

RAIL REPORT

Rocky Mountain Railroad Club

Rocky Mountain Railroad
Historical Foundation

February 2023 Issue 746



Steel wheel on the rail at the Colorado Railroad Museum, Golden, CO, 2102 by Mark Huber.

Our presenter this month will be Mark Huber - also known as Hyce on YouTube. His program will mostly be video images from angles not seen and heard before of Rio Grande Southern engine #20. Mark works at the Colorado RR Museum, where this piece of former Rocky Mountain RR Club equipment resides, and it gives him unusual opportunities to record steam in action.



Rio Grande Southern #20 under steam at the Colorado Railroad Museum, Golden, CO. ©2023 Mark Huber

Upcoming Programs - March 14 - Blair Kooistra.

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 free 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.

Rocky Mountain Railroad Club - Rail Report

Denver, Colorado

Denver Address; PO Box 2391, Denver, CO

Club president Andy Dell

President's Column

President's Column for Feb 2023

This is the second month for our official transition from the traditional Rail Report to the email style Rail Report. Printouts of the email format will be mailed to those that have renewed their dues and paid for the mailed report in 2023.

We are still experimenting with font sizes and other settings for the printed report. Hopefully by March, we can get it all finalized into a news letter that is similar to the old one and doesn't take too much time to convert from the inline email format.

We are starting to plan some events for 2023. In the past, we were able to do the annual banquet but those days have passed. Prices have soared and most places we have looked would charge around \$70 or more per person. Much of our membership that is local and would attend are on a fixed or limited budget and we felt that pursuing a banquet is no longer affordable.

We have done a picnic the past couple of years that was much more reasonably priced and includes a train ride behind Rio Grande steam! We are starting talks with the museum and are looking at a couple weekends in May. I will post more next month if we are able to finalize a date and time.

2023 Mini Grant Applications

Do you have a railroad history-related project that could use a small grant for this summer? The Rocky Mountain Railroad Historical Foundation is looking for individuals or organizations who have a summer project that could use up to \$1000. Full details and the application form can be found on our website:

www.rockymtnrrclub.org/index.htm

Applications must be received by USPS or email no later than April 30, 2023. The board will review applications at the May board meeting, and the 2023 recipients will be announced in June 2023.

Amtrak 203 50th Anniversary Operation Lifesaver Lifesaver on California Zephyr



Amtrak's 203, P42DC 50th Anniversary Operation Lifesaver unit, led the California Zephyr, train #5, through Coal Creek Canyon, CO, January 3, 2023. ©2023 Chip

50th Anniversary Operation Lifesaver Locomotive. Amtrak P42 #203 was selected for the honor and was designed by Blair Slaughter and his team at Amtrak. The locomotive was painted at Beech Grove shops and will be appearing this year on various Amtrak trains as an important rolling safety billboard.

Blizzard Traps Two BNSF Coal Empties at Dalton, Nebraska, mid-December 2022



BNSF trains were trapped by blizzard conditions on the BNSF's Angora Subdivision at Dalton, Nebraska, starting on or about December 14, 2022. BNSF called in subcontractor Hulcher to remove one coal empty hopper cars off the track and into a field.

BNSF 3818, ET44AC (photo above on the right side) was trapped in snow with the Smithers Lake, Texas, to Rawhide Mine, WY, coal empty. At left was a coal load on the reopened line which opened that afternoon - December 17th-! ©2022-2023 Chip

[Learn More](#)



BNSF's hot intermodal and manifest Q-train from Spokane, WA, to Alliance, Texas, passed snowed in BNSF 3818 at Dalton, Nebraska , December 18, 2022. ©2022-2023 Chip

Colorado & Southern's Denver & New Orleans RR Book Review

COLORADO & SOUTHERN RAILWAY'S Denver & New Orleans (D&NO) Route is a different animal than its predecessor. Author James "Jim" Jones has managed to keep retail under the \$45 price of his 1997 hardcover version. Only 250 were printed, though I would be glad to see enough sales to justify a second run.

Jim first learned of the D&NO and Elbert County's phantom rails in 1988 when a co-worker friend, Tom Goodson, casually mentioned living in "an old railroad building out in Elizabeth" and invited me to check it out. Northwestern Elbert County was in the early stages of development then, and Tom's neighbors thought nothing of his backyard campfires—even in the downtown district! A starlit sky, roaring fire, Colorado "cool-aid" and casual conversation inevitably turned to the railroad bed directly behind us. One thing led to another and we were

soon grabbing flashlights and stepping into the past. There was something very appealing about tracking the ghosts of this marvelous mystery, and I was hooked from the start.

The extensive research and extensive photos help bring the D&NO history to light. The captions are well placed and clearly cover the subjects. Index is included.

Jim's Dad influence is noted why the Denver & New Orleans RR latest book was published in 2022. "Perhaps dad was guiding me (Jim) from the great beyond, as I sifted through his stacks of books. I noticed one of his titles, a Maine narrow gauge book, enjoyed three revised versions during the quarter century since its first edition. Maybe, just maybe I should rekindle the D&NO fire for a new generation. Phone calls and e-mails to original contributors Alan C, Lewis, Mel McFarland, Hol Wagner, Judy von Ahelfeldt, and others were met with enthusiasm and additional material."

Great book by James R, "Jim" Jones for \$44.95. Tell-Tale Productions, LLC, Box 80, Colchester, VT 05446. You can order a book by visiting Jim's website at

coloradorailvideos.com

ALL NEW BOOK! Colorado & Southern Railway's D&NO Route \$44.95 plus shipping.



2023 Railroader of the Year

BNSF's Katie Farmer: "Railroading is a Momentum Business"



Norfolk Southern 8152 had traction motor pulled out by Hulcher crew along UP's Overland Route west of Gothenburg, Nebraska, Sunday, 8 January 8, 2023. UP's Kearney Subdivision. Cold Sunday didn't stop Hulcher from pulling the traction motor out with side booms. ©2023 Chip

Nebraska Kansas Colorado Railway (NKCR)

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Nebraska Kansas Colorado Rly used the OMLX 4016 lettered Hudson Bay Railway on their Grant, Nebraska, to Sterling, CO, train January 9, 2023. Train crossed a wooden trestle on the Wallace Subdivision between Grant and Venango, NE. ©2023 Chip



Nebraska Kansas Colorado Rly OMLX 4016 kicked up snow from drifts along the NKC's Wallace Subdivision January 9, 2023. This train left Grant, NE, Monday morning for Sterling, CO. Digging out switches took time that day. Train ran out of hours of service and tied down at Haxtun, CO, that night. Next day train interchanged with BNSF at Sterling, CO. ©2023 Chip
Nebraska Kansas Colorado Railway Buried in Snow



NKC Railway OMLX 4016 arrived Venango, NE, January 9, 2023 passed clever sign town erected. ©2023 Chip



NKC Railway maintenance of way was busy digging out frozen switches from snow that acted like cement after winter storms in December 2022 and early January 2023. Venango, NE. ©2023 Chip

Nebraska Kansas Colorado Railway (NKCR) owns and operates approximately 509 miles of track in three states and carries a diverse mix of traffic including wheat, corn, coal and fertilizer. NKCR, one of several railroads in Nebraska, has benefited from its ability to attract high throughput grain elevators to its lines due to its superior service record and excellent relationship with BNSF.

Interchange occurs at Sterling, Colorado.

**Amtrak's Winter Park Express Began 2023
Season Jan 13, 2023**



Amtrak's 5-car Winter Park Express was on track 5 at Denver Union Station, Denver, CO, for first turn to Winter Park Ski Resort on Friday, January 13, 2023. ©2023 Chip

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Amtrak's 2023 ski season Winter Park Express began the run from Denver Union Station, Denver, CO, on Friday, January 13, 2023. The five car train runs over Union Pacific's Moffat Tunnel line to the Winter Park Ski Resort on the west end of 6.2-mile long Moffat Tunnel.

This years' train is shorter. Last year the train had 8 Superliner cars. Consist;

Locomotives - 163 & 84

34041 coach

31020 coach

33047 lounge car selling snacks in drinks lower level.

31009 coach

34101 coach

The nearly full train departed Denver on time (7:00 AM) from Denver Union Station track 5. Conductor Brad Swartzwelter was aboard making sure all went as planned.

The Winter Park Express will operate Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays until late March 2023.

UP Units; Transportation Technology Center Bio Fuel Tests

Union Pacific's C44ACM's 6480 & 6488 were shipped to Pueblo, CO, mid-January 2023 for bio fuel testing at the Transportation Technology Center (TTC). Units had a note that stated; "Test unit in Transit. Do Not Use for Power. Ship to MvX Rail. Avondale, CO. Do NOT Fuel."

The UP 6480 and 6488 were noted at Pueblo, CO, January 13, 2023. The units were at the small interchange yard between the BNSF & UP. They were being delivered to the TTC out east of Pueblo, which would make sense as BNSF handles all transfers to the TTC.

These units were moved by UP to North Platte, NE, then west to Cheyenne by way of Denver, CO, to Pueblo. BNSF moved them east to the TTC at Avondale, CO. (Ben H)

Four other recent C44ACM rebuilds (UP 6698, 7085, 7089, and 7091) arrived in Roseville, CA within the last month for Biofuel testing.

CP Rio Grande STB Filing January 2023
Colorado Pacific Rio Grande Railroad (CP Rio Grande)
filed a verified notice of exemption to acquire and operate
the approximately 149-mile San Luis & Rio Grande
Railroad (SLRG) in Colorado, according to the Surface

Transportation Board (STB), which on Jan. 5 reported the transaction could be consummated on or after Jan. 19, 2023.

Not only will CP Rio Grande acquire approximately 119 miles of track between Derrick and Walsenburg (Alamosa Subdivision), some 30 miles of track between Alamosa and Antonito (Antonito Subdivision), and other assets, but also incidental trackage rights conveyed to SLRG by [Union Pacific](#)(UP) in the vicinity of Walsenburg, [STB](#) reported. (Info courtesy Railway Age)

Durango & Silverton Flanger January 2023



The Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge (D&SNG) ran a snow plow/flanger train on January 4th 2023. Jerry got lots of photos chasing. Amazing that a coal fired ex-D&RGW 481 narrow gauge engine, flanger, and caboose were plowing deep snow

in 2023. Over 24-inches fell in three days at Durango, CO, mid-January. ©2023 Jerry Day



D&SNG 481 burst through a pile of snow at the Shanola Crossing near Hermosa, CO, January 4, 2023. ©2023 Jerry Day



Full steam ahead - Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad snowplow/flanger train with ex-D&RGW K-36 number 481, Flanger OF, and Caboose 0540 climb the 2.5% grade from Hermosa to Rockwood on the line to Cascade. January 4, 2023. ©2023 Jerry Day

Jerry will be doing three clinics at the Narrow Gauge Convention this fall. D&S is going to do some amazing charters and events to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the K-28s and have asked Jerry to help plan them.



Over two feet of snow fell in Durango, CO, area over a three day period in mid-January 2023. D&SNG 481 with flanger cleared snow on January 17, 2023. ©2023 Jerry Day

New US Postal Stamps Feature Railroad Stations Courtesy Linn's Staff

The set of five United States Postal Service Railroad Stations stamps will be issued March 9, 2023, with Union Terminal in Cincinnati as the location for the first day of issue, according to an article posted Nov. 21 on the website of WVXU, Cincinnati's NPR radio station.

At this time, the USPS has provided no further ceremony details.

Union Terminal is one of the five stations shown on the commemorative forever stamps in the set, along with Tamaqua Station in Pennsylvania; Point of Rocks Station in Maryland; Main Street Station in Richmond, Va.; and Santa Fe Station in San Bernardino, Calif.

Elizabeth Pierce, CEO of the Cincinnati Museum Center located within Union Terminal, said it was an honor to have the train station featured on a stamp.

“Its history and architecture make it a National Historic Landmark, but its place in people’s lives make it an icon. Union Terminal has been an integral part of our community’s memories for nine decades and, with the release of these commemorative stamps in 2023, we get to reintroduce the nation to our local treasure,” WVXU quoted Pierce as saying.

The stamps, designed by Down the Street Designs, will be issued in panes of 20.

Colorado Railroad Museum - News-?

Dave S - News -?

Nebraska Kansas Colorado Railway (NKCR)



Nebraska Kansas Colorado Railway had two weather events; rain, ice, snow and wind, that hampered their operations starting in mid-December 2022.

OmniTRAX Hudson Bay Railway 4016 and OMLX 413, SD40-2, were operating during the day from Grant, NE, westward to Sterling, CO. Crew dug out two switches at Venango, Nebraska, with maintenance of way help January 9, 2023. ©2023 Chip

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traffic including wheat, corn, coal and fertilizer. NKCR, one of several railroads in Nebraska, has benefited from its ability to attract high throughput grain elevators to its lines due to its superior service record and excellent relationship with BNSF.

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Rocky Mountain Railroad Club Information

Author/photographer : Chip

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Club and Foundation Information:

Rocky Mountain Railroad Club

Rocky Mountain Railroad Historical Foundation

PO Box 2391

Denver CO 80201-2391

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

Email: rails@rockymtnrrclub.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/rockymtnrrclub

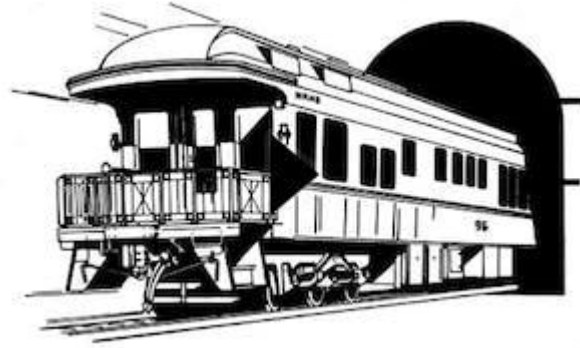
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TECHNOLOGY

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ENSCO is proud to support the Federal Railroad Administration's (FRA) Transportation Technology Center (TTC) as the prime contractor conducting

research, engineering, testing, and training as well as operating and maintaining this important US Department of Transportation facility.



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