



NTRAKage Writes
The New Mexico Rail Runners
Club Newsletter



MARCH ISSUE

NMRR, Issue 143

March 2002

The April Business Meeting will be held at 7pm on Tuesday, April 2nd at the Clubhouse (next to Hobbies N Stuff, 9577-L Osuna Rd NE).

The President's Lines

by Kathy Steplowski

It was great to see so many faces at our March meeting. We have six new members! They are John Lisica, Chuck and Carol Ackerknecht, Clair Daniels, George Canham and Debra Babb. Welcome to you!

I appreciate you letting me continue to be your President. I know we will keep doing good things together. Buzz Lenander and Bob Prestridge will be our new Directors. Steve Stein will be our new secretary.

I would like to thank Kirt Hickman for his secretarial skills during the past year. I'm sure we all wish him well, with he and Lisa's new baby! (Due soon!) I would also like to express all of my thanks to Dayton Molzen for all of his help as a director. He was a great support as I took over for Bud.

Our next train show will be the Children's Fair. It will be at the Convention Center, April 12, 13, and 14th. Dayton is the show coordinator. We will be tearing down at the building, Saturday, April 6th around 1:00 P.M. Set-up for the show will be Thursday evening, April 11th.

The Roswell show is set for May 18 and 19th. We will be setting up at the Convention Center, Friday, May 17th. Howie is the show coordinator in Roswell with Randy assisting on the Albuquerque end.

Please notice that our May meeting will be Saturday, May 4th, at 4:30 P.M. at Randy and Phillis' house. We will be having a cookout. The club will furnish the main dish, hamburgers and hot dogs. Please bring a side dish.

Remember we are still running trains, every Saturday at the building, from 10:00 A.M. until 4:00 P.M. Come by and run for a little while!

For Additional Information about NMRR Contact:

President	Kathy Steplowski	293-2357
Secretary	Steve Stein	898-2933
Director	Dayton Molzen	243-2672
Web:	http://www.nmrailrunners.org	

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Deadline for submission of articles and reports for inclusion in *Ntrakage Writes* is no later than the 20th of each month. This will allow enough time to get the newsletter distributed in a timely manner.

Personal note from the secretary

by Kirt Hickman

I have enjoyed being the NMRR club secretary for the past year. As I am expecting a new addition to the family next month, I cannot commit myself to regular attendance at the club meetings for the next several months. Therefore, I must resign my current office.

I will continue to participate in club activities to any extent possible, but I am unsure how often that will be. When life settles back down into a new, and very different routine, I may be able to take up this, or another, officer's position in the future. Steve Stein will be assuming the Secretary's office.

Letter from Ted Brooker

dated March 5

To all fellow Rail RunNers,

Let me first apologize for taking so long to contact you guys. My life is finally settling down after being in total chaos for the past 6 months. Let me try to recall what has happened since I last saw everyone at the meeting at Blaine's house.

As you all know, I was looking for a position in San Diego, mostly by sending out resumes in the blind, and hoping to hear from some company in the near future. Well, I got a bite from an aviation service

continued on page 4

NTRAKage Writes
March 2002
Issue # 143

FY 2002 Board of Directors:
Buzz Lenander Bob Prestridge
Richard Henry

Officers:

President Kathy Steplowski
Secretary Steve Stein
Treasurer Jay Norman
Editor..... Kenneth Martinez

NTRAKage Writes is published monthly
by:

New Mexico Rail RunNers, Inc.
PO Box 20507
Albuquerque, NM 87154-0507

Subscription is by membership in the NMRR or by mutual exchange with other clubs. All submissions or subscription inquiries should be sent to the editor at the above address or email at:

NMRR@nmia.com

Opinions expressed herein are those of the author where signed or of the editor if unsigned.

© Copyright, 2002, NMRR

Secretary's Report – Meeting Minutes

by Kirt Hickman

Date: March 5, 2002

Location: Country Kitchen, Coronado Center

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Attendance: Bob Prestridge, Steve & Jason Stein, Kathy & Kurt Steplowski, Kirt Hickman, Ken Martinez, Chris Friedmann, Doug Gary, Chris & Tyler Gary, Norm Bleicher, Richard Henry, Chuck & Carol Ackerknect, Margaret Tolbert, Jim Orner, Bud Bechdel, Randy Howard, Phyllis Miller, Deborah Babb, George Canham, Dayton Molzen, Anita Sawicki, Tom Willers, Charlie Mathews, Mike Jackson, Clare Daniels.

Secretary's report was accepted as printed in the newsletter. A personal thanks to Steve

continued on page 3

Secretary's Report, from page 2

Stein for writing the secretary's report last month.

Treasurer's report was accepted as read.

Business:

1. GATS show summary: Closed

- Setup and tear down went well.
- The club took first prize for best layout.
- Additional details printed in the show report in the newsletter.

1. Upcoming Shows: Open

- Children's Fair, Albuquerque, Apr 12th-14th. Setup on 11th.
- Rocky Mountain Show, Denver, May 17th-19th.
- Pioneer Days, Roswell, May 17th – 19th.
- Tucumcari Show, July 26th-28th.
- State Fair, Albuquerque, Sept 13th-17th.
- The club has decided to participate in the Pioneer Days show instead of Rocky Mountain.

2. Children's Fair: Open

- Dayton has agreed to coordinate.

3. Senior's Center Display: Open

- The club was asked to setup for a day at the Senior's Center.
- Support was expressed by the club.
- Kathy will negotiate a date, probably in June.

4. Elections: Closed

- Kathy Steplowski was elected President – Unopposed.
- Buzz Lenander and Bob Prestridge were elected Directors – Unopposed

5. Letter from Ted Brooker: Closed

- A letter was sent to the club by Ted Brooker.
- The letter was read for the membership during the meeting and will be published in the upcoming newsletter.

6. Upcoming Meetings: Open

- April meeting will be at the clubhouse.
- May and June meetings will be a Randy's and Dayton's.
- Randy and Dayton will decide who will host which meeting.

7. Door Prizes: Closed

- Special thanks to Howie and Hobbies 'N' Stuff for door prize donations.
- Undecorated Doodle Bug – Doug
- 11 Gift Certificates to Hobbies 'N' Stuff – Ken, Chris, Anita, Kurt, Carol, Richard, Bob, Tom Bud, Deborah, Dayton.

Meeting Adjourned: 7:40pm.

Did your printed copy of NTRAKage Writes arrive safely and promptly?

This newsletter is mailed one week before the next scheduled meeting. If you're a local member and are not receiving your copy in a timely manner, or if it has been damaged during mailing, please let me know. I haven't heard from anyone, and I'm hoping no news is good news.

Also, if you're currently receiving a printed copy but would rather download the PDF, or vice versa, let me know.

- Ken

Ted's letter, from page 2

company on Montgomery Field in San Diego. They were desperate for a Line Manager due to many safety issues with the former manager, who was recently fired. Several aircraft were damaged due to mishandling, with one aircraft having damages of over 1 million dollars. They wanted to talk to me in person as soon as possible. They contacted me the Thursday right before the Tucumcari show, and I tried to put them off until at least Monday since I was really looking forward to the show and had already taken time off from work. Their reply was, "We need to see you tomorrow, and we will put you up in a hotel and airline tickets will be waiting for you at the airport". I had no choice but to go since they offered me 1 & 1/2 times my salary in Albuquerque. Maybe I could get back to Tucumcari by Saturday morning.

They put me through the wringer with an all-day interview on Friday, but to my relief I was offered the job. Unfortunately they wanted me to start immediately. I explained that I try to give 2 weeks notice to all employers but would try to make my current employer happy with one.

The rest of the weekend was spent apartment hunting. What an experience that was. I finally found an immediate vacancy for a 2-bedroom, 2-bath at the bargain price of \$1124. I'm missing Albuquerque already!

That week was the craziest of my life - what with trying to tie up loose ends at work, packing for a long-distance move and dealing with my assistant manager at my new job. After a long, long drive in a

U-Haul towing my car, with top speeds of 60 mph and sometimes dropping as low as 15 in the mountains, we finally arrived.

The weather out here is ideal, with practically no winter at all. Morning temperatures have been in the 40's and one afternoon last week the beach had a temperature of 90 due to desert winds. Sounds great, doesn't it? Well, read on.

I started my new job the following Monday. It was a great job that I looked forward to going to every morning. I was in charge of a 10-man crew that serviced all kinds of General Aviation aircraft. Most based aircraft were multi-million dollar jets owned by dot com guys or corporations that had money to burn. They didn't lease hangar space - they owned them. Many were fully decorated with astroturf, live palm trees, stereo systems, neon lighting - you name it.

I started a new training program and weeded out the bad apples, and seemed to finally have a smooth-running crew after about 5 weeks of 10- to 12-hour days. I didn't mind the long hours because I was having a blast working in aviation again in probably the best city in the country. Unfortunately, it is also the most expensive.

One morning before going to work, I received a strange phone call from my Mom in Ohio. She said that the World Trade Center was hit by an airplane and that I should put on the television. Thinking that this was an isolated incident, I tuned in just in time to see video of the

continued on page 5

Ted's letter, from page 4

second plane hitting the other tower. I thought that she was talking about a Cessna, not jumbo jets bursting into flames on impact killing everyone on board. I was totally shocked and dumbfounded, to think that terrorists would even attempt something on this scale was unthinkable. The drive in to work had even worse news on the radio, with attacks on the Pentagon and a failed attempt at an unknown target ending up with a major jumbo jet crash.

When I arrived at work, the FAA had shut down all forms of aviation for the first time in history. All aircraft told to land at the nearest airport regardless of their planned destinations. Many people were stranded at my airport, and just ended up watching the news coverage with the rest of us. Little did I know that this would be the beginning of the end of my new world here in San Diego.

Fuel sales dropped to zero, part-timers were told to stay home and full-timers went on part-time hours due to many broken promises from the FAA that normal operations were forthcoming. After a long day at work, my boss called me in to his office and told me that the business may never recover from the current losses, and he had to take drastic measures and lay me off along with several members of my crew. He said he could have the assistant manager sit around all day doing nothing instead of me. In retrospect, I seemed to have done my job too well, since all training programs were in place and all employees were working at 100% just in time for 9-11.

After a long stint on unemployment and working at temp positions, I finally was offered a position at another security company. Unfortunately this position was at a big cut in pay, and I still have California bills. I'm always on the lookout for other positions, and we are going to give San Diego our best shot and hopefully be able to stay out here.

Well now you're up to date, and once again let me say I'm sorry for taking so long to write. I will be keeping up to date with the newsletters online. Who knows - if things don't work out here, you may be seeing me in the very near future.

Sincerely,
Ted Brooker

CALENDAR

NMRR Layout Setup

NMRR Involved

FYI Only

Children's Fair
April 12-14

Board of Directors Meeting
March 27, 7:30pm
Location: the Clubhouse

Roswell show
May 18-19

Business Meeting
April 2, 7:00pm
Location: the Clubhouse

Business Meeting and Cookout
May 4, 4:30pm
Location: Randy and Phillis' house

Business Meeting
June 4, 7:00pm
Location: Dayton's house



New Mexico Rail RunNers
PO Box 20507
Albuquerque, NM 87154-0507
USA



Forwarding and Return Address Requested

