



WESTERN MARYLAND CHAPTER
National Railway Historical Society



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Video shows four steam train trips in Colorado

CUMBERLAND, Md. - A video program featuring four steam trains operating amid the scenic Rocky Mountains of Colorado will be shown during the monthly meeting of the Western Maryland Chapter, National Railway Historical Society. The meeting will be held at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, September 19, in the grand hall on the second floor of the Allegany Museum on the corner of Pershing and South Mechanic streets. Enter the building through the south entrance facing the parking lot, then take the elevator to the second floor. This meeting is open to the public.

The 45-minute video program begins at the Colorado Railroad Museum in Golden where travel along a narrow gauge mountain railroad powered by the 2-8-0 D&RGW 846 steam engine that once operated on the famous Denver & Rio Grande Western Railroad. On the Georgetown Loop Railroad, a Shay geared steam engine powers a tourist train operating between the Colorado communities of Georgetown and Silver Plume a 4.5-mile long track ascends a 4 percent grade through mountainous terrain, going under, over and round a 96-foot high steel trestle bridge, which was considered to be an engineering marvel in 1884. The Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad, built in 1880 as part of the Rio Grande Railroad extension into the silver mining district of the San Juan Mountains, operates on a 64-mile long route between Chama, New Mexico, and Antonito, Colorado. C&TS 487 and 489 steam locomotives carry the passenger train over the 10,015-foot high Cumbres Pass, the highest point reached by rail in the United States. The video program concludes with a trip on the Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad that operates on 45 miles of track between Durango and Silverton in southwestern Colorado.

The Western Maryland Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society is a non-profit organization chartered in 1977 to promote the appreciation of rail transportation and its heritage. Members meet on the third Wednesday of each month, and receive a monthly newsletter containing information about chapter activities, current railroad news, and local railroad history. Anyone interested in railroads is invited to attend the meetings.