

Superintendent's Notes
Carolina Southern Division Officers Meeting
Thursday, June 16, 2011

Subject meeting was held at Roy Becker's home starting at 7PM and concluded at 9PM.

Attendees were Roy Becker, Gil Brauch, David Ward, Rick Knight, Dave Chance, Fred Miller, Joe Howard, and Bob Halsey.

Staff elections scheduled for December will require finding candidates for positions of Clerk and Paymaster, since our long-serving incumbents will be completing their terms. Possible candidates were mentioned, and they will be queried as to their desire to serve. Bob Halsey is now Division Superintendent until the end of the year, due to departure of Steve August to a different location. Immediately following the end of the meeting, David Ward agreed to serve as Assistant Superintendent until the end of the year. We will also have to vote for candidates for these two positions in the December elections. The non-Officer Directors now have to recruit another Director to replace David.

Discussion of upcoming events revealed that RailRun weekend, although well-planned, needs a lot more of our members to sign up to attend. David said that the OpSig group is going to increase efforts to publicize it. CSD annual picnic is scheduled for Sept 17 at Jack Parker's. Possible concurrent clinics are being considered, either at Jack's or a nearby location. More details will be published in Brass Pounder and our website. We will probably need advance reservations so we can do more accurate planning for the clinics. Next RMU is scheduled for January 21, 2012, possibly at same location as previously. RMU Committee chairman is Rick Knight, and some members have already volunteered for committee duty. Rick is aiming for a small, but effective, committee. Meeting attendees discussed possibility of holding a clinic session sometime in Oct or Nov. Gil mentioned that Brookford is having open house on Nov 12, and this would be a good opportunity to also have the CSD business meeting and present some clinics. All agreed.

Considerable time was spent discussing ways to improve membership recruiting and retention. Bob stated that he has appointed Director Jim Rager as head of a new Membership Committee. Duties will include: getting volunteers to man a table at shows, at RMU, and other CSD events; calling CSD members to obtain their opinions and suggestions; distributing, and tabulating results of, a member survey form (soon to be developed similar to one that Rick created 2 years ago); and other ideas.

The above discussion of CSD events revealed the need for a Planning/Scheduling Committee (Rick has been developing the annual CSD calendar himself for the past several years). Therefore, Bob Halsey will request a Director (TBD) to chair this committee. Events to be included will not only be CSD-sponsored, but also those of related railroad organizations, such as the imminent National Narrow-Gauge convention. We also need to hold more clinics and offer more opportunities for model judging, and this function too will be handled by the Planning/Scheduling Committee. The schedule will also include an occasional rail-fan type trip, such as the recent trips to the Greenwood, SC, museum, the Tichy Group, and last weekend's journey to ride on the real ET&WNC (not the "Tweetsie" in Boone). We will need some really interested volunteers for this committee!

Attendees discussed ways to increase readership of Brass Pounder. Bob will get with Jack Haynes on this. All agreed Jack is doing an excellent job as newsletter editor!

General discussion was held on ways to promote the 7 purposes of the Division as listed in Art. 1.4 of the CSD By-Laws. Our next meeting will be held in late Sept (date TBD) sometime after the picnic, and we should all present our ideas on this subject at that meeting. But you do not have to wait until then -- just send an email to the addressees above!

Meeting adjourned.

Our thanks to Roy and Roxanne for being our hosts and offering all those goodies!

Bob Halsey