

North America: Steam and Tourist Railway News • May – 14. June, 2021

14. June, 2021

Tourist Railways and Museums Featuring Operating Steam Locomotives

Maine

Alna, Maine

29. April, 2021: Joe Fusco uploaded to YouTube a fine video depicting steam operations at the WW&F:

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pe0kdzjvEC8&t=185s>

Wiscasset, Waterville and Farmington Railway Museum: <https://www.wwfry.org/>

New York

Columbia, New York

05. May, 2021: In Columbia, New York the "Lackawanna Trail Park" is restoring a portion of the former Delaware, Lackawanna & Western Railroad right-of-way, primarily as a walking trail. A short distance of railway track is also being reinstated on which a tourist train is planned to operate. Power for the train is Edaville 6, an 0-4-0T, 600-millimeter gauge locomotive built by Henschel in 1936. At least for the time being, this locomotive is being operated on compressed air, not steam.

- Edaville 6, 0-4-0T (Henschel / Kassel 23036 / 1936), 600-millimeter gauge, "Weimar"

YouTube video (poor) of Edaville 6 operating using compressed air (and, presumably, with a small fire in the firebox, but without water in the boiler!): https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h7yj1ABT_Us

Utica, Chenango and Susquehanna Valley Railroad: <https://ucsvroute.com/>

UC&SV Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/UCSV-Route-148181511884263/>

Pennsylvania

Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania

23. May, 2021: On the weekend of 22. – 23. May, 2021, Pennsylvania Railroad 643 was steamed. Additional 2021 steam-up dates are planned. For additional details, please visit the Williams Grove Historical Steam Engine Association website.

- Pennsylvania 643, 0-6-0 (Pennsylvania Juniata Shop, Altoona, Pennsylvania 2184 / 1901)

Williams Grove Historical Steam Engine Association: <https://www.wghsea.org/>

Strasburg, Pennsylvania

12. May, 2021: Offered as part of Strasburg's Regular Daily Steam Train service, N&W 611 will be the motive power for the day's main train on select days. N&W 611 will pull 45-minute excursion rides to Paradise, Pennsylvania on the following days:

July 2 – 4; July 10 – 11; July 17 – 18; July 24 – 25; August 20 – 22; August 27 – 29; September 4 – 5; September 24 – 26; October 2 – 3.

Reservations and face masks are required. <http://ow.ly/X5Rd50EKjJa>

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- Norfolk & Western 611, 4-8-4 (N&W Roanoke Shops 388 / 1950), N&W class J

Strasburg Rail Road: <https://www.strasburgrailroad.com/>

Maryland

Cumberland, Maryland

28. May, 2021: The Cumberland Times-News reported that diesel-powered tourist trains on Western Maryland Scenic Railroad (WMSR) will begin operating on 29. May, 2021. Repairs to WMSR 1309 remain incomplete, awaiting new castings to be delivered by a foundry.

- Western Maryland Scenic Railroad 1309, 2-6-6-2 (BLW 74278 / 1949), ex-Chesapeake & Ohio 1309, nominally serviceable

Western Maryland Scenic Railroad: <https://wmsr.com/>

Walkersville, Maryland

Over the weekend of 22. – 23. May, 2021, former Jeddo Coal Company 85, 0-4-0ST, “Mack,” powered passenger excursions on the Walkersville Southern Railroad. “Mack” is a standard gauge, coal burning, locomotive owned and restored by Gramling Locomotive Works, Ashley, Indiana. The locomotive was built in 1928 by the Vulcan Iron Works for the A.E. Dick Construction Co. of Scranton, Pennsylvania who used it in their stone quarry until 1933 when they sold it to the Jeddo–Highland Coal Company located near Hazelton, Pennsylvania. Following a few more owners the Grambling Locomotive Works eventually acquired the engine. The Walkersville Southern Railroad is a heritage railroad headquartered in Walkersville, Maryland. The 6.72-mile line runs over trackage originally built by the Frederick and Pennsylvania Line Railroad in 1872 and was leased to the Pennsylvania Railroad. – Alex Mayes

- Jeddo Coal Co. 85, 0-4-0ST (Vulcan Iron Works, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania 3885 / 1928)



Above: Jeddo Coal Company 85 is depicted crossing the Monocacy River. 22. May, 2021. Image: Alex Mayes.

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West Virginia

Cass, West Virginia

Cass Scenic Railroad is planning its “Parade of Steam,” for Saturday, 19. June, 2021. During this event Cass plans to have five (5) locomotives in steam:

- Cass Scenic Railroad 2, 3-truck Shay (Lima 3320 / 1928)
- Cass Scenic Railroad 4, 3-truck Shay (Lima 3189 / 1922), ex-Mower Lumber Company
- Cass Scenic Railroad 5, 3-truck Shay (Lima 1503 / 1903), originally Greenbrier & Elk River Railroad
- Cass Scenic Railroad 9, 3-truck Climax (Climax 1551 / 1919)
- Cass Scenic Railroad 11, 3-truck Shay (Lima 3221 / 1923), ex-Feather River Railway 3

This event is free.

Cass Scenic Railroad Parade of Steam: <https://mountainrailwv.com/tour/paradeofsteam/>

Durbin, West Virginia

Tickets for this year's Rail Heritage Photography Weekend are now on sale.

Join the Durbin & Greenbrier Valley Railroad's Cass Scenic Railroad for the 2021 Rail Heritage Weekend in West Virginia. Heritage Weekend returns on 05. – 07. November, 2021 for an unforgettable three-day railroad photography event.

This year's 3-day Rail Heritage Photography Weekend will feature Shay, Climax and Heisler locomotives pulling vintage freight trains throughout the weekend. Attendees will have the opportunity to capture photos and video recordings from remote, scenic locations along the Cass Scenic Railroad and Greenbrier River lines. Night photography session included.

This event is limited to 55 attendees and is priced at \$450.

Tickets are available at the following link:

https://fareharbor.com/embeds/book/mountainrailwv/items/279800/availability/660500625/book/?fbclid=IwAR2VLB8sRuALtZjEHmmLNco_URktlxC1w3_1qjNtznrXH2LvjrEENe4KJQ

Ohio

Mount Vernon, Ohio

01. May, 2021: American Steam Railroad posted on YouTube a new video documenting firebox repairs:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=INIT3r0WnVw>

- Reading 2100, 4-8-4 (Reading Company Shops [no builder's number] / 1945), Reading class T-1. This locomotive was extensively rebuilt from Reading 2020, 2-8-0 (BLW [builder's number unknown] / 1925), Reading class I-10sa

American Steam Railroad: <https://www.americansteamrailroad.org/>

Sugarcreek, Ohio

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04. May, 2021: McCloud River Railroad 19 was undergoing a required, thorough, Federal Railroad Administration 1,472-day / 15-year inspection and rebuild at Age of Steam Roundhouse's back shop in Sugarcreek, Ohio. Among many other repairs, the firebox received corner patches, side sheets and syphons, the boiler received a set of 5-1/2" flues and 2" tubes, while the rods and valve gear got all-new bushings and bearings. All eight driving wheels were dropped out for re-truing and flange profiling, the trailing truck was completely rebuilt as were the tender trucks. Some existing repairs were 100 years old. Source: Age of Steam Roundhouse Facebook page

- Mc Cloud River Railroad 19, 2-8-2 (BLW 42000 / 1915)

Age of Steam Roundhouse: <https://www.ageofsteamroundhouse.org/>

Florida

Clewiston, Florida

28. May, 2021: Several Florida newspapers and the North Florida Chapter, NRHS reported that US Sugar, owner and operator of US Sugar 148, has offered to acquire and restore to operating condition Atlantic Coast Line 1504, 4-6-2. This locomotive has, for many years, been on display at the Prime F. Osborn III Convention Center, Jacksonville, Florida.

- Atlantic Coast Line 1504, 4-6-2 (Alco Richmond 59314 / 1919), ACL class P-5-A
- US Sugar 148, 4-6-2 (ALCO / Richmond 61769 / 1920), ex-Florida East Coast 148

US Sugar / Sugar Express: <http://sugarexpress.com/>

Arkansas

Paris, Arkansas

18. May, 2021: A local group hopes to cosmetically restore Missouri Pacific 2522.

- Missouri Pacific 2522, 4-6-0 (Cooke Locomotive & Machine Works 2408 / 1898)

Fort Smith Times Record: <https://www.swtimes.com/story/news/2021/05/18/paris-coal-miners-museum-group-works-restore-historic-steam-train/4971727001/>

Paris-Logan County Coal Miners Memorial & Museum: <https://www.parisarkansas.com/coal-miners-memorial/museum>

Minnesota

On 02. & 03. October, 2021 Friends of 261 plan to operate Milwaukee Road 261 powering the "Gourmet Express," a special train which will feature dinner and drinks. The train will operate out of Minneapolis, Minnesota over the Twin Cities & Western Railroad, former Milwaukee Road trackage.

- Milwaukee Road 261, 4-8-4 (ALCO / Schenectady 71974 / 1944) Milwaukee Road class S-3

Railroading Heritage of Midwest America (RHMA) (formerly "Friends of the 261"): <https://261.com/>

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Iowa

On 21. August, 2021, Iowa Interstate Railroad plan to operate IAIS 6988 as a fundraiser for the Oxford, Iowa Fire Department. Four (4) trips are planned out of Oxford, Iowa.

- IAIS 6988, 2-10-2 (Datong Locomotive Works, China ? / 1985), China class QJ

Tickets (via Oxford Fire Department): <https://oxfordfire.wixsite.com/oxfordtrainride/event-info/oxford-fire-department-train-ride-on-saturday-august-21-2021>

Iowa Interstate Railroad: <https://iaisrr.com/>

Colorado

Antonito, Colorado

13. May, 2021: C&TS 489 is nearing completion for the season coming out of a full 1472, new smokebox, tender mechanical rebuild, oil conversion, and high performance paint work.

20. May, 2021: First fire on DRGW 489 after its 1472, new smokebox and oil firing conversion.

- Cumbres & Toltec 489, 2-8-2 (BLW 58590 / 1929), D&RGW class K-36, now oil-fired

Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad: <https://cumbrestoltec.com/>

Durango, Colorado

23. May, 2021: On Saturday, 22. May, 2021, the first train since 2019 arrived in Silverton, Colorado. During 2020, both COVID-19 capacity limitations and the wash-out of a bridge near Silverton made train trips into Silverton first impractical then impossible. Southern Pacific 18 and Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge 493 powered the train which arrived in Silverton on 22. May, 2021.

- Southern Pacific 18, 4-6-0 (BLW 37395 / 1911), SP class NG-6, 3-foot gauge, oil-burner
- D&SNG 493, 2-8-2 (BLW 20550 / 1902, rebuilt by D&RGW in 1928), D&RGW class K-37, 3-foot gauge (originally standard gauge), now an oil-burner

20. May, 2021: In Skagway, Alaska, two additional ex-White Pass & Yukon diesel locomotives were loaded on a barge destined for eventual delivery to the Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad, Durango, Colorado:

- White Pass & Yukon 103, DL535E (Montreal Locomotive Works 6023-03 / 1969)
- White Pass & Yukon 106, DL535E (Montreal Locomotive Works 6023-06 / 1969)

Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad: <https://www.durangotrain.com/>

Wyoming

Cheyenne, Wyoming

14. June, 2021: At their corporate website, Union Pacific Railroad released the preliminary 2021 itinerary for UP 4014, "Big Boy." UP 4014 will depart Cheyenne, Wyoming on Thursday, 05. August, 2021, initially traveling east through Nebraska toward Kansas City:

- Union Pacific 4014, 4-8-8-4 (ALCO Schenectady 69585 / 1941), "Big Boy"



Above: The route of the 2021 UP 4014 tour. Source: Union Pacific Railroad.

UP 4014, "Big Boy" will be on display at the following locations:

- Saturday, August 14, 2021: Fort Worth, Texas
- Tuesday, August 17, 2021: Houston, Texas
- Saturday, August 21, 2021: New Orleans, Louisiana
- Sunday, August 29, 2021: St. Louis, Missouri
- Monday, September 6, 2021: Denver, Colorado

Union Pacific Railroad Steam Schedule: <https://www.up.com/heritage/steam/schedule/index.htm>

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California

Willits, California

A Steam Festival is scheduled for 11. & 12. September, 2021.

- Bluestone M&S Co. (Bluestone Mining & Smelting Company) 6, 2-truck Heisler (Heisler 1351 / 1916)
- Mason County Logging Co. 7, 2-6-2T (Baldwin #34666 / 1910). Privately owned.

Roots of Motive Power: <https://rootsofmotivepower.com/>

Alaska

Wasilla, Alaska

An updated report regarding progress in restoring Alaska Railroad 557 to service is available at the following link:

- Alaska Railroad 557, 2-8-0 (BLW 70480 / 1944)

Engine 557 Restoration Company: http://www.557.alaskarails.org/restore/progress-reports/2021_04/index.html

Canada

Prince George, British Columbia

05. May, 2021: At Lheidli T'enneh Memorial Park, in 2021, operators hope to return to service Fort George Railway 1. This locomotive was not operated in 2020 account precautions against the spread of COVID-19.

- Fort George Railway 1, 0-4-0 (Davenport Locomotive Works 1305-7 / 1912), 2-foot gauge, "Little Prince"

Lheidli T'enneh Memorial Park:

<https://www.princegeorge.ca/Things%20to%20Do/Pages/Parks%20Trails%20and%20Sports%20Fields/Our%20Parks/MajorParks.aspx>

Steam Charters

Historic Transport Preservation, Inc. are planning a series of steam charter events for Pennsylvania, USA for November, 2021.

Historic Transport Preservation: <https://steamspecials.com/>

Lerro Photography is planning a series of steam charter events in 2021 and 2022:

- late September, 2021: Colorado and New Mexico, USA
- March, 2022: California, USA
 - 26. -27. March, 2022: Railtown 1897 State Historic Park, Jamestown: Sierra Railroad 3

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- 28. March, 2022: Niles Canyon Railway, Sunol
- One additional event not yet detailed

Lerro Photography: <https://www.lerrophotography.com/photoshoots/railroad-photo-shoots/>

Trains Magazine is planning two charter events in southern Colorado:

- Antonito, Colorado: "Sunset on the Rio Grande Southern" (sold out)
- Durango, Colorado: (on 12. June, 2021, nine (9) tickets remain available for this event)

<quote>

Friends,

Just a brief invitation to join us for a mixed train on the Silverton using K37 No. 493 for two days and for part of the day on Friday, SP 18, two locomotives that many of us have not yet seen or photographed. The trip is timed to be right after Victorian Iron Horse Roundup and right before the long Labor Day weekend.

Here's the announcement and ticket link.

On Sept. 2 and 3, Trains Magazine will sponsor Extra 493, a two-day event on the Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad that will be the first photo freight charter for the K37 steam locomotive brought back to life in 2020. Visiting narrow gauge 4-6-0, Southern Pacific No. 18, also will make a guest appearance on the second day of the event.

The train will consist of four or five freight cars and two or three coaches and will stop frequently for photos at scenic locations in the Animas River canyon. For these two days only, locomotive No. 493 will be lettered Rio Grande, and the train will overnight in Silverton, where a night photo session will take place.

"We had planned to operate this special last year, but the pandemic made this impossible," says Trains Editor Jim Wrinn. "Fortunately, the Durango & Silverton was gracious in allowing us access this year. As a bonus, we can enjoy not one but two fine steam locomotives that are relatively new to the American railway preservation scene and thus have not been photographed or appreciated by many enthusiasts."

No. 493 was rebuilt in 1928 from a 1902 standard gauge locomotive as one of 10 engines in the K37 class. It was retired in 1968. It was rebuilt as an oil burner in 2020 and is one of only two of its class in operation, the other being No. 491 at Colorado Railroad Museum.

Southern Pacific No. 18, also known as the Slim Princess, was built in 1911 and operated on SP's narrow-gauge lines in the eastern California desert. It was retired in the 1950s and placed on display in Independence, Calif. It was restored in July 2017. This is its second stint on the D&S as extra power during the high tourist season.

Tickets are \$650 each, including lunch both days. Lodging is not included.

To the tickets:

Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/extra-493-with-sp-18-tickets-153554314087>

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Additionally, Trains has arranged a block of rooms at the Grand Imperial Hotel in Silverton for 02. September, 2021 at a 20% discount. Please make your own hotel arrangements soon as space is limited in Silverton. To arrange at Grand Imperial, call 970-387-5527. This is not available online.

Trains will create a souvenir DVD out of this amazing event and the previous week's Victorian Iron Horse Roundup at the Cumbres & Toltec Scenic. To order, [kalmbachhobbystore.com]

As always, you can reach me at editor@trainsmag.com

Thanks to all who signed up for RGS Sunset 20 / 455.

It will be a great week of fun, photos and friends.

Best,

Jim Wrinn

<unquote>

12. June, 2021: Trains Magazine will be announcing new broad gauge photo opportunities soon at trains.com and on the Trains FB page. These also will be listed at Eventbrite, where we do our ticketing:

- November, 2021: Wisconsin
- January, 2022: Florida

We've also got other winter and spring, 2022 fun in the planning. Jim Wrinn - Editor

Trains Magazine: <https://www.trains.com/>

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