

# THE DREAM KEEPER

"NEVER GIVE UP and we do not intend to."

Summer 2019

## ***NOTE THE DATE!***

***RPRRA Annual Picnic • Eastside at the Moffat Tunnel • Noon • Sunday Aug. 18, 2019***

We will gather at noon with longtime friends and a few newbies to share a superb luncheon of hot dogs, Juanita's beans (hopefully, I have the recipe), watermelon, water, sodas, and paper goods furnished by RPRRA. Attendees are to bring salad, vegetable, dessert, or another preferred dish to share. Randy and I will bring our canopy, grill, tablecloths, and tables. If you have a canopy, folding chairs, and maybe a table, please bring them as well. Shade will be welcome at this location. See you next month!

**John Ryther** July 4 at 12:04 PM (The following was shared via Facebook by an RPRRA Member)

Happy Independence Day!! Here is a letter I wrote our Representative

I am glad you have reconnected with me. Yes, I have much to report. It has now been two full years of failed attempts to have any of my concerns addressed. First, the Boulder Ranger District is entirely unresponsive to my repeated attempts to speak with someone about the maintenance for the road. There have been two occasions where my calls were returned; one last spring and again in April of this year with promises to look into it. Then there is the off highway vehicle committee. This advisory group is managed by the Ranger District and has been very effective in past years, however, for the last two years there is a consistent pattern of announcing these meetings only hours before they are to convene, and even more frequently they are canceled outright, including all of last winter-traditionally the season when people have time to attend to these things.

Due to this, and repeated statements by USFS and county officials in response to my concerns that "wilderness is meant to exclude most people from accessing it." I feel there is a coordinated effort to deny access to the area and that the counties of Boulder and Gilpin are deliberately allowing this road to deteriorate to fulfill the objective of eliminating use by the public. Boulder County Commissioners are on record as stating they wish to make this area into a "playground for Boulder's elite" and that is in fact what is being attempted.

I wish to restate that this access point is the lone concession to the disabled, the family and two wheel drive tourist to gain access to wilderness camping in the entire Ranger District, that the provisions of the James Peak Wilderness Act remain unfulfilled, and that the concerns of misuse and access for emergency services are a product of systematic neglect, not the recreating public. Further, it is obvious and blatant disregard for the wishes of the public that has allowed this situation to degenerate for three decades, and it is time to hold these officials accountable for their dereliction of duty. I do not believe the negligence of a single county engineer more than thirty years ago should be so regarded as to hold up this necessary work.

I attended a Gilpin County meeting in May, and was shocked to discover that they are actively engaged with a private developer to create a similar management plan for the Russell Gulch area of the county as to what we propose for Rollins Pass, and then to hear that this county expects a net zero population growth for the next thirty years. It was also revealed they are hoping to use recreational tourism as a draw to help the economy of the county. After hearing all this, I spoke about the pass, and was told all these things they are supporting elsewhere are impossible to achieve in our case.

The developer of the Russell Gulch proposal kept using the term "the right kind of people" in reference to his plan, and there was clearly a consensus of what that meant that was very discouraging. It is also discouraging to see the promises of gaming, much like those of the Wilderness Act have become something other than what was promised. Now Gilpin County faces the prospect of an increasing commuter workforce, an aging and seasonal local population and no prospects for their youth. After visiting the largely empty town of Rollinsville, it appears the county has an unexpected relation to many other rural counties in the Midwest.

Finally, I have reconnected with many of the interested parties in the hope we will be able to leverage sufficient pressure for accountability to get the necessary work done, and then to develop a use plan that once again considers the needs of all users rather than a select few. I intend to continue my work, and also want to revisit the provisions of the Wilderness Act to see that relevant aspects of the Americans With Disabilities Act are being followed here, and in every other such situation in our Forest System.

**John William Ryther, S.M.ASCE**

If you would like to receive the "Dream Keeper" by email, send your request to [seckhardt@q.com](mailto:seckhardt@q.com). Also make sure you notify us if your email address changes.

## Brief Summary of the Annual Meeting Minutes

Su Eckhardt, voted as President at the meeting, led a discussion on the future of our organization and thoughts for where we are going. It was decided **Our immediate goal is repairing the road for 2-wheel drive vehicles.** We must reach out to our politicians, sister organizations and other people and groups not yet identified for support and commitment to help us revitalize knowledge of the Jones Peak Wilderness Act and what needs to be done. Su is going to connect with others for recommendations and guidance. We all are going to be positive for the future of RPRA and reopening the road and Needles Eye Tunnel.

Gary Edelmaier reported on the Loving Cup, which was presented to David Moffat on December 18, 1904, (Colorado Transcript, December 22, 1904) and it will be on display at the Crawford Hotel, formerly known as the Union Station. The Cup was in storage at the State Historical Society. Funding is necessary before the actual showcase is ready for the presentation. The meeting attendees voted to donate \$500.00 to the Colorado Rail Passenger Association. If you are interested in contributing to the cause a donation page is available on the Go Fund Me Website (search for David Moffat Colorado). Plans are to have the Loving Cup exhibit Grand Opening on September 6, 2019. It will be fun to see many RPRA T-Shirts there!

Terry Ten Eck reported the new sign is in place at the top of Rollins Pass. Many thanks to Terry for composing the historical summary language for the north face of the sign and Dr. Stephen A. Krajewski, whom created the map and program for the south face of the sign. Thanks also to Jeff Hartman, Kent Hartman, Artistic Automations, Jack Reed and David Naples along with two of his volunteers for the monumental group effort. The sign was set on September 15, 2018. The new sign replaced the sign that was set in 2006. In order to access the classy new sign you must go up from the West Side.

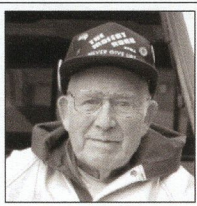
Randy Eckhardt, the Treasurer, reported our funding is stable. We have lost a few members through the recent years, but numbers remain positive. The membership consists of the following categories: 58 individual and non-profit organizations; 54 family members; 4 business members; and 1 new lifetime member

Please join us for more conversations on the Moffat Road Facebook Group!

### Rollins Pass Restoration Association

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

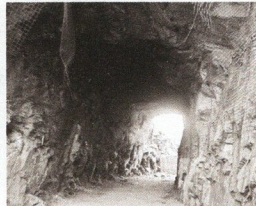
Moffat Road Website (<http://www.moffatroad.org/RPRA/RPRA>)



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

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