

Minutes
Carolina Southern Division, NMRA
Annual meeting
Saturday, January 15, 2011

The Annual Business Meeting was called to order January 15, 2011 at 12:12 PM by Steve August, CS Division Superintendent, at the Texas Ranch Steak House located on Sugar Creek Road, Charlotte, NC.

Twenty-five Division members were present and two visitors. The Clerk declared sufficient attendance to conduct the Annual Business Meeting.

Steve noted that this is the first Annual Meeting of the Carolina Southern Division Corporation since the Division incorporated in North Carolina last year.

A preliminary committee has been organized to apply for 501(c) 3 (tax-exempt) status for the Division. Meetings will begin next month. Bob Halsey and Joe Howard will be participating and anyone is welcome to contribute. The application is about 60 pages of documentation of Division activities.

Treasurers Report:

Dick Bronson presented the Treasurer's Report. (see attached). The Division has a balance of 1424.81. There was income of 1142.05 and expenses of 230.46. Major sources of income were the NMRA, gifts, the RMU, the Train Show, and Train Town donations. Expenses were for the new domain name, the RMU, copying, postage, and Op Sig weekend. Fred Miller moved to approve the report, Rick Knight seconded. Approved unanimously.

Clerk's Report:

Jack Haynes presented the clerks report (see attached). Highlights were an increase in membership through the inclusion of three South Carolina counties and the Triad Live Steam Club becoming a 100% NMRA club in order to take advantage of the NMRA insurance program.

2010 Annual Meeting Minutes:

Jack also presented the minutes from last year's Annual Meeting and asked for comments. Jim Thomas commented that he thought there was discussion at the meeting of a new logo for the Division. Michele Chance stated that she thought the discussion on that issue was outside the formal meeting. Michele moved that the minutes be approved, Roy Becker second. Approved unanimously.

AP Report:

Dave Chance presented the AP Report (see attached). There were not as many awards last year as the year before. Dave observed that he has had several comments about the timeliness of receiving the actual award. He explained that this is sometimes due to delays at the MER or NMRA level and sometimes applications being returned for corrections. When the award is approved, he has been getting the certificate and holding it until a Division meeting to present it to the recipient. He asked if this was the best or if people would rather receive it in the mail

directly. Several members observed that in applying for an award, the recipient agrees to be active in NMRA events, promote the AP program, and assist others to achieve the award. The general feeling was that it should be up to the recipient. When an award is approved, Dave will contact the recipient to determine whether they would like to receive it directly or have it presented at a meeting.

Train Town Report:

Gil Brauch presented the Train Town Report. In 2010, they had 11 open houses with 952 visitors including July when they hosted 20 Cub Scouts. Restoration slowed down a bit, but the layout is about 2/3 completed. There have been about 2100 hours of work on the layout since inception, most by three Division members. Donations received are maintained in a separate Division account and spent exclusively on materials for the layout. Gil noted that work time on the project qualifies for association volunteer points. Open houses are the second Saturday of each month and work sessions are the second and fourth Thursday evenings.

Gil welcomed new Division member Jim Gulnac who lives nearby and will be helping on the project.

Webmaster Report:

Gil reported on the Division web site. The site was extensively redesigned last year. He thanked Martin Oakes for hosting the site previously and stated that it is now hosted by Dick Bronson on the RR-CirKits server. The new site is easier to read, has simpler navigation, drop down menus on every page, links for direct mail to Division officials, online registration for Division events, and space for important news on the first page. He noted that using Google calendar for the events calendar has the advantage of allowing other groups to update information on their events directly, but he has no control of how much of the event description is displayed on the calendar page. He stated that updates are made to the information as he receives it, and he does not send out notices for every change, but will continue to send out email notices for the monthly update. He would welcome links to web sites for other organizations or members modeling.

Rick Knight asked whether there might be other calendar programs that would provide more detail on the entry and not just truncate it. He would like our calendar to be a master schedule for many area organizations. Dick Bronson stated that Google calendar can be linked to personal calendars. Gil stated that he used to build a full year calendar manually, but that was difficult to maintain and delayed updates. With Google, he can give permission to other organizations to post events to the calendar and reference it on their own web sites. He doesn't think there is an alternative that would be reasonable cost. Steve suggested checking with Jim Allen who uses some calendar on some of his web sites and Gil will look into alternatives.

Elections:

Steve stated that one Director Position was open for election this year. Roy Becker was not seeking reelection. The office has a three-year term. No nominations had been received at the November meeting and the meeting was open for nominations. Gil nominated David Ward. Tony Sissons seconded. Rick moved to close nominations. Tony second. Approved unanimously. Steve stated that he had received an email from David that he would accept nomination if offered. Gil moved to elect David by acclamation, Rick seconded. Approved unanimously.

12:50 meeting recessed for lunch.

13:15 meeting reconvened.

Steve held a door prize drawing using two of the car kits the Division received in a donation.

2011 Schedule:

Steve stated that the 2011 RMU will be next week. Bob Halsey is organizing. It will be an expanded format with three hour sessions in the morning and afternoon. Bob Halsey encouraged everyone to get in their registration through the web site to ensure the classes they want. Walkin registrations will be accepted, but some classes may be filled. There will be some Division items available for sale from a donation Steve received. The donation included about 300 cars, 20 locos, and 15 buildings, many still kits in boxes. RMU committee will meet after this Annual Meeting. Gil noted that 45 people had already registered online through the web site.

April 16, the Division will have a joint event with the Piedmont Division (Raleigh) with a tour of the Tichy Trains facility. Steve asked if there was interest in traveling together in a large van. Facility is in Burlington.

July the NMRA National Convention is in Sacramento, CA. It promises to be a very different convention with lower cost. The local division is organizing the convention themselves. Hotel room reservations are open now.

Labor Day: Our OpSig weekend will join with the NC Rail Run for Labor Day weekend. Layouts will be open for operation between Charlotte and the Triangle.

September 7-10 National Narrow Gauge Convention will be in Hickory.

October: MER convention will be hosted by the Piedmont Division in Raleigh. This also should be different from previous conventions. Hotel rooms at the Embassy Suites will be \$89 per night including a full breakfast. There will be a Train Show in conjunction with the convention. The host Division is asking for clinic presenters.

Dave Chance asked if there were any other plans for Division activities/meetings. Steve noted that David Ward will be organizing another Swap Meet April 30. Dave C stated that MER Contest Chair/Manager, Martin Brechbiel, would like to come here to do a clinic on judging for AP awards and perhaps hold a mini judging session. We would need a place to hold it where people would have work space to work on models. Tony Sissons offered to have an activity at his factory in Dallas. Steve will leave it to Dave C to schedule an event in March or May. Rick K. noted that neither of the train shows normally held in March in Greensboro and Winston-Salem will be held this year.

Rick stated some other events coming up nearby:

2/6 Train Show in Raleigh

2/12-12 Worlds Greatest Hobby Show in Atlanta

2/26-27 Train Show in Easley

East from Easley in Greenwood there is a museum with passenger cars from P&N, EL, and a P&N caboose. Winnsboro is also on the way.

3/1 Train Show in Asheville

4/9 Train Show in Hickory

March-last weekend RPM meet in Savannah

4/30 CSD Swap Meet in Mount Pleasant

June Metrolina Train Show, the only commercial train show in the area this year

November, CSD Train Show.

Gil noted that he will include on web site if he receives basic info: who, what, when, and address (for map) also would like link to web site for event.

New Business:

Tony Sissons stated that his session at RMU would be hands on where participants should bring a project for painting and decaling. It would be helpful if people told him topics they would like him to cover. He will have the classroom through the full RMU so people can come in as they have open time.

Steve Patton stated that he is now an Aristo-Craft dealer (G/Large Scale) also sells Precision Scale detail parts. He has a received a large collection of used G-scale items to sell, available at good prices.

Rick stated that he has been working with Boy Scouts on their model railroad merit badge in conjunction with a large annual gathering at the McGuire Energy Explorium. In the past, he has taken about 10 scouts to his layout and led activities for them to earn the badge. He proposed the Division build about three portable Time Saver layouts that could be brought to a classroom at the Explorium. This would make the program accessible to many more Scouts. The layouts could then also be used by the Division as an attraction at the Division table at train shows. About \$300 should cover the costs of materials to build the layouts. Michele asked where the layouts would be stored because of problems with previous layouts the Division has built. Rick and Gil stated that these layouts would be compact and built with the intent that they would be portable and fold up for easy storage. Gil moved that the Division provide up to \$300 to build three Time Saver layouts with Rick to lead effort. Jim Rager second. Approved unanimously

Jack asked if anyone would be willing to take over responding the Division Help Line, and email box from the web site where people can contact the Division looking for assistance. Rick K offered to take over that function.

Gil moved that the meeting be closed. Dave C seconded. Vote to approve was unanimous.

Meeting adjourned at 2:02

Submitted 1/16/11

Jack Haynes

Division Clerk