

PIEDMONT DIVISION BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING REPORT February 14, 2012

Board of Directors Meeting

Meeting called to order at 6:00 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church, Marietta, GA by Charlie Crawford, Superintendent.

Board Members Present *as taken from the sign-in sheet* (12): Charlie Crawford, Rick Coble, Bob McIntyre, Peter Youngblood, Howard Goodwin, Joe Sullivan, David Gelmini, Scott Chatfield, Bill Zawacki, Gary Jarabek, Walt Liles, I.D. Jackson

Absent (2): Paul Rankin, Mike Deaton

Quorum Present

Committee Chairs, Division Members, and Visitors Present *as taken from the sign-in sheet* (5): Randall Watson, Steve Funsten, Doug Alexander, May Ann Hoesch, Joe Gelmini

Officer and Director Reports

Administration—Rick Coble

Director of Administration Coble completed the committee contact list and distributed a copy to all BOD members and committee chairs prior to the meeting.

A motion was made by Peter Youngblood to approve January 2011 minutes. Seconded by Bob McIntyre. Motion passed.

Finance—I.D. Jackson

Treasurer Jackson submitted the following:

- We received both dealer income and paid expenses related to the 2012 Model Train Show.
- We made a profit on the auction. Apparel sales also brought in revenue.
- Upcoming expenses include Ga. Incorporation for another year and storage shed rental.

Jackson also distributed an estimate of 2012 expenses. Bob McIntyre, Piedmont Pilgrimage Chair, noted that the 2012 Pilgrimage expense number is based on free printing, as happened in 2011. If free printing is not available, the cost will rise.

A motion was made Walt Liles to approve January 2011 financial report. Seconded by Howard Goodwin. Motion passed.

Operations—Howard Goodwin

February brings us new challenges, but is met with the first meeting in Marietta. A lot has been made about lower attendance but I feel enough interest has been shown to overcome those fears. Keeping in mind that the meeting is on Valentine's Day, it shouldn't make a difference if the meeting is in Tucker or Marietta. It is what it is! Happy Valentine's Day to all.

Work and progress continues to be made to secure the Operations Program for the rest of the year. Second quarter clinics will be presented by Tom Gordon, Perry Lamb and Steve Leydon in that order. Layout tours are needed but should be in place by the next report. If you have a home

PIEDMONT DIVISION BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING REPORT February 14, 2012

operations (cont.)

layout you would like to show, please contact me (elsewhere in this issue) and I will get you signed up. Remember that your layout does NOT need to be complete, but should be operating. Later on this year, we will also have a clinic done by Thomas Yorke, who those of you building Hydrocal structures will recognize as one of the premier Hydrocal structure manufacturers in the country who happens to reside here in Atlanta. Stay tuned for that one.

The January auction was a succe\$\$ albeit poorly attended by Division folks. Those who did show up found some really great buys of Kato HO locomotives. It was an interesting auction with Courtney Jensen backing me up and doing a fine job of calling. I'm really wondering what keeps the majority of you from attending as I keep insisting I'm using deodorant :->! The auctions are a ball! Try it sometime!

The next item coming up in March is of course our Annual Train Show. Over 90 percent sold out (or better) it will prove to be the train show even in Atlanta as its reputation already bears out. If you haven't put your name on the list of volunteers, please do so and remember, besides free admission, you get some substantial AP Volunteer points.

Plans are continuing to proceed forward for Peachtree Express 2013 just around the corner and will be on us before you know it. Volunteers for this event will be needed as well, for those of you who have not already signed up. It is going to be a special event as it does not come around this part of the country very often and may be the only time it will be this close to attend in the Southeast.

For those who are looking for help in trackwork, a seminar will be held at Hobbytown USA next weekend, February 18th in the upstairs projection room. It will be presented by Paul Osman and myself. Not a Division event, it is open to anyone who is looking to pick up some good tips and tricks about trackwork, DC and DCC, switches and the like. It starts at 11 and runs until 2pm or there about.

April will again have a Boy Scout Merit Badge class to be held in Duluth at the Southeastern Railway Museum. Those who have scouts interested in this class should contact John Stevens. The classes fill up fast so don't delay.

June 1st through June 3rd will feature the Southeastern Region Convention in Gatlinburg, TN., a must do event! Go to the SER/NMRA website for more details but you won't want to miss this one. Dynamite location, good clinics and a couple of really, really nice home layout tours plus the "behind the scenes" visit to the engine facility at Dollywood.

That's about it for now. Till next time, may all your signals be green!

Personnel/Membership - Paul Rankin

Paul reports that the division displayed the membership booth at the Southern Museum of Civil War and Locomotive History in Kennesaw, where we spoke with LOTS of parents of kiddies, but thinks that next time we need to have the booth out in another part of the museum rather than the children's activity area. He will talk to the curator when he gets back from Myrtle Beach.

Paul also distributed a spreadsheet of attendance through January 2012 (95 in attendance, 4 visitors).

**PIEDMONT DIVISION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING REPORT
February 14, 2012**

Committee Reports

Peachtree Express— Bob McIntyre

No change since last month. The next meeting is February 22nd at the First Presbyterian Church in Marietta at 6PM. Norm Lundin is working on getting advertising rates for major publications. We need to move forward on this soon.

The committee will also discuss online registration. The service is not working and is affecting registration.

Piedmont Pilgrimage - Bob McIntyre

No current activity regarding 2012. At the February meeting the committee will be handing out the following: Letters and date stickers to everyone who hosted and open house. Certificates of recognition to each first time open house host. Thank you letters to each operator assistant persons.

Member Aid— Bob McIntyre

No requests. However, I have begun sending out tips to members from the Pennsylvania Modelers (yahoo) group. I have received positive feedback from these emails.

Achievement Program-Bob McIntyre

We received three applications for Chief Dispatcher in January (Lamb, Wood, D. Gelmini). All were approved. We also received an application for Electrical Engineer. This was returned for being incomplete.

Timetable - Doug Alexander

The first edition of the TIMETABLE under its new editor took a lot longer to get out than expected. This was due to a number of factors, the most salient of which is that the Editor has not produced a multi-author newsletter in a lonnnng time, and was very much out of practice.

Also, a new and unorthodox format for the publication was employed. While this has received generally favorable reviews, it has led to higher printing and mailing costs. If the publication is to continue in this format, it is apparent that the TIMETABLE must generate some income of its own to supplement the Division's contribution.

Jan-March 2012 Timetable Print Run: Mailing 450, Handouts 400. Total Printed: 850

Doug led a brief discussion of ideas to reduce net expenses going forward. Doug will pursue advertising opportunities and a shift to members receiving the Timetable electronically. The electronic version option will also be included in the welcome letter to new members.

PIEDMONT DIVISION BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING REPORT February 14, 2012

Advertising and Promotion/Division Apparel - Gary Jarabek

Advertising:

Monthly Meetings

NMRA submitted through May 2012 Issue

Railroad Model Craftsman submitted through May 2012 Issue.

Trains.com submitted through May 2012

The April meeting notice reflects the Marietta location.

The February Issue of NMRA had the wrong venue location. I sent an email to Steve Priest and he said they would be more diligent in the future to put the correct notice in the magazine.

Train Show

NMRA submitted for March

Railroad Model Craftsman submitted for March

Trains.com through March

Company Store:

There are only med and XL of old style short sleeve polo shirts left to sell. These will be sold at \$28.00.

Putty polo shirts only 2XL remain at the price of \$33.00.

Blue polo shirts are in stock. Complete size range (med to 3XL).

Med to 2XL available in long sleeve denim shirts. .

Caps are also in stock.

Mugs will be distributed to new NMRA members.

Aprons

A few aprons were ordered this month. Some of the aprons that have been ordered in the past have not been picked up. I will keep a few in stock for future requests.

Model Train Show (2012) –Joe Gelmini

- The committee met February 14, prior to the Piedmont BOD meeting.
- We are currently 96% sold on vendor tables (252 of 262)
- NMRA insurance applied for, not yet received
- Deposit paid to Event Rentals Unlimited for tables/chairs
- Raffle license has been procured
- Cobb County business license in process
- Galleria Hall rental paid. Incidental charges for vendor refreshments to be billed after show.
- Peter Youngblood has written all three local TV affiliates requesting to be included in their early morning TV shows the week prior to the show.
- In addition to TV, magazine ads, newspaper ads, and our mail-out cards, we will be using some local radio station ads. This will result in no net change in expenses.

PIEDMONT DIVISION BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING REPORT February 14, 2012

Good and Welfare –Joe Gelmini

Cards sent to Bill Mathewson (death of mother); Pat Bloodworth (surgery); and Chuck Hoesch (knee replacement surgery).

Gary Jarabek notified attendees that George Bloodworth is scheduled to have surgery February 15th.

Website - Scott Povlot

The division website had 7,901 page requests in January 2012.

Website updated with newest Timetable, updated events, location announcement and new maps to meetings.

A discussion of issues related to the website took place, with attendees agreeing that the most critical being timeliness of updates.

Howard Goodwin led a brief discussion of using outside resources to assist with maintenance and updates.

Walt Liles agreed to head a group to collect and report website issues and present a plan and assist in implementing the plan, to move towards resolution.

Randall Watson reminded all involved to use diplomacy during discussions and negotiations during the process.

Boy Scout Merit Badge Program (Duluth) - John Stevens

Rick Coble and I spent a January Saturday afternoon at the Duluth museum letting the Junior Model Railroaders operate on the scout layouts. Three boys and five adults operated for about two hours. We did have a couple of issues where the locomotives were not operating properly. We found we had a broken wire on one of the Loconet cables. We are going to replace all four cables.

I will miss this month's meeting as I will be flying. As always, if you have any questions about the Duluth program, please contact me.

Boy Scout Merit Badge Program (Kennesaw) - Bill Ello

Superintendent Charlie Crawford appointed Bill Ello Kennesaw BSA Merit Badge Coordinator.

Audio-Visual Production & Promotion Committee-Peter Youngblood

Nothing new to report.

Name Badges - James Bando

James reports one name badge since January 2012.

**PIEDMONT DIVISION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING REPORT
February 14, 2012**

Division Book Library - Stephen Leydon

The library had seven books returned in January while five were checked out.

The logging of last year's donation is almost done. There are many **complete years** of: Railfan, Trains, Railroad Model Craftsman, Mainline Modeler, Model Railroader, and Prototype Modeler along with **various monthly issues**. There are also several annual calendars from GMO and other railroads, some of which I brought to the meeting for the members. There are historical society annuals in the collection as well. Some of the donation copies were damaged by moisture (prior to our receiving them) so I discarded them. I should be finished sorting and logging the entire collection soon.

The library also has been given books specific to the PRR by Bob McIntyre.

Also, recently purchased are Railroading 101 and Railroading 102, the 2012 edition of Model Railroad Planning (2 copies), and How to Model Railroads of the 1950's. These titles will be in circulation after assigning numbers to them.

The Board of Directors recommended not keeping magazines in the permanent collection. Instead, magazines should be sold with funds used for the purchase of books.

Division Video Library - David Gelmini

David estimates that conversion of VHS tapes to DVD will be complete in approximately two months.

Volunteer Coordinator - Walt Liles

Nothing new to report.

Old Business

Operations Jamboree (Howard Goodwin)

Howard Goodwin is in the process of planning Operations Jamboree for 2012. Milt Burge will assist with this program. Dates are to be determined.

Facilities

Postcards reminding members of the February meeting location were mailed February 4.

Notification was also in the Timetable and on the website.

Raffle Layout

The layout is complete and is currently stored in Bob McIntyre's basement. Peter Youngblood is trying to arrange coverage on local television station shows.

**PIEDMONT DIVISION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING REPORT
February 14, 2012**

New Business

No new items of business

The Meeting Adjourned at 6:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Rick Coble, Director of Administration