

MINUTES - CAROLINA SOUTHERN DIVISION ANNUAL MEETING Saturday, January 20, 2007

Meeting was held at the Cherryville Depot Museum, Cherryville, NC, called to order at 10:30 AM by Rick Knight, Superintendent.

Seventeen Division members were present along with two NMRA members from outside the division and three guests. The Clerk declared sufficient attendance to conduct the Annual Business Meeting.

Jack Haynes, Clerk, presented the minutes from the last Annual Business meeting. The minutes were accepted as read. He also reviewed the Annual Report to be submitted to the Region.

Dick Bronson, Treasurer, presented the financial status for last year. The starting balance was \$308.15; income for the year was \$68.00; there were expenditures of \$60.50; leaving a closing balance of \$315.65.

Reports:

Gil Brauch asked members to contribute items for the web site including photos of Division Activities, Where In CSD photos, and favorite prototype logos. He would also like any photos of personal layouts or links to websites with photos and other materials. Email them to him.

Gil also reported on the Division project in restoring Wade's Train Town in Brookford.

The layout is a 12x20 foot table with over 300 structures, mostly classic kits with modifications, and over 3000 figures, most hand painted. The main lines, a trolley line, and the carnival are in operation. Work continues on sidings, structure lighting, and scenic detailing including many scenes originally created by Wade and documented by the Division with photographs before the restoration work began. The Division has begun hosting open houses in November and is continuing on the second Saturday of every month. The January open house had 140 visitors. Work continue every Thursday night. Thirteen Division members have been involved in the work.

Fred Miller reported that the Region plans to begin a program to provide grants to Divisions to help fund projects like Train Town. He suggested the Division officers prepare a request for a grant.

Achievement program:

Dave Chance stated that to receive AP Volunteer credit, an activity must be designated an "official NMRA event". Gil moved that Wade's Train Town be designated an official Division event. Seconded by Jack Monette. Approved by unanimous vote.

Dave summarized the AP's awarded for the year. This past year we awarded four Golden Spike, one Scenery, two Volunteer, two Chief Dispatcher and one Electrical Achievement certificates for a total of ten certificates.

Dave plans to arrange some clinics at future Division meetings to help explain the requirements for specific certificates to help members accomplish them.

Newsletter:

Rick Knight stated that the Division is looking for some help in publishing the newsletter.

Activities for 2007:

Rick told members to watch the web site for our meeting schedule.

The Land O' Sky Division train show is coming up near Asheville February 23-24. It is a Friday-Saturday show, not on Sunday.

The Hickory train show is April 7 at the Metro Center. This show has been growing in both size and quality in the past few years.

Division members are presenting a clinic in the basics of model railroading at the Hobby Town in Mooresville on two Saturday afternoons to help people make good use of train sets received for Christmas.

The next Division meeting will be February 17 with the Alexander Chapter, NRHS, at the Newton Depot Museum which houses an O-Scale layout. That will be followed by a visit to the P&W club layout in Valdese.

Elections:

Jack Monette was nominated for Director-2010 by Dave Chance and seconded by Dick Bronson. There were no other nominations. He was elected by a voice vote.

The meeting recessed for 10 minutes due to a northbound CSX Freight.

New Business:

Michele proposed having a judged model contest and suggested we should have 3 categories with at least 3 models each. Ten members indicated they would have models

to enter. Gil suggested that the planned Model Railroading University event planned for the September meeting would be a good time to have it when the models would be on display for people attending that to learn about modeling. Dave suggested having a practice judging before that so judges would be ready and modelers could get suggestions on how to improve their rating.

Gil said that with the work we have been doing at Train Town, the Brookford town hall facilities for a train show. He suggested MRR month in November would be a good time, possibly in conjunction with a local historical society. Some members pointed out there were other train shows nearby during that month and we should avoid conflicting with those. Gil will research dates. He made a motion to authorize the officers and directors to explore the possibility including selecting a date, contacting dealers who might rent tables, and costs associated. Dave seconded the motion. It passed by unanimous vote.

Fred Miller reported on a Region board meeting the previous weekend. First item was the availability of grants mentioned earlier. Second, there are openings for Region Director. Nominations should be sent to J. J. Johnson. Third, the Region is offering to fund Rail Pass memberships for new members. This is an NMRA program that provides 6 months membership to new members (without voting or officer eligibility) for \$9.95. The Division should contact the Region to arrange this (free) membership for anyone who is interested in joining the NMRA. The Rail Pass is available only to completely new members, not former members rejoining.

Jack Parker stated that his P&W operating group has expanded to having sessions on Friday and Saturday nights. There is now room (physically) for new operators and he invited anyone who was interested to contact him or Jim Thomas.

Meeting adjourned at 11:45.

The meeting was followed by an excellent lunch served by the Home Folks Cafe. The afternoon was filled by a group tour of four great home layouts in the area. Our thanks to the tour hosts, Barry Fichter, Dick Schafer, Bill Robinson, and Bob Fanter for welcoming us into their homes and having some great modeling on display.

Submitted 1/20/07, JBH