

**Carolina Southern Division
Annual Business Meeting
Minutes
Hunter Acres Baptist Church
January 31, 2015**

Clerk Morgan Feldon confirmed that all attendees are NMRA members.

Larry Paffrath introduced new members and guests. He talked about the last year and putting the MER miscommunication issues behind us and moving forward as a club.

Morgan Feldon gave his report on current membership. There are 97 current members, with a gain of 4 over December 2013. Only 6 of the 12 monthly MER membership reports were received from the MER business manager, making it difficult to track expiration/new member trends.

John Stevens gave his paymasters financial report for CSD, including gain for the year and a breakout of the revenue from the recent RMU.

Gil Brauch gave his report on the Brookford Project. 292 individuals visited the layout during open houses in the last year. Open houses are listed in the local newspaper if the paper chooses to list the event in "what to do this weekend" column. Currently, only Gil and Carl Wessel (Who lives out of state) have been hosting the event. Gil is putting out a sign up sheet today at the meeting to ask others to host the event. If people volunteer to do it once a year, we should be able to have enough to cover it for the year.

Gil Brauch gave his report on the CarolinaSouthern.org website. We have been using more of Paypal for events like RMU. We intend to add a Donate Now button. Rusty Doss is working on us having a Facebook presence. The page will be managed by the Publicity Chairman. Gil went into more detail about where members can find upcoming events within driving distance, and recent news affecting CSD members. The CSD clerk sends out updates from board members as needed. If a member of CSD feels an event is suitable for publication or linking from the website, contact the Webmaster.

The club did not have any monthly or scheduled meetings for 2014, something which will be rectified for 2015. An entire schedule of events has been planned out for the year.

Hickory Train Show - April 11
Golden Spike Train Show @ Metrolina - June 20

Jack Haynes edited and published 5 issues of the Brass Pounder this year. Each issue is about 10-12 pages. Those dozen members that do not have a valid e-mail receive a 2 page limited edition of the newsletter. The newsletter editor is always looking for articles from members about their layouts, projects, op sessions, anything that people are working on that might interest the club. Also NMRA members can get Authorship AP credits for publishing articles either on the website or in the newsletter.

Dave Chance gave us a report on the NMRA Achievement program. First, he apologized for his lack of availability in late 2013-early 2014 as for eight months he was taking care of his mother. There are some 12 members who are actively working on an AP certificate or have asked Dave questions on the

subject. This year:

- John Shefte - Golden Spike award
- Seth Gartner asked Dave in September to come to the Annual Picnic at Jack Parker's and judge Prototype Models. Passed with flying colors. Merit award and his first AP certificate, as well as Master Builder Scenery and four other merit awards.

Dave Chance asks members to contact him if they have an item they would like to have judged, or ask any questions they have on how to improve their items. We have a number of apprentice judges in the club such as Bob Halsey and Jim Rager. Fred Miller MMR is a judge. Michelle Chance is a judge. Jack Parker MMR would be a judge with judging training.

- Tim Rumph - Chief Dispatcher
- Jack Parker had a car reviewed and received excellent scores.

Dave is writing an article about the awards over the last two years and the Achievement program.

Rusty Doss joined the board this year as an Assistant Superintendent. He gave his report on the Railroad Model University as well as the new Haberdashery program which provides CSD-logoed embroidered items for the club. Button down and Golf shirts, as well as ball caps.

Nearly 80 attendees at this year's RMU. Rusty read some of the survey comments about the quality of the programs. Rusty brought a slideshow of the photos of special guest Robin Frye's presentation at the RMU. Rusty thanked Jim Rager for running the White Elephant table which earned over \$300 this year. Thanks to the Board of Directors for their efforts in the last year.

CSD has contracted with Lucky Dog Designs to exclusively print CSD-branded apparel for the next two years. A legal contract was signed, protecting the club.

- Shirts are available in short sleeve button-down, long sleeve button-down, and golf shirt. \$36 each.
- Hats are available in eight basic colors. The logo will stay the same yellow-green color scheme. \$19 each.

The club will have an appointed position of Wearables Manager (Haberdasher) who handles all orders. One pickup per month. If members want their name embroidered, Rusty will contact LDD and agree on an extra charge for this service. The club is looking at additional apparel choices such as T-shirts.

Rusty and Gil are working together on a Facebook page as a supplement to the CSD website. It will not replace or in any way supplant other means of communication. Facebook is free and an easy way to reach new members. CSD will be a Facebook fansite, not a personal page.

Blaine raised the point about Privacy in today's age of technology. It's very difficult to find other NMRA members due to the extreme privacy policy policies. Meanwhile, in Facebook groups and Yahoo groups, privacy is minimal and people openly discuss their participation in the hobby, etc. (needs more detail)

Fred Miller talked about Raleigh and the MER each have Yahoo groups which allow direct member-to-member communication. Rusty said that people who want to join the Facebook page for CSD will have to request permission to join. The Publicity Manager will respond to the member, asking their NMRA number to confirm that they are not a spammer or expired member. This way, spammers and undesirable members are kept off the Facebook group. All posts will need to be approved. The goal is to find new members who are on Facebook but aren't aware of NMRA, aren't aware of the local and regional clubs, etc.

Larry has read all of the RMU surveys and the feedback has been overwhelmingly positive.

Talking more about the Facebook page and the importance of bringing in youth to the group.

Elections:

Roy Becker, Jack Haynes, and Gil Brauch are the nominating committee. Gil will conduct the elections for 2015. We have four elections required at this time.

First election is to fill the unexpired term of Superintendent vacated by Rick Knight. Larry Paffrath has temporarily fulfilled this role, however he is not wanting to continue due to other responsibilities. Nomination committee puts forward Jack Haynes who has agreed to serve. Motion by Michelle, seconded by Roy. Jack Haynes elected by acclamation. Larry resumes the role of Assistant Superintendent.

The Clerk position needs to be filled for the 1 year unexpired term. Nomination committee puts forward Fred Miller MMR who has agreed to serve. Fred used to be MER business manager. Michelle put forward the motion. Andrew seconded. Fred Miller MMR elected.

Roy Becker is at the end of his term as Director. Each year we elect a new director for a 3 year term. Position is Director 2017. Nomination committee puts forth Roy Becker to continue the position. Rusty put forth the motion. Dave Chance seconded. Roy Becker elected.

Jack Haynes is currently a Director but has vacated the position. Nomination committee puts forth Blayne Olsen to fill the unexpired term. Rusty put forth the motion. Jim Thomas seconded. Blayne Olsen elected to the position of Director 2016.

Larry declares that all candidates have been confirmed as NMRA members.

Jack Haynes requests once again for members of CSD to help host Brookford. It was pointed out that hosting the Open House once counts as a month of service to the Division for AP credit.

Andrew Stitt has been appointed as Events Coordinator.

Jack Haynes is looking for a position of Publicity Manager/Haberdashery to help Rusty. CSD Wearables Order Form was passed out to meeting attendees.

Discussion of whether the Newsletter and Membership should fall under the Clerk position or be a second position. Nancy Campbell put her name forth for the Membership position.

Jack Haynes is discussing quarterly Division meetings with outstanding business discussed, and then a brief Clinic. Andrew intends to organize and run quarterly RMU Extension classes. Not just clinics but presentations about prototype or vendors like Dick Bronson or Dave Ward. Contests for models and dioramas -- these are not under NMRA judging rules, but by popular vote.

Question was raised as to whether presenters have to be members of NMRA. Jack Haynes indicated that presenters do not necessarily need to be NMRA members. Andrew wants to have Layout Tours as well. Troy put forth the idea of having social dinners to just hang out and talk.

Fred Miller has invited us to see his layout at his 25th floor townhouse on April 18th. Contact Larry Paffrath if you wish to attend as he needs to manage numbers. March 21 Roy will be hosting an RMU Extension class on Passenger Car Lighting. There will be a RMU Extension class on June 20th, and then after the class ends, attendees can drive 5 minutes to the Metrolina show.

Jack wants club members to be on the lookout for anyone who might be getting rid of items that would be of value to the November Swap Meet / White Elephant table.

Jack mentioned the table of books from the Larry Lau Library. Softcover books are \$5. Hardcover books are \$10. Magazines are free.

Jack has spoken to Marcus Neubacher about RailRun/RailOps. October or Labor Day are possible weekends for this event as this is the alternating year that CSD would host the event. Rusty suggested we check with other clubs to make sure we don't conflict with their scheduled events.

Bob Halsey wants to put on a Boy Scout merit badge program this year. Ages 11-18. Mostly real-life railroading and Gil teaches a Operation Lifesaver program. The club's Switching tables are used as well. Last year's event didn't happen due to Duke Energy unexpectedly cancelling the Exploratorium event. Mecklenberg or Piedmont council.

Annual picnic currently planned for September at Jack Parker's.

Fred Miller has asked the club that if we have trouble contacting the MER, he will try to get us responses as he worked with the MER and in the MER for many years.

Roy put forward a motion to adjourn. Gil seconded.

The 2015 Carolina Southern Division Board is now having a small meeting to fulfill MER reporting paperwork.

Morgan Feldon
CSD Clerk