

Hugo Union Pacific Roundhouse

2016

RPI annual meeting set April 10, 2016

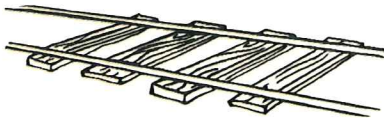
The 2016 Annual Meeting of Members of Roundhouse Preservation, Inc. will be at the former Hugo depot in Hines Park on Sunday, April 10, 2016 at 2 p.m.

At this meeting, members will transact any necessary business, renew memberships, and hear guest speaker, Mel McFarland.

At this meeting, members also will elect two representatives on the Board of Directors. Terms expire for Board members Chris Fox and Megan Hohl this year. Both have expressed a willingness to serve if re-elected.

This will be a time to catch up on the restoration news and tour the roundhouse after the meeting. Refreshments will be served and as always, the public is welcome.

WANTED Track, Ties and Spikes
Contact: Any RPI Director
if you have items to donate or sell!



Directors are Dee Ann Blevins, Chris Fox, Jessica Weeks, Roxie Devers and Megan Hohl. You can contact them directly, or drop a note to Roundhouse Preservation, Inc., PO Box 343, Hugo, CO 80821.



Rail historian to speak at Hugo

Mel McFarland was an educator by profession, teaching four years in Rapid City, South Dakota, then joining the staff of Fountain Middle School until 1997. He continued his career as an educator until the present day, having written several books and articles about area history and railroading in Colorado.

Mel dates his railroad passion back to a book about the Colorado Midland line that he received as a Christmas gift in the 1960s. Eventually he got into model railroading, and wanted to build accurate replicas of the Midland trains but "I couldn't find enough material on the Colorado Midland, so I started looking for it. I didn't want just any railroad, I wanted the Colorado Midland railroad."

He started going to libraries and museums, also interviewing retired Midland employees and family members who still lived in the area. The resulting facts and inside information work their way into his own books.

Mel has become a railroad man in his own right. After school and on weekends in the late 1980s, he served as a volunteer conductor, engineer and track worker on the now defunct Cadillac and Lake City line. For the last 16 years he's been a conductor and engineer on the Pikes Peak Cog Railway.

If you try to phone Mel's house and get his answering machine, you may hear a message that makes it sound as though you've actually contacted the Midland railroad. And in his back yard sits a former working caboose.

Here's what Mel wrote about it in a column a few years ago: "I bought my caboose in 1983. It was the object of newspaper and TV stories when I got it, and a dozen years later when I moved with it to a new neighborhood. The students in my classes in Fountain wondered what I wanted with a caboose! I occasionally show it to interested neighbors. I use it for an art room or for quiet writing, and in a pinch as a guest room. I even have a tape recording of what it sounds like in a caboose as it runs along on the track. That way it is just like riding in it, but a lot smoother!"



Mel McFarland

Photo and story information from *The Westside Pioneer*

A message from Dee Ann Blevins, RPI President

'An exciting and productive year'

Thank you all for your continued support of the roundhouse restoration project! When R.P.I. formed in 2002, I am sure no one thought it would take this long to get windows and doors replaced.

I am especially grateful to my fellow Directors: Chris Fox, Roxie Devers, Megan Hohl and Jessica Weeks. Each person brings an individual perspective and strength that allows the board to be more efficient and productive, and it's been a fun working group, as well. Chris is the only male on the board, but we are his "train chicks" and he is the best rooster in the ~~chicken~~ roundhouse!

We have had many ups and downs over the years, but this past year has seen real progress in the work done on the building. April 22 is the deadline for our contractor to complete the windows and doors. Spectrum General Contractors has done an outstanding job and the workmanship has been superior. Roxie Devers was able to tour their facility and was amazed and impressed at the work that was involved in repairing just one window.

Thank you to everyone for supporting our fish fry. The weather was a bit

of a worry! Attendance was great, though.

We ended up serving 104 adults and one child at the fish fry. We made \$1,025 on the meals and \$313 in donations, for a total of \$1,338. Even after covering expenses, we did well.



Carroll Schroeder

Special thanks to Carroll Schroeder (It's great to have Carroll Schroeder involved with another fish fry!),

Kopen Hull, Jeannie Foster Kinnaman, Helen Pierson and DeVon Williams for working so hard to prepare, serve and clean up! Also, thanks to the Joe Will Post #6612 (Patsie Smith, Charlotte Graham, Jim Hoyt and Lucas Hohl) for promoting our dinner and providing a wonderful place for us. Thank you RPI members for your delicious donations of salads and desserts. We couldn't do this without your help!

RPI is a member of the Rocky Mountain Railroad Heritage Society, and has been asked to be a presenter at its symposium April 9th in Englewood, the day before our Annual Meeting. We will share a powerpoint presentation about the dynamics of setbacks and momentum.

Chris Fox and I attended last year, and we hope to have three of us attending this year. Through our connection with this society, a poster was created and will be on sale for \$20. You will have to check it out at our Annual Meeting and purchase one for yourself!

While it may not look like it, please know that we volunteers are working behind the scenes promoting and networking with others who are like-minded. The directors on the Board have more than one iron in the fire in addition to family commitments, so time is stretched and sometimes non-existent for extracurricular activities. We have been quite good at juggling our schedules.

We are always on the lookout for more track, ties, and spikes. Someday we want to get a locomotive for Bay 8 of the roundhouse for the future museum, and we would like to be prepared before that happens.

This has been an exciting and productive year. New members and more volunteers are always welcome!

Become a Member

Fill out the form below and mail your check to: Roundhouse Preservation, Inc, PO Box 343 Hugo, CO 80821

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ Zip Code: _____

Please check the appropriate box for your membership. Your membership will help us secure the history of the Hugo Roundhouse for generations. You will also receive yearly updates as well as help elect our board of directors. Your membership helps toward matching funds for grants.

Lifetime Membership (\$500)

Yearly Individual Membership (\$25)

Yearly Business/Organization Membership (\$50)

I do not wish to become a member at this time, but please accept my donation.

Grant funding sought again

Roundhouse Preservation, Inc. has been very fortunate to have obtained the grant funding we've received to date.

The latest grants from the State Historical Fund, Gates Family Foundation, and CDOT (Transportation Enhancement Grant), plus our fundraising efforts, have resulted in new windows in the north, south and west sides being installed, along with 10 of the 16 bay doors.

The next phase is the demolition of the framing and stucco infill and installation of the remaining six doors, replication of the transom windows above the doors, and the addition of interior screens on the one operable sash in each of the 24 windows. A ball park estimate of the cost of this work would be around \$290,000. We will be applying for another State Historical Fund grant, plus others that are not yet determined, as well as adding match from local fundraising efforts.

Thank you to each and every one of you who have helped us reach this point in saving the roundhouse.

RPI caught on film!

An exciting event will take place May 12, 2016, when RPI is recognized for Colorado Preservation, Inc.'s Endangered Places Progress Award. Directors Roxie Devers and Chris Fox will represent RPI at the Dana Crawford Award ceremony in Denver.

Clear Image Media traveled to Hugo in March to film RPI and the roundhouse for a short video to be shown at this ceremony. It will feature several preservation projects within the state along with the roundhouse. The film crew joined us at the fish fry, as well.



Clear Image Media, film crew from Windsor, Colorado, was in Hugo May 20 interviewing RPI officers Dee Ann Blevins (upper left), Roxie Devers (back to camera), and former Lincoln County Commissioner Gene Vick (at right), about preservation progress to date. Crew members are, from left, Candle Sampley, Christine Turner and Jonathan Turner.