



THE CAR HOUSE

July 19, 2001

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

Superintendent, **Fred Cosgrove**, called the July 19th, 2001 meeting of Division 8 to order at 7:01 PM. The meeting was held at the Troy Christian Chapel with 27 people in attendance.

Visitors

We had one person visiting this month, John Harrington, a HO scaler and frequent visitor of the division meetings.

Show and tell

This month's topic was train orders and timetables and we had quite the variety of timetables and rulebooks. Timetables on display included a public 1970 joint C&O/B&O passenger timetable, a 1965 western region Pennsy employee timetable, a 1970 southern region Penn Central employee timetable, 1948 Great Northern Kalispell division employee timetable, Erie Lackawanna employee timetable, 1906 and 1916 timetables of the Denver and Rio Grande, an Alaska RR public time, a book of Santa Fe employee timetables, a 1913 German national timetable and Chicago, South Shore & South Bend RR timetables from 1955, 1964, the 1970's and the current timetable. In addition, we also had a Denver & Rio Grande telegram from 1923, rule books from the PRR, GTW, CSX and NKP. Last, but not least we had a CTC panel from the Milwaukee Road's North Montana lines and towers of a viaduct that is under construction.

Photos from the 2001 Summer Outing



Clinic

Dave Thornton gave a very interesting presentation on the evolution of railroad operations beginning with one train operation. He then added another train to the line and gave us the rules of timetable operation and how train order operating began in earnest in New York in the mid to late 1800's. Also included in the train order section was an explanation of how and why classes were assigned to trains giving them varying grade of priority; how railroads ran multiple sections of trains to reduce the number of train orders required; how train classification colors were used to identify trains along with whistle signals used to communicate the class of train. Dave also explained how the advent of ABS, radio communications, CTC and track warrant operation has changed railroad operations through the years. Wrapping the presentation up, Dave suggested some books by Paul Mallory, Bruce Chubb and Frank Ellison on how to operate model railroads.

Minutes Approval

Terry Bossick made a motion to accept the June meeting minutes as written and the motion passed with one nay.

Paymaster's Report

Don Varney, Paymaster, reported the following balances:

Checking: \$ 1,071.64

Certificate: \$ 3,600.00

Old Business

None

New Business

Bill (Pete) Peterson's wife of many years, Zella, passed away this past Tuesday in Florida. As some may remember, Bill and Zella moved to Florida about one year ago to be near their son, Eric. Bill had been in Division 8 since its inception, an NMRA member of 46 years and is a life member of the NMRA. Our condolences go out to Bill and his family during this time.

Trustee's Report

Dave Thornton gave the division a brief synopsis of what happened at the National Convention in Saint Louis:

- **Jim Zinser** was presented with an NMRA service award at the convention.
 1. Jim worked on the promotion of the convention and the National Trainshow, rising at the wee hours for radio and TV interviews.
 2. Jim is also working on the publicity for an expanded National Trainshow that will include another show during Fall season within a few years.
- The National Trainshow had approximately 17,000 attendees.

- The convention had approximately 2,600 attendees, with 2,200 advance registrations.
- Some more information on the coming changes within the NMRA:
 1. The dues increase goes into effect on September 1st, renew before September to get the lower rate - that goes for life memberships also!
 2. The dues should have been increased incrementally over the past few years, but the dues were left as is because it would have been an unpopular decision to raise the dues.
 3. The past NMRA budgets were based on the fund-raising projects (return address labels, calendars, etc.) meeting their targets. These projects never met their targets, but for following years (for which the budgets were being prepared) it was hoped the projects would hit their targets. This never proved to be the point and led to consecutive years of deficit spending.
 4. The deficit spending was depleting the NMRA cash reserves at an accelerating rate and would have completely depleted them in the future. The new budget, with the dues increase, stops the depletion of the cash reserves.
 5. Revenue generating programs (see # 3 above) will be pursued by the NMRA, but the money will be in the bank before it is spent.
 6. The library will be putting out more publications and reprints, and for the first time, offering them to non-members (at a higher cost) to become more self-sufficient.
 7. If the library is not on the road toward being less dependent on NMRA dues support, services may be cut in the future to reduce costs.
- 8. A core group of trustees brought these decisions to a head this year to put the NMRA back on solid financial footing now

Layout Tours

Dave Thornton has two outings planned for the Fall and next Spring:

- In November, we will have a bus trip to Ohio to visit the Marion and Columbus Model RR clubs and possibly do some railfanning.
- In the Spring of 2002, there will be an outing to Bruce Chubb's for an operating session. Approximately 30 people can be accommodated.

Upcoming Clinic and Show & tell

The next clinic will be on wiring your layout by **Tim Fisher**. Show and Tell will be anything that helps you wire your layout.

Schedule

The next Division 8 meeting will be held at 7 PM on Thursday, August 16th, 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.

Website

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

The meeting was adjourned at 9:38 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Curt Danielewicz

Curt Danielewicz, Dispatcher