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 Hailie 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 de 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 RPRA. His Power Point Presentation link is on the RPRA Webpage. To read the complete study, please go to the following link: https://workspaces.acrobat.com/app.html#d=7nxMYn17-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 RPRA budget. Cognizant of the amount of money RPRA 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.

**“Is RPRA a political, environmental, historical or a fundraising organization?”**

The RPRA is a little of each. Reasons for membership in the RPRA 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 RPRA, how many are there, and where do they come from?**”

RPRA 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 RPRA 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 (RPRA) Website and may my business or organization link to the RPRA Website?”**

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

The Board believes the more people aware of the RPRA 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 RPRA?”**

The RPRA 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.
The RPRA 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 RPRA. 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 Tunnel as our location. We are sure the Railroading 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.

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**Commissioners Meeting**

The RPRA 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.

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**Rollins Pass Restoration Association**

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

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**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

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**Please join us at our Annual Picnic!**

Our Founder, Col. Dan Straight  Needles Eye Tunnel, East Portal  Needles Eye Tunnel, Wire Mesh is doing it's job!