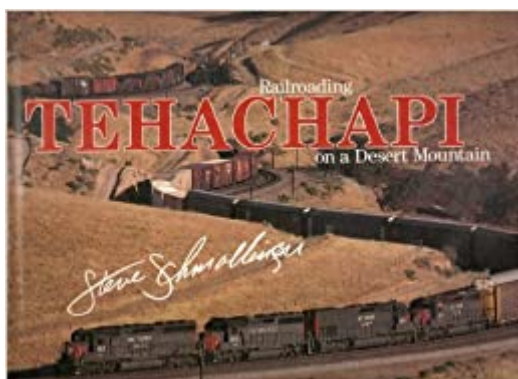


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# Tehachapi: Railroading On A Desert Mountain



## Synopsis

At the northwestern edge of the Mojave Desert lies one of the most challenging and geographically breathtaking stretches of rail line in the world -- the famous Tehachapi Loop...

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The best, beautiful photo book on Tehachapi Pass railroading for the common railfan or 80's/early 90's SP/ATSF railroads railfan! This book is one of Schmo's finest works, beautiful color photos, tricky weather/night images and wonderful informative captions on specific train, locomotive and scenery locations.

Looked to getting this book for a long time. Have been out west a few times but never got to Tehachapi. So Steve's book is a must have! This is one of the Meccas of railroading. A truly great book and one I will treasure.

A gift for my husband. He train books can be hard to find and very expensive. Great price, great condition and fast shipping. Thank you so much!

A great publication filled with fantastic photographs!

Very well taken care of and in excellent condition. no wear. Great pictures by the author as well as very insightful and informative text.

I first saw pictures of Tehachapi in a circa 1974 issue of Rail Classics magazine. The pictures even then conveyed an image of pure power as the two competing railroads, Santa Fe and Southern Pacific, battled the harsh environment of the Tehachapi Mountains, with its steep grades, and the equally harsh Mojave Desert that surrounded it. The photographs of trains crossing over themselves at Tehachapi still evoke the images of roaring machines over steel. The photographic work of Steve Schmollinger is second to none, as he captures all the moods of Tehachapi, as well as gives good balanced coverage of the two railroads that operate there. Maps at the beginning and end of the book are well laid out, with each prominent place recorded. A particularly interesting part of this book was the section on the SP Oil Can trains. These dedicated trains ran crude oil from Bakersfield to Los Angeles daily during the 1980's and 1990's. Schmollinger gives great detail how Shell Oil and SP coordinated their efforts over what is probably the most difficult terrain to run such a train. The pictures of this train's movements are incredible, particularly the picture of the Oil Cans emerging from a tunnel complete with notch eight helpers producing copious amounts of black billowing exhaust. The only place that could possibly rival Tehachapi in terms of brute force would be CP's Kicking Horse Pass in British Columbia/Alberta. I purchased this book many years ago, and to this day it is by far THE BEST RAILROAD BOOK I own! Also, a more detailed study of the SP/Shell Oil operation, complete with the author's pictures of the Oil Cans, is in the July 1994 issue of Trains magazine. This book just rocks! I cannot say enough good about it!

This book pictorializes one of the most fascinating and best places to watch (and photograph) modern railroading. The author who is also the photographer, expertly captures the drama, the beauty and the complexity of this mainline trackage running through the Tehachapi mountains. The photos are large, colorful, sharply detailed. The vantage points are unique. The lighting in many are simply spectacular, lighting not often associated with this subject matter. The narrative is the icing on the cake. Railfans visit Tehachapi from all over the world. Most of them own this book.

Steve does a great job photographing the Tehachapi line using great equipment and dazzling lighting. If you love great railroad photography, you'll love this book.

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