



THE CAR HOUSE

June 21, 2001

**THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF DIVISION 8
NORTH CENTRAL REGION - NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION
June 2001 Meeting Minutes**

Superintendent, **Fred Cosgrove**, called the June 21st, 2001 meeting of Division 8 to order at 7:05 PM. The meeting was held at the Troy Christian Chapel with 33 people in attendance.

Visitors

We had two people visiting this month: **Jim Glynn**, our clinician from Division 6 and **David Zulecki**, an N scaler from SONS.

Show and tell

We had a variety of locomotives to go with the DCC clinic this month. From Europe we had an A4 Mallard in OO scale. From the North American railroads we had Big Boys on down to Mikados in N scale steam and Erie-builts, E8's and SD60's on the N scale diesel side. HO locos were represented by a B&O Mallet, Amtrak AEM-7, 3 truck shays in 2 versions and the latest SD75M's and dash 9's among other locos. O scale was represented with a set of FA1 and FB1 locomotives and a Lionel Hudson.

Show and tell photos from May

Courtesy of **Phil Kenyon**



Clinic

Jim Glynn presented a very informative clinic on how to get started with DCC. Jim advised everyone that you did not have to get the biggest, most expensive system to begin with and that you can always sell the cheap, starter set to someone just getting started when you upgrade. Jim provided a set of handouts on what to get and instructions on decoder installation among other information and Jim also provided packet that he received from Tony's Train Exchange.

25 year Certificate

Dave Thornton presented **Jim Zinser** with his 25-year NMRA certificate at this month's meeting. Congratulations Jim, you only have 5 years to retirement!

Minutes Approval

Terry Bossick made a motion to approve the May meeting minutes as written and the motion passed unanimously.

Paymaster's Report

Don Varney, Paymaster, reported the following balances:

Checking: \$ 701.11

Savings: \$ 4008.06

Don reported that Standard Federal Bank would be charging the Division a monthly service fee on the savings account, due to inactivity. This is something that Standard Federal is beginning to do with 'business' accounts. **Gene Kome** made a motion to have the treasurer move the savings monies to a CD to avoid the dormant account charges after some discussion on the subject. The breakdown of the transfer was to be \$400.00 added to the checking account and \$3,608.06 moved into a certificate of deposit.

Division 8 Outing

Curt Danielewicz reported that the trip scheduled to **Bill Hayes'** was still on for the weekend of the 22nd through the 24th. If anyone needed directions, Curt would provide directions by email and he would also post it on the division website.

New Business

Division 6 had a small group of layouts open this weekend, a number of flyers were available by the show and tell tables that had maps to the locations.

Trustee's Report

Dave Thornton requested that anyone who would like to be a clinician at the 2002 National Convention contact the convention committee. The committee is looking for 12 clinicians per region for the Fort Lauderdale convention. Dave also spoke about some Trustee items again this month including:

- NMRA membership growth is ~ 0%.
- There have been many donations made to the Howell Day museum such as Irv Schulz's layout and Allen McClelland's V&O.
- General expense income is very low, but donations for specific functions, such as the Howell Day museum, are pushing the NMRA overall income up very high.
- Because the general income has to fund the library, the general expenses related to the museum, the *Bulletin*, etc., there is pressure to make reductions to outgoing side of the balance sheet and increase income.
 1. Because ~50% of dues go to the publication of the *Bulletin*, there are proposals afoot to change the content, that is, to make it more of a newsletter rather than a magazine or change the publishing frequency.
 2. There are other proposals in regard to the Bulletin, such as making it a publication competitive to the existing hobby magazines, which would add income to the organization.
- The NMRA library is also receiving some attention due to the budget, with the main question being to continue as is, or to downsize it's scope and services.
- The NMRA is not alone in it's budgetary woes, as demographics have changed and put increased pressure on hobby groups and volunteer organizations, according to the study that the NMRA commissioned by an independent consultant of non-profit groups.

Hints and Tips

- **Dave Thornton** showed a photo of a milkcar with a 'missing' CSX locomotive on it, a la the Ohio runaway.
- Train Center hobby shop in Royal Oak closed last weekend due to high rent and low sales.

Upcoming Clinic and Show & tell

The next clinic will be on timetable/train order operation by **Dave Thornton** and the accompanying show and tell will be timetables and train orders.

Schedule

The next Division 8 meeting will be held at 7 PM on Thursday, July 19th, 2001 at the Troy Christian Chapel. The Troy Christian Chapel is located at 400 East Long Lake Road (south side) between Livernois Road and Rochester Road.

Dave's Storytime

Dave Thornton read a story about a GTW brakeman qualifying for Pennsy rules on the Grand Rapids to Muskegon trackage rights line. The article was from the PRR historical society's publication the *Keystone*.

Website

Division 8 Online - http://members.tripod.com/ncr_division8

The meeting was adjourned at 9:41 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Curt Danielewicz

Curt Danielewicz, Dispatcher