



RAIL REPORT

Rocky Mountain Railroad Club

Rocky Mountain Railroad
Historical Foundation

May 2023

Issue 749



Rocky Mountaineer RMRX 8021 and 8020, GP40-3, handled westbound crew training run, no passengers, from UP's 36th Street Yard, Denver, CO, to Glenwood Springs, CO, on March 26, 2023. Rocky Mountaineer commenced their passenger trips to Moab, UT, on April 16, 2023. ©2023 Chip

Upcoming Programs:

****** No June meeting!!! ******

July 11 – Program by Kit Courter

Upcoming Events:

May 14 - Club picnic and steam event at the Colorado RR Museum in Golden, Colorado. This will take the place of the monthly meeting.

September 16 - Club visit to Colorado Live Steamers in September. Also, Lakewood Car 25 open house at the Federal Center

August 30 - September 2; National Narrow Gauge Convention at Crown Plaza Hotel in Aurora, CO

President's Column by Andy Dell

As of Friday April 14th, all membership cards were printed and sent out. If you have not received your card along with the April newsletter in a greeting card sized envelope, please email me @ andydell76@gmail.com

Our picnic at the Colorado Railroad Museum is coming up Sunday May 14th and we are hoping for a good turnout. The deadline for purchasing tickets was May 5th.

2023 Mini Grant Applications

The board will be reviewing applications at the May board meeting, and the 2023 recipients will be announced in the June 2023 Rail Report. So far to date, we have received eleven applications and the due date was April 30th.

Rocky Mountain Railroad Historical Foundation Donations

If you are looking to make a tax-deductible donation, the Historical Foundation is a worthy cause. Your donations help fund our five mini grants of up to \$1,000 each that are awarded each May. PayPal is not an option for Foundation donations. 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

Big Boy 4014 News

Union Pacific's Steam Team should be making an announcement in May about the 4014 Big Boy's scheduled trip for this year. The final plans are being made and once they are approved, an official statement will be released on their website.

<https://www.up.com/heritage/steam/schedule/index.htm>

UP CEO Lance Fritz Visited Colorado, April 3, 2023

Union Pacific's chairman and president Lance Fritz visited northern Colorado traveling by private train between LaSalle and Denver, CO, during the early evening of April 3, 2023. He met with U.S. representative Yadira D. Caraveo, the representative for Colorado's 8th congressional district.

Lance M. Fritz is Union Pacific chairman, president and chief executive officer. He became chairman of the board effective Oct. 1, 2015.

Mr. Fritz's train was handled by UP 4404 and 43 with nine cars. The last three cars were Harriman dome lounge, Omaha diner and Idaho theater track inspection car.

The train included (UPP prefix) 2066 power car, 114, 1605, 5817 baggage car, 102 business car, 315, 9004 Harriman, 302 dining car and 203 Idaho track inspection car.



UPP 203 named Idaho theater track inspection car was on UP Chairman Lance Fritz's train at La Salle, CO, April 2,2023. The train arrived before sunrise from Council Bluffs, Iowa, and laid over there that day.

©2023 Chip



Union Pacific 4404 and 4533 handled 9-car executive special out of La Salle, CO. Train was headed for an overnight stay at Denver, CO, April 3, 2023. ©2023 Chip

Rocky Mountaineer Training Runs March 2023



Rocky Mountaineer RMRX 8021 and 8020, GP40-3, handled westbound crew training run, no passengers, from UP's 36thStreet Yard, Denver, CO, to Glenwood Springs, CO, on March 26, 2023. Rocky Mountaineer commenced their passenger trips to Moab, UT, on April 16, 2023. ©2023 Chip

Union Pacific Engineering Special March 20-22, 2023



Westbound UP 4404, SD70M with wings on the nose, led engineering inspection train between Salina, KS, and Denver, CO, east of Hugo, CO, March 21, 2023. ©2023 Chip



Union Pacific UPP 9005 dome lounge car, named Walter Dean, rolled into Pueblo, CO, March 22, 2023. The trip from Denver to La Junta, CO, was expedited by BNSF dispatch using main track 2 from Littleton via Castle Rock to Palmer Lake, CO. ©2023 Chip

Union Pacific 4404 on 10-car engineering inspection train –

Union Pacific ran a 10-car engineering inspection train across their system in late March 2023. Train originated at Council Bluffs, Iowa and made its first layover at Salina, Kansas, March 20, 2023.

UP 4404 West consist (all UPP):

314 'Columbia River' 5817
'Pony Express' 119
'Kenefick' business car
5769 (flag car)
1610 'Portola'
200 'Omaha' executive sleeper
9005 'Walter Dean' dome lounge
5011 'City of Denver' dining car
and 420 'Fox River' theater inspection car

On March 21st, the train operated over the Kansas Pacific line from Salina, KS, to Denver, CO.

For March 22nd, the engineering special departed UP's North Yard Denver, southbound on the Joint Line. BNSF dispatch expedited the special at Littleton, CO, using main track 2, normally used by northbound trains, to Palmer Lake, CO.

The UP 4404 engineering special was delayed at Swink, CO, and La Junta, CO, for over 6 hours due to high winds. The train was en route to Vaughn, New Mexico.

Gensets Moved from Grand Junction to Denver



Union Pacific has sold their 55 Genset units to Larry's Truck and Electric (LTEX). Five Gensets; UPY 2739, 2745, 2719, 2741, and 2750, were on the Grand Junction, CO, to North Yard, Denver, CO, train March 26, 2023 in Coal Creek Canyon, CO ©2023 Chip



Union Pacific sold their 55 Genset model 3GS21B units to LTEX Rail Services in February 2023. These environmentally-friendly units were used in California and Texas. They were not successful yard units and none saw service in Colorado. They were stored at Denver and Grand Junction, CO. UPY 2745 and 2719 at Pinecliffe, CO, March 26, 2023. ©2023 Chip

California Zephyr Memories



February 1965 - Photo courtesy Keith Kirby

The Vista-Dome *California Zephyr* made its first run on March 20, 1949. Twenty-one years and two days later on March 22, 1970, the train made its final run. The *California Zephyr* pioneered the concept of a rail cruise. It was scheduled to pass through the most scenic portions of its route in the daylight.

It featured five Vista-Dome cars during most of its operational life. The dome seats were unreserved. It took six sets of equipment to make the train run daily. The Burlington Route, the Rio Grande and also the Western Pacific provided the cars.

The discontinuance of the *California Zephyr* played a significant role in the creation of Amtrak. Once the *California Zephyr* was discontinued, any and all passenger trains were at risk. A year and one month after the *California Zephyr* made its last run, Amtrak took over operation of most of the passenger trains in the United States on May 1, 1971.

Vestas Wind Energy Nacelles Moved by Union Pacific



Vestas Wind Energy nacelles were loaded onto heavy duty flatcars at the Brighton, CO, factory April 5, 2023. Vestas continues shipping via Union Pacific RR. ©2023 Chip

Steam Returns to Abilene & Smoky Valley RR in 2023

Former Santa Fe engine 3415, a 4-6-2 Pacific, will operate on the Abilene & Smoky Valley RR out of Abilene, Kansas, starting Memorial Day weekend, May, 2023. Per General Manager Ross Boelling, there's still service time left on 3415's boiler, allowing operations this year. Locomotive 3415 is expected to run most weekends in June and July.

No steam trips are scheduled for August. Steam operations should resume in September until October 8th. It will then be shopped for necessary maintenance work, for perhaps two years. It will cost an estimated \$3 million in shop work to keep this handsome engine running.

Check out their website <https://asvrr.org/>



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