

**PIEDMONT DIVISION  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING REPORT  
May 10, 2011**

**Board of Directors Meeting**

Meeting called to order at 6:00 p.m. at Old Hickory House, Tucker, GA, by Howard Goodwin, Superintendent.

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

Absent (3): Chris White, Scott Povlot, Joe Sullivan

Quorum Present

Committee Chairs, Division Members, and Visitors Present *as taken from the sign-in sheet (14)*: Perry Lamb, David Gilly, Del Kittendorf, Diane Kittendorf, Ken Raymond, John Travis, Ron Gough, Len Polinsky, Vic Pitrowski, Joe Gelmini, Tyler Gelmini, Alan Mole, Randall Watson, Joe Nichols, Jr.

**Officer and Director Reports**

***Administration—Rick Coble***

Gary Jarabek made a motion to accept the minutes to the April 2011 meeting. Seconded by Bob McIntyre. Motion passed.

***Finance—Chris White***

Chris distributed the April Financial Report and a summary prior to the meeting and included the following comments:

- The 2011 Train Show results are almost complete. We received Table Rental Income during the month for the 2012 Train Show.
- Gary had another excellent month of Clothing sales - again nearly selling out of his new inventory of shirts.
- We had both fee income and expenses for the Training Camp; Stephen L purchased three new books for the library; incurred minor expenses for AV supplies.
- The Achievement Program incurred additional expenses for the rental of the lounge area for the Model Contest, and plaques.
- Misc Expenses included a monthly rental storage fee and bank fees.

Gary Jarabek made a motion to accept the April 2011 financial report. Seconded by Bill Zawacki. Motion passed.

***Operations—Charlie Crawford***

Still booking open house layout tours for the 3rd Quarter.

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**Committee Reports**

***Achievement Program—Bob McIntyre***

Currently we have one Golden Spike to give out at the May meeting.

***Peachtree Express— Bob McIntyre***

A committee meeting has been scheduled for 5/28 at the Galleria. Primary topics are registration, contracts, and preparing for Sacramento.

***Piedmont Pilgrimage - Bob McIntyre***

We will need to start selling ad spaces beginning in May. Gary continues to work on lining up layouts. Charlie Millar has agreed to assist Rick Coble in putting together the booklets. I will ask the BOD at the next meeting if we need to cut expenses. These will be related to mailings.

***Member Aid— Bob McIntyre***

Nothing new to report.

***Advertising and Promotion/Division Apparel - Gary Jarabek***

**Advertising:**

Monthly Meetings

NMRA submitted through August 2011 Issue  
Railroad Model Craftsman submitted through July 2011 Issue.  
Trains.com submitted through August 2011

Auction

NMRA submitted July/August 2011  
Railroad Model Craftsman submitted for August 2011  
Trains.com submitted through August

**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 in stock at the price of \$33.00, complete size range.  
Blue polo shirt is in stock. Complete size range.

Med to 2XL available in long sleeve denim shirts. .  
Vests have been sold out.  
Caps are also in stock.  
Mugs will be distributed to new NMRA members.

***Model Train Show (2011) –Joe Gelmini***

We received a refund check for TV ads that were not run in our contracted time slots. We also received an additional revenue white elephant sales.

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***Model Train Show (2012) –Joe Gelmini***

The show is scheduled for March 17-18, 2012, Cobb Galleria, Hall "D". Based on 2011 show results, it was decided not to expand to two halls for 2012.

I am currently awaiting a contract from Galleria. We will owe Galleria a deposit upon contract acceptance.

We currently have payment/reservations for 56% of the planned vendor tables.

***Good and Welfare –Joe Gelmini***

On April 21, Lenny Polinsky, Tom Banks, John Stevens, Larry Long, Keith Rederer and I attended visitation services in Crawford, GA for long-time member John Blanchard, who passed away April 18. Lenny Polinsky is working with John's sister and niece on disposition of John's train collection. John was also in possession of several models built by Mike Callahan that were to be refurbished and donated to the Howell Day Museum.

Rick Wade's wife - Midge - continues to recover from a stroke suffered during heart surgery on April 14. Your thoughts and prayers are requested for full recovery.

SER G&W Chair Fred Coleman has relinquished that role after numerous years. The new SER G&W Chair is David Anderson of Asheville, NC.

***Division Library - Stephen Leydon***

At the April 2011 meeting several hardback and paperback books were donated to the library as well as some annual magazines. These donations were made by Mr. Peter Youngblood and Mr. Mike Deaton.

Two of the yet to be published 43 Track Plans from the Experts have been ordered directly from Kalmbach Publications. They should arrive sometime late in August. One copy will be put into circulation immediately while the second will be used as a back-up copy.

***Website-Scott Povlot***

Scott reports 17,442 page requests during April 2011. Scott distributed a separate report with web traffic history before the meeting.

The new <http://www.nmra2013.org/> website is now up and running. He is working on some problems with the Piedmont Pilgrimage website.

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***Boy Scout Merit Badge Program (Duluth) - John Stevens***

- Due to the fact that we will soon have scout programs at two locations, I have changed my report title to reflect the fact that I am only reporting on the Duluth Program.
- We are still working on getting all counselors reregistered with the AAC. I hope to have this process completed before the June program in Kennesaw.
- I have been asked to hold a Round Table type discussion on presenting a merit badge program at this year's National Convention in Sacramento in July. I will be using pictures of our program as one way to present the program. I will also be participating in a similar program led by Bill Ello at the SER Convention in Macon.
- In the past, I have been asked about a program for the Girl Scouts of America (GSA). The BSA has 129 merit badges including Railroading. The GSA has 117 badges but none for railroading. But, the GSA allows local councils to develop five or six badges for their council. Once the badge is developed, other councils can also use it. A council in NC has developed a badge for Railroading that looks amazingly like the BSA program. I think we could do our current program with no changes and we would fulfill the requirements for the badge. I have been in contact with the local council about presenting a program. A decision has not yet been made about this program.
- Our April 30 program at the Southeastern Railway Museum had 28 scouts earn the merit badge. That brings our program total to 468 scouts. The new track, freight cars, and Genset locomotives all worked extremely well. Being able to drive to the museum without pulling a trailer full of switching layouts was also greatly appreciated.
- The fall session at the Southeastern Railway Museum will be September 17.

***Auctions-Howard Goodwin***

The next auction is scheduled for Thursday, August 25, 2011 at the First Presbyterian Church in Marietta.

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

By arrangement with the Elks Lodge, the A/V Committee was permitted to set up its equipment there midday April 28<sup>th</sup> in an attempt to recreate the technical difficulties encountered during the Piedmont Division meeting of April 12<sup>th</sup>. The problem couldn't be re-created therefore the result was inconclusive although a few theories remain.

Seizing the opportunity to work without distraction, all Piedmont Division owned equipment including cords, cables, etc., was marked for easy identification, also to simplify set-up and cross-training. Everything was checked against the most current equipment inventory list and a few changes noted which are to be given PD Treasurer Chris White for tax purposes.

Separately, a review of A/V equipment needed for the SER Macon Convention was discussed. Subject to late changes, A/V equipment that will be used in Macon is either in-house Macon State College equipment or personal equipment to be brought by Messrs. Boehlert, Lundin and Youngblood. Mrs. Cristina Catlett is the Macon State College liason and coordinator.

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**Old Business**

***Hospital Layout – Tether Collection - John Travis***

After almost 6 weeks, the hospital assigned a Project Manager so we were able to complete our requirements for the display case. Dowlen Lloyd is working on the design details and budget. Working with a local tinsplate specialist, Rodger Drake, we have a rough idea of the trains, track and accessories required. No one has been identified as the Maintenance Specialist and the layout will not be started until this key position is filled (hospital requirement). Filling this position has been turned over to the Tether family and the hospital.

John suggested arranging volunteers prior to committing to a project. We need at least 2 more, knowledgeable, interested volunteers or we must evaluate if we really want to proceed with this outreach program. The North County Interchange operating group has been contacted and asked to take on the hospital layout as a project.

***Promotion of Peachtree Express at the 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. Howard would like to take the Peachtree Express booth to the convention.

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

Our first program is set for the 25<sup>th</sup> of June. Howard Goodwin has arranged for all switching module items to be donated. Existing layout modules, stored at the SERM, will be used at this time. New modules will be constructed for Kennesaw.

***Division Achievement Program Day (Peter Youngblood)***

The Division Achievement Program date is tentatively scheduled for August 27, 2011 at HobbyTown USA in Kennesaw.

***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. He is also planning a rules class in conjunction with the program. Joe proposes an early fall date. He will work with Gary Jarabek to avoid conflicts with the Piedmont Pilgrimage.

***Facilities - Alan Mole/Howard Goodwin***

Based on feedback from the initial member survey and discussions with division members, Howard would like to begin rotation of monthly meetings between Tucker and Marietta, sometime in the third quarter.

As previously announced, First Presbyterian Church in Marietta is available. The location has been reviewed by Piedmont Division staff and is sufficient for meetings. Food establishments are located within the vicinity of the meeting location.

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***Facilities - continued***

The BOD and members engaged in a discussion concerning a move.

In general the meeting agreed with John Travis' point that, if it has been established in previous meetings that there is no immediate need to move, what are the reasons for pushing such a move at this time? Is there a secondary goal to increase attendance at our monthly meetings by centralizing the location? Alan agreed, time permitting, to look for other location opportunities in the Sandy Springs/Dunwoody area.

**New Business**

***A/V Equipment Insurance (Peter Youngblood)***

Peter Youngblood asked if the current Piedmont Division insurance policy cover PD owned A/V equipment. If so does the insurance policy cover the A/V equipment on and off premises of PD sanctioned functions including while in transit?

NMRA insurance is limited to injury-liability and does not cover equipment.

Charlie Crawford will investigate insurance options. He will inquire for a broker among the membership and also contact the NMRA insurance broker.

***2012 NASG Convention (Howard Goodwin)***

The National Association of S Gaugers is holding its 2012 convention in Chattanooga August 8<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup>. Howard Goodwin received an email concerning participation.

Howard Goodwin is attending on behalf of the NMRA. This is a good opportunity to promote Peachtree Express as well as the NMRA. He is looking for others to assist in Chattanooga.

***Atlanta Parenting Magazine***

The 2011 Atlanta Parenting Magazine's Family Block Party is scheduled for October 8, 2011. The division participated in 2009 but was unable to attend in 2010. Howard Goodwin would like the division to participate in 2011. This will be discussed in June.

***2014 Raffle Layout (Howard Goodwin)***

The 2008 Raffle Layout, the "Piedmont Southern Railroad" constructed by the Southern Crescent Operating Group, is for sale by the raffle. This layout could be refurbished and auctioned in 2014.

Gary Jarabek suggested a budget to refurbish the layout.

Del Kittendorf suggested looking at the layout. Howard Goodwin will contact the layout owner and arrange a time to view the layout.

Charlie Crawford spoke in opposition to the purchase of a layout. Charlie prefers that the division construct a layout to promote the hobby.

Gary Jarabek made a motion to approve an expenditure for the purchase and refurbishment of the layout on the condition that Howard Goodwin finds the layout in acceptable condition, and the total expenditure will not exceed the expenditure limit.

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***2014 Raffle Layout - continued***

Bill Zawacki seconded the motion.

Motion passed with seven votes in the affirmative and three votes in the negative.

Bill Zawacki made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Charlie Crawford. Motion passed.

The Meeting Adjourned 6:55 PM

Respectfully submitted,  
Rick Coble, Director of Administration