

# RAIL REPORT

November 2019

No. 709



Rocky Mountain Railroad Club • Rocky Mountain Railroad Historical Foundation

## Narrow Gauge in the Welsh Highlands

Video presentation by Dave Gross

November 12, 2019 • 7:30 PM

If you like to watch steam trains travel in a scenic setting behind spotless hard-working locomotives, some dating back to the 1850s, you will enjoy this video. The two world class narrow gauge lines exist thanks to the work of hundreds of volunteers that brought these locomotives back into operation attracting thousands of riders who absorb the beauty and history of Northwest Wales called Snowdonia.

Enjoy the Hunslet Locomotive Works 125th Anniversary celebration with some twenty plus operating locomotives. There are double ended Fairlies and more on the Ffestiniog plus the unique Garratts on the Welsh Highlands.

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 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.**

### RMRRC 2019 Calendar

December 10, 2019: Annual Meeting and a Colorado RR Museum program by Rich Luckin with Cornelius Hauck and recent still photos by Dave Schaaf.

January 14, 2020: Monthly meeting and program.

Due to circumstances beyond our control, programs and dates are subject to change without notice. Please contact Dave Schaaf with program ideas at ds5280@comcast.net or 303 988-3456.

## Narrow Gauge in the Welsh Highlands



One of the Garratt locomotives departs Porthmadog on the Welsh Highlands Railway. – Photo © 2018 Dave Gross.



Three of the 25 locomotives on site for the 125th year celebration of the Hunslet Locomotive Company. – Photo © 2018 Dave Gross.

For Rail Report 709, the masthead features CB&Q engine 709 at Holyoke, Colorado, on the Burlington's Holdrege, Nebraska, to Sterling, Colorado, High Line. The occasion was that the gas electric motor car broke down and the 709 was sent out from Sterling to rescue the motor train on its westward journey to Sterling. The photo was taken by Club member Joseph C. Hardy, relief telegraph operator, and later train dispatcher.

This locomotive was originally B&MR #63 when built at the Havelock, Nebraska shop in 1901. It was re-numbered 909 in 1951, and had operated on the Cheyenne line. It was sold for scrap in November of 1953.

– Joseph C. Hardy photo from the James L. Ehernberger collection.

## Narrow Gauge in the Welsh Highlands



One of the narrow gauge locomotives operating in Northwest Wales.  
– Photo © 2018 Dave Gross.



The Lake City depot on Denny's model Lake City and Ouray Railroad.  
– Photo © 2019 Denny Leonard.

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## Report of RMRR President Dennis Leonard

As we arrive at the Lake City depot, we see the beginning of the cooler November of Thanksgiving time. The leaves have turned on the aspen and the fall chill is evident in the morning. Snow will soon come and the C&TS has moved their rotary to Antonito. All the historical railroads in Colorado have preparations for Santa Claus or Polar Express trains. They are great to ride and the Georgetown Loop Santa train has become a Leonard family tradition with three generations eagerly enjoying hot chestnuts and hot chocolate as we wait to board. The sense of Colorado history is a gift we have enjoyed year after year. The city of Georgetown is also festive and provides Victorian history Christmas cheer and markets.

Earlier this fall, chasing 463 down to Chama from Cumbres was awesome. And for the first time, we were the only

rail fans there as we sped from one great viewing point to another with steam and whistle calling out in the valleys. We had friends on the train and we waved back and forth much to the amusement of the train crew and some passengers. The unexpected private show was a joy to embrace.

Riding the D&SNG again (I first rode the train as a little boy when it was D&RGW, God bless my father) cemented the beauty and the engineering expertise in my mind. I was able to shoot a picture in Silverton of K-28 473, which matches one I shot 44 years ago. But this time I also have a sound video of 473 roaring past the Silverton depot with whistle blowing for the crossing. Ah, modern technology allows reliving that moment !

The club gave a grant to the Ridgway

## Report of RMRRC President Dennis Leonard



From left, Mike Ramsey, Paul Connor, and Jeff Johnson during the interactive banquet program. Future plans for the Durango & Silverton were also discussed with the 67 banquet attendees. – Photo © 2019 Dave Schaaf.

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Railroad Museum and its historical group, and what a great investment that was. The old home of the Rio Grande Southern has become a must see on the “round the circle”. The Ridgway Rio Grande Southern Museum founder Karl Schaeffer is a great tour host and has been a driving force for many years there since his retirement from the D&RGW. He confirmed that the Otto Mears American Steam Locomotive is under construction and it will be a great addition to their trackage. He even shared information on Miller couplers; more on that later. The work goose that they have is alone worth the drive to ride. And who did we see that morning but past president Steve Mason who was visiting from Montrose.

To finish the circle trip, we visited

the newly refurbished C-16 278 at Cimarron that Steve reported on earlier in the year.

It is good to again remind the membership that at our December meeting we will vote for four officers and three board members for the Rocky Mountain Railroad Club and the Rocky Mountain Railroad Historical Foundation to serve for 2020. A nomination committee has been formed and we ask members to forward any nominations to the committee or to an officer. Nominations may be also made from the floor.

I appreciate your opinions and knowledge, please feel free to contact me by email at [denny@amerm.com](mailto:denny@amerm.com) or my cell (303) 809-9430.

## Ridgway Railroad Museum



Replicas of RGS Railcar No. 1 and Goose #1 operate at the Ridgway Railroad Museum. – Photo © 2019 Jim Pettengill.

### RGS Passenger Coach 252 Restoration

The Rocky Mountain Railroad Historical Foundation's grant of \$1000 has assisted the Ridgway Railroad Museum with the restoration of the woodwork in RGS passenger coach 252. Completion of the rest room area is the next item on their interior work list.

Restoration continues with fabrication of trucks in Durango. By next spring all that will remain is having new period correct seats made, then the car will be complete and capable of being operated behind our steam locomotive, perhaps as soon as late summer 2020.



The interior woodwork of RGS passenger coach 252 is nearing completion. The light wood on the wall is ash and the flooring is 1/2-inch oak tongue and groove.

## **Membership Renewals Are in November, Here Already!**

This year the club will again send a renewal invoice to each member. Some households will receive more than one renewal. Expect to see the renewal invoices in your mailbox this month before Thanksgiving. Each renewal form has spaces provided to correct any errors with your contact information. Members, if you have an email account please make sure we have the correct address.

Members who have just joined may receive what appears to be a renewal invoice. The document is sent to you for the confirmation and or collection of your correct contact information. No payment is required. This is so stated on the invoice for those few.

We use an email notification service on a select basis. Many of you are bombarded with electronic advertising and notices from various groups. The club limits the number of notices to important reminders, news and emergencies.

The membership year is January 1st through December 31st of each year. There will be no increase in dues for 2020. To maintain membership in RMRRRC, your dues for the upcoming year should be paid by December 31st.

Multimember households should return each membership form, but a single payment for the household is desired.

The club would greatly appreciate if all of our members renew by the end of year. We do allow for a month grace period in January. The re-sequencing of seniority numbers is performed the first week in February. If you wish to keep your seniority, please make sure have renewed by then.

Your membership cards will be mailed to you in the month of March. More information about this mailing will be provided at a later.

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## **A Call For Nominations For The Rocky Mountain Railroad Club and The Rocky Mountain Railroad Historical Foundation**

Elections are held every December at the annual business meeting.

Any member wanting to volunteer or nominate another member for either an officer or director position should con-

tact the nominating committee, Nathan Holmes, Andy Dell or Ron Keiser at the November Club meeting or contact them through the Club website or by mail to the Club PO Box.

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## **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 10, 2019, 7:30 PM at Christ Church, 2950 South University Boulevard, Denver, Colorado. 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.

## Current Railroad News



The Utah Transit Authority is demolishing the old Rio Grande/Western Pacific steam-era locomotive shops near downtown Salt Lake City. Originally the building was to be saved and refurbished as a garage and maintenance base for new electric buses, but the costs of cleanup and retrofitting exceeded building new by an estimated \$10 Million. – Photo © 2019 Nathan Holmes.



Denver & Rio Grande 168 restoration has been completed! The D&RG 168, a 4-6-0 built by Baldwin Locomotive Works in 1883, was retired to Colorado Springs, Colorado, Antlers Park, on August 1, 1938. The 168 was D&RG class 47. The Cumbres & Toltec Scenic RR restoration crew deserves a big THANKS ! First operation was September 27, 2019. Stathi Pappas oversaw the restoration to operation at the Cumbres & Toltec Scenic RR Antonito, Colorado, shop. In the distance was C&TS 488, K-36, at Antonito on October 3, 2019.  
– Photo © 2019 by Chip.





The large neon “Rio Grande” sign and associated scaffolding was removed from the D&RGW’s Salt Lake City depot on August 12, 2019. News reports indicated that the scaffolding was unsafe, and spare parts for the sign were no longer available at a reasonable cost. A new double-sided Rio Grande sign, otherwise looking very similar to the original, was placed atop the building in October.

– Photo © 2019 Nathan Holmes.

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### **The Central City Railroad & Mining Museum**

The new Central City Railroad & Mining Museum, a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization has obtained a lease on the circa 1878 Colorado Central Railroad Section House and Depot.

They plan to restore Colorado & Southern locomotive #71 to operating condition and restore a car as centerpieces of the new museum.

## Current Railroad News



Snow from October 10th was melting as Foster Townsend Rail Logistics 1515, SW1500, waited for its next move at the Budweiser Brewery north of Fort Collins, Colorado, on October 11, 2019. The covered hoppers likely had barley in them. – Photo © 2019 by Chip.



The Santa Fe Englewood depot was recently repainted using colors matched from samples taken from earlier depot paint layers. The basement of the depot currently houses presses, historic type and other press material for the Letterpress Depot, a living letterpress museum. – Photo © 2019 Bruce Nall.



SSRX 1088, a GP39-2, is an ex-KCCX Kennecott Copper custom-built GP39-2 with a tall cab, low hood and high fuel tank lettered Rawhide Short Line RR. It had served at the nearby Rawhide Power Plant in Colorado as RAWX 1088. The emblem is lettered "Rawhide Short Line Railroad, established 1981, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Platte River Power Authority." Shown here on September 27, 2019, at Speer, Wyoming, on a southbound BNSF train, lettered for SSRX, which is S&S Sales & Leasing of Farmington, Utah, and available for sale or lease. The paint scheme is tan and brown with green stripe. – Photo © 2019 by Chip.

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### Fort Collins Municipal Railway News and Open House

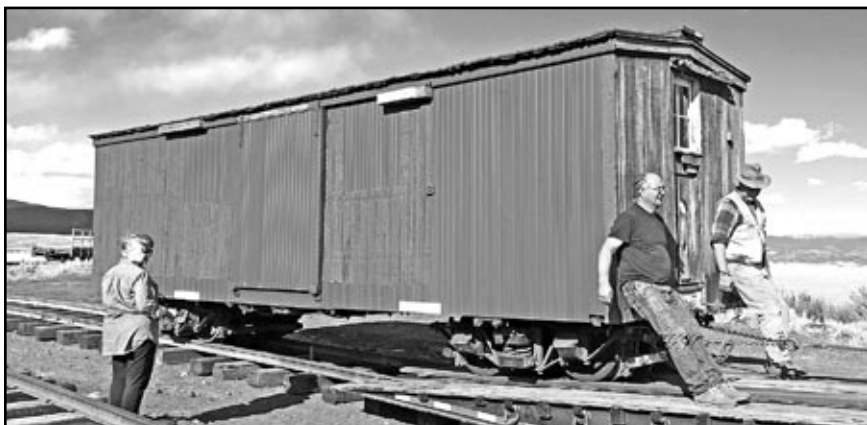
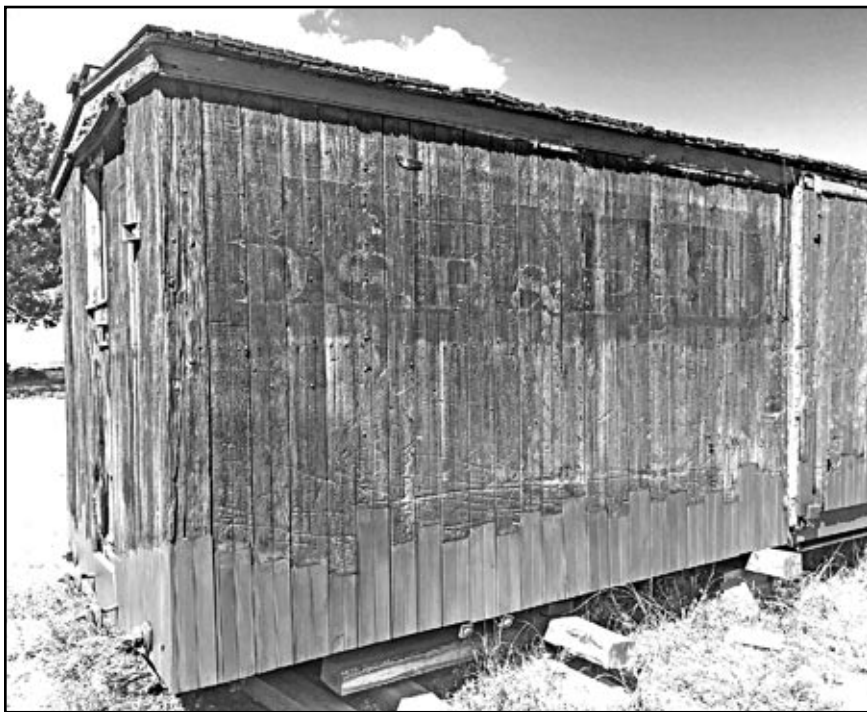
On July 20, 2019, Fort Collins Municipal Railway Car 25 ran under its own power for the first time in about 68 years.

Restoration crews installed a power supply in the Howes barn which puts out about 2/3 of the normal line power. This lower power allowed them to actually run the car in the barn to check out the circuits recently installed by Charlie Rock after a multi-year project involving totally rebuilding the two controllers, and to check other systems affected by the reassembly.

Since the restoration also involved new wheels, axles, and wheel bearings, the ability to run the car in the barn allowed them to see how the new parts would actually function together, while the Mountain barn is being expanded to accommodate the car

An open house to allow people to see the progress on Car 25 is scheduled for Saturday, December 7th, from 9:00 AM to Noon in the Howes Street barn at 330 North Howes Street in Fort Collins. Light refreshments will be served and Santa will make an appearance.

## Denver South Park & Pacific Boxcar 608 at Como



Boxcar 608, a 1879 Litchfield Car and Machinery Works product for the DSP&P RR, came home to Como on September 20, 2019. It has been restored as an “interpretive display.” One side and one end were restored to as built and will be lettered in the spring and the other side (top photo) was just patched up where the wood was missing to show its construction and history, and also to show the original DSP&P RR lettering.

–Two photos courtesy of the Denver South Park & Pacific Historical Society.

## Events in Railroad History:

### Vagrant Car Assessments: Sum Due on Cars That Run Unattached

*Denver Times*, September 16, 1898

Contributed by Dan Edwards

Colorado is the second state in the union to levy a state assessment upon independent car lines, the rolling stock of the transportation companies, refrigerator companies and the like that are run over lines of other railroad companies.

The following table shows the assessment of the different car lines in Arapahoe county as fixed by the state board of equalization:

Armour Car Co.	\$ 12	Kansas Manufacturing Dispatch	\$ 43
American Refrigerator Car Co.	\$ 171	Kansas Stock Car Co.	\$ 46
Abernathy Furniture Car Co.	\$12	Live Poultry Transfer Co.	\$ 218
Arbuckle's Ariosa Dispatch	\$ 98	Merchants' Dispatch	\$ 261
Armour Refrigerator Car Co.	\$ 1,398	Morris & Butt Transfer Co.	\$ 56
Blue line	\$ 12	New England Stock Car Co.	\$ 168
Burton Stock Car Co.	\$ 91	Pabst Refrigerator Car line	\$ 132
California Fruit Transfer Co.	\$ 1,746	Red Line Transfer Co.	\$ 98
Canda Cattle Car Co.	\$ 151	St. Louis Refrigerator Car line	\$ 642
Chicago Refrigerator Car line	\$ 276	Santa Fe Refrigerator line	\$ 69
Colorado Fuel and Iron Co.	\$ 308	Santa Fruit and Refrigerator line	\$ 110
Commerce Dispatch	\$ 55	Street's Stable Car Co.	\$ 97
Consolidated Car Co.	\$ 647	Street's Western Stable Car Co.	\$ 245
Continental Fruit Express	\$ 1,216	Swift's Refrigerator Car line	\$ 416
Corle & Son Oatmeal Co.	\$ 10	Southwest Millers' Dispatch	\$ 24
Cudahy Refrigerator line	\$ 158	United Oil Co.	\$ 59
Cudahy Milwaukee Refrigerator line	\$10	Union line	\$ 330
Dold-Jacob Packing Co.	\$ 10	Union Tank line	\$ 750
Hammond Refrigerator line	\$ 38	Union Refrigerator Transit Co.	\$ 374
C.B. Havens & Co.	\$ 1,832	Western Chemical Co.	\$ 196
Heinz Pickle Co.	\$ 196	Pullman Palace Car Co.	\$ 113,026
K.C. Dressed Beef line	\$ 903	Wagner Palace Car Co.	\$ 600
K.C. Fruit Express	\$ 98	Total	\$ 127,763

*In Remembrance*  
**Robert E. (Bob) Wilson**

We received notice that Bob Wilson passed away on October 13, 2019. He was a 22-year member of the club, joining in 1997, and held seniority number 183 at the time of his passing.

He served both on the board of the foundation and of the club and was instrumental in the merging governance for the two organizations. He was active in the rewiring of D&IM Car 25 during its refurbishment. Bob was also a candidate for the RTD board of directors three times.

**Colorado Railroad Museum 2019 Special Events**

**Friday Tours**

Each Friday, enjoy an hour of exploring a different aspect of Colorado's railroad history. Each tour covers a specific theme and focus. Friday Tour Tickets are \$3 each plus General Admission (\$10 adults, \$5 kids 2-15, \$8 seniors). Tickets are available for purchase at the door, no reservations required.

November 8 – Kitchens • November 22 – Locomotives • November 29 – Caboose.  
December 13 – Railroad Post Office Cars

**Train Talk**

“Tales About Denver & Rio Grande Western.”

Join us on the first Tuesday, December 3rd, from 11:30 AM to 12:30 PM in the upper gallery for lunch and an informal discussion led by railfan community leaders. You bring your lunch and we provide the topic and the presenter!

Train talks are included with general admission: \$10 adults, \$5 kids 2-15, \$8 seniors (60+). Museum and Club members and children under age 2 are free!

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For information call 303-279-4591 or visit <http://www.coloradorailroadmuseum.org>

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**Colorado Railroad Museum Admission**

Rocky Mountain Railroad Club Members in good standing, and upon presentation of a current membership card, are entitled to free admission. Members are invited to join the Colorado Railroad Museum (a Museum membership provides certain merchandise discounts), and members may participate in restoration or other maintenance programs as volunteers.

**Intermountain Chapter, NRHS Events**

For information call 303-883-2435 or see <http://www.cozx.com/nrhs>.

Dinner Meeting at Red Lobster, 4455 Wadsworth Boulevard, Wheat Ridge, Colorado

**December 11th – The second Wednesday, not the usual third**

**Dinner at 5:30 PM – Meeting begins at 7:00 PM**

Program: The rail resurrection around the iconic Como Roundhouse and station.

## **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.

First class postage paid at Denver, Colorado.

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### **Club Information**

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Denver, CO 80201-2391  
Web: <http://www.rockymtnrrclub.org>  
Facebook:  
[www.facebook.com/rockymtnrrclub](http://www.facebook.com/rockymtnrrclub)

### **Club and Foundation Officers**

President	Dennis Leonard
Vice President	Dave Schaaf
Secretary	Andy Dell
Treasurer	Keith Jensen

### **Club and Foundation Directors**

Nathan Holmes, Ron Keiser, Pat Mauro,  
Debbie MacDonald, Steve Subber, Michael Tinetti.

### **Membership Information**

Membership in the Rocky Mountain Railroad Club may be obtained by sending the annual dues to the Club address listed above.

Regular membership dues are \$35.00. Overseas regular membership dues are \$45.00.

Contributing membership is \$50.00. Sustaining membership is \$70.00.

Patron membership is \$100.00. Golden membership is \$500.00.

An associate membership for spouses and children is \$25.00 additional.

Members joining after April may send a payment of \$3.00 for each month remaining in the year. New members who join in-person at a meeting will be given a free copy of the Club history book

Members of the Rocky Mountain Railroad Club are also members in the Rocky Mountain Railroad Historical Foundation, the non-profit arm of the Rocky Mountain Railroad Club.

### **Board Meetings**

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

### **Newsletter Contributions**

Newsletter contributions and items for publication should be sent to:

Bruce Nall, Editor  
Rocky Mountain Rail Report  
PO Box 620579  
Littleton, CO 80162-0579

E-mail: [selectimag@aol.com](mailto:selectimag@aol.com)

**Items for the December 2019 *Rail Report* should be sent by November 6th.**