

**PIEDMONT DIVISION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING REPORT
June 14, 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, Howard Goodwin, Charlie Crawford, Scott Povlot, Mike Deaton, Joe Sullivan, Bill Zawacki, Gary Jarabek, Paul Rankin, Peter Youngblood, Scott Chatfield

Absent (3): Chris White, Bob McIntyre, David Gelmini

Quorum Present

Committee Chairs, Division Members, and Visitors Present *as taken from the sign-in sheet (17)*: Del Kittendorf, Diane Kittendorf, Joe Nichols, Sr., Randall Watson, Louie Gomes, Walt Liles, Etienne Petitjean, I.D. Jackson, Paul Voelker, Bill Smith, Jim Brown, Victor Pitrowski, Lenny Polinsky, Ed Laity, Tom Banks, Perry Lamb, Joe Nichols, Jr.

Officer and Director Reports

Administration—Rick Coble

Peter Youngblood made a motion to accept the Minutes to the May 2011 Board of Directors meeting. Seconded by Bill Zawacki. Motion passed. Minutes accepted.

Rick is transitioning the task of obtaining a raffle license to I.D. Jackson, the new raffle layout chair.

Finance—Chris White

Chris was unable to attend the June meeting. He distributed the May Financial Report and a summary prior to the meeting and included the following comments:

- We received income from 2012 Train Show Table Sales and new shirts.
- We made the First Payment to the Galleria for the 2012 Train Show.
- We purchased one of our previous Raffle Layouts. This will eventually be repaired and upgraded for the 2014 Train Show.
- We incurred expenses of for the 2012 TS Raffle Layout presently under construction.
- We continue to pay our monthly storage fee.
- We incurred minor AV expenses.

As always, if you have any comments or questions, please call or e-mail at your convenience.

Gary Jarabek made a motion to accept the May 2011 Financial Report. Seconded by Joe Sullivan. Motion passed. Financial Report accepted.

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Operations—Charlie Crawford

While I have clinics scheduled into the new year, I received word from Dr. Richard Banz that he will be out of town during July and will not be able to do his clinic as scheduled. I am working on a replacement.

Brent Lambert, the NMRA Librarian, has offered to give a clinic in 2012. Scott Povlot made a motion to “offer to pay for Brent Lambert’s fuel associated with the trip to Atlanta.” Seconded by Peter Youngblood. Motion passed.

Personnel/Membership - Paul Rankin

We had 85 members and visitors in May, and over 100 each of the 3 months before (Feb, Mar, and Apr).

The division will have a one-day show at the NATC on 'Aug 13th. Paul will be making the announcement at the general meetings in June and July

Committee Reports

Achievement Program—Bob McIntyre

We are waiting on the Certificates for Bill Zawacki and Peter Youngblood. I do not know where they are. Also, George Gilbert has not posted on the SER Website the AP applications for Charlie Crawford (Structures), and Bob McIntyre (Scenery).

Peachtree Express— Bob McIntyre

We had a meeting two weeks ago. Key points were asking for a cash advance from National. We also came up with the registration fees for standard registration and advance registration.

Piedmont Pilgrimage - Bob McIntyre

Member Aid— Bob McIntyre

No requests.

Advertising and Promotion/Division Apparel - Gary Jarabek

Advertising:

Monthly Meetings

NMRA submitted through September 2011 Issue
Railroad Model Craftsman submitted through September 2011 Issue.
Trains.com submitted through September 2011

Auction

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

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Advertising and Promotion/Division Apparel - continued

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 3XL).

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 (2012) –Joe Gelmini

Executed agreement with Galleria for Hall "D", March 17-18, 2012 complete. First deposit has been paid.

54% of the planned 262 vendor tables are sold or confirmed.

Bill Zawacki is working on a new vendor **database** to improve how we can view/sort vendor data currently in Excel spreadsheets

Good and Welfare –Joe Gelmini

Sorry to report the death of Piedmont member Paul Lefstead. Paul died June 3, 2011. He was 76 years old.

Get well letter sent to Steve Funsten, owner of Blue Ox Trains, regarding recent eye surgery

Division Library - Stephen Leydon

Piedmont Division Library Audit Summary June 2010

Books Owned:	404
Books Loaned To:	1
Total Books:	405
Uncirculated:	354
Circulating:	51
MIA:	0
Total Books:	405

There are 51 books in circulation. Five new books were donated to the library through the Southwest Railway Museum. The librarian received an e-mail indicating that Kalmbach is now offering the first 75 years of Model Railroading Magazine on DVD. This is a two DVD set that would be a tremendous asset to The Division. This set would reduce the volume of the library while increasing the searchable data available. It is scheduled to arrive in mid December 2011 if pre-ordered.

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Website-Scott Povlot

Scott reports 14,922 page requests during May 2011.

Scott reports that the website is up to date.

Boy Scout Merit Badge Program (Duluth) - John Stevens

- 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. The clinic is scheduled for Monday morning. I will be using pictures of our program as one way to present the program.
- In the past, I have been asked about a program for the Girl Scouts of America (GSA). The BSA has 121 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.
- 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)

The Piedmont Division's A/V team was at the recent SER Convention in Macon to provide A/V assistance to clinician presentations and to videotape and record the "Judging in the AP" clinic/seminar for educational purposes. My personal thanks to team members Paul Boehlert and Norman Lundin who were present with me to help those in need of technical assistance and for the excellent job they did in fulfilling numerous tasks. Their presence was much appreciated and received well-deserved compliments from more than a few registrants.

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Name Badges - James Bando

- Bill Lyons transferred the name tag inventory and all his knowledge to me. I have adapted his software to work on my computer system.
- I created standard name tag formats for members that want to list either one or two layouts.
- I produced four name tags during the past month.
- Current inventory: 67 name tag holders with lanyards and approx. 240 blank tag inserts. Considering previous activity, these items should last through 2011. Printer ink used seems to be negligible, so I do not expect to charge the division for it, at least for 2011.

Old Business

Hospital Layout – Tether Collection - John Travis

The project is on hold until we get volunteers to perform the maintenance. We have one so far (Bob Wheeler), but he does not want to be the only one so the search continues.

Last month we had a group meeting with 5 of us. We set up the proposed track on the floor and played with how the accessories will fit in. We'll do the same thing in July, but also have a photograph of each accessory so we can all see how it fits together. We also hope to firm up the maintenance.

We have some minor changes needed to the display case to handle output for the two speakers, perhaps some ventilation holes and a sign for the layout.

We may want to actually build the layout in September as the space at Trainmaster is very hot during the summer. From what Dowlen Lloyd told me we are looking at 4-6 weeks to build the display case. We want the display case finished before we begin construction of the trains.

Dr. Tether's son, Russell, is coming to town from Texas the second week of July and we are having a group meeting to show him where we are and get his blessing to continue. We also want to decide on a treasury function so we can do our purchases of items and the display case. The budget is large enough that we should account for the purchases & payments.

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 25th 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.

Howard contacted BSA counselors concerning the program in Kennesaw.

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Division Achievement Program Day (Peter Youngblood)

The Division Achievement Program date is scheduled for August 27, 2011 at HobbyTown USA in Kennesaw. Peter Youngblood has produced flyers for the event. Howard will post at HobbyTown USA. He will also speak to the membership at the general meeting.

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 has narrowed the list of potential weekends to five weekends and will obtain more feedback at the general meeting. Joe will solicit volunteers to help with the weekend.

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.

Rick Coble compiled facilities notes from previously approved BOD meeting agenda and emailed them to BOD members prior to the meeting.

Chris White, unable to attend the division meeting, included the following comments with his financial report:

- *I will miss the Facility discussion. Alan and I will definitely make plans to rearrange the tables and chairs at the Elks Lodge for the July meeting. (I am reminded of the song about rearranging the deck chairs on the Titanic).*
- *From a strictly personal and selfish viewpoint the Marietta location would suit me. I am concerned that insufficient consideration is being given to the entire Piedmont Division membership, especially those living to the south and east, and even the northeast. The majority of the present Board definitely live much closer to Marietta than Tucker. I sincerely trust that Board members will consider the "big picture" for all members from all locations in the Atlanta area. I only have one other point. If we should decide to leave the Elk's Lodge and then change our minds later on - I suspect that the arrangement with the Lodge would change.*

Joe Sullivan suggested additional division meetings in outlying areas of the division.

Rick Coble suggested modeling these meetings after mini-meets, currently in the planning stages at the region level by Charlie Crawford and Glen Hall of the Gulf Division. With Piedmont meetings, local modelers would assist with obtaining meeting space.

Additional meetings might be held in outlying population centers such as Athens, Rome, or Fayetteville.

Walt Liles suggested using these meetings as membership drives.

Joe Sullivan suggested an additional meeting each month. Meeting attendees had a discussion concerning the logistics of additional meetings each month. Scott Povlot suggested additional meetings each quarter.

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Facilities - continued

Perry Lamb will inquire about meeting facilities with a contact at a Presbyterian Church in Sandy Springs.

Participants also discussed challenges and methods in obtaining volunteers, essential in running additional meetings.

Walt Liles will introduce himself to the general membership as volunteer coordinator. Joe Nichols, Jr. noted that many times, directly asking an individual is the best approach.

Howard Goodwin has added these meetings to the agenda of the Special Planning Meeting, held later this year.

A/V Equipment Insurance (Peter Youngblood)

Peter Youngblood asked if the current Piedmont Division insurance policy cover PD owned A/V equipment. 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 8th - 11th. 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 (Howard Goodwin)

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.

Raffle Layout (Howard Goodwin)

2012 Layout

The Chattahoochee Express Operating Groups is completing the 2012 raffle layout and is estimating completing the layout at the end of August 2011.

The possibility of displaying the layout and selling raffle tickets at a November Train Show was discussed. We may be required to pay for space if we are selling tickets. Paul Rankin will inquire.

2014 Layout

Howard Goodwin acquired the "Piedmont Southern Railroad." It will be raffled at the 2014 Model Train Show. The division will look for a group to refurbish the layout.

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New Business

Recruiting/Soliciting Piedmont Division Volunteers - Peter Youngblood

Partially covered as a part of facilities discussion. Peter noted the need to obtain additional volunteers to staff division events. Additional volunteers would help prevent burnout of current volunteers and enable the division to staff more events. Walt Liles will introduce himself to the general membership as volunteer coordinator. Announcements will run in future Timetables and on the website.

Division Aprons- Joe Sullivan

Joe Sullivan suggested selling Piedmont Division aprons for use in operating sessions. These would be similar to Home Depot Aprons but have Piedmont and NMRA logos.

Gary Jarabek will investigate, including speaking with Sally Bando.

Meeting Clinic Atmosphere- Mike Deaton

Mike Deaton noted that side conversations and discussions during clinics make it hard to hear the clinician. Howard Goodwin will make an announcement during the general meeting.

Bill Zawacki made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Gary Jarabek.

The Meeting Adjourned at 6:48 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Rick Coble, Director of Administration