

## General Membership Meeting – Northern Pacific Railway Historical Association – September 15, 2016 – Wallace, Idaho

Printed copies of Reports on NPRHA Finances, Mainstreeter and Calendar Costs, NPRHA Company Store P&L, 2015 Fargo Convention Income and Expenses, and Minutes from 2015 Membership Meeting were available.

Meeting called to order by President Bill Zidel at 7:02 PM.

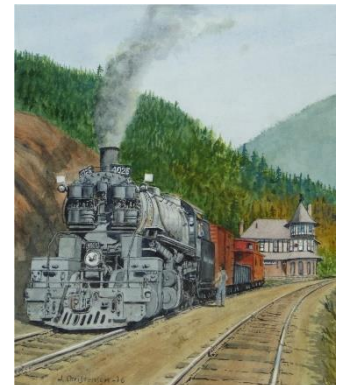
Duane Durr moved to approve the Minutes from the 2015 Membership Meeting at Fargo, ND. Second by Dave Franz. Motion carried on voice vote.

### Reports:

- Ed Sherry reported on ***The Mainstreeter***. We have a relatively good volume of content coming in, but will always welcome more. Members who have ideas about potential articles should contact Ed. We attempt to balance content between Historical articles and information for Modelers. Ed also welcomes photos for potential inclusion in *The Mainstreeter*. Ed has captured camcorder video of many of the presentations from the Convention and will share these videos with presenters for their review. Transcriptions of the presentations could then be published in *The Mainstreeter*. Bill Zidel suggested that we also consider the possibility of publishing the videos on line. Kent Sullivan asked on behalf of Fred Fisher for assistance in transcribing Mr. Fisher's Yakima Convention presentation on the Roslyn Branch. Interested parties should contact Kent.
- Jim Dick reported on the **East End Archive**. Hudson Leighton continues to provide yeoman service scanning AFEs and providing other reference services. Authorizations for Expenditure (AFE) were used by the NP (and many other businesses) to request that Management authorize capital spending. AFEs often include additional documents to explain the reason for the expenditure, as well as describing the nature of the expenditure (buildings, rolling stock, trackwork, etc.). There are also Field Completion Reports (FCRs) that document what was actually done once an AFE was approved. So far, Hudson has scanned 100 rolls of microfilm, containing Auditors Copies of AFEs from 1895 through the beginning of 1914. He has produced 17,000 images to date, but still has about 90% of the AFEs left to scan. Jan Taylor commented that some significant emergency repair costs, such as those resulting from the 1908 floods along the Clark Fork River in western Montana, did not involve AFEs, so there must have been other methods, perhaps Work Orders, for Management to authorize expenditures of that nature. Jim Dick will attempt to get the activity level at the East End Archive closer to par with that of the PNRA. This may include acquisition of some additional equipment for scanning paper records. Jim Woodward has photographed over 3500 pages from the four books containing the NP Equipment Registry. These pages contain dates of acquisition and disposition of each item of NP Equipment acquired from 1914 until several years after the BN Merger. So far, PDFs from about 3000 pages are available online via the *Numerical Register of Equipment* link at <http://www.nprha.org/Pages/Equipment.aspx#General-Resources>. The remaining 555 pages (including Steam and Diesel Locomotives, as well as Passenger Cars and MOW Equipment) will be rendered to PDFs and made available by the end of 2016.
- Gary Tarbox reported on the **Pacific Northwest Railroad Archive (PNRA)**. Processing of the Ainsworth collection continues, with 1600 of the 9400 Steam photos available on the web so far. All of the Diesel photos have been processed. About 40% of the Location shots are done. There are about 25,000 photo prints in the collection, but also about 100,000 negatives yet to process. These cover a total of seven railroads. Many of the station plats are now available on the web, and processing continues on the remainder of those. NPRHA members who are visiting the Seattle area should contact Gary at the NP Company Store phone

number if they wish to take a tour of the PNRA facility. Seventy volunteers are currently working at PNRA, with about 30 of those working on NP artifacts; additional volunteer workers are welcome. Work sessions are held on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and every other Saturday from 10 AM to 4 PM.

- Dean O’Neill reported on **Modeling Committee** activities. They produced two new structures and three new decal sets in the past year. Several manufacturers received consultation and assistance. About 20 models will be available as prizes at this year’s Convention Raffle.
- Kent Sullivan reported for the **Nominating Committee**, which this year consisted of Kent, Ken Vogel, and Bill Zidel. Bob Makins, Doug Shearer, and Ken Vogel, whose terms expired in 2016, were willing to remain on the Board, although Vogel asked to be replaced as Treasurer. The Committee identified Don Golde as a candidate to replace Kent Sullivan. Don has been a member of NPRHA for about 20 years, and has attended all conventions since then except the 2001 Convention in Duluth. Don is retired and lives in Simi Valley, CA. No additional nominees were identified. Dave Franz moved that nominations be closed. Mr Luke seconded. Closure of nominations was approved via voice vote. Discussion then turned to Mr Vogel’s request to be replaced as Treasurer. Although no one was identified during the Membership Meeting as a potential Treasurer, we will work to find a replacement Treasurer. That person would be a Board Member. Mike Lustig moved to accept the slate of nominees. Duane Durr seconded. The slate of nominees was approved via voice vote.
- Ken Vogel commented on the printed **Treasurer’s Report** that was available to those attending the Membership Meeting. 2016 Company Store sales are down a bit from previous years, although sales at the Convention may influence that situation. Ken submits the NPRHA financial records to an independent accountant for review every year. Dean O’Neill moved to accept the Treasurer’s Report; John Fuji seconded. Report was approved via a voice vote.
- Bill Zidel recognized **Jack Christensen** for contributing three water color paintings. One, depicting Z-3 #4025 at Wallace, was presented to Shauna Hillman (Convention Chair) on behalf of the Wallace Northern Pacific Railroad Museum. The other two depict diesel-era scenes in Missoula and Butte and will be sold via silent auction at the 2016 Convention Banquet. Jack also provided a poster, with printing help from **Gary Tarbox**, which was given to participants at the 2016 Convention. In addition, greeting cards featuring Jack’s watercolors are available at the Company Store.



- Bill Zidel presented **President’s Awards**, recognizing service to the NPRHA, to
  - The AFE Team, consisting of Jim Hanson, Hudson Leighton, Kent Sullivan, Gary Tarbox, and Jan Taylor. Jim Dick will convey this award to Hudson Leighton.
  - Chris Frissell, for his contributions to the Modeling Team and NPRHA in general.
  - Bill and Jan Taylor  
Bill and Jan recently helped capture a book containing a complete set of 124 Camas Prairie Railroad timetables. The book also contains letters and other documents describing the reasons for updates of the Timetables. With cooperation from the UPHS and a Board authorized expenditure of \$2000 by NPRHA, this book was purchased from Mr. James and placed with the University of Idaho. U of I will scan the content and make them available on the web via the U of I Archives.  
With help from Jerry Masters and Steve Warner, who will soon retire from MRL, Bill and Jan also helped to arrange donation of records from the Missoula Yard Office, consisting of twelve four-drawer file cabinets and other containers holding Work Orders, Completion Reports, Indexes,

and other documents for the NP Rocky Mountain Division from 1918 through the early BN years. These documents have been transferred to PNRA at Burien. A more detailed report will soon appear in *The Mainstreeter*.

- Jack Christensen - for his artwork, willingness to share historic knowledge, and lifelong allegiance to the NP and its successors.
- Sally Vogel – for her loyal, tireless, and unselfish service to NPRHA.
- Hilding Larson, current President (and former long-time Treasurer) of the UPHS (and also an NPRHA member) spoke about possibilities for sharing a convention with NPRHA in 2018. UPHS will meet in Denver in 2017 and in Ogden in 2019. UPHS is considering a joint convention with Milwaukee Road Historical Association in the Seattle – Tacoma area for 2018. Mr. Larson asked that the NPRHA Board consider such a three-way convention for 2018. Given that such a Convention could attract a significantly larger number of participants than the typical NPRHA Convention, the economies of scale might offset what would otherwise probably be room rental charges higher than we try to get for NPRHA Conventions.

Bill Zidel commented that other alternatives for 2018 currently under consideration are a Convention in Yellowstone National Park (in late August or early September), or a Convention in Brainerd (again in late August or early September). If we did a joint Convention with UPHS and MRHA in 2018, it might occur in July. Another member commented that the cruise ship market has significantly inflated room charges in the Seattle area from May through September.

Steve ? initiated discussion regarding the order of events within Conventions. GNRHS has their swap meet at the beginning of their Conventions, and MRHA's swap meet remains open during the entire Convention. This differs from the NPRHA tradition of holding the swap meet on the last day. Some members feel that having the swap meets at the beginning of the Convention may increase sales of certain items, such as T-shirts and books. Alan Manson also mentioned that if the public is allowed into a swap meet held at the beginning of the convention, we might gain additional participation in the remainder of the Convention. There appeared to be consensus that the swap meet should be limited to part of one day, but the question of which day within the Convention should contain the swap meet remains to be settled, probably by the Board.

- Al Zimmerman showed the Bill Edgar's new F-7 and SD-45 T-shirts that will be available for sale at the swap meet on Saturday. NPRHS has about 1900 members, about 150 of whom typically attend Conventions.

Al mentioned that we might attract more members to Conventions by putting some of the Convention presentations and activities on-line so members can see them. Al also mentioned that we should consider posting more convention photos on-line. Doug Ochsner mentioned the possibility of an NPRHA Facebook page. Bill Zidel expressed reservations about involving NPRHA directly with Facebook. On the other hand, we could consider posting presentations and Convention activity photos as suggested above on the NPRHA web site, since NPRHA retains control of that content. Kent Sullivan commented that any web presence, especially Facebook, requires continuing active support to keep content fresh and manage any comments, if those are allowed. Bill Zidel commented that the Board will continue to discuss possibilities for various NPRHA presences on the web.

- Harold Shannon discussed activities of the **Grants Committee**, which consists of Ken Vogel, John Fuji, Phil Beach, John Berg and Harold as Chair. They receive and evaluate requests for Grants from various entities and organizations. In the past year, this resulted in Board action to award two \$5000 grants – one to the Northwest Railway Museum at Snoqualmie, WA for boiler jacketing, which will be used to finish their restoration of NP 0-6-0 #924, and the other to rebuild the platform as part of the restoration of the NP Depot at Fergus Falls, MN. The NPRHA Board recently approved changes to the Grants process that were suggested by the Grants Committee. These changes should streamline the process

and also will improve reporting of progress by Grant recipients. Documentation of the changes will soon appear on the NPRHA web site. NPRHA Members who become aware of grant-worthy NP-related projects in their locales should help to make the leaders of those projects aware of the possibility that they might apply for and receive grants from NPRHA. Jan Taylor commented that the group working on restoration of the East Helena, MT NP Depot has been made aware of the NPRHA grant process.

- Bill Zidel mentioned the display that NPRHA recently received from Norman Lorentzen, former NP and BN executive. It consists of a wooden display cabinet containing two steam locomotive models - an O Scale W-3 and a W&R HO scale Z-3 - and an Oriental Limited brass caboose model. The display has been constructed so that the locomotives sit slightly above the rails and can be operated in that position. This display will be sold via a silent auction that will be announced in *The Mainstreeter*.
- Dean O'Neill commented that the previously announced 8:30 PM session to discuss goals and prioritization of the NPRHA was postponed to a future convention, in part due to the length of tonight's meeting. Members interested in participating in this discussion record their names and contact information on a legal pad that Dean has left by the exit from the meeting room. Comment was made that NPRHA should have a standing committee to evaluate locations and start preparations for Conventions several years in advance. This approach seems to work well for other organizations, such as GNRHS and UPHS. Bill Zidel said that the Board plans to look into this possibility. Comments were also made about the length of Conventions, with some persons expressing the view that longer conventions may tend to limit attendance, especially by younger members of the organization. Length is partly a function of the opportunities (train rides, tours, nearby rail museums, etc.) available at a particular location. Again, the Board plans additional discussion on this issue and Dean O'Neill's future group may discuss it as well.
- Paul Anderson will do a presentation about the 2017 Duluth Convention at the Saturday Banquet.

Dave Franz moved to adjourn the Membership Meeting, Jan Taylor seconded. Adjourned via voice vote at 9:02 PM.

Jim Woodward – Secretary, NPRHA