

Minutes
Carolina Southern Division Meeting
Saturday, November 13, 2010

The meeting was held at Wades Train Town, Brookford, NC.

Eleven members were in attendance.

Steve August opened the meeting at 10:15

Incorporation:

Steve stated that the Division was incorporated as of May 17, 2010. The existing officers carry over as officers of the corporation.

501(c)3 Status:

Work on gaining 501(c)3 status with the IRS will begin after January 1.

Treasury report:

The current balance in the checking account is \$1,552.26. Since June there has been \$413.50 in income and \$493.30 in expenses. There was approximately \$352.50 net income from the Train Show. Several donations have been received, and there was \$60.00 expense for incorporation filing fee.

Jack Haynes reported that many previously donated items were sold at the Train Show, but there is a large inventory of magazines, mostly from the 80's, and a few other items available. Ideas for use/disposal of these items are welcome.

Steve August reported that the Division has received a large quantity of HO rolling stock mostly somewhat old, but lightly used, many still in boxes. He will have some at RMU for sale.

Gil noted that Fred Miller donated some scenery supplies to Train Town.

AP Report:

Dave Chance submitted an AP Report YTD (attached). There have been fewer AP certificates earned this year compared to last. The Division has one MMR, several members with 4 or 5 certificates. Dave is available to answer questions or assist members working on certificates.

Train Show:

Rick Knight reported that the Train Show was financially good. He expects to use a different location next year. There were several logistical issues with this year's site. Michele Chance noted that the event is a good means of bringing in new people. Steve August commended Rick on the display panel he built for the show that the Division can use at future events.

Ops Weekend:

Steve explained that he ran into job issues and had to turn organizing the event over to

David Ward on short notice. When there were only five registrations shortly before the event, the decision was made to cancel the event. On the date, an op session and cookout was held at Jack Parker's. About 25 people attended.

Next year there will be major changes. It will be combined with the NC Rail Run and be held on Labor Day weekend. The Division has already had numerous inquiries and requests.

Train Town:

Gil reported that Train Town has had 10 open houses this year with 734 visitors. A cub Scout camp in Brookford this summer brought about 200 scouts in one day. Restoration work has slowed down. Most of the work has been done by four Division members and two non-members. Fred Miller restored the chase lights in the theater. Donations received at Train Town are kept in a separate account that is used exclusively to maintain the layout. There will be a work session December 9 and an open house December 11. Open houses will continue on the second Saturday of each month from 10 – 4. Work sessions will be on the second and fourth Thursdays from 6:30 til done.

Web Site:

Gil reported that the new web site is up. You may need to flush the cache in your browser occasionally to see new data (or hit Reload). Please provide Gil with any information to be posted in the site. Dave noted that the selection of colors on the home page can be difficult to read. Gil will review the choices. Gil also noted that the fonts displayed cannot be completely controlled by the web site; the user's browser will substitute what it thinks is similar if the one specified by the web site has not been installed on the user's system.

Gil stated that there are several NMRA members in the “unifour” area and he is trying to get them in touch with each other.

RMU:

Bob Halsey reported that the clinic schedule has been finished. Gil will get it up on the web site along with registration form next week. The RMU committee is now going into publicity mode. He is getting several hundred flyers printed. The latest flyer was sent out by Marcus Neubacher Thursday night. Bob will email it to the committee. We will be getting to the newspapers to lay the groundwork for publicity in January and will try to get channel 36 to broadcast from a layout. Steve confirmed that MER Railpass program will continue into next year.

The RMU will be all day, 9-4. Lunch will be available for \$5 provided by the church. The cost for the RMU will be \$10/family.

Nominations:

Jim Rager reported that the Directors have contacted several members to get candidates for the Director position that will be elected in January. So far they have only one person who is considering it.

Joe Howard stated that getting 501(c)3 status is relatively easy, but there are ongoing requirements for report filing. Bob Halsey noted that you have to show some benefit to the public. Gil stated that it partially depends on the inspector who reviews the

application and words like “fun” or “fellowship” should be avoided. National emphasizes standards setting. Should include educational aspect, both model and prototype (e.g. Operation Lifesaver).

Logo:

Gil reported that the Division is evaluating changing the logo. We will have a contest for new designs; see web site for details. Send proposals to Gil. The top three and the current one will be presented to the membership at the Annual Meeting in January for a vote.

Other items:

Steve reported that the Spenser museum is offering opportunity to take lessons on steam engine operation and then be at controls for a short run on their track. Call the museum at 704-636-2889 ext 237 for information. They will be ½ hour sessions on 11/20, 12/4,11,18. Openings are available (as of 11/12).

Bob Halsey agreed to be the head of a committee to construct a display layout at the Mooresville HobbyTown. As a Division project, workers can get ½ point for AP.

The Annual Meeting will be 1/13/11 with location still to be determined.

2011 Calendar:(see attached)

There was discussion on various events in the area next year and timing of Division events. There will be a Division table at some events and Train Show. There was no Hickory Train Show this year because the management changed at the Metro Center and no records were handed over from the old management.

Rick Knight is proposing a summit meeting with other area railroad organizations to coordinate events and promote each other. The meeting might be on the side at some other event. Our web site could be used to provide links to other organizations and activities. CSD would not be trying to take over activities, but only facilitating coordination.

Meeting adjourned at 11:35

Respectfully submitted
Jack Haynes
Division Clerk