costs by \$5 per year for regular membership, USPS mailed Rail Report membership and the Contributing membership levels. This small increase may be substantial to some but it is necessary to ensure the club does not operate in the red and maintains a balanced budget. While all costs may not be fully covered by this increase, the club has many generous individuals whom are able to renew at higher levels such as the contributing, sustaining and patron levels. The additional monies that are received from these membership levels help to fulfill some of those deficits and allows us to keep membership level increases to a minimum.

## **Rocky Mountain Railroad Club – Annual Meeting Minutes**

December 13, 2022 The meeting was called to order by President Andy Dell at 7:35 PM.

Minutes from 2021 meeting

Tom Klinger moved to dispense reading the minutes of the 2021 Annual Meeting, copies of which were available for members. The motion was seconded by Nathan Holmes and passed unanimously.

Treasurers Report

No presentation. Budget was in balance for 2022.

Nominations Committee

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

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

As Directors (2-year terms):

Nathan Holmes, Denny Leonard and Kirk Thode

Nominations were opened to the floor for additions. None being offered, Wally Weart moved to accept the slate of proposed Officers and Directors for the year 2022 The motion was seconded by Tom Klinger. Vote of unanimous consent and passed.

There being no further business, Roger Sherman moved the meeting be adjourned. The motion was seconded by Nathan Holmes. The vote was unanimous and passed. The meeting adjourned at 7:43 PM. The next Annual Meeting will be held in December 2023 Respectfully submitted, Steve Subber, Secretary

## **Rocky Mountain Railroad Historical Foundation Donations**

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.

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

### **Upcoming Events:**

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

**Amtrak's Winter Park Express starts Friday, January 12, 2024 running Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays Denver Union Station to Winter Park Ski Area, CO.**

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# World's Largest Steam Locomotive 'Big Boy No. 4014 Preparing for 'Four Corners' 2024 Tour

Omaha, Nebraska - November 2, 2023

Union Pacific's famed Big Boy No. 4014, the world's largest steam locomotive, will return to the rails in 2024 for a tour celebrating the railroad's deep history and connection to communities, and its employees. The tour is expected to reach all four corners of Union Pacific's 23-state system with anticipated stops in:

- Chicago, Illinois
- Dallas/Ft. Worth, Texas
- Houston, Texas
- Nampa, Idaho
- Portland, Oregon
- Roseville, California
- Salt Lake City, Utah

“As we move forward at Union Pacific, we remember where we came from; the Big Boy represents the history of Union Pacific and the United States,” said Union Pacific CEO Jim Vena. “When No. 4014 comes to town, we will celebrate with the communities where we operate, our employees and their families. Together, we will marvel at how far technology has brought us.” (Information courtesy Union Pacific RR)



Union Pacific 4014 May 4, 2019 met a train at Speer, WY, on its trip to Ogden, Utah, to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the Golden Spike event marking the completion of the transcontinental railroad. ©2019-2023 Chip

## In Memoriam

John Dillavou passed away in November. He was president of our Club for 3 years, 1987-1989.

He was an enthusiast of both model and historic trains, Colorado's ghost towns and the history of the Southwest. With the Ghost Town Club, he had served as Vice-President and President. John served as the President of the Rocky Mountain Railroad Club, where he got to travel on exclusive trains, documenting many of them through his endless slides and pictures. He enjoyed building model railroads, with a large personal layout, multiple traveling modules and a notable fleet of locomotives.

John was President of the Club at the time of its 50th Anniversary and he helped arrange and coordinate many of the special events and commemorative items like the belt buckle and dinner plate. Also, in 1987, he arranged for the recording of conversations and memories of five early Club members, Jackson Thode, Lillian Stewart, Jack Morison, Ed Haley and Irv August. John had been a Club member since 1962, and his seniority number in 2023 was 13.

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Sigi Walker passed away on May 16, 2023 in Colorado Springs. She held seniority number 224 and had been active in several clubs in the Colorado Springs area as well as the Rocky Club. Sigi and her husband Mike Walker have donated countless hours to the Pikes Peak Trolley Museum and the Palmer Lake Historical Society and the Pueblo Railway Museum over the years.

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Michael Bryans passed away on August 16th, 2023 in Vancouver, WA. Michael held seniority number 192 having been a Club member since 1993.

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Richard Willhardt of Evergreen, Colorado, passed away in November. He was a member for about twenty years

## Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge RR K-28 Celebration October 2023



The Durango & Silverton operated a two-day photo mixed train on the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> of October 2023 to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the K-28s. The mixed train ran with a mid-train helper. The last time that was done on the Silverton line was 1958.

RAILFAN & RAILROAD magazine will publish an article that Jerry Day wrote with some of the photos in 2024.



Durango & Silverton NG 476 was the mid-train helper on October 26, 2023 at US Highway 550 Hermosa, CO. ©2023 Jerry Day



D&SNG 473, K-28, and mid-train helper 476 were along the Animas River for a rare mixed photo special marking the 100th Anniversary celebration of K-28's service. ©2023 Jerry Day

## **Cumbres & Toltec News in Late 2023**

On November 11, 2023 the C&TS Commission approved funding the purchase of White Pass & Yukon Bombardier built DL535W diesel #114. The 114 will primarily relieve the existing GE Center Cabs and K-36s from use in Maintenance of Way duties. This six-axle unit can also stand by in Chama to reduce the need to keep a steam engine hot as a rescue locomotive. This can extend the time between when steam locos need their 1472-day inspections.

Steven Butler is named as new General Manager

Steven Butler - A life-long rail enthusiast with a passion for preserving 19th and 20th century steam trains, Butler's family owned a railroad in the Midwest. He has experience in almost every aspect of running a steam powered tourist railroad. He has served as general manager and in other management positions, and also as a machinist, fireman, engineer and chief mechanical officer at various railroads across the U.S. Over the course of his 30+ year career, Butler has worked in management positions with Mt. Rainier Railroad & Logging Museum, Texas State Railroad, Morton Locomotive & Machine and others.

“We are thrilled that Steven will serve as the Cumbres & Toltec’s general manager,” said Billy Elbrock, Chairman of the four-member Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad Commission. “He brings the varied expertise necessary to run both a locomotive and a railroad, from machine work to marketing. He knows this area and even worked briefly for the C&TSRR and was at our neighboring San Luis & Rio Grande Railroad in Alamosa for many years.”

Since the late 90s, he has been a member of the Train/Heritage Rail Alliance Board of Directors, the National Board of Boiler’s Inspection Code Locomotive Boiler subgroup, American Society of Mechanical Engineers’ Locomotive subgroup and the Engineering Standards committee. (Info courtesy Cumbres & Toltec Scenic RR)



**Steve Butler takes over for Scott Gibbs, one of the railroad’s Colorado Commissioners who had temporarily stepped in to run day-to-day operations.**

## **South Park Rail Society Acquires Como Hotel**

Per Kathy Brantigan, President

We’re planning for a larger (Como) campus that will honor and respect that past by more effectively connecting the public to authentic early 19th Century life in our mountain railroading community.

In fulfillment of our dream to one day have a more cohesive and expansive rail campus in Como, my husband Chuck and I are happy to announce that we have recently purchased (October 23, 2023) the Como Hotel from David Tomkins. We're so grateful to David for his team spirit and longtime care of the hotel. We're excited to work with the SPRS, Denver South Park & Pacific Historical Society and the residents of Como to work toward a museum that reflects a vibrant picture of this very special town.

Included in the transaction of the Hotel Como property is the Historic DSP&P Railroad Depot, while under lease to the Denver, South Park & Pacific Historical Society the lease expires in eight years. (Courtesy Tom Lawson-Como Hotel News in The Como Headlight, Vol 2, Number 5)



**David Tomkins has sold the Como Hotel to Dr. Chuck and his wife Kathy Brantigan. Deal closed on Oct 23, 2023. Photo at Como, CO, June 2, 2020. ©2020-2023 Chip**

## **Colorado Pacific Acquired and Repaints BNSF SD70MAC's**

Colorado Pacific Rio Grande Railroad has started to repaint four BNSF units at Alamosa Shop, CO

BUGX 620 ex-BNSF 9760; BUGX 707 ex-BNSF 9697; BUGX 209 ex-BNSF 9832

Colorado Pacific Rio Grande RR acquired 10 BNSF SD70MAC's earlier in 2023. They were all residing in Alamosa, CO, as of October 2023. Newly painted CPRG units are expected to hit the road late 2023.



Photo October 19, 2023 by Chip



Colorado Pacific Rio Grande Railroad sign replaced San Luis & Rio Grande RR sign at Alamosa, CO. ©2023 Chip

**Cumbres & Toltec Scenic RR ran a Dak Dillon Photo Charter in October 2023**



**Cumbres & Toltec Scenic RR relettered 463's tender with flying Rio Grande lettering for Dak Dillon photo charter held October 18 & 19, 2023. Photo freights were assembled at Antonito, CO. ©2023 Chip**



**Cumbres & Toltec Scenic RR operated photo freight with flying Rio Grande lettering on 463's tender. Train had stock cars, rider boxcars and a caboose. Train took on water at Sublette, NM, water stand pipe. Special operated to Cascade and returned to Antonito, CO. ©2023 Chip**

Dak Dillon photo freights were held on the Cumbres & Toltec Scenic RR using engines 463 and 168 October 18 & 19, 2023. They celebrated the Mudhens 120th birthday with a throwback freight of the 1950's. The 463's

11-car train had stock cars, rider boxcars and a caboose that operated Antonito, CO, to Cascade, NM, and returned to Antonito.

The second day, October 19th, the Rio Grande 168 pulled a short freight train (first time 168 handled freight cars since its restoration October 2019). The train was dated to the World War I era. Train had a tank car, boxcar, gondola, coach and a caboose. The sold out excursions had perfect weather amongst the late golden autumn foliage.

The D&RGW gave 168 to the [City of Colorado Springs](#) on August 1, 1938. It was added to the [National Register of Historic Places](#) as Rio Grande Engine No. 168 in 1979. Although it sat in Antlers Park, unprotected from the elements, behind a low fence, it appeared to be in immaculate cosmetic condition when removed for restoration to operating condition in early 2016.

## Colorado Pacific RR new Galatea, CO, Elevator Under Construction



Colorado Pacific RR 1964, SD40-2, was loading former CSXT grain hoppers at the under-construction Galatea, Colorado, grain elevator October 18, 2023. An auger was used to load grain cars directly from grain trucks. Galatea is about 10-miles west of Eads, CO. ©2023 Chip



Grain elevator bases have been poured next to Colorado Pacific RR line west of Eads, CO, October 18, 2023. The former Missouri Pacific RR Towner Line is now operated by Colorado Pacific RR Kiowa Subdivision. ©2023 Chip

## **Club Website News Photo Page in Search of New Editor**

**The club would like to thank Wally Weart for his many years donated as the editor of the Clubs News and Events page!** This page can be found off our main webpage by clicking the Regional News link. It contains various pictures and news write ups from both Wally and other sources. Most of the pictures and articles relate to rail news from Colorado. Wally retired in November 2023 from his position as the webpage editor. We apologize for not placing this article in the November Rail Report but we had some pending decisions that were not finalized yet.

The board had another lead for a potential new editor and we felt it best to not make an announcement in the November Rail Report until we had confirmation. The potential replacement for the news webpage editor ended up not working out and we are still looking for a new editor to take over the news page.

If anyone has basic HTML experience with editing web pages, posting images with basic text and would like to volunteer to take over this task, please send an email to [rails@rockymtnrrclub.org](mailto:rails@rockymtnrrclub.org)

# Rocky Mountain Railroad Club Information

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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

Nathan Holmes, Denny Leonard, Debbie MacDonald,  
Pat Mauro, Kirk Thode, Nathan Zachman

## 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 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](mailto:rails@rockymtnrrclub.org)

USPS Mail:

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