

**PIEDMONT DIVISION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING REPORT
January 18, 2011**

Board of Directors Meeting

Meeting called to order at 6:17 p.m. at Williamson Brothers Barb-B-Que, Marietta, GA, by Howard Goodwin, Superintendent.

Board Members Present as *taken from the sign-in sheet (11)*: Rick Coble, Howard Goodwin, Charlie Crawford, Mike Deaton, Gary Jarabek, Bill Zawacki, David Gelmini, Scott Chatfield, Paul Rankin, Joe Sullivan, Peter Youngblood

Absent (3): Bob McIntyre, Chris White, Scott Povlot

Quorum Present

Committee Chairs, Division Members, and Visitors Present as *taken from the sign-in sheet (8)*: Joe Gelmini, James Deaton, Del Kittendorf, Diane Kittendorf, I.D. Jackson, Mary Jackson, Bob Wood, Alan Mole

Officer and Director Reports

Administration—Rick Coble (report submitted in advance)

The Minutes to the November meeting were approved.

Rick obtained the 2011 raffle license from Cobb County. Joe Gelmini will have possession of the license during the Model Train Show.

Rick updated the Board of Directors Contact List.

Rick is in the process of updating the Committee List.

Finance—Chris White (report submitted in advance)

The November and December Financial reports were approved.

Chris distributed excel spreadsheets showing November and December activity prior to the meeting.

November:

The major activity was the 2011 Train Show, with both expenses for facility rental and income from vendor table sales. We also had expenses for the BSA switching modules and James Deaton's Eagle Scout project.

Chris would like to proceed with the 2010 Audit and preparation of 2010 IRS Tax forms. He will ask for BOD approval for payment by e-mail.

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Finance (continued)

December:

The major activity was the 2011 raffle layout, with payment for the completed layout. We also had expenses related to the holiday party and income for 2011 Model Train Show vendor table rental.

2010 Income and Expenses:

Chris distributed an excel file listing income and expenses for 2011.

2011 Budget:

Chris distributed a preliminary budget prior to the meeting. He asks that all committee chairs and BOD members review budget and send changes.

Operations—Charlie Crawford (report submitted in advance)

Clinics as reported generally complete through the year. There may be some adjustments moving forward due to changed circumstances. Charlie is working on the 2nd & 3rd quarter layout tours.

Due to the cancelation of the January meeting, Ron Gough's clinic will be rescheduled, possibly September.

Committee Reports

Achievement Program—Bob McIntyre (report submitted in advance)

AP- Awards to give out in January-Peter Youngblood, Motive Power, L.B. Groover, Volunteer, Brian Glock, Civil Engineer.

Peter Youngblood and Bob are looking to do a one day AP day. This would be to assist people interested in the program with help on paperwork, etc.

Peachtree Express— Bob McIntyre (report submitted in advance)

Will be having a meeting in January. Bob had a phone conversation with Bob Amsler. The points of the conversation will be in our upcoming meeting minutes.

Piedmont Pilgrimage - Bob McIntyre (report submitted in advance)

Nothing at this time. This year was very successful with over 6000 visitors.

Member Aid— Bob McIntyre (report submitted in advance)

No questions at this time.

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Advertising and Promotion/Division Apparel—Gary Jarabek (report submitted in advance)

Advertising:

Monthly Meetings

NMRA submitted through April 2011 Issue

Railroad Model Craftsman submitted through April 2011 Issue.

Trains.com submitted through April 2011

Train Show

Trains.com

NMRA February and March issues

Railroad Model Craftsman February and March issues.

Auction

Trans.com

NMRA January

Railroad Model Craftsman January

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.

New polo shirts in stock at the price of \$33.00, complete size range.

Large to 2XL available in long sleeve denim shirts. Order placed for more shirts.

There is 1 vest left.

Caps are also in stock.

Mugs will be distributed to new NMRA members.

There is one mistake shirt left (med) for sale at \$33.00.

Model Train Show (2011) –Joe Gelmini (report submitted in advance)

Vendor tables are currently 78% sold out.

Rick Coble obtained a raffle license from Cobb County.

A 30-second TV ad was developed as part of our advertising campaign. (Thanks go to Green Frog, Norm Lundin, Peter Youngblood and Gary Jarabek.) This spot will also appear on the train show website.

A certificate of insurance from NMRA has been issued covering the show.

Volunteer sign-up sheets will be available beginning with the January division meeting.

Good and Welfare –Joe Gelmini (report submitted in advance)

Sympathy card to Norm Lundin (death of mother)

Get well card to Bob McIntyre (foot surgery)

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Timetable-Rick Coble (report submitted in advance)

Additional copies of the Timetable were produced for Q1 2011, in anticipation of three train shows, including the World's Greatest Hobby show, which is not an annual event. The extra copies and size (16 pages) boosted printing costs.

Website-Scott Povlot

The website received 27,226 page requests in November 2010; 14,219 in December.

Scott distributed a separate report with web traffic history before the meeting.

Boy Scout Merit Badge Program-John Stevens (report submitted in advance)

1. The Atlas Genset locomotives for the switching layouts arrived at Trainmaster in early December
2. The next step in the rehab project is getting new freight cars for the switching layouts. John hopes to complete this portion of the project prior to the spring session.
3. James Deaton has completed his Eagle Scout Project to build a storage shed for the switching layouts located on the museum grounds. It came out really nice! There is an article in the latest Timetable documenting the whole process. I want to thank all the Piedmont guys who have taken time out to help James with his project. I especially want to thank James for taking this project on and Mike and Julie for supporting him throughout the process.
4. John plans on presenting some type of merit badge program at the national convention in 2013. John is still undecided on the type of program we will present. John will keep the BOD updated on which approach I choose.
5. The dates for the 2011 sessions will be April 30 and September 17. As usual, they will be held at the Southeastern Railway Museum.

Auctions-Howard Goodwin

Volunteers are needed for the Winter Auction, to be held January 22 at the Elk's Lodge. The following auction will take place on August 13th, 2011.

Audio-Visual Production & Promotion Committee-Peter Youngblood (report submitted in advance)

This year the A/V Committee will videotape, record, edit and archive in DVD format Piedmont Division AP clinics. Beginning with January 11th's "Be A Contest Winner" by MMR Ron Gough, three more are scheduled for 2011 including the "Judging the AP" seminar presented by MMR's Dr. Joe Nichols, Sr. and Bob Beaty at the SER Convention in May. Upon release these educational DVD's will be advertised in the Timetable and Southerner with copies made available gratis to all SER Division Superintendents, possibly for sale to any NMRA member in good standing. A voluntary effort by the A/V Committee, the only cost to the Piedmont Division for DVD production is nominal DVD material reimbursement.

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Old Business

Division Storage Unit-Charlie Crawford

Charlie Crawford has investigated and recommends the rental of a storage unit for division videos, books, A/V equipment, etc. Extra Space Storage, located on Montreal Road, offers a 10' x 5' temperature controlled unit. One unit is available. Charlie placed a deposit on the unit.

Because the facility is located near the monthly meeting location, items could be stored at the facility. If a primary user of items stored at the facility is unable to make the meeting, others would have access.

Donated layouts might also be stored, depending on space. Old A/V equipment, not used at the moment, will also be stored at the facility. Charlie Crawford will look into excess old A/V equipment.

David Gelmini, as video librarian a primary user, is on board with the idea.

The facility offers keypad entry. The manager will set up access n our account until 10:30 p.m., after normal business hours.

A motion was made for Charlie Crawford to proceed with signing a contract to rent a storage unit for one year at Extra Space Storage. The motion passed.

Raffle Layouts 2011 and Beyond- Howard Goodwin

The 2011 raffle layout is on display at TrainMaster Models in Buford. It will be moved to the Cobb Galleria on the Friday of the train show.

The Chattahoochee Express Operating Group is working on the 2012 layout and estimates that it will be completed at the end of June. This layout could be displayed at various locations in the division.

Hospital Layout – Tether Collection - Joe Gelmini

Bob Chambers sent Howard Goodwin a proposal to assist with the installation of a layout at the Northeast Georgia Medical Center in Gainesville. The layout would be housed in the pediatric wing of the hospital and is being championed by Russell Tether, son of a retired doctor at the hospital.

Joe Gelmini was contacted by the doctor's son, Russell Tether, concerning the layout. He would like to donate his father's HO layout to the hospital and is looking for a group to set and maintain the layout. It has been suggested that proceeds from the sale of the HO layout would be used to construct a large scale layout, which will be more appropriate for the hospital. John Travis represented the Piedmont Division in a meeting to discuss issues and ideas on the layout.

John met with Russell Tether and reported progress to date:

- Mike Devaney of Trainmaster Models met with Mr. Tether about an appraisal of Dr. Tether's layout and has volunteered space in his shop for the construction of the hospital layout.

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Hospital Layout - Tether Collection (continued)

- John has followed up with Russell Tether with thoughts concerning the layout concept, construction of the layout, including cabinetry, and design of layout.
- The Piedmont Divisions area of strength is the design of the layout and construction. The Piedmont Division will need to decide what it is willing to do in this area.
- It is important that the layout requires minimal maintenance, be constructed so the layout can be operated on a timer activated by a “start” button, and have lights and sounds to keep children interested. The purpose of the layout is to “Provide an interactive neighborhood for kids.”

As of this meeting, the Tether family is reviewing a preliminary plan.

Policy for Accepting Layouts

Joe Sullivan has composed a draft policy for accepting donations and is incorporating feedback into a revision. The plan was previously sent to a handful of members for comments. Joe will send the draft policy to the entire BOD for review and comments.

Outreach Program

With the number of potential public appearances by the division increasing, a program to find volunteers and match them to the opportunities is needed. Joe Sullivan stepped forward to start an outreach program. As of this meeting, no one has stepped forward to chair this position.

Peachtree Express / 2011 Narrow Gauge Convention-Howard Goodwin

Howard Goodwin has been in touch with an organizer of the 2011 Narrow Gauge Convention, to be held September 7-10 in Hickory, NC, about participating in the 2011 Narrow Gauge Convention in Hickory, NC. The division could offer clinicians and other assistance. The division would use the opportunity to promote Peachtree Express.

Train Magazine for Kids (Howard Goodwin)

Kalmbach has introduced a magazine aimed at children. If the bulk quantity price is a good deal less than the single copy price, we should consider using these as a giveaway at events attended by children.

Howard Goodwin has contacted Kalmbach Publishing about multi-copy pricing for non-profit organizations.

Change in Division Name (Bob McIntyre)

Bob McIntyre proposed changing the name of the division to “Peachtree Division” after the 2013 National Convention. There was no interest from the BOD.

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Boy Scout Merit Badge Program Expansion to Kennesaw (Howard Goodwin)

Peter Youngblood resolved outstanding issues delaying the expansion of the BSA program at the Southern Museum at a meeting on January 12th with City of Kennesaw Mayor Mark Mathews, City Mgr. Steve Kennedy, Ass't. City Mgr. Jeff Drobney, and Southern Museum Director Richard Banz.

The division will use have use of the museum for the scout program at no charge. There will be a charge of \$8 for each scout attending. The charge will be defrayed by the Piedmont Division as part of the \$10 per scout no-show prevention charge same as at the SERM. Adults accompanying the scouts will also pay an admission charge. Howard is waiting for a Letter of Agreement from the City of Kennesaw which will be for one year renewable. Howard and Bill Ello will coordinate the implementation of the BSA program with the Southern Museum within a few months. We will eventually construct switching layout modules for use at the Southern Museum. Until that time modules are to be transported from the SERM in Duluth.

E-Mail Votes (Rick Coble)

The Piedmont Division BOD conducted two email votes since the November meeting:

1. Authorize an expenditure for the completion of the **2010 Audit and the 2010 IRS Tax forms**, as requested by Chris White. The motion passed, based on eleven "Yes" votes, no votes against.
2. Reimburse Mike and Kathy Devaney of Trainmaster Models to cover expenses for the last two years of **Holiday Party prizes**. The motion passed, based on eight "Yes" votes, no votes against.

New Business

2011 Budget (Chris White)

On 1/6 Chris White distributed a preliminary budget for review and discussion at the BOD meeting. BOD Members and committee chairs will review preliminary budget numbers and follow up with Chris White.

Alan Mole noted that IRS reporting requirements for non-profits have changed. Alan will discuss with Chris White.

Purchase of Video Cables (Peter Youngblood)

The A/V Production & Promotion Committee requested the purchase of two VGA cables currently borrowed a no charge from Dillon Production Services. This amount is within the superintendent's spending limits. BOD approval is not required. Peter submitted this as new business to notify the board of his request. Superintendent Goodwin authorized Peter to purchase the video cables.

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Division Achievement Program Day (Peter Youngblood)

Peter Youngblood proposed holding a Piedmont Division Achievement Program Day in 2011 in conjunction with the MMR/AP program's 50th Anniversary.

Peter has discussed this with Bob McIntyre. The Division will use one of the TrainNCamp dates. Scott Chatfield, Special Projects manager, recommended the late Summer/Early Autumn date.

Enhancements to Company Store - Web (Gary Jarabek)

At the Strategic Planning Meeting, Gary Jarabek submitted a proposal outlining updates to the company store page on the website. Gary requests time and resources from the web team. He is currently looking at ideas and options for the company store items to be displayed on the web.

Auction (Howard Goodwin)

Howard Goodwin called for volunteers for the Winter Auction, to be held January 22 at the Elk's Lodge. The following auction will take place on August 13th, 2011.

Trains! Trains! Trains! (Howard Goodwin)

"Trains, Trains, Trains" is a one day program initiated by the Kennesaw Museum to be held on Saturday, January 22nd. Paul Rankin will take the membership booth to the event. Peter Youngblood and Joe Sullivan will assist. Peter will send information to Paul.

Operations Weekend (Joe Sullivan)

Joe Sullivan has previously proposed an operations weekend for operating groups in the division, in which operating group members would operate on layouts in other operating groups. Joe will follow up.

Layout Tour DVDs (Peter Youngblood)

Peter Youngblood brought a proposal to the Board of Directors, originating from Bob Wood, to produce additional copies of the 2009 Home Layout Tour DVD.

It was decided that the membership should be polled to determine demand for a 2010 video as well as the 2009 video.

Scott Chatfield made a motion to purchase 50 additional 2009 Home Layout Tour DVDs. The motion failed.

Diamond Club Donation (Joe Gelmini)

Joe Gelmini asked that the Piedmont Division consider making a donation to the NMRA for the Diamond Club project. The project will offer expanded web content to NMRA members, starting with digitizing the Kalmbach Memorial Library photo collection. The SER will discuss a donation at the Winter BOD meeting.

The Piedmont Division BOD will discuss a donation in February.

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Garden Railway and Railfan Activities (Alan Mole)

Alan Mole notified the BOD of a number of Garden Railway activities in May. The Southeastern Garden Railway Show will be held in Dalton, GA May 13-14, 2011. A number of G scale layout open houses will take place May 15. The month of May is also Train Month in Dalton. These items will be included in the next Timetable.

The Meeting Adjourned 8:12 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Rick Coble, Director of Administration