

## GALLOPING GOOSE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 297 Dolores,  
CO 81323  
Phone: 970-882-7082  
FAX: 970-882-3243  
E-mail:  
gghs5@centurytel.net  
Web site:  
www.gallopinggoose5.com



Joe Becker's G gauge  
Galloping Goose #5

### Excursions for 2014

• True West Railfest  
Durango & Silverton  
Narrow Gauge RR  
August 14-17, 2014  
For reservations and  
tickets contact the  
Durango & Silverton  
Narrow Gauge RR:  
1-888-872-4607  
www.durangotrain.com

Cumbres & Toltec Scenic  
Railroad  
"Galloping Goose Fall  
Color Special"  
Oct. 2nd—Oct. 5th  
For more information  
contact the Cumbres &  
Toltec Scenic RR  
1-888-286-2737 or visit  
their website  
www.cumbrestoltec.com

# Track 'N Feathers

Week of August 1, 2014

## Finances—Crunch Time for the Society

Like other businesses and attractions in the Four Corners area, the GGHS continues to experience a shortfall in visitation and funding. In addition, the 2014 excursion calendar did not include a July run on the Cumbres and Toltec, resulting in a loss of profit of \$3,500.

Merchandise sales and member contributions make up 70% of the Society's operating income while 30% comes from excursions. The 2011 summer season saw a \$3,000 dip in shop sales compared to 2010; 2012 sales were down slightly, but fell off dramatically in 2013 by nearly \$5,000. Sales in 2014 are keeping pace with 2013.

To address this issue, the

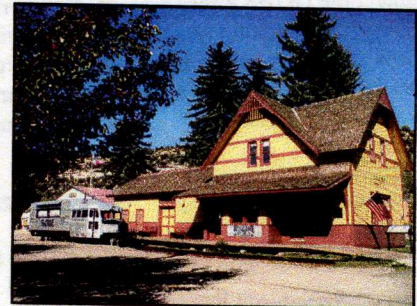
Board continues to monitor expenses closely. Expenses for 2013 ran just under \$20,000 and expenses for 2014 continue to be about the same. As a point of interest, insurance payments for the Society total \$7,700 annually, or nearly 40% of operating costs. In addition to minimizing expenses, the Board is seeking additional grants and outside sponsorships, developing a marketing campaign that will attract new visitors, and training new crew in order to run three complete excursions in 2015.

### What can you do?

First **please** renew your membership. Second, encourage friends and neighbors to visit the

museum. Third, attend the Annual Business Meeting Barbecue/Potluck on Saturday, Sept. 13<sup>th</sup>. (See article) In addition, **if each member could include an extra \$5 or \$10** with your dues renewal it would make such a difference to the Society this year.

We appreciate all you do for **your** Society and we are working hard to turn things around in 2015.



## Volunteers—The Backbone of GGHS

Denise the Business Manager for the Society often says, "I don't know what I would do without our volunteers." Denise is the one paid employee of the organization and thanks to her hard work keeps all our GEESSE in a row.

This Spring and Summer the volunteers have been extra busy. Thanks to Joe Becker the museum has new lighting; and he is currently

working on a new exterior display on the East side of the depot in which three of our RGS switch stands will be on display. (As an aside, if anyone would like to donate funds to help pay for the metal signs to accompany the stands, please contact Denise!)

Ole Bye constructed a new platform for the large scale model of Engine #20 and the 0404 Caboose that are

now on display in the museum. John Reed rebuilt the platform steps on the West side of the depot. In addition, John crafts metal art made from RGS bits and pieces for sale in the gift shop.

Not least, a big **THANK YOU** to all the volunteers who staff the gift shop & museum six days a week. The Society exists because of you! **THANK YOU!**

## GGHS Calendar

Escalante Days  
Saturday, Aug. 9  
Dolores (Goose rides)

D & S True West Railfest  
August 14-17, 2014

C & TS Fall Color Special  
Oct. 2nd—Oct. 5th

GGHS Annual Meeting  
Saturday, Sept. 13 at noon  
Potluck & Barbecue

GGHS hosts Rail Travel  
Adventures Group, Sept. 17  
(Goose rides)

Santa Visits the Depot  
Dec. 6

Candy bags for children

## TRACK FEATHERS now available by email

Beginning with the last issue of Track 'N Feathers, members were asked to contact the GGHS either by mail or email and let us know whether you would like the newsletter delivered by post or electronic delivery.

To save mailing costs, this mini version of Track 'N Feathers is essentially killing two birds with one stone by combining the yearly dues reminder with a mini-issue of the newsletter. Therefore all members are receiving the newsletter by mail for *this mailing*. In an effort to save on postage the GGHS is moving toward electronic delivery by spring of 2015, **unless a member specifies that they wish to continue with a hard copy through the mail.** Many of you have responded and WE THANK YOU! Please use the dues/contribution form included in this mailing to let us know your wishes.

## Update on Coach 256 ~ Comments are welcomed

In 1999 RGS Coach 256 was purchased by the GGHS. At that time, the Society's plan was to restore the Coach back to its original configuration for static display and place the coach in a location near the GGHS depot as an adjunct to the museum.

For the last 12 years GGHS boards have taken up the project for discussion at various times especially when preservation maintenance was done, and when the Coach was relocated to Val Truelson's property for safe keeping a few years back.

As with most non-profit

organizations, the GGHS is in need of volunteers, and so a lack of enough persons to take on the project has been the principal road block to restoration which begins with writing for grants and forming a comprehensive work plan.

Last winter The Board of Directors formed Coach #256 committee which is taking up the work of formulating the necessary steps to restore the coach to a condition suitable for static display which is estimated to exceed \$50,000. Or alternatively, to make recommendations in the event restoration does not begin in a reasonable length

of time. The number one goal of the Board is to see the Coach preserved long into the future. After all, Coach #256 is now 134 years old.

While all this gets sorted out the Society is not taking new donations to the Coach fund. For more background information on Coach #256 please visit the Galloping Goose Historical Society's web site at [www.gallopinggoose5.com](http://www.gallopinggoose5.com).

Comments regarding this project may be sent to the Galloping Goose Historical Society at P.O. Box 297, Dolores, CO 81323. Or use email. Thank you.

## Each September Elections of Officers at the Annual Meeting

A portion of the Annual Meeting is to elect board members for those whose terms are expiring. Board members serve a three-year term, with the President and Vice-President each serving one year terms.

Thus Lew Matis

President, and Bill White Vice-President, along with three board members are up for re-election: Jerry McKenzie, Ed Latham and Marie Richmond. If you are interested in serving as a board member for the GGHS you must be a

member in good standing, able to attend monthly board meetings and be actively engaged in the Society. To find out more about serving as a board member please call the office at 882-7082 and speak with Denise or shoot an email.

## Special Location for the Annual Meeting Saturday, September 13

All members, their families and guests are invited to the GGHS Annual Meeting the first Saturday in September.

This year the meeting is hosted by Jeanne and Joe Becker at their home in Dolores.

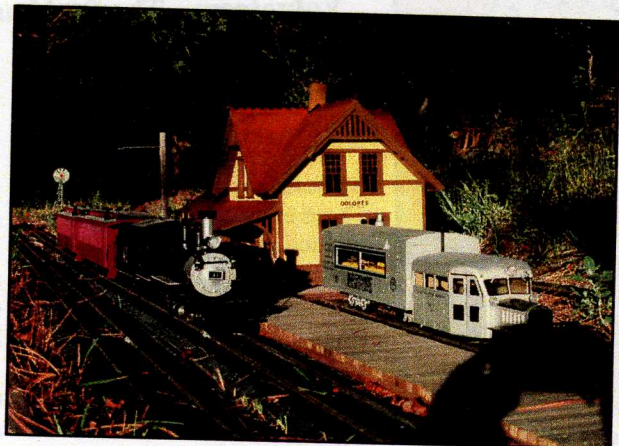
A special treat is in store for all who come; Joe has built a 500 foot depiction of Dolores and Ophir.

The Dolores depot on the *Sunset and Southwestern Railroad* is an accurate 1:20.3 scale model of the original RGS depot.

The Society will provide hamburgers and hotdogs, condiments, drinks

and utensils. Members are asked to bring a side dish of any kind. **RSVP by calling**

**or send a note by email with the number of people in your party.**



Joe Becker's Garden Lay-out of the Dolores Depot. Pictured are Coach #256, Engine #41, and Galloping Goose #5.

# 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!**

**GRAND TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

Credit Card type (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

# \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

Order Date \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

Check or Cash (circle) Check Number \_\_\_\_\_

Date Rcvd. \_\_\_\_\_

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

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**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

GGHS General Operating Fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Museum Display Fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Motor No. 5 maintenance \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Donations:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**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

## **TRACK N' FEATHERS**, the newsletter of the GGHS in now available by Email

The GGHS is moving to an email newsletter. The high costs of supplies, printing and postage are requiring more of the budget every year. It makes sense for us to save money where possible.

**However**, we are happy to send a hard copy by mail to any member who does not have access to a computer.

With the next issue of Track N' Feathers the office will begin emailing the newsletter. **By the Spring of 2015 all paper copies will be stopped except for those members who have specifically asked to continue to receive their issue by mail.**

**Please** take a moment and email Denise at the GGHS at [gghs5@Centurytel.net](mailto:gghs5@Centurytel.net) and provide the following information:

- **Your first and last name**
- **Your email address**
- **On the subject line of your email put "Track & Feathers."**

**Alternatively**, you may return this form to us and request to continue to receive your copy of Track N' Feathers by mail.

**I would like to continue to receive my copy of Track N' Feathers by mail**

**Please Check**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ *Print* Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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*There's more on the back ~ please turn over*

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## GGHS IS SEEKING NEW VOLUNTEERS

The GGHS is making a concerted effort to recruit additional volunteers. We are looking for members, both locally and from our larger membership base. The help we are seeking includes, but is not limited to:

- assisting with museum work
- assisting with office and computer work
- assisting with shop and building maintenance
- assisting with grant writing and newsletters

**Most immediately**, we need to line up local volunteers to work in the museum/gift shop for the 2014 summer season. Volunteers serve a four hour shift 9:00 am to 1:00 pm or 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm one day a week (Mon.- Sat.), greeting visitors, sharing knowledge about the RGS and the Galloping Geese, and selling merchandise in the gift shop. We will provide historical information about the RGS and the Geese and training about gift shop operations prior to the Museum's opening in mid-May. (See page 4).

Also, we are seeking local individuals (by locally, we mean anyone willing to drive to Dolores on a regular basis!) who are interested in the maintenance and operation of Goose No. 5. These positions require basic mechanical knowledge of older gasoline powered vehicles and the physical ability to perform all duties when No. 5 is operating on a host railroad. Local volunteers are preferred because they can receive hands-on training with No. 5 and can participate in maintenance work sessions here in Dolores.

If you are interested in any of the above, please contact Denise Bowyer, Volunteer Coordinator, or Lew Matis, President, at the Rio Grande Southern Museum, 421 Railroad Ave., Dolores, CO 81323, or by phone at 970-882-7082, by mail at Box 297, Dolores, CO 81323, or by email at [gghs5@centurytel.net](mailto:gghs5@centurytel.net). Our winter hours are 10:00 am to 2:00 pm, Tuesday and Thursdays, so it may be a few days before we get back in touch.

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