



Klondike Kate backing into the Como Roundhouse on September 2, 2017.  
– Photo © 2017 John Meixel.

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## **Steam Returns To Como With Support from the Foundation**

By Tim Bain – South Park Rail Society Vice President

The year has gone by quickly and is nearly behind us. It was a year of interesting developments for rail preservation in Colorado. We saw 2-8-0 #111 return to steam on the Georgetown Loop, RGS 455 cresting Lizard Head Pass (or was it Cumbres Pass in disguise) and the return of old #40 to Silver Plume, just to name a few.

Arguably one of the more unexpected things to happen this year was the return of a steam locomotive to the old Colorado & Southern railway town of Como over in Park County near Fairplay.

Como has not seen a train since the C&S removed the old narrow gauge tracks nearly 80 years ago. However August 19, 2018 marked the “Return of Steam to Como” when ex-Klondike Mines Railway #4 was steamed up and operated to the delight of nearly 900 visitors to Como for the 22nd annual Boreas Pass Railroad Day celebrations.

The effort to return an operational steam locomotive to Como has been driven by the South Park Rail Society (SPRS) which has taken on the task of maintaining and restoring the old

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### **2018 Klondike Kate Como Operating Schedule**

May 26th & 27th – June 30th & July 1st – September 1st & 2nd  
August 18th & 19th – Boreas Pass Railroad Day is August 18th



## Steam Returns To Como

Denver, South Park & Pacific roundhouse and turntable in Como. This effort works in concert with the DSP&P Historical Society's preservation efforts in Como that has seen the restoration of the 1879 depot and the development of a museum in the old station.

Last spring there was a strong push to have Ex-KMRy #4 in Como and under steam for 2017. Currently the relayed track only runs between the depot and the roundhouse so the locomotive doesn't have much track to run on at the moment. The SPRS thought that an operating locomotive would help to draw attention to the ongoing restoration work in Como and the development of a railway museum complex focused on the rail history of Park County and the DSP&P/C&S. Thanks in part to the financial help of the Rocky Mountain Railroad Historical Foundation, the 2-6-2 that rolled out of the Baldwin plant in 1912 has now become a permanent fixture in Como.

It would be wrong to say the restoration of KMRy #4 is complete. While #4 did operate last August and September, there are still a lot of smaller repairs that need to be completed. Over this winter the shop crew will be busy addressing some of the steam leaks that were evident in August as well as servicing the blow down valve, the cylinder cocks and the leaking valve chests. Work is also currently under way on the mechanical lubricator, the air pump and the feed valves. Also on the winter work list is the installation a brake pipe to the front of the locomotive and the fabrication of the front coupler, cut lever and coupler



In addition to Klondike Kate activities, the Como Depot restoration and museum development continues.  
- Photo © 2017 Bruce Nall.

pocket. Then to top it all off, the crew will also be working to finish up the locomotive cab.

As you can see, there is still a lot of work to complete on KMRy #4. The SPRS is very grateful for the support shown by the Rocky Mountain Railroad Club's directors and members whose help has gotten us to this point.

The "Como Project" still has a number of things we would like to accomplish. So stay tuned for many more developments out of Park County, Colorado, in the future. For more information on the "Como Project" and the South Park Rail Society, please check their website located at [www.southparkrail.com](http://www.southparkrail.com)