



NTRACKAGE Writes

The New Mexico Rail RunNers Club Newsletter

Issue 217 April 2008

The May 6th 2008 meeting will be held at clubhouse located at 601 D-1 San Mateo Ne, Albuquerque, NM. at 7PM. See map to new club location below!

Remember, please park in back (north side) of the building. Our door is the first one to the East of the walkway through the building.



NTRAKage Writes April 2008 Issue # 217

Editor Dave Turner

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NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Deadline for submission of articles and reports for inclusion in *Ntrakage Writes* is no later than the 19th of each month. This will allow enough time to get the newsletter distributed in a timely manner.

President's Lines — Jack Dietz

Presidents Line – by Jack Dietz

The April 1st meeting was my first as club president, and I would like to thank all who attended and contributed to the discussions that took place. Many topics were addressed, and we have numerous projects underway, including a new club car and a one-time club purchase from Digitrax. In addition, we will be adding emergency contact information to our member roster.

April saw several projects that deserve mention. First, kudos go out to “Bark’n” Bill Randolph for his excellent work on the turn-around modules. Although used at the Palo Duro Senior Center, they really did need attention, and Bill has stepped forward to whip these modules into shape. He’s doing a great job, too. I would also like to thank Buzz Lenander and Chris Gutierrez for their ongoing efforts to improve the club at their own expense.

Finally, I’d like to talk a little about the Winslow trip that took place between April 25th and 28th. We set up and ran all day Saturday and had quite a few visitors, who enjoyed what they saw. Many voiced their thanks for our participation in Winslow Railroad Days and hoped to see us again next year. Special thanks should be given to Chris, who was able to get the electrical system working and kept the trains running during our stay.

On a final, but sad note, I would like to address those who have not paid their dues. I would urge you to do so soon in order to maintain your membership in good standing, your eligibility to participate in club activities, the club’s upcoming Digitrax purchase, and of course our State Fair activities. In addition to missing out on club activities, this will also be the last newsletter you will receive until your dues are paid. This decision is in accordance with the wishes of the club’s paying members. We would really like to have your continued participation. Please remember that without paying our dues, we will be unable to have a space to meet and set up our layout.

Until next month, keep on a-chuggin’.

Tuesday, April 1, 2008, at the Club House, 6001 San Mateo Blvd., Suite D-1

Members present – Bud Bechdel, Buzz Lenander, Charlie Baker, Chris Friedmann, Chris Gutierrez, Dayton Molzen, Doug Gary, George Canham, Jack Deitz, Kathy Montoya, Steve Stein, Bill Randolph, Kent Shelton,

General Membership Meeting Minutes

Bo Smith and Mike Shannon.

President’s Remarks – President Jack Dietz called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Secretary’s Report – Minutes as provided in the last newsletter were approved subject to some changes as mentioned by Buzz. Buzz to provide corrections to Dave.

Treasurer’s Report – Charlie reported on our bank balance and the last month’s income and expenses. During the last fiscal year our expenses matched our income. Report was accepted.

Meeting Minutes—continued

Old Business

1. The April Officers Meeting will be April 5th, 2008, 11:00 a.m. at the Club House.
2. Rewiring of most modules has been done. Work remains on a few modules. Members should reimburse the club for the expenses of power pole connectors for their own modules (usually about \$10 per module). Buzz now has the necessary tools as well as Dave. Bud and Chris G. proposed using a new housing (\$6 each) which will simply assembly and reduce mistakes. Motion was made and approved to use these new housings.
3. Jack circulated drafts of Show Operating Procedures and Show Manager Procedures. A motion was made and approved to adopt the Show Manager Procedures noting the at times it will necessary to have an assistant show manger. A motion was also made and approved to adopt the Show Operating Procedure. Jack said that updated club rules would be discussed at the next business meeting.
4. The two-day show at the Palo Duro Senior Center went very well. Jack thanked all who contributed. We will likely be invited back.

New Business

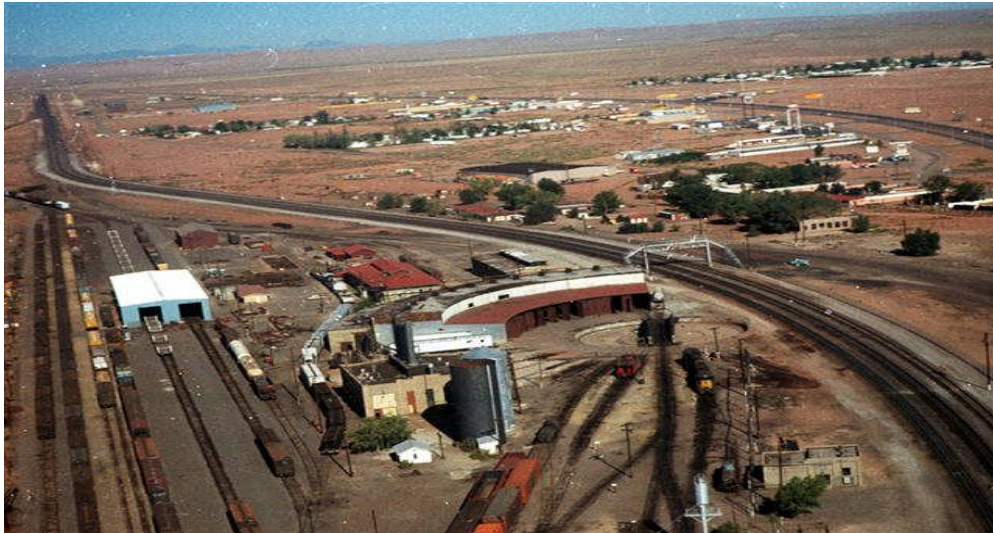
1. Jack suggested that we should develop emergency contact information for all members. A motion was made and approved to add contact information (name, relationship and phone number) to the club roster. It was also moved and approved that the club email distribution list should only include paid members. Members will be given until the end of May each year to pay their dues.
2. The idea of a new club car in connection with the club's 20th anniversary in 2010 was discussed. The idea would be to use the proceeds from club car sales to create a separate fund for a future permanent location. Several ideas for club car themes were identified. A motion was made and approved that a committee composed of the board and George will report back by the June business meeting on how best to proceed.
3. The club will participate in the Winslow Railroad Days – April 25th to 27th, 2008. The show manger will be Bud.
4. The club will participate in the Albuquerque Railroad Fair- May 17, 2008, Expo New Mexico. The show manager will be Jack. We will plan on not using any modules from the current clubhouse layout but will use the turn-around modules plus a few other modules.
5. The club will also participate in the NMRA Regional Meeting – May 29th – 31st, 2008. The show manager will be Buzz. Buzz will talked with NMRA officials about having the club layout in the clubhouse on the tour of layouts rather than setting up at the conference hotel.
6. We have an opportunity to purchase DCC equipment form Digitrax for the club and individual members at an attractive discount. Chris F. has prepared a list for members to indicate what they want to purchase. A motion was made and approved to announce this in the April club newsletter and to finalize all orders by the June business meeting (June 3).
7. Members were reminded about the Cheyenne Frontier Days Train on July 19. Buzz will coordinate purchasing tickets. He needs your order and money by the May business meeting (May 6).
8. The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.
9. Door prizes provide by Trains West were given out. Thank you Trains West!

Calendar for April 2008

Winslow Az Show April 25-27, 2008

Brian's Show at State Fairgrounds May 16-17

NMRA Show in Albuquerque May 29-31, 2008



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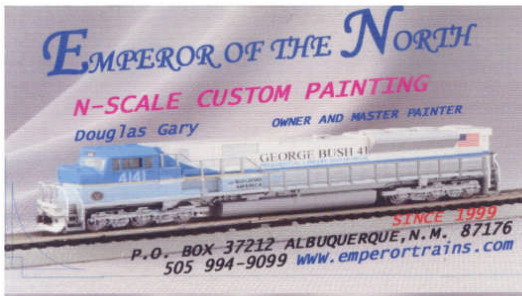
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Board Meeting Minutes

Call to Order 11:00 AM President Jack Dietz

Officers in attendance: Jack Dietz, Ed Duckett, Buzz Lenander, Charlie Baker, Dave Turner

1. Layout size for the NMRA Regional event the end of May will be 26 x 40 feet.
2. The May General meeting will be held at the clubhouse on May 6th 2008 at 7 PM. Officers meeting the following Saturday at 11 AM at the clubhouse.
3. Decision made to remove all non paying members from the mailing list.
4. Brian's Show. We will be able to use the modules owned by George and Debra (Thank you so much!). Set up will be Friday late afternoon with running Saturday from 9 AM to 4 PM. We will be running with the turn-arounds this time to keep the main layout setup at the clubhouse. Note: we are rewiring the rest of the main yard and need to get this done and tested before the NMRA Regional.
5. Discussion about the creation of a new club car continues. What type of car to use, 1 or 2 car set (2 is the recommended), how to handle sales, and the possibility of using a local business on the car.
6. Bud and Chris suggested another way of hooking up the powerpole by using housing that are made to hold 4 sets of connectors and then snap together. Also using an eye bolt and carabineer to hold the DCC wiring under the modules and off the floor. This idea was well received as most of us have no problem getting down on the floor, it is the return trip that creates issues.
7. Special board meeting called by Buzz the following week. Seems funny money is in the wind. Ask Buzz for details!!

Meeting adjourned at 11:30

Dave Turner

Secretary, NMRR