Report on the Annual Picnic

Thirty attended the picnic which was held on the East side of the pass on August 26, 2007. Diane Walker, Mark Slinger and Bruce Mounsey won the door prizes. Thanks to those who helped and brought their tent flys. We had our first ‘picnic crasher’ but he quickly became a dues paying member. Welcome Brian!

Many of us noticed and commented on how many people were using the road. We saw hikers, bicyclists, automobiles, RVs and many groups of ATVs. Usage appears to be at an all time high. The road itself starting up the hill is in really bad shape. At a recent meeting with the forestry service, I discovered the road was not and has not been maintained by Gilpin County for quite some time.

Tour Guides

We have had 5000 more Tour Guides printed. Winter Park’s Chamber of Commerce ordered the last 500 we had on hand. The Country Store in Rollinsville also had a high number of sales on Tour Guides and ordered four times during the summer. The Tour Guides cost us a little more to have printed than we recoup in sales, but it’s the feeling of the Board that it’s money well spent to get the word out about Rollins Pass.

Tour Guide Signs

The job of replacing the signs on the East side did not get done last summer - LET’S get it done this year! Now that we have the Forest Service approval, we are planning to do the sign mounting work in mid-July. Each metal post has to have a hole dug, cement put into the hole, and a post set in place. There are nine signs to be set up - with enough people; the job can be accomplished in an afternoon. Please call (303-772-9475) if you are willing to help with this project.

Tunnel Status

Forrest Whitman, Gilpin County Commissioner, stated he feels it’s time for the Commissioners of Gilpin, Grand, and Boulder Counties to get together again to discuss Rollins Pass. The Forest service is open to a 'proposal' from this group on opening the tunnel for inspection. The wheels of government turn slowly. We are hoping one of the Counties will step forward and call for a gathering soon! The Rollins Pass Restoration Association looks forward to such an endeavor.
This fall the major accomplishment of putting the former Thornlake School House/Rollinsville Fire House on a mobile trailer was a tremendous milestone for the RAHS. Although, we were unable to move the house from Gap road to Rollinsville due to the high winds and deep snow that moved in early last fall. There are plans to move the house this April and May of 2008.

Once the house has been moved, the major project of protecting this historical artifact will be underway. Shoring down the structure with a substantial foundation, putting in windows, and fixing the roof will be our goals for the year. (This building will become an 'information' center and museum for Rollinsville.) After the move, there will be a potluck celebration. We would love for the Rollins Pass Association to come and celebrate this event with us.

RAHS is dedicated to working with RPRA on the tunnel focus and excited about helping with the signs.

Mark Slinger