

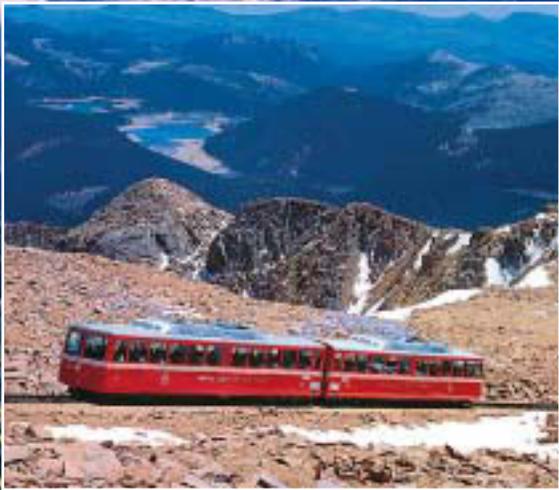
Crossties

MARCH/APRIL 2003

The Magazine For Producers And Users Of Treated Wood Crossties And Related Products.

ANNUAL TIE GRADING SEMINAR
REGISTRATION FORM
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Pike's Peak Or Bust!

2003 RTA Field Trip Participants Will Explore Colorado, Visit FAST

From Staff Reports

Over the years, one of the goals consistently expressed by many Railway Tie Association (RTA) members has been to go to Pueblo, Colo., and visit the Transportation Technology Center (TTCI). From May 31-June 4, this goal will become a reality as RTA annual field trip organizers say "Pike's Peak or bust!"

Over the course of several days, RTA committees will meet and then travel to a variety of sites as the most ambitious field trip in RTA history unfolds. All the action will be headquartered at the DoubleTree Hotel in Colorado Springs.

During the first two days, a number of RTA committees will take advantage of the opportunity that the annual field trip offers to conduct summer meetings. The Strategic Planning Committee will meet on May 31, and the Research and Development and Manufacturing, Safety, Resources and Statistics committees will

meet on June 1. Following these meetings, all RTA members are welcomed to attend the field trip.

Starting on June 2, this year's trip agenda includes a tour of the Transportation Technology Center in Pueblo, home of the FAST track testing for Heavy Axle Loads and the RTT test track for high-speed passenger rail vehicle research. There are also plans to visit Rocky Mountain Steel and Meridian Rail while in the Pueblo area.

On the second day of the field trip, June 3, attendees will travel to Denver to visit Koppers Inc.'s treating plant and the BNSF switching yard there. Additionally, a visit to the Colorado Railroad Museum, one of the finest railroad museums in the United States, is planned along with a special tour of another famous Golden, Colo., landmark, the Coors Brewery.

Finally, on June 4, an optional trip will follow as members take the Pike's Peak Cog Railway to the 14,100-foot summit of Pike's Peak. Along the way, as attendees take in the incredible sites of the Rocky Mountains, lunch will be served.

As in the past, this year's event will require a registration fee to cover ground transportation during the trip, entrance fees where required, and lunch at TTCI on June 2. This year's field trip fee is set at \$115. Attendees who opt for the June 4 trip on the Pike's Peak Cog Railway should add \$35. RTA will not provide transportation to this optional event; attendees will be responsible for their prompt arrival at the railway departure point some six miles from the DoubleTree Hotel.

Because of the agenda and location of this year's field trip, attendance is expected to be heavy. Yet space is limited due to tour group limitations at some of the sites that have invited RTA to visit. If you wish to attend, please make your reservations for the trip with DoubleTree Hotel and RTA today. *Please call 719-576-8900 for reservations now.* §

A G E N D A

Saturday, May 31
1 - 5 p.m.

RTA Strategic Planning Committee

Sunday, June 1
8:30 - noon
2 - 5 p.m.

RTA Research and Development Committee
RTA Manufacturing, Safety, Resources
and Statistics Committee

Monday, June 2
7 a.m.
8 a.m.
8:15 a.m.
11:45 a.m.
12:45 p.m.
1:30 p.m.
5:45 p.m.

Depart hotel
Arrive TTCI in Pueblo
Tour TTCI, FAST/HAL, RTT
Lunch at TTCI
Depart TTCI
Rocky Mountain Steel/Meridian Rail (choose one)
Arrive hotel

Tuesday, June 3

7 a.m. Depart hotel
8:30 a.m. Arrive and tour Koppers' Denver facility
10:00 a.m. Arrive and tour BNSF switching yard
11:45 a.m. Lunch
1:30 p.m. Tour of Coors Brewery
3:00 p.m. Tour Colorado Railroad Museum

Wednesday, June 4

Optional trip on the Pike's Peak Cog Railway.

Field Trip Notification

YES, I will attend RTA's Annual Field Trip to the Colorado Springs/Pike's Peak area. My check or money order is enclosed. *(Credit cards not accepted.)*

Name: _____ Co. Name: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

E-mail: _____

Field Trip Activities Designed To Inform, Delight

By Kristen McIntosh

This summer, attendees of RTA's annual field trip will venture out west to the Colorado Springs area, where numerous activities and tours are planned to inform and delight.

On Monday, June 2, attendees will visit the Association of American Railroads' Transportation Technology Center Inc. (TTCI) in Pueblo. TTCI is a world leader in railroad and transit research and offers 48 miles of railroad track to

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test rolling stock, track components, signal and safety devices, track structure, vehicle performance, track and service worthiness, lifecycle and component reliability, and ride comfort. For more information, visit www.aar.org/ttci.

Attendees may also choose to visit Rocky Mountain Steel Mills or Meridian Rail Corp. Track Division. Rocky Mountain Steel Mills is a division of Oregon Steel Mills and was the first steel mill built west of the Mississippi River. Today, the mill has narrowed its product focus and become a specialty product mini-mill seeking to service a select group of customers. For more information, visit www.oregonsteel.com.

Meridian Rail Corporation's Track Division in Pueblo produces high-precision products to meet the needs of today's rail systems. For more information, visit www.meridianrail.com.

On Tuesday, June 3, attendees will visit Koppers' Denver wood preserving plant and the adjacent Burlington Northern Santa Fe switching yard. The group will also visit the Colorado Railroad Museum

and Coors Brewery in Golden.

Koppers' 60-acre site has been used for the treatment and preservation of wood products, such as railroad ties, since 1926. It is located in Adam's County, just north of Denver. Current wood treating operations include telephone poles, railroad ties and dimensional lumber using creosote and chromated copper arsenate. For more information, visit www.koppers.com.

The group will also visit the Colorado Railroad Museum, which is located at the foot of North Table Mountain near Golden.

The museum is recognized as one of the best privately supported rail museums in the United States and features more than 70 historic narrow and standard gauge locomotives and cars exhibited on 15 acres of land. The museum was established in 1959. For more information, visit www.crrm.org.

A tour of the Coors Brewery in Golden will take the group to visit the brewing operations of the nation's third largest brewer. The brewery tour will reveal Coors' unique brewing process from malting and brewing to packaging. For more information, visit www.coors.com.

On Wednesday, attendees will be able to participate in the optional trip to Pike's Peak aboard the historic Manitou & Pike's Peak Railway. A cog railway, the Manitou & Pike's Peak Railway uses a gear—or cog wheel—that meshes into a special rack rail to climb much steeper grades than those possible using a standard adhesion railroad. The railway was founded by Zalmon Simmons, inventor and founder of the Simmons Beauty Rest Mattress Company, as a means of more quickly transporting visitors to Pike's Peak.

Those who choose to take the trip aboard the Manitou & Pike's Peak Railway should note that, in general, the top of the peak is 30 degrees colder than at the station in Manitou and that altitude sickness is a concern, with symptoms including nausea, dizziness and headaches. Those who are pregnant or have cardiac or respiratory problems should consult their physician before making the ascent. The railway's website advises that getting plenty of rest the night before, avoiding alcoholic beverages and drinking plenty of water on the day of the trip may minimize symptoms. For more information, visit www.cograilway.com. §



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