In Pueblo, ColoRail President Jim Souby congratulates Governor John Hickenlooper on signing “Chief” bill.

Inside the *Southwest Chief* bill

-- page 4

Hunting for a TIGER grant

-- page 7

“A Voice for Colorado’s Rail Passengers”
“Tireless work” appreciated

President's KUDOS

A SPECIAL SHOUT OUT TO SOME KEY FRIENDS

Lots of folks helped with our campaign to get the Southwest Chief Bill passed and the TIGER grant application filed. We have thanked almost all the political leaders who helped us so much. We would like to recognize some other leaders who have been essential to our work in Colorado so far: James Lucero, Aide to Rep. Leroy Garcia; Chelsea Nunnenkamp, Aide to Senator Larry Crowder; Laura Heberly, Assistant to Pueblo County Commissioner Sal Pace; Ashley Freburg, Communications Specialist, Garden City, Kansas; Gloria Medina, Office Manager, Mayor's Office, Las Vegas, NM.

These folks have provided continuous and critical help to our legislative and TIGER grant efforts. Thanks, James, Chelsea, Laura, Ashley and Gloria! We appreciate your tireless work! Who did we miss? Let us know!

LEGISLATIVE MIRACLES AREN’T EASY: SPECIAL THANKS TO JULIE HOERNER MOWRY!

The recent passage of Colorado HB 1161, the Southwest Chief Bill, did not happen due to its popular demand alone. Even though ColoRail members and friends met repeatedly with legislators and their committees, no single voluntary group can expect much success in the hurly burly tussle of a legislative session. Someone has to be there with the savvy and knowledge of the process to monitor what’s up and call for help when it’s timely. In the case of the Southwest Chief Bill, ColoRail member and seasoned legislative hand Julie Hoerner Mowry stepped up to the plate. She hit a grand slam! Throughout the session, Julie monitored and advised ColoRail on the bills advance. Thanks Julie! Save the Chief!

MORE SUPPORTERS JOIN THE CAUSE!

ColoRail has received several additional resolutions in support of the Southwest Chief over the past 3 months. The American Association of Private Rail Car Owners, Rail Users Network and the Railroad Passenger Car Alliance have all passed resolutions in support to the train since February. These resolutions may be viewed at www.ColoRail.org.

COLORAIL COUNTS ON ITS VOLUNTEERS – AND SO DOES THE PUBLIC!

Whether it’s National Train Day, Holiday travel, or simply a helping hand every now and then, ColoRail members are meeting the challenge. A special thanks to recent volunteers: Edie Bryan, Ron Vander Kooi, Bob Brewster, John Valerio, Rose Elkin, Gwen Ellen Nordquist, and Jim Souby! Who did we miss? Let us know! Please sign up to volunteer at volunteer@ColoRail.org

For more details on holiday weekend station volunteers, please see the report by Don Ziesesch on page 8. And, there’s more about National Train Day and the re-opening of Denver Union Station with a report by Ron Vander Kooi on pages 3 and 6.

--Jim Souby
ColoRail members organized events in Denver’s re-opened Union Station and along the Southwest Chief route.

COLORAIL HOSTS TRAIN DAY EXCURSION ON THE CHIEF
by Jim Souby

ColoRail conducted its now traditional National Train Day inspection trip on May 10th. Leaders on the trip included La Junta Mayor Lynn Horner, Trinidad Mayor Joe Reorda and Council Members Carol Bolton and Pat Fletcher. About 18 people, including ColoRail President Jim Souby, Board Member Bob Brewster and member John Valerio took part in the annual trip to Las Vegas, NM, and return. Las Vegas Mayor Pro Tem Joey Herrera and Transportation Manager Elmer Martinez joined the group for a strategy session on saving the train in the city’s restored depot before embarking on a tour.

Highlights of the tour included the historic old town Plaza, New Mexico Highlands University, restored Bridge Street, and sets used in famous movies such as “Easy Rider” and “No Country for Old Men.” Of course the crown jewel, La Castaneda, the Fred Harvey House adjacent to the station remained the most photographed site. It has recently been purchased and will be restored by Allan Affeldt, who is committed to saving the Chief. Affeldt restored La Posada, in Winslow, Arizona, a rail-front masterpiece which is also served by the train.

On the return trip, Rails and Trails leader Judy Hensley described the sights and history of the route over Raton Pass. The Southwest Chief really is a national treasure!

DENVER’S TRAIN DAY EVENTS MESH WITH GRAND OPENING OF BUS CONCOURSE
by Ron Vander Kooi

Planning for Denver Union Station’s 2014 National Train Day (NTD) had a long and bumpy time ending with a super busy May 9 and 10. The Grand Opening for RTD’s elegant “bus concourse” directly behind Union Station meant that thousands of people would be present (to see the station’s awesome or awful span (depending on how people will use it when DUS is fully open in July) and also to enjoy the long line of dignitaries who spoke, the loud entertainment and collect tons of give-away trinkets.

Seven of us spoke to several hundred at our ColoRail booth, signed up some new members, and sold over a dozen of our “Ski Train” posters at $20 a pop (a great idea of Edie’s). We collected a total of $201 (Continued on page 6)

COLORAIL TO MEET JUNE 14th

ColoRail will hold its spring meeting on Saturday, June 14th, at the Bear Valley Library, 5171 W. Dartmouth Ave. 80236, phone: 720-865-0975. The meeting will be an opportunity for members to catch up and regroup after intense activities over the past year. Coffee and pastries will be available. Open at 9:00 a.m.!

Key issues before members include discussion of our goals for the coming years and election of four of our nine Board Members. Julie Hoerner Mowry, who was instrumental in championing the Southwest Chief Bill through the legislature this year will discuss legislative strategy with us. Our best ideas don’t get us very far unless they are adopted by those in power. Julie will help us understand how we can make that happen!

Since our March 8th meeting at History Center Colorado, we have been developing our “building blocks” strategy for passenger rail in Colorado. This is an effort to put proposals and ideas we have into a reasonable timeline and plan for achieving our goals of Front-Range and east west rail in Colorado. These corridors, when linked with current Amtrak service, provide the best economic regions for passenger rail expansion in the state.

Our primary interests are to identify the most important elements or segments for passenger rail that our state should be reserving or acquiring as soon as possible. We want to demonstrate the power and advantages of passenger rail for the public, for example, running a State Fair Train to Pueblo each year. Why not?
Governor signs bipartisan

JIM SOUBY, PRESIDENT

Governor John Hickenlooper signed the Southwest Chief Bill into law before a large, appreciative crowd at Pueblo Union Depot, Wednesday, May 14th. “This Bill allows us to contemplate a full future for rail in southern Colorado!” said the Governor. Both prime sponsors of the bill, Representative Leroy Garcia (D) of Pueblo and Senator Larry Crowder (R) of Alamosa participated in the signing which was hosted by Pueblo County Commissioner Sal Pace.

ColoRail President Jim Souby presented letters of appreciation to Representative Garcia, Senator Crowder and Commissioner Pace at the event.

The bill, which passed with overwhelming, bi-partisan margins in both the Colorado House and Senate, creates a seven member commission to manage efforts to save the train in Colorado; to cooperate with Kansas, New Mexico, Amtrak and BNSF Railway on a combined effort; and to work to add Pueblo as a new stop on the route. Walsenburg will also be studied as a possible future stop.

In addition to the commission, which is classified as a Class I state agency which may receive and expend funds, the law creates a fund in the Colorado Treasury dedicated to the commission’s goals. A small appropriation was made for administrative purposes as the commission forms and undertakes its mission. No funds for work on the rail line may be expended until all the partners agree to a plan to save the train.

The commission will include five voting members appointed by the governor, and two non-voting members, one appointed by Amtrak and the other by the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT). The voting members include a representative of the freight railroad industry; a public rail transportation ad-

(Continued on page 5)
Southwest Chief bill

(Continued from page 4)

vocate; one resident of Las Animas, Otero, or Prowers County who has publicly advocated for public rail; and one resident of Pueblo or Huerfano County who has publicly advocated for public rail. Appointments must be made by September 1, 2014.

“This legislation is a major step forward for passenger rail in Colorado,” said ColoRail President Jim Souby. “It signals that the state has an agency that is serious about permanent, effective solutions to our transportation problems which are so evident along both the rural Amtrak routes and our Interstate corridors. So far, the strategy has been to ignore the best solution, rail, and spend all the money on systems that won’t stand the test of time unless they are firmly and positively connected with a rail solution.”

Ray Lang, Amtrak’s representative at the signing said “We’ve had public discussions for more than two years in an effort to continue this Amtrak route and Colorado has stepped forward to make this great service even better. We look forward to working with all three states to preserve and improve the Southwest Chief.” During the ceremony, Commissioner Pace presented a letter of appreciation to Lang who has worked with the coalition since its inception.

Regional and bipartisan cooperation was highlighted in the ceremony.
including new memberships and other smaller donations.

Thanks to Edie Bryan and her helpful friends, Rose Elkins and Gwen Ellen Nordquist, as well as Ron Kaminen who served for the full day. Bob Brewster, Keith Dameron, Hugh Fowler, Bruce and Mrs. Eller also served for a time. My wife, Betty, Ron Kaminen and I greeted sixty plus travelers Saturday morning and expect that a number will sign up as members of ColoRail and also perhaps a few of the sixty or so in the evening. Amtrak's staff were very welcoming, appreciative and helpful. They set up two tables with lots of material ranging from timetables and vacation books to color books as well as Train Day materials and some good cookies for their guests.

Next year we must be well prepared for NTD given that the Denver Union Station waiting room and other spaces will be fully open in all its expected grandeur with much more space than the cramped "cubby hole" it now has at Union Station. Your ColoRail Passenger newsletter will provide specifics for the 2015 National. We hope to have as many volunteers as possible.

(Continued from page 3)

ColoRail was there!

Selected photographs in this issue are in color for readers who request e-mail PDF delivery of the ColoRail Passenger. When renewing, just specify that you prefer to receive the electronic edition.

Thanks to Scott Mastro for the photo of our National Train Day voyagers hearing from Jim Souby on the Chief at left.

The Denver Union Station crowd scene below and photos on pages 1, 3, 4, 5 are courtesy of Bob Brewster.
COLORADO COMMUNITIES JOIN KANSAS IN GRANT APPLICATION FOR THE CHIEF

JIM SOUBY, PRESIDENT

In an extraordinary display of commitment to the Southwest Chief’s historic route in Kansas and Colorado, a public-private effort has been spearheaded by Garden City, Kansas. Amtrak, Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT), BNSF Railway and 16 communities and advocacy groups along the line have combined to file a grant application to the US Department of Transportation.

11 Colorado groups have joined in a TIGER Grant application to the U.S. Department of Transportation. The federal program, Transportation Infrastructure Generating Economic Recovery, is run by the U.S. Department of Transportation. The application is sponsored by Garden City, Kansas, a key leader in the coalition to save the Southwest Chief since our inaugural meeting in 2011. The grant would total about $24.5 million dollars. Amtrak at $4 million, Kansas Department of Transportation at $3 million, and BNSF Railway at $2 million are the prime contributors. The grant requests $15 million in federal support.

Colorado’s participants include Pueblo County at $100,000, the Interstate 25 Economic Development coalition at $75,000, Bent, Las Animas, Otero and Prowers Counties at $10,000 each, La Junta, Lamar and Trinidad at $10,000 each, the Trinidad Tourism Board at $4,000, and ColoRail, which chipped in $1,000. Kansas communities of Garden City, Dodge City, Hutchison and Newton each pledged $12,500 to the grant. ColoRail assisted Pueblo County Commissioner Sal Pace, who led the campaign to raise the Colorado funds in a whirlwind effort over Easter weekend.

The purpose of the grant is to replace about 55 miles of rail in the worst condition along the La Junta Subdivision of the BNSF in Kansas and Colorado. These segments are beyond their expected life in spite of significant maintenance and cause the Chief to slow to 30 mph. Some of the rail dates back to the 1940’s and much to the 50’s and 60’s. The current plan would replace about 45 miles in Kansas and 10 miles in Colorado, using the weakest link theory—what repairs contribute the most to the train’s safety and performance.

Join ColoRail

P.O. Box 9613
Denver, CO 80209

Please enclose check or money order.

$15 PER YEAR pays for 2014 mailings, printing, publicity

Name: ________________________________________________________________________

Address: ______________________________________________________________________

City: ______________________________ State: _____________ Postal Code: ___________

Telephone, with area code: ___________________________________________________

E-mail address, fax number or other contact information:

___________________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________
Good to be back at Union Station

**KUDOS II: Station Volunteers**

*Don Zielesch, Coordinator*

*Jay Jones* and I would like to thank the following volunteers who helped out at DUS over the Easter and Memorial Day holiday weekends. We appreciate the effort you all made to help. There was a fair turn out and it was good to be back at DUS after a 3 year hiatus. Things were a bit crowded at times but Amtrak will have some space in the Great Hall after the grand opening July 12, 2014.

Unfortunately some trains were late--very late--and the first part of the Memorial Day weekend they were running through Wyoming so the usual crowd of Glenwood Springs passengers was missing.

The following volunteers helped over Easter weekend (4/18 - 4/21/14)

John Bishop, Mike Cronin, Ron Kaminen, Tom Peyton, Vince Szafranko, Betty Vander Kooi, Ron Vander Kooi, Don Zielesch.

The following volunteers worked over the Memorial Day weekend (5/23 - 5/27/14)

Ron Kaminen, Tom Peyton, Vince Szafranko, Ron Vander Kooi, Don Zielesch.

If anyone’s name has been left off, please let me know so I can correct the records.

See you on the Labor Day weekend.

-- DwZ

Below: By May 14th, Amtrak Thruway coaches were routinely serving customers at Gate B3 in the new Bus Concourse.