



*The Galloping Goose Historical Society  
of Dolores, Inc. 421 Railroad Avenue  
P.O. Box 297  
Dolores, CO 81323*

# GALLOPING GOOSE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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*Happy  
Holidays!*

## GGHS Calendar

GGHS Board Meetings,,  
421 Railroad Avenue  
Dolores, CO  
Nov 20, Dec 18, Jan 15  
6 PM to 9 PM  
Open to the public

Santa Visits the Depot as part of  
Dolores Christmas Fest  
Dec. 13, 5:00 PM  
Candy bags for children

GGHS Winter Hours  
Tuesday and Thursday  
10 AM to 2 PM

## Email Reminder

For those members who have requested email delivery, this is the last issue that will be sent by regular mail. All others will continue to receive their newsletter delivered by the USPS. However, it costs the GGHS nearly \$1 for each newsletter that we print and mail. If you have an email address, we would appreciate it if you would share that with us. Email subscribers will receive bonus photo essays.

Comments about this policy or anything in this newsletter should be sent to the GGHS, Attn. Editor.

*Jeanne Becker, Editor*

# Track 'n Feathers

November 2014



*At the end of each day in Durango, No. 5 was driven onto the turntable and pulled into the museum area of e roundhouse.*

## Goose Passengers Treated to Great Weather and Fall Colors

For over ten years, the Motor 5 has traveled to Durango each August to participate in Railfest. On August 14, 2014, after a rainy start on the way to Silverton, the weather turned and passengers enjoyed great weather through the Animas River Canyon. Returning from Silverton on the 15<sup>th</sup>, the Goose made several photo run-bys, including on the High Line. Saturday saw three hour-long runs to the Railroad Park north of Durango. Families with young children enjoy this shorter run. On the 17<sup>th</sup>, the Goose travelled to Cascade Canyon.

Special thanks to the



San Juan Regional Medical Center for sponsoring the D&S excursion. Also, thank you to Nancy, Gerald, Lisa, and Bill of the Villa Dallavalle B&B for hosting the crew in Silverton.



Our second excursion of the year was marked by spectacular fall colors. Full passenger loads every day were able to enjoy the aspens in all their glory. From October 2 through 5, the Goose travelled from Chama to Antonio on the Cumbres&Toltec.

For the second year, No. 5 was joined by a replica of Motor No. 1, built by Karl Schaeffer of Ridgway, Colorado. It was fortunate the two travelled together because, on the first day, No. 5 had to rescue No. 1. The Motor suffered a broken axle on the power truck and No. 5 towed it three miles to the top of Cumbres Pass. Karl and his crew had Motor No. 1 back in operation by the next morning.



*A generous thank you goes to Skanska USA Civil West for hauling No. 5 to and from both excursions. They are one of our biggest fans!*

## Crew Change at the Goose, as Retiring Motormen Train New Drivers

After over fifteen years of combined service, veteran drivers Larry Spencer and Louie Vallejos retired at the end of this season as Motormen for the Galloping Goose. Finding new drivers willing to take on all the responsibilities of the Motorman was not easy. In addition to Goose operation, the driver is responsible for on-the-spot maintenance, safety, passenger comfort, knowledge of operating rules and procedures of the host railroads, and familiarity with Federal Railroad Administration regulations. Four willing and eager men stepped forward, with Larry and Louie as competent instructors. The trainees were Joe Becker, Joe Beringer, Jack Hattaway, and John Randall.

Training started in June, with each trainee practicing basic skills on the short track that runs in front of the Museum in Dolores. Larry revised and updated a document he started several years ago, *Galloping Goose No. 5 Operating Manual*. The trainees were able to test their skills during the August and October excursions on the D&S and C&TS.

Each day, the scheduled route was divided into four segments, and each trainee was assigned to operate No. 5 on one of those seg-



*Larry Spencer, Joe Beringer, Jack Hattaway, Paul Carson (D&S pilot), John Randall, and Lew Matis (conductor). (photo by Barb Beringer)*

ments. With ten days of operation, all trainees were able to operate nearly every section of both railroads at least once, and were able to log just over 100 miles of driving.

Each railroad had its own challenging sections. On the D&S, it was the "Gauntlet" of street crossings and traffic in Durango and the spectacular Highline in the Animas River Canyon. On the C&TS, it was the 13 miles of four percent grade on the west side of

Cumbres Pass, one of the most challenging segments of railroading in North America. All trainees were given opportunities to operate in all these difficult areas.

Both Larry and Louie agree that the training of these new motormen went extremely well. The trainees brought enthusiasm, knowledge, and skill with them. The instructors look forward to continuing their training next year.



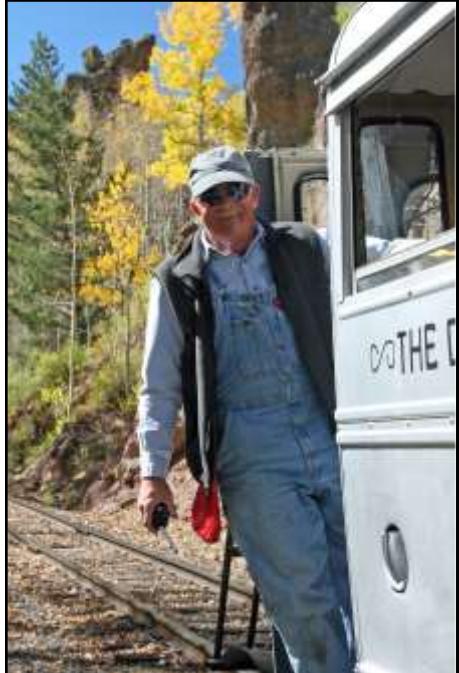
*Cattle drive past GGHS museum on November 11th.*

### Thank you to all those who renewed their Membership!

Since the August newsletter, we have received over \$12,000 in memberships and donations: \$6,210 (memberships), \$5,316 (operating donations), \$875 (Motor #5 donations); and \$255 (museum display donations). Thanks to all of you, our bills are paid to date and we have placed \$4,500 into the Reserve Fund towards our 2015 insurance premiums, which total almost \$8,000 per year. To help reach our goal and if you have not yet mailed in your dues for 9/1/14 to 9/1/15, please take a moment to mail the dues renewal form. Please also consider the GGHS while planning your year-end tax deductible donations.

## Recollections of Driving Motor No. 5

"Several years ago, there was an outbreak of tent caterpillars. They were all over the tracks, and climbed into the underpart of the Goose. They created a slime on the rails which made it hard for the Goose to obtain traction."



*Larry figures that, since Railfest 2004, he's driven Motor No. 5 well over 6,000 miles! Here he is on the Cumbres & Toltec this October. (photo by Fred Pausch)*

Thus begins Larry Spencer's recollection of driving Motor No. 5. He was trained as Motorman in 2004 and then trained Louie Vallezos in 2008. Together, Larry and Louie have faced a variety of challenges as motormen. This year, they are both retiring from driving the Goose.

"Last October it started snowing when we were stopped for lunch along the C&TS," recalls Louie. "On the way back to Chama, one of us had to lean out the door and scrape the snow off the windshield while the other drove. The Goose does not have adequate wipers. It was cold."

"And then there was the time with the horses," says Larry. "Four horses escaped from their pasture and got on the tracks. The Goose chased them for almost a mile. They would run ahead of us and then stop and look back. The pilot told Louie to honk in different ways to scare the horses off the tracks."

"What I like best about being a motorman is talking to the people," says Louie. "They are like children in a candy store when I tell them that they can look at the

engine. I've met many neat people that I wouldn't have met otherwise. And I've made some really good friends. I'll miss the people."



*Louie's 9-year old grandson Aiden told his grandmother, "Papa can't retire until he's taught me how to drive the Goose." Here is Louie with his daughter LeeAnn and grandson Aiden in 2012. (photo by Larry Spencer)*

## New Museum Exhibits Possible Due to Generous Donations

The GGHS Museum has a new face, thanks to a number of recent donations. From upper left in the photo, note the Western Electric hand crank wall phone from 1908, donated by Neal Reich; a photo essay of young Richard Clauser and his parents enjoying an excursion on the Galloping Goose Line in 1951; a poster display showing the boxes of chicks, Wonder Bread, and movie reels that were transported by the Goose in the 1940's, and the lighted display case with models of all seven Geese. Other donations received this year include a set of 270 slides taken on the RGS from 1949 to 1952, donated by Clifford Franklin and a set of slides of the RGS and the D&RGW, donated by Arlen Orton.



## New Board Elected at 2014 Annual Meeting



*Lew Matis, President, addresses the GGHS membership at the 2014 Annual Meeting, held in Dolores, Colorado.*

Joe and Jeanne Becker hosted the 2014 GGHS Annual Meeting at their home in Dolores on Saturday September 13. About 35 members attended. After a delicious lunch, contributed by all, Lew Matis called the meeting to order. Lew, Marie Richmond, and Denise Bowyer gave reports updating the membership on the accomplishments of the past year and the current financial status of the Society.

Joe Becker provided a brief description of the history and construction of his garden railroad,

*The Sunset & Southwestern.* Replicas of the RGS and Galloping Goose No. 5 were operating during the afternoon.

During the election of new Board members, Ed Lathem stepped down for health and personal reasons. Lew Matis and Bill White were re-elected as President and Vice President. Three Board members were elected: Jerry McKenzie, Marie Richmond, and Joe Becker. Copies of the Annual Report are available to members, upon request.

### 2014/2015 Board and Officers

President: Lew Matis  
Vice President: Bill White  
Secretary: Marie Richmond  
Treasurer: Joe Becker  
Board Member: Jerry McKenzie  
Board Member: Larry Spencer  
Board Member: Louie Vallejos



*John Kelly, Ed Latham, Louie Vallejos, and Val Truelsen at the Annual Meeting.*



## Grade School Children Visit Museum

On November 5, about sixty third graders from Dolores Elementary School visited the GGHS Museum and rode the Galloping Goose. Denise Bowyer and volunteers Rhoda Franks, Gary Gregory, Louie Vallejos, Lew Matis, and Joe Becker were all on hand to talk to the children about the importance of the Goose and the RGS in the early history of Dolores. "They liked ringing the bell and were curious about how the horn could be used to communicate," said Joe. "One little guy wanted to know all about how the air brakes worked."



# 2014 GGHS Excursions

## Durango & Silverton Railfest





D & S #482 and D & S  
#486 doublehead at  
Rockwood during Railfest

Waiting for the “up” train



The “up” train



"Onward to Silverton"

Tacoma Siding



Durango & Silverton  
work train

## Cumbres & Toltec Autumn Colors



We stop at gas stations without canopies over their pumps. We're almost fourteen feet tall. Motor 5 has two thirty gallon gasoline tanks. It averages 5 MPG.



"Top of the Hill"



Near Cresco tank  
and siding

Entering the snow shed  
at Cumbres Pass.





The first photo run-by after  
an early morning departure



Meet at Cumbres Pass  
RGS # 5 with C & T S # 487



View from Windy Point

K-27 D & RGW # 463, at Osier  
during lunch break



Morning passenger train  
departing from Chama NM,  
C & TS # 484



Phantom Curve





After lunch at Osier



Bear awoken by  
Motor #5 at Big Horn  
Wye (photo by Anna  
Gibbs)

Please join us on our excursions in 2015  
and visit our museum in Dolores Colorado

Bi-annual cattle  
drive through  
downtown  
Dolores Colorado



(Photos by Jeanne/Joe Becker unless noted otherwise)

# Galloping Goose Historical Society Membership Application or Renewal

## RENEWAL

**FIRST, THANK YOU!** for your continuing support of the GGHS and continuing interest in the preservation of the history of the Galloping Geese and the Rio Grande Southern Railroad.

Your membership fee goes to help support the society's preservation efforts, to ensure future generations can have access to the history of narrow gauge railroading in the rocky mountains.

### MEMBERSHIP

Joining the Galloping Goose Historical Society (GGHS) is easy; and it helps to ensure the legacy of the GGHS. As part of your membership, you will be informed of the events happening at the GGHS and the history of the Rio Grande Southern Railroad. GGHS membership runs from September—August.

**Benefits include:**

- Three newsletters per year that include articles about historical happenings in the RGS; what is happening at The Society; and information on our new collections.
- Invitations to special events such as the Annual Meeting each September.
- 10% Discount on gift shop purchases (May exclude certain items)

Please use this form for renewal  
and new memberships  
We invite you and your friends  
To join the  
*Galloping Goose Historical Society*  
Enclose this membership form  
With your check  
and send in the envelope  
provided.  
Thank You!

CREDIT CARD TOTAL: \$ _____
Credit Card type (_____) # _____
Exp. Date ____ / ____
Order Date ____ / ____ / ____
Check or Cash (circle) Check Number _____
GGHS: Date Rcvd.: _____

( ) I/we have named the Galloping Goose Historical Society in my/our will

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*Galloping Goose Historical Society*  
2014 - 2015 MEMBERSHIP DUES  
Due on 9/1/2014 - Membership dues are from  
September 1st to September 1st

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

( ) Individual	\$30	\$ _____
( ) Family	\$40	\$ _____
( ) Business	\$50	\$ _____
( ) Life Member	\$500	\$ _____
( ) Patron	\$1,000	\$ _____
( ) Benefactor	\$5,000	\$ _____

Donation: General Operating	\$ _____
Donation: Museum Display	\$ _____
Donation: Motor #5 maintenance	\$ _____
Sub-Total	\$ _____
Souvenir Purchases	\$ _____

**Total Remitted:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Let us know how you would like to receive Track 'N Feathers:**

( ) I would like to receive Track "N Feathers by email  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
( ) Please continue to send a hard copy of Track 'N Feathers

# Galloping Goose Souvenir Items

<b>All prices include shipping and handling within the U.S.</b>	
Ceramic Coffee Mug (No. 5 photo & Running Goose) (heavy item; high shipping costs)	\$17.00 (ea) <i>New Item!</i>
Galloping Goose Baseball Cap (embroidered)	\$18.00 (ea)
Mouse Pad (Motor 5-Tefft Bridge or Silverton Narrows)	\$15.00 (ea)
Tin Feathers Galloping Geese Book (CO RR Museum Stan Rhine)	\$15.00 (ea)
R.G.5. Story (Sundance Books) – call for pricing and availability of Volumes	<i>Call</i>
Hooded Sweatshirt 50/50 Cotton Poly Blend, with embroidered logo NEW ITEM Light Gray (7.5 oz, \$53.00.) or Dark Gray (10.5 oz., \$59.00) (Please circle color and size) S, M, L, 1X, 2X, 3X, 4X, 5X	\$53.00 Gray \$59.00 Dark Gray
<b>Adult</b> T-shirts - (Please circle size) S, M, L, XL, XXL	\$17.00 (ea)
<b>Child</b> T-shirts - (Please circle size) 4-6, 6-8, 10-12, 14-16	\$13.00 (ea)
Galloping Goose Silver Tone Pen	\$5.00 (ea)
Lapel pin. (RGS Herald or Running Goose)	\$7.00 (ea)
Galloping Goose No.5 at the Dolores Depot in 1950 (Coker painting - signed print 12x18—order now! only 5 left)	\$30.00 (ea)
6 X 6 Tin Plate (Running Goose or RGS Herald)	\$13.00 (ea) <i>New Item!</i>
8 X 8 Tin Plate (GGHS Society Logo)	\$15.00 (ea) <i>New Item!</i>
24" Lanyard Swivel Hook (Motor 5 & Running Goose)	\$ 8.00 (ea) <i>New Item!</i>
License Plate ( No. 5 at C&TS Rock Tunnel or D&S Silverton Narrows)	\$20.00 (ea) <i>New Item!</i>
<i>Check on availability—currently on backorder</i>	<b>Sub-Total</b> \$
<b>Members take 10% off your total price! (Excludes RGS Books, Sweatshirts)</b>	
All prices include shipping and handling within the U.S.	0
Colorado residents please add 3% sales tax	
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b> \$	
Credit Card type (____) # _____ Exp. Date ____ / ____	
Order Date ____ / ____ / ____	
Check or Cash (circle) Check Number	Date Recvd.