

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE RED RIVER VALLEY RAILROAD HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

Web Site: WWW.RRVVHS.ORG On Facebook: [Shreveport Railroad Museum](https://www.facebook.com/ShreveportRailroadMuseum)
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January, 2019

SHREVEPORT, LA

Our 38th Year

The Big Boy Is Coming !



Twenty-five of the largest steam locomotives in the world, aptly called “Big Boys”, were built exclusively for Union Pacific Railroad, the first of which was delivered in 1941. The locomotives were 132 feet long and weighed 1.2 million pounds. Because of their great length, the frames of the Big Boys were "hinged," or articulated, to allow them to negotiate curves. They had a 4-8-8-4 wheel arrangement, which meant they had four wheels on the leading set of "pilot" wheels which guided the engine, eight drivers, another set of eight drivers, and four wheels following which supported the rear of the locomotive. The massive engines normally operated between Ogden, Utah, and Cheyenne, Wyo.

There are seven Big Boys on public display in various cities around the country. They can be found in St. Louis, Missouri; Frisco, Texas; Omaha, Nebraska; Denver, Colorado; Scranton, Pennsylvania; Green Bay, Wisconsin; and Cheyenne, Wyoming.

Big Boy No. 4014 was delivered to Union Pacific in December 1941. The locomotive was retired in December 1961, having traveled 1,031,205 miles in its 20 years in service. Union Pacific reacquired No. 4014 from the RailGiants Museum in Pomona, California, in 2013, and relocated it back to Cheyenne to begin a multi-year restoration process.

During World War II, Union Pacific operated some of the most modern and powerful steam locomotives ever built. Among them were the famous "Big Boys," the slightly smaller "Challenger" freight engines and the "800-class" high-speed passenger locomotives, as well as hundreds of older class steam engines. Union Pacific's steam legacy continues today with the preservation and operation of its historic fleet – No. 844, No. 4014 and No. 3985.

Union Pacific has promised that Big Boy 4-8-8-4 No. 4014 will be in Ogden, Utah, in May 2019 in celebration of the sesquicentennial of the first transcontinental railroad. The restored Big Boy as well as 4-8-4 No. 844 will travel from Cheyenne, WY to Ogden for the celebration. The engines will re-enact the scene made famous by the two American-type locomotives, the Central Pacific Jupiter and UP 119 on May 10, 1869 at Promontory Summit. Ogden is the closest UP point to Promontory, where the railroad was abandoned during World War II.

Part of the restoration includes converting the locomotive's engine into an oil burner, changing its fuel from coal to no. 5 oil. This process will include replacing the coal burning grates with a fire pan and using an Oil Burner to "flow and atomize the fuel oil into a fine mist". This mist will mix with combustion air, resulting in a fireball that will generate power for the steam engine.

The journey between the steam shop in Cheyenne and Ogden will take several days in order to give the public plenty of opportunities to see the locomotive. Of the 25 Big Boy locomotives built in the 1940s, only eight survive, and none has run since 1959. According to UP, No. 4014 will be seen in other locations on the UP in 2019 – "virtually all over the system."

Update — from *Trains Magazine* Dec. 13, 2018



CHEYENNE, Wyo. — *Big Boy 4-8-8-4 No. 4014 is feeling like at least half of its old self today. Photos published on Facebook news groups showed Union Pacific steam shop crews on Tuesday lifting the smokebox and boiler with side boom tractors and sliding the rebuilt front engine (the 4-8 in 4-8-8-4) under the boiler. The photos also show what appears to be an almost completed boiler with only the steam dome cover and smokebox inspection hatches missing and a complete backhead with valves, piping, water glasses, and other controls.*

Wheeling (installing the front set of wheels) the locomotive is another major step forward in the restoration of the massive 1941 locomotive that is set to run in May as part of the celebration of the 150th anniversary of the transcontinental railroad completion. UP says it plans to send both No. 4014 and 4-8-4 No. 844 to Ogden, Utah, for the celebration. No Big Boy locomotive has run under its own power since 1959, and its restoration is unprecedented in the annals of American steam locomotive preservation.

Meanwhile, a notice published in the federal register Thursday shows that UP has asked the Federal Railroad Administration for waivers on Positive Train Control compliance for steam locomotives Nos. 844, 4014, and Challenger 4-6-6-4 No. 3985, which is stored out of service in Cheyenne. Says the filing: "UP states these units are specifically designated and utilized on an extremely limited number of excursion trips annually. Excursions utilizing this equipment historically and continually involve the highest level of preparation in planning and operational safety during operation, giving special designation to each move. No less than two operators are present at any given time ensuring continual functional safety awareness during operational moves. UP explains they have been operating steam powered excursions without PTC-initiated application and have found no adverse mechanical effect on operational safety."

For up to date information, see www.up.com/heritage/steam/

Oakes Donation

Last November (2018), we received a generous donation of railroad material from Patricia and Gene Oakes. The material was collected by Gene's father, Guy Oakes, Jr. (1923 – 1992) and consisted of photographs, books, timetables, rule books, dispatcher sheets, magazines, HO scale models and model kits, etc. All 40 boxes have been inventoried and are stored for future use and for reference purposes. We really appreciate the generosity of the Oakes family!

Upcoming Events

January 18 – RRVRHS Meeting –7:00 p.m. at the Shreveport Water Works Museum – 142 N. Common St. - Call (318) 797-8008 for information. The agenda includes election of 2019 Officers and the showing of more O. Winston Link images.

January 19-20 – Plano, Texas Train Show - www.dfwtrainshows.com

February 1 - First Friday Railroad Photography Meeting – 7:30 p.m. at the Shreveport Water Works Museum - 142 N. Common St. – Call (318) 797-8008 for information.

February 16 – Greater Houston Train Show, Stafford, TX – www.sanjacmodeltrains.org

It's Really Time To Pay Your 2019 Dues!

Please send a check or money order for \$20.00 with this membership form to Bill Hasheider at 6813 Despot Road, Shreveport, LA 71108

Name _____ Email _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Red River Valley Railroad Historical Society
3012 Nottingham Drive
Shreveport, LA 71115

Next Meeting January 18