

PIEDMONT DIVISION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING REPORT
August 10, 2010

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

Board Members Present as *taken from the sign-in sheet (12)*: Gary Jarabek, Charlie Crawford, Chris White, Bill Zawacki, Joe Sullivan, David Gelmini, Mike Deaton, Bob McIntyre, Scott Chatfield, Rick Coble, Howard Goodwin, David Gilly

Absent (2): Scott Povlot, Ovidiu Trifanescu

Quorum Present

Committee Chairs, Division Members, and Visitors Present as *taken from the sign-in sheet (21)*: Mike Scupin, Bill Lyons, Paul Osman, Peter Youngblood, Joe Nichols Sr., John Travis, Jim Wolfe, Stephen Leydon, Joe Gelmini, Ed Svital, Randall Watson, Del Kittendorf, Diane Kittendorf, I.D. Jackson, Perry Lamb, Gary Saxton, Ron Gough, Len Polinsky, Vic Pitrowski, James Deaton, and Paul Boehlert

Officer and Director Reports

Administration—Rick Coble (report submitted in advance)

Thanks to Gary Jarabek for recording and distributing minutes for the July meeting.

The minutes of the July 2010 meeting were approved.

Rick will present the proposed bylaws changes at the general meeting and schedule a vote for September.

Finance—Chris White (report submitted in advance)

The June Financial Report was approved.

June was a relatively light month for activity. Chris distributed an Excel spreadsheet showing July activity and added the following comments:

- We received the following income in July. Bill Zawacki and I concluded that we would close two outstanding checks for the White Elephant Store. This means additional income of \$36 to the 2010 Train Show. Gary sold clothing. Bob McIntyre and Bill Zawacki continued their fund raising efforts for Pilgrimage Ads.
- The major expense for the month was the 3Q Timetable.

Peter Y. gave Chris an updated inventory of all AV equipment and Chris knows that Joe S and Steve L. have updated lists for the video and book libraries, respectively. Do we have any other assets? Dave Gilly has the booth and Chris has some idea of the value of that.

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Operations—Charlie Crawford (report submitted in advance)

Bob Wood reports that the problems encountered last meeting with the video projectors have disappeared. You may recall that at the last meeting there were problems with two of our projectors. Those problems continued after the meeting at Bob's house. Bob had set them aside for a week or so and tried again. This time there were no problems. He then ran them for several hours using the exact set-up arrangement we use at the meetings. The set-up worked fine.

He hopes we will be OK for the meeting.

Ovidiu had brought a splitter for the video signal from Norm Lundin's camera to all three projectors. Since only one projector was working, the device really did not have a true test. Charlie hopes he will bring it again for the August meeting.

As mentioned in last month's report, Bill Robertson will not be able to host one of the August open houses due to health problems. Brian Glock is still scheduled for August. Chris was informed this week that Perry Lamb will unexpectedly be out of town for the date he is scheduled in September. Chris would like to re-visit the concept of 2 monthly open houses at the planning meeting.

Membership – David Gilly (report submitted in advance)

June 2010 attendance was 75, with no visitors. 12-month meeting attendance average is 97; 24 month is 95.

New Members – 6, one with SouthErneR subscription. Two Rail Pass memberships.

David sent a spreadsheet with attendance figures.

Committee Reports

Achievement Program—Bob McIntyre (report submitted in advance)

We have two Golden Spike applications to give out. There are four AP Certificates. Currently there are many members working on certificates with a tremendous amount of people excited about the Golden Spike Certificate.

Peachtree Express— Bob McIntyre (report submitted in advance)

The booth went to Milwaukee. Thank you for I.D. Jackson for hauling it up and back. It saved a great deal of \$. Special thanks go to Randall & Diana Watson for spending so much time at the Convention manning the booth. Also, special thanks go to Joe Gelmini for coordinating the volunteers. Randal obtained many email addresses for people who are interested in coming to Atlanta in 2013 and buying tickets. The major project the committee has now is to detail the percentages that the Piedmont Div. and the NMRA will split for profits. I have completed the initial spreadsheet. I have received some feedback from the committee members who attended a

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Peachtree Express - (continued)

Convention planning meeting at Milwaukee. Members of the Committee will review it during the upcoming meeting on August 9th. Once we agree on the percentages during the meeting it will be submitted to the NMRA.

During the previous meeting we had all committee heads there and they agreed to begin to formulate the tasks needed to complete their volunteer assignments. The minutes for this meeting are available through Rick Coble or Bob McIntyre

Piedmont Pilgrimage - Bob McIntyre (report submitted in advance)

We have virtually completed all the railroad layouts for the open houses. I am finishing up the advertising. We are getting some last minute interest. We have obtained a zephyr system from Digitrax so can auction it off. No changes on distribution on the booklets this year. There is a very good chance that the Pilgrimage will be in the Points North Magazine in their Calendar if events.

Member Aid— Bob McIntyre (report submitted in advance)

No questions submitted. Bob plans on continuing on providing modeling tips at the announcements. This seems to spark interest.

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

Advertising:

Monthly Meetings

NMRA submitted through December Issue

Railroad Model Craftsman submitted through December Issue.

Trains.com submitted through December 2010

Auction

Trains.com (updated with Aug 28th date)

NMRA: August (original date)

Railroad Model Craftsman: August (original date)

Pilgrimage

NMRA: October and November issues

Railroad Model Craftsman: October and November issues

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.

Complete size range of long sleeve denim shirts.

There is 1 vest left.

Caps are also in stock.

Mugs will be distributed to new NMRA members.

There are two mistake shirts left one med one XL for sale at \$33.00.

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

We are currently 57% sold of 260 planned vendor tables

Gary Jarabek and Joe measured Hall "D" to get exact dimensions, locations of doors and other "keep clear" areas, on July 12

Gary Jarabek is working with Randy Bachmann (World's Greatest Hobby) for assistance with advertising for our show

Joe has booked two halls for our 2012 show (March 17-18, 2012)

A train show committee meeting will be held September 14.

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

Mike Braunstein, HQ Div Sup't. underwent prostate implant surgery Aug 3.
Sent card to Gary & Barb Jarabek on the birth of their latest granddaughter.

Division Book Library-Stephen Leydon (report submitted in advance)

Books Owned:	373
Books Loaned To:	1
Total Books:	374
Uncirculated:	307
Circulating:	58
MIA:	9
Total Books:	374

All books in the library received updated Property of NMRA Library labels with the current library address.

Stephen has determined a "value" of the library for insurance purposes.

Several books were returned, however more books were put into circulation so the "in circulation" number is up to the normal average.

During the next month the annual editions of Model Railroading and Great Model Railroads will be renumbered to make tracking them easier.

Timetable-Rick Coble

Q4 articles are due September 5. The early date is due to Pilgrimage deadlines.

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Website-Scott Povlot (report submitted in advance)

Website Report:

During July 2010 -the web site had 12,565 page requests.

Scott sent a report detailing activity from January 2008.

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

1. John had the opportunity to spend a day at the 2010 Scout Jamboree which was held at Fort A.P. Hill, VA just outside Fredericksburg. The Scout Jamboree is held every four years. It is expected that close to 45,000 scouts were in attendance at this year's Jamboree. John went as a guest of the gentleman who runs the Railroading Merit Badge Program. They had 1,455 scouts earn the merit badge during the 10 day Jamboree.
2. The latest arrival date for the Atlas Genset locomotives for the layouts is late September. John doesn't expect they will be ready before the September session.
3. John is still working on getting new freight cars for the layouts. John hopes to complete this portion of the project prior to the spring session.
4. Work continues on James Deaton's Eagle Scout Project to build a storage shed for the switching layouts that will be located on the museum grounds. James is still in the fundraising portion of his project. He hopes to order materials soon and hopes to have build sessions on August 14th and 21st.
5. 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.
6. The fall session is scheduled for September 18, 2010. It was originally scheduled for another date, but this date works better for the museum. Howard Goodwin is developing a scout program for the museum in Kennesaw. Members of the museum staff will be guests of our program to help in the development of their program.

James Deaton Eagle Scout Project

James gave the BOD an update on his Eagle Scout project, the construction of a storage shed at the Southeastern Railway Museum to house the Piedmont Division switching layout modules.

The budget for the project has increased. The City of Duluth requires a permit for the structure. When the permit is obtained, a concrete contractor will begin work. The contractor is able to complete his piece of the job for the same price as the cost of the work done by James. The project was on schedule to be completed in time for the September 25, 2010 BSA session, but the change of date to the 18th makes the schedule tight.

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Old Business

Proposed Bylaws Changes – Rick Coble

There are three additional articles that need to be changed. Rick discovered the first two: They are related to our approval to change the name of Director Emeritus to Superintendent Emeritus.

Joe Sullivan discovered the third: Our non-profit organization statement notes that we are qualified under section 510(c)(4) of the *IRS code*. The statement should end with *Internal Revenue Code*.

The three additional proposed changes were approved by the BOD.

Rick will announce the proposed changes and the September vote at the General Meeting. The proposed changes will be posted on the division website, for review by members.

Wireless Microphone System (Charlie Crawford)

This proposal requests the purchase of a wireless headset, in addition to the hand held wireless previously purchased. Charlie's committee had been charged with coming back to the BOD with a recommendation. At question is quality/reliability vs. purchase price.

Peter Youngblood suggested that any options related to Audio Visual equipment be incorporated into the overall plan to be presented at the Strategic Planning Meeting to be held in October. Charlie Crawford and other members of the BOD agreed. This item will become part of the AV plan to be presented at the Strategic Planning Meeting.

Clinic Presentation/Achievement Program – Peter Youngblood

Peter Youngblood brought to the Board's attention that in 2011 the NMRA will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the AP Program. There are preliminary plans for some special commemorative items to be sold and some special recognition.

Item One

(From Peter) Formalize the Video Production & Promotion Committee of which Peter is the appointed Chair, to which he is adding Paul Boehlert, Norm Lundin and Bob Wood. This committee comprised of a professionally experienced team is to function under the oversight of the Director of Operations and will also be responsible for all matters Audio-Visual present and future as agreed upon by the Piedmont Division BOD. He is seeking BOD approval for formalization of the committee as defined.

Formalization and scope of the committee enables Peter and the others to move forward with the first proposed item of business: Development of 3-Year Master Plan to be presented at the Strategic Planning Meeting.

Under the division bylaws, Howard Goodwin has appointed Peter chair of the committee.

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Clinic Presentation/Achievement Program (continued)

Item Two

(From Peter) Subject is to inform the BOD that high resolution, easily readable copies of a CD containing all Scale Rails "Year of the MMR" and ancillary articles as assembled by the Piedmont Division will be sent (with the BOD's approval) as an educational tool courtesy of the Piedmont Division and the SER Education Program Chair to all SER Division AP Chairs or Superintendents. This is Vol. 1 of 2. Vol. 2 will contain copies of all relevant NMRA web site AP guideline texts and forms. When completed, the two volume CD set will provide all SER Divisions with comprehensive material covering the entire Achievement Program in a format that can be presented at meetings or borrowed by individual members as reference. Copies will be made available to the Piedmont Division library and may be added to those CD's currently sold by the SER as a revenue source once permission is granted by the NMRA and Scale Rails. CD covers will show Piedmont Division, SER and the new NMRA logos and the words "2011, 50th Achievement Program Anniversary." CD copies and shipping expenses for complimentary copies mailed to SER Divisions will be absorbed by the SER Education Program Chair as a goodwill effort to further promote the NMRA's Achievement and Master Model Railroader program. Sample copies of Vol. 1 have previously been sent for review and comment to SER President Joe Gelmini, Piedmont Division AP Chair Bob McIntyre and Piedmont Division Superintendent (and newly appointed National Membership Chair!) Howard Goodwin. I am seeking BOD approval to follow through with this educational project.

Immediate proposed actions

As SER Education Chair, Peter is promoting the Achievement program in the region, and will provide high resolutions CDs to other SER divisions. Two disks will be comprised of two volumes. Volume 1 will include all "Year of the MMR" from Scale Rails and ancillary articles assembled by the Piedmont Division. Volume 2 will contain AP guideline texts and forms. The disks will be an additional tool in division's' AP toolbox.

Members of the BOD and guests discussed potential issues concerning the CDs. Topics follow:

The format of the disk will be DVD. A recipient without a PC will be able to view the contents of the disk in a DVD player.

Should the cost be shared by the SER? We actively support the SER and the estimated cost is very low and can be absorbed by the division.

Will the disk be in conflict with the NMRA Datapak? No. The disk will not contain only AP forms.

Will the forms be out of date? No. Based on past frequency of updates to forms on the NMRA website, the forms on the disk will be current for a long time.

Will we be in violation of copyright by distributing "Year of the MMR" articles? No, if the disks are distributed at no charge.

The division will eventually sell DVDs with videos of clinics and relevant AP topics. Not at this time.

As the estimated cost to distribute disks is \$50, under the superintendent's spending limit, Howard Goodwin approved the distribution of DVDs to other divisions.

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Video Distribution Amp and cables (Charlie Crawford/Operations)

Proposal to purchase video distribution amp and cables. Division pays \$25 plus tax each month to rent equipment. Previous price was in the \$200 range if we purchase. Currently we rent.

The amp and cables have not been purchased. This item will become part of the AV plan to be presented at the Strategic Planning Meeting.

Division Assets

Chris White spoke with our accountant concerning division assets. We are required to list all assets. Chris will begin the process of identifying and cataloging all division assets. Chris needs an estimate of the A/V equipment, video library and book library. Chris needs everything by the end of 2010.

Raffle Layouts 2011 and Beyond

In May, the Board of Directors approved the purchase of Steve Berkheimer's HOG layout.

Having a completed layout will enable the Division to market the layout to the general public earlier than in the past. It can be displayed in public locations or hobby shops.

Howard is looking for an individual to head up the public display of the layout and sell tickets.

The Chattahoochee Express Operating Group has committed to building the 2012 layout.

BOD Minutes on the website

Rick Coble will begin posting abbreviated BOD minutes on the website. Scott Povlot has created a page on the website. Rick will send reports to Scott.

New Business

Additional Good & Welfare Business (Joe Gelmini)

The wife of former member Mike Flynn, Donna, passed away. Joe has sent a card and will attend the funeral service. Joe asked for additional ideas that the division could do, such as a donation to a charity.

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Donation Layout (Joe Gelmini)

A layout has been donated to the division by Ms Ruth Bruhns of Snellville. It was moved from her house by Terry Weldon and is currently stored at Westside Baptist Church in Snellville.

The HO layout is 4' x 8' and is very well constructed. It includes one powered 2-6-0 steam engine (missing smoke box but runs well), 8 powered Atlas turnouts, an MRC Tech II power pack, a few structures, a box of HO cork, and is wired for DC dual cab control using Atlas components. Joe sent photos of the layout.

The layout needs to be moved from the church. Paul Osman volunteered his basement for storage of the layout.

Len Polinsky suggested that the layout be offered to the Empire Division/2011 Convention staff.

Boy Scouts is an additional option. Joe mentioned that the individual donating the layout may wish for it to be given to a specific group. James Deaton will see if a specific troop would be interested.

Ideas for the layout should be sent to Joe Gelmini.

Donation Layout (Howard Goodwin)

Howard took possession of a model railroad layout in late July. The 11.5' x 5.5' layout is currently stored at Rob Dodds' house. Howard incurred an expense for the rental of a truck.

Ideas for the layout could be sale, with advertised on our website (need to set a price) or tie in with the Southeastern Railway Museum.

Division Model Contests (Bob McIntyre)

The 2009 October contest was difficult, due to attendance at the meeting. The space set aside for the contest was not adequate for judging. Bob will scout for additional space at the Elk's Lodge.

The Train Show committee has recommended moving the spring contest, traditionally held at the show, to the March division meeting. Chris White will speak to his Elk's Lodge contact about space at the lodge.

The Meeting Adjourned 6:46 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Rick Coble, Director of Administration