

TRACK N' FEATHERS

The Galloping Goose® Historical Society of Dolores, Inc.
(A 501(c) 3 non-profit Corporation)

Summer /fall-2010



A Busy Summer



Operating Galloping Goose No. 5 this past summer was a lot of work for all of our volunteers! In addition to our usual participation at **Escalante Days** in Dolores we visited the Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad once and the Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad twice! As many of you know, Escalante Days is a local celebration in Dolores to recall the early-day explorers in what became southwestern Colorado. To learn more about that, visit our website and click on the Dolores Chamber of Commerce link.

This year's **Railfest** on the D&S was held from August 20th through the 23rd. The schedule was quite a bit different than we (and all the participants) were used to in past years. In addition to the more than usual photo run-bys there was a "Parade of Trains" one afternoon where the visiting equipment

– Galloping Goose 5, D&RGW No. 315 and the Eureka & Palisades No. 4 – all rolled into Durango at 10 minute intervals with the regular trains and posed for public display, photos and interviews with the crews right in front of the depot. In the picture above 3 of our passengers prepare to photograph the Goose on a run-by at the old US highway 550 crossing at Shalona Lake. Fortunately for those guys this is now a seldom-used county road. By the way, we set a Goose "photo run-by" record that day – 17 on the run from Silverton to Durango!

In 1970 the states of Colorado and New Mexico jointly purchased a 65 mile section of the recently abandoned D&RGW narrow gauge mainline that ran from Alamosa to Durango. The section of the line that was saved runs west from Antonito, Colorado and over Cumbres Pass to Chama, New Mexico. In September of 1970 the Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad was established. It took a heroic effort by many dedicated volunteers to get the new railroad started.

The 40th Anniversary of the founding of the Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad was celebrated this year at the end of August and we (Galloping Goose No. 5) were invited to help celebrate. We operated for 3 days – actually 2 ½. On Friday afternoon (August 27th) we took a short trip from the top of Cumbres Pass to Osier and return. There was a big party that evening on top of the pass – BBQ, live music and a night photo shoot with the Goose and 2 C&TS locomotives. On Saturday and Sunday we operated from the top of the pass to the Big Horn wye. As many of you know, these shorter trips were necessary because of the Lobato trestle fire in June on the west side of the pass which made it not possible to operate all the way into Chama, New Mexico. The morning we loaded for the trip back to Dolores was cold, rainy and very foggy on top of the pass. The pictures at right were taken from the motorman's seat while we were waiting for the regular train to finish switching moves. It was a little spooky watching its headlight appear out of the dense fog!



