



# THE DREAM KEEPER

"Never Give Up!"

Summer 2013

## Annual Meeting Highlights

More than 50 members and guests attended the Annual Meeting on May 14, 2013 at the Meadows Branch of the Boulder Public Library. The Meeting began with the following fascinating presentations:

1. *Stone and Steel at the Top of the World*

Chris Johnston and Haille Meeker, students at Colorado State University, presented a video showing the archeological history of Rollins Pass. The writers and producers are Jason LaBelle and Peter Seel, Professors at the University.

2. Mr. Christoph Gross of Deere & Ault Consultants, Inc. presented and answered questions about the results of the feasibility study the firm was contracted to complete last year for the RPR. His Power Point Presentation link is on the RPR Webpage. To read the complete study, please go to the following link:

[https://workspaces.acrobat.com/app.html#d=7nxMYnl7-X6FhFoD\\*AzhA](https://workspaces.acrobat.com/app.html#d=7nxMYnl7-X6FhFoD*AzhA)

The County Commissioner/Forest Service Meeting was reviewed for the membership along with a question/answer opportunity.

It was with surprise and gratitude the meeting was attended by special guests: Connie McLain, Gilpin County Commissioner, Jim

Myers, Mayor of The City of Winter Park, Rachel Parris, Colorado Preservation Inc., Mark Woodworth, Mile High Jeep Club, and Dave Gross, President of the *Rocky Mountain Rail Report*. Both The Town of Winter Park and the Mile High Jeep Club graciously donated large sums of money to the RPR budget. Cognizant of the amount of money RPR has already spent in obtaining the feasibility study, they saw a contribution to the cause appropriate. In fact, many of the organization's membership, including lifetime members, believe in the goals strongly enough to add a donation from time-to-time.

**Election of Officers resulted with all current officers continuing in their positions:**

Co-Presidents – Juanita Straight and Su Eckhardt

Vice President – Errol Salter Secretary – Marvin Burke

Treasurer – Randy Eckhardt

Honorary Consulting Engineer – Vacant

Directors at Large: Gary Edelmaier and Jack Reed

The meeting adjourned after further informal discussions regarding the road, pass, and tunnel.

## Frequently Asked Questions

**"When did the Needles Eye Tunnel cave in?"**

The Needle's Eye Tunnel has never truly caved in. It has had two falling rock incidents, one in 1979 that caused the Tunnel to be closed to the public. The most recent rock fall was 1990 when a man was injured, causing the current closure.

It is interesting to note, as discovered by Deere & Ault Consultants, Inc.: even though there was some misplacement of rock bolts and failure of secure safety wiring, very few additional rocks have fallen in the last 23 years.

**"Is RPR a political, environmental, historical or a fundraising organization?"**

The RPR is a little of each. Reasons for membership in the RPR varies from person to person. Preservation of railroad history and automobile access to Colorado's beautiful mountains are both often mentioned.

The organization has always been part of many family traditions.

**"Who are the other members of the RPR, how many are there, and where do they come from?"**

RPR members are from all occupations, both currently and retired. Last year's membership represented 2 countries (USA and UK), 21 states (CA and TX tie behind Colorado), and 45 Colorado Cities (Boulder is home to the most members, marginally ahead of Denver and Longmont).

The 2012 Treasurer's Report identified 94 Individual and Non-profit, 71 family, and eight business members. As Lifetime memberships are donated only once, there are 60 estimated active Lifetime members.

**"If I own a business may I pay the non-profit member dues as a business?"**

The RPR is an IRC 501(c)(3)

organization and as such member dues are considered donations and might be eligible for income tax deductions. Please see your accountant for advice.

**"Where is the Rollins Pass Restoration Association (RPR) Website and may my business or organization link to the RPR Website?"**

The RPR Website may be found by going to: <http://www.moffatroad.org> and after perusing that page, click on the RPR name on the upper right corner. Anyone may establish a link to the RPR page.

The Board believes the more people aware of the RPR and

our mission, the better. We may have to raise a large amount of money and the more people with an awareness of the goals, the better.

**"I've located a Moffat Road Facebook Page, how is that connected with RPR?"**

The RPR and the Denver & Salt Lake Historical Society share many members with similar interests in railroading, building model trains and railroads, and historical railroads.

Jack Reed, the Webmaster and Facebook Moderator has accepted the responsibility for both modes of communication. Our heartfelt thanks go to Jack!

## Thank You!

Thanks to Jack Reed and Terry Ten Eyck for continuing to strive for a durable and attractive sign at the top of Rollins Pass. They worked with many others on restoration and hand painting the sign. They are continuing the work with a laminated plastic panel that will be etched with highlights of Rollins Pass history.



PO Box 1082  
Longmont, CO  
80502-1082

## Please join us at our Annual Picnic!

**The RPRRA Annual Picnic is scheduled for Sunday, August 25, 2013 at 12:00 noon.** Hot dogs, buns, sodas, watermelon, and paper goods will be supplied by the RPRRA. Please bring food to share and your camp chairs. Camping canopies or "Fly's" to keep out the sun and occasionally snow or hail are always welcome.

It is the Eastside's turn to host and pending permit approval, we have selected the East Portal of the Moffat Tun-

nel as our location. We are sure the Rail-roading members will love the train traffic and even the noisy tunnel fans. It really is an amazing experience if you have never been there. To get to the location, drive to the town of Rollinsville, 4.3 miles south of Nederland on Colorado 119. Drive west on County Road 16 for 8 miles to the parking area for the East Portal of the Moffat Tunnel.

You will find outdoor facilities, parking, and plenty of wildlife. For those of you

interested in hiking, there is a Forest Access Trail, to the South Boulder Creek Trail (No. 900), that then branches on to the Crater Lakes Trail (No. 819).

**NOTE:** *If the US Forest Service permit is not approved in time, Gilpin County has graciously offered to host our group at Rollinsville on their property just west of the Colorado 119 and County 16 turn-off.*

### Commissioners Meeting

The RPRRA Board arranged and sponsored a meeting of the County Commissioners and representatives from the three Counties (Boulder, Gilpin, and Grand) that intersect on the Moffat Road, Corona Pass, and the Needles Eye Tunnel. The United States Forest Service and representatives from The Town of Winter Park also attended. The purpose was to introduce the Deere & Ault Study and begin to shape plans for the future of the nationally recognized Moffat Road, Rollins Pass, and Needles Eye Tunnel area. The 17 participants discussed preferences for tunnel repair, safety and liability issues, and the possibility of an intergovernmental tunnel authority. Although broadly attended, the group missed having any representation from Boulder County. We remain hopeful to hear news of another meeting in the near future attended by all stakeholders devoted to the preservation of Colorado's history.

RPRRA has a few of Art Wainwright's DVD 'Hell Hill' available.

The cost is \$10.00 for members and libraries, \$15.00 for non-members, and FREE with a \$50.00 donation.

Order and check may be sent to RPRRA, P.O. Box 1082, Longmont, CO 80502.

## Rollins Pass Restoration Association

P.O. Box 1082 Longmont, Colorado 80502-1082



Our Founder, Col. Dan Straight



Needle's Eye Tunnel, East Portal



Needle's Eye Tunnel, Wire Mesh is doing it's job!

### Rollins Pass Restoration Association Board of Directors

*Co-Presidents:* Juanita Straight & Su Eckhardt

*Vice President:* Errol (Butch) Salter

*Secretary:* Marvin Burke

*Treasurer:* Randy Eckhardt

*Member-at-Large:* Gary Edelmaier,

*Member-at-Large & Webmaster:* Jack Reed