



December 2025

VOL 33, No 9

President's Message

Submitted by Mike Pearl, President

The November members meeting featured Rich Luckin, owner of Golden-based Luckin Productions, a producer of many acclaimed railroad-centric documentary films. He screened *Steel Rails to Ski Trails – Colorado's Winter Park Ski Trains* for members. Throughout the Ski Train's history of operation, the train has maintained a vital connection to ski slopes for Denver-area residents. Without the train, many people would not have had the experience of enjoying a vital part of Colorado's outdoor tradition. Luckin also provided insightful background information about producing the documentary. 16 members and 2 guests attended the meeting. A link to the recording of the program is available on the Members Only page of the RMGA website.

Thanks to Steve Kaverman for arranging the program. Thanks to VISIT Aurora for allowing us to meet in their office conference room and use their equipment to show the video and to connect to Zoom. Kristin Sutter, Director of Events and Engagement for VISIT Aurora welcomed RMGA members.

I'm excited to note that several members have stepped up to organize programs for 2025-2026. In fact, the calendar is almost filled! This often wasn't the case during previous recent years. The programs will supplement your knowledge and provide you with insights that will increase your credibility when you lead your next tour. Our thanks to Charles Foster, Steve Kaverman, Tom Jensen, and Hans Kleinschmidt for "wrangling" some of these upcoming programs.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

President's Message	1,2
<u>From the Editor</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>Committee Updates</u>	<u>3-9</u>
<u>Organization Activities</u>	<u>10-12</u>
<u>NFTGA Activities</u>	<u>12</u>
<u>Colorado 150/250...</u>	<u>.....12</u>
<u>Members Meetings</u>	<u>...13</u>
<u>Purpose of RMGA</u>	<u>14</u>
<u>Officer and Chairpersons</u>	<u>14</u>

Have you missed previous programs or want to refresh your memory? Check out the Members Only page of the RMGA website to access video recordings or written descriptions of previous meetings and programs. Our thanks to Webmaster Tom Jensen for making them available to us members.

Are you craving a Familiarization Trip? I know I am. Why don't you start setting one up? Find some guidance [elsewhere](#) in this issue of the *Guide Line*.

As a civic organization, RMGA is owned and operated by its members. It is truly a democratic organization and relies on its members to give it relevance and life. RMGA will continue to serve tour guide professionals only if current members engage in organizational activities. Seriously consider taking on one of the **Leadership and Volunteer Opportunities** available in the Association. They are [listed](#) elsewhere in this issue. I am tremendously grateful for the members who volunteer to take on Board positions and or Committee Chair positions.

FROM THE EDITOR

Deadline for submissions for the January *Guide Line* is Tuesday, December 30, 2025. Future contributions should be emailed to *Guide Line* editor Eileen Pearl at rmgaeditor@rockymountaintourguides.com. If anyone has photos to share, please send them along with either a short description and/or names.

PEACE ON EARTH



COMMITTEE UPDATES

Communications Committee

Submitted by Tom Jensen

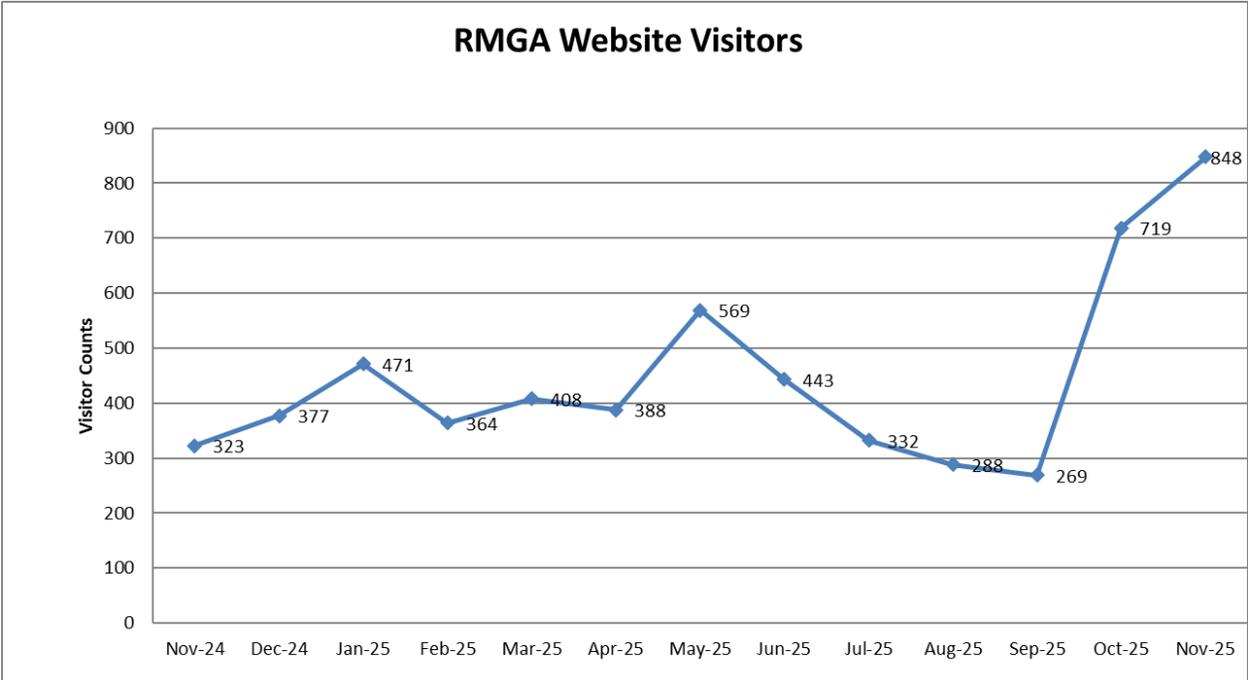
What's New on the Website?

These updates have been made to the website since the last report:

- No updates were made in November

Monthly Visitors to the RMGA Website

Below is a year-to-date comparison of the number of visitors that viewed the RMGA Website. May and June are estimates.



Access to Members Only Page – On April 4th an e-mail was sent to current members with the new access code and instructions for the Members Only page. On this page you will discover archived copies of the Guide Line, Program and FAM triip reviews, and governing documents. If you are having difficulties accessing the page contact Tom Jensen at tom.jensen72@yahoo.com.

Profile Update – For instructions on creating or changing your Profile see the “Creating & Changing Your Profile” button on the Members Only page.

E-Mail Distribution:

The distribution of e-mails continues to be done on a temporary basis. If you are interested in sending out the e-mail blasts, contact Mike Pearl at rmgapresident@rockymountaintourguides.com.

If you are not receiving e-mails please contact Tom Jensen at rmgacomunicaations@rockymountaintourguides.com.

Education Committee

Submitted by Mike Pearl

Call for Familiarization (FAM) Tours. Did you come across an experience that all members should know about? Is there a venue, attraction, or place that you’d like to learn about? That’s a great excuse for a FAM trip. We haven’t had many since COVID and we’ve forgotten why and how to conduct them.

FAM trips usually occur over a 6-hour time (ideally, 9:00 am-3:00 pm) on a weekday. Members get an inside look at a venue or attraction (or two) during a morning session and an afternoon session and have lunch together in the middle. The event provides a great opportunity for members to sharpen their knowledge about places and to network with venue and attraction operators. (As well as each other.)

Organize a FAM Trip. Contact President [Mike Pearl](#) to get the ball rolling.

Membership Committee

Submitted by Mike Pearl, Membership Committee Chair

Membership Renewal season begins December 1, 2025, and ends January 31, 2025. Watch for renewal materials coming to your in box.

NFTGA Liability insurance for tour guides will be available for 2026. The rate is \$88.00 for the year.

The RMGA Board of Directors thanks you for your membership. The latest membership directory is posted on the Members Only page of the RMGA Website. Is your information correct?

RMGA welcomes new members! Do your part to improve and expand RMGA's knowledge base by increasing the number and diversity of our members. The best means is for each of us to make a personal connection with non-member tour guides.

Invite tour guides to RMGA's next meeting in-person or on Zoom. Send their contact information to Membership Committee Chair [Mike Pearl](#) so they can be included on the [Zoom Meeting Invitation](#).

Nominations Committee

Submitted by Mike Pearl, President
No submission this month.

Program Committee

Submitted by Adrian Swenson, Program Coordinator

WHAT: RMGA Member Meeting & Program

WHEN: December 10, 2025

WHERE: The Colorado Sightseer, 600 S Holly St Ste 200, Denver, CO 80246

Meet: 5:15 pm

Leave: 5:30 pm

Program – Denver Holiday Lights

PROGRAM: Denver is nicknamed the “Christmas City” or “Christmas Capitol of the World” due to its festive light displays, particularly the illuminated City and County Building, a tradition that began with a single decorated tree in 1914. The city hosts numerous holiday events, including the annual Denver Christkindlmarket, the Mile High Tree, the Parade of Lights, Blossoms of Light at the Botanic Gardens, and nightly drone shows. These events and attractions create a vibrant holiday atmosphere throughout the city.

We’ll view the holiday lights in the comfort of vans provided through the courtesy of Christin and Rich Grover, owners of the Colorado Sightseer. We’ll pause along the way for snacks and beverages (on your own). Dress warmly but add a touch of holiday attire (Does anyone have a hat with reindeer antlers?). Adrian Swenson is organizing our itinerary. Send him your suggestions for places to view.



Rich Lukin

2025-2026 Calendar of Programs

December 8: Holiday Mixer

January 12: 16th Street Reconstruction Project

February 9: America 250/ Colorado 150

March 9: Brush up on your Customer Service

April 13: Annual Meeting (Elections) – Summer Season Preview

May 11: Denver’s Union Station

October 12: TBA

November 9: TBA

Two program dates are available – October 12 and November 9. Contact [Mike Pearl](#) or [Hans Kleinschmidt](#) with your idea for that program. What can you do to put together a program? Because of our ZOOM account, programs can originate from any of our members’ locations in Colorado and New Mexico.

Public Relations Committee

Submitted by Tom Jensen, Public Relations Committee Chair

Charles Foster has provided the following update on the new World Trade Center. The Trade Center was the program at our May member program. Karen Gerwitz was the speaker.

Building construction begins at 41-acre Fox Park development in Denver's Globeville

By Justyna Tomtas – Reporter, Denver Business Journal
Jun 12, 2025

Story Highlights

- Fox Park development breaks ground on 41-acre mixed-use project in Denver.
- First phase includes underground parking garage and Fox Park Plaza.
- World Trade Center complex will feature hotel, offices, and entertainment venue.

The Fox Park development team, partner organizations and city leaders kicked off vertical construction Wednesday for the first phase of a 41-acre mixed-use development in the Globeville that's creating a new Denver neighborhood.

The first structure at Fox Park will be a two-story parking garage with 480 spaces, according to Jose Carredano, managing partner with Fox Park.



Image: Denver Business Journal

The underground parking garage will include two connections to future below-grade parking structures for the World Trade Center complex at Fox Park, which is planned to include a Virgin Hotel with about 250 rooms, office space and a 2,500-person entertainment venue, developers say. The parking garage will be topped with Fox Park Plaza, a project that is being designed in partnership with the Denver Botanic Gardens, which will help maintain the 14 acres of parks and plaza space planned at the site, Carredano told the Denver Business Journal.

A skid loader sits in the pit that will become the new parking garage during a groundbreaking ceremony at Fox Park on June 11, 2025, in Denver.

“[The Fox Park Plaza] will be a great opportunity to have live events, to have people just come and enjoy,” Carredano said.

“At the same time, it will be a point of gathering and entertainment for everybody that’s going to be living, working and playing here.”

The parking garage and plaza are expected to be complete in 12 to 18 months, Christopher Brick, the development manager for the Fox Park development team, told the Denver Business Journal. Once the parking garage is finished, the next phases of the project will start in 12-to-18-month increments, Brick said. That will include the theater, the around 130,000-square-foot Virgin Hotel, and URWLD, which will include indoor activities like surfing, scuba diving and ice climbing.

An adaptive reuse project aims to transform the former Denver Post building on site. The work will incorporate the history, portions of the structure and materials from the building into the project, Brick said. The building will receive a new entrance and a 12-story vertical expansion for offices, entertainment and a hotel, according to Saunders Construction's website, one of the project's general contractors.

On the easternmost edge of the site, there will be a 365-unit multifamily building, according to Brick.

Phase two will bring up to 550 multifamily units and more office space, which will be followed by phases with more residential buildings, office space and mixed-use development, creating a new neighborhood in Denver, according to Brick.

Full build-out of the site will likely take 10 years, but the first phases are expected to come online much sooner.

The World Trade Center in Denver, the namesake tenant, plans to move into its new space in 2027.



Karen Gerwitz, president and CEO of the World Trade Center Denver, said she envisions a place that will allow global business to thrive in the Mile High City by bringing in international investors, delegates and trade missions to one central location. “When we moved out of our downtown tower, we put out a mission to have a full campus-like environment, on transit, highly

Karen Gerwitz, President and CEO of the World Trade Center Denver, talks during a groundbreaking ceremony at Fox Park on June 11, 2025, in Denver.

visible with a hotel, housing, convening space and a conference center,” Gerwitz said. “I think all of the World Trade Centers around the world ... will be watching this project because it is on the same caliber as some of the largest global World Trade Centers around the world.”

The World Trade Center Denver will occupy a 5,000-square-foot space at Fox Park. It will also likely have some temporary office space that can be used for its incubator clients and visiting executives, Gerwitz said.

The vision to transform the 41-acre site into a mixed-use development has been in the works for years. The property was rezoned by the Denver City Council in 2018.

“To break ground on the first usable asset out here is really exciting, and hopefully, it’ll be a catalyst to start off a whole bunch of other projects,” said Justin Cooper, the president of Saunders Construction. The company took part in the environmental remediation process at the site, which was completed last year.

Other partners of the project said they were excited to see vertical construction launch at the site after years of planning. “What always attracted us to Fox Park is the size and assemblage and the control over the overall master plan,” said Lee Ferguson, the senior vice president of Trammell Crow, who oversees the company’s multifamily and mixed-use projects.

“Sometimes you’ll have a dynamic mixed-use neighborhood, but it’s brought together by separate, individual projects, so ...there’s a lack of connectivity to that.” Fox Park will serve as a catalyst for the neighborhood and will bring in long-needed elements into the community, Ferguson said.

The permit for the garage took four-and-a-half months to obtain from the city and county of Denver, a timeline that project leaders said highlights the city’s commitment to the project. “I truly believe this is an example of how we can be partners with the development community,” said Jill Jennings Golich, the director of the newly created Denver Permitting Office. “This is all helpful for our city and our cumulative success together.”

The project is one of the larger ones that Alliant Insurance has worked on as an insurance broker, said Chris Hudnall, vice president and producer for the company. “It’s going to completely revitalize the area,” Hudnall said. “I think it’s very innovative how they’re going to have all of the parking underground, and I think with the amount of open space that’s available here, it’s just going to be just a great place where you can come with an extended family and enjoy the entire day.”

Source: Denver Business Journal

https://www.bizjournals.com/denver/news/2025/06/12/fox-park-redevelopment-gloveville-denver-mixeduse.html?_gl=1*qq7bzn*_up*MQ..&gclid=CjwKCAjw9anCBhAWEiwAqBJ-c1uFnwDOn_GzZ-ti_i3Ja4io63yZQo48jQSvvR2QwYHFda5PIRZyxoCgw8QAvD_BwE

ORGANIZATION ACTIVITIES

Submitted by Mike Pearl, President

Rocky Mountain Guides Association represents professional tour guides in Colorado and the Rocky Mountain Region to tourism-related organizations. As vice president and president, Hans Kleinschmidt and I meet with other leaders of US tour guide associations and guilds through monthly Zoom meetings. We report to RMGA members the information from those meetings.

President Mike Pearl and Vice President Hans Kleinschmidt represent RMGA to

- National Federation of Tourist Guides Associations monthly leadership meetings, and
- Care for Colorado Partners quarterly meetings

Tom Jensen and the Public Relations Committee lead in keeping RMGA (and us professional tour guides) in the forefront of the minds of local tourism industry leaders. He is our liaison to VISIT Denver, the Colorado Tourism Organization, VISIT Colorado Springs, and Tour Colorado, among other such organizations. Do you know of a tourism organization with which RMGA should be affiliated? Contact Tom with information.

The RMGA Website and the RMGA Facebook Page are the digital faces of the organization. They are resources available for members to use to promote their own activities and develop business leads.

The *Guide Line* newsletter disseminates relevant information to members in nine monthly installments.

RMGA Email Blasts inform members of available job opportunities as well as time-sensitive information.

VISIT Denver “Go the EXTRA Mile” Training

Submitted by Mike Pearl, President

VISIT Denver’s Front Line Staff Training Program “**Go the EXTRA Mile**” has returned. Many members of RMGA have taken the training and have found it very valuable. The training program is free to RMGA members because of RMGA’s partnership with VISIT Denver.

What’s in Your Library?

Submitted by Mike Pearl, President

RMGA members wanting to form a book club, contact President Mike Pearl.

RMGA Facebook Page

Another way for members to communicate with each other is the RMGA Facebook page. Find it at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/RMGAssoc>. It’s a great place for members to post pictures and tidbits of information that we all can use.

RMGA *Guide Line*

The official way that RMGA as an organization communicates with members is by means of the newsletter, *Guide Line*, published September through May. Editor Eileen Pearl collects articles submitted by members for the benefit of professional tour guiding. In addition to RMGA members, the *Guide Line* is sent to the Colorado Tourism Organization (CTO), the National Federation of Tourist Guide Associations (NFTGA), and other tourism-promoting organizations. The newsletter is distributed by Tom Jensen, in his temporary role as transmitter of the RMGA email Blasts. Send your articles to [Eileen Pearl](#).

RMGA Leadership and Volunteer Opportunities

Members are encouraged to volunteer to lead these committees:

- Certification Committee Chair (Must have the RMGA Colorado Certification)
- Education Committee Chair
- Email Distribution Committee Chair
- Program Committee Chair

Contact any Board member with your interest.

Memorable Experiences on Tour

Please use the *Guide Line* to share some of your memorable experiences so that we can all learn. Email your submissions to the [Editor](#). You may also post to the RMGA Facebook [page](#).

Future Conferences & Meetings

Are you going? Send stories of your experiences to the [Editor](#). Post comments to the RMGA Facebook [page](#). This way, we can all learn.

World Federation of Tourist Guide Associations (WFTGA) Fukuoka, Japan, February 5-17, 2026. Registration opens in the spring. <https://wftga.org/activities/convention/2026-fukuoka-japan/>

National Federation of Tourist Guide Associations-USA (NFTGA-USA) Salt Lake City, Utah, January 13-15, 2027. Registration opens in 2026.

Are You Colo-Ready?

RMGA is a Stewardship Partner with the Care for Colorado Coalition. Check out the RMGA logo alongside other Stewardship Partners at <https://www.colorado.com/care-colorado-coalition>. Watch for this logo on the RMGA website and the *Guide Line*:



The Care for Colorado Coalition has joined with Do Colorado Right to amplify the message. RMGA has access to Care for Colorado assets such as stickers and flyers. Contact President [Mike Pearl](#) with your request for materials.

Promoting Guided Experiences December 2025

This month we are highlighting a specific strategy from the Destination Stewardship Strategic Plan and asking partners to join us in promoting guided experiences in their communities. Utilizing expert guides or guided adventures enriches visitor experiences by providing deep insights into the state's diverse landscapes and promoting responsible recreation. In addition,

hiring guides creates employment opportunities and significantly enhances visitor safety to hopefully decrease the number of annual emergency rescues.

Professional guides are trained to navigate challenging environments, manage risks, and ensure that visitors are well informed and prepared for their activities. Guides know the hidden gems that will offer a more authentic and enriching experience, especially when venturing into unfamiliar terrain. They can help with permits, transportation, provide recommendations for local cuisine and cultural experiences that visitors might miss otherwise.

(From the Care for Colorado *Monthly Messaging* newsletter, December 2025.) Click [here](#) to view the newsletter.

NFTGA Leadership Meetings

Submitted by Mike Pearl, President

National Federation of Tourist Guide Associations-USA

Submitted by Mike Pearl, President

RMGA is a member of the National Federation of Tourist Guides ([NFTGA-USA](#)), a collective of local tourist guides associations and guilds across the US. From time to time, RMGA Members receive notices from NFTGA via our email Blast system.

Under the leadership of president Jim Carr, NFTGA is providing educational programming from a national perspective to all local association members via monthly webinars. Watch your email for details and register for the December virtual event. If you are unable to attend the live stream, the recording will be available to watch for the following 30 days.

To see resources for tour guides, go to NFTGA's [Guide Resources](#).

Colorado 150/250

2026 marks Colorado's Sesquicentennial (150th) Anniversary. Check out <https://www.historycolorado.org/colorado-150> for more information. Also, take a look at <https://celebrate.colorado.gov/> to see how Coloradans are celebrating.

Are you a member of any group organizing for Sesquicentennial? Contact President [Mike Pearl](#).

Upcoming Meetings

Board of Directors Meetings

The first Monday of January, February, March, April, May, June, September, October, November, December

Monday, December 1, 2025 (7:00 pm)

(Meetings via ZOOM; email Communications Committee Chair [Tom Jensen](#) for an invitation)

Monday, January 5, 2026 (7:00 pm)

Monday, February 2, 2026 (7:00 pm)

All Members are welcome and invited to attend.

Member Meetings

The second Monday of January, February, March, April, May, October, November, December

Monday, December 8, 2025 (6:00 pm)

Monday, January 12, 2026 (6:00 pm) Happy New Year!

Monday, February 9, 2025 (6:00 pm)

PURPOSE of the ROCKY MOUNTAIN GUIDES ASSOCIATION

The nature of the business and activities of this Corporation is educational and the objects and purposes thereof to be transacted, promoted, or carried on are TO PROMOTE THE HIGHEST DEGREE OF COMPETENCE AND PROFESSIONALISM AMONG PERSONS WHO ACT AS TOUR GUIDES AND TOUR MANAGERS/ DIRECTORS, TO PROVIDE ETHICAL AND PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS AGAINST WHICH ALL TOUR GUIDES AND TOUR MANAGERS/DIRECTORS ARE MEASURED, and, in pursuing said basic purposes,

1. To hold meetings and familiarization (“FAM”) trips for the improvement and continuing education of its members;
2. To provide opportunities for the exchange of experiences and opinions regarding tour guides and tour managers/directors and their profession;
3. To provide a forum for development and promotion of common professional interests and concerns of tour guides and tour managers/directors;
4. To cooperate with other related and non-related organizations in a common endeavor to promote the profession of tour guiding, tour management and tour directing and to promote the public awareness of said profession. – *Articles of Incorporation, Rocky Mountain Guides Association*

Officers		
President	Mike Pearl	303-868-0023
Vice President	Hans Kleinschmidt	303-990-2505
Secretary	Dawn Nelsen	303-898-6853
Treasurer	Brad Hatfield	303-522-3944
Director-at-Large	Tom Jensen	303-968-0515

Committee Chairpersons		
Certification	<i>Vacant</i>	
Communications	Tom Jensen	303-968-0515
Education	<i>Vacant</i>	
Hospitality	Lily Ewing	303-250-9679
Membership	Mike Pearl	303-868-0023
Newsletter Editor	Eileen Pearl	303-868-0021
Program	<i>Vacant</i>	
Public Relations	Tom Jensen	303-968-0515
Nominations	Mike Pearl	303-868-0023