



# NTRACKAGE Writes

## The New Mexico Rail RunNers Club Newsletter

### Issue 219 June 2008

**The July 2008 meeting will be held at clubhouse located at 601 D-1 San Mateo Ne, Albuquerque, NM. On July 12. This will be our summer picnic. 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 June 2008 Issue # 219**

**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 19<sup>th</sup> of each month. This will allow enough time to get the newsletter distributed in a timely manner.**

## President's Lines — Jack Dietz

President's Notes, June 2008

The New Mexico RailRunNers have seen a lot of activities these past few months. I would personally like to thank everyone who has worked hard to accomplish our various projects. We have worked on everything from rewiring our modules to participating in four shows since April. Our latest show was the NMRA Convention. We put many long hours into this event. We set up on Thursday, finishing around 11:00 p.m. On Friday, Buzz, Chris (New Guy), and Ted all got back to the show at 6:00 a.m. (yes, THAT early) to run trains for local TV coverage of the convention. Saturday we ran until 5:00 p.m., then broke down the layout and got it back to the clubhouse around 9:30 p.m. Again, thank you to all who help make these events so successful. In addition, I would like to congratulate Buzz's individual efforts. Buzz won approximately fifteen awards for his modeling abilities. GREAT JOB!!

So what else is new? We continue to make progress in creating a new club car. We have decided to issue it as a two-car set for our twentieth anniversary. We would like anyone who is interested to submit possible designs. Three "templates" have been created for you to use in designing a new car. Additional information on this project will be available soon. You will also notice a new "Change for Trains" jar at the clubhouse, in which I hope all will participate. The basic idea is that instead of putting your spare change into a jar at home, you will put it in the jar at the clubhouse. All money collected will be used for the club's benefit. Finally, we will continue rewiring our modules in preparation for the State Fair. Two more modules were completed on the 7<sup>th</sup> and next we will tackle Dayton's.

It has been brought to my attention that I was remiss in not including Dave and Ted as having worked on George's modules in preparation for Albuquerque Railroad Days. Please forgive my oversight, and know that your hard work was greatly appreciated. Also, I made a visit to see Steve in the hospital. He continues to regain his health and has enjoyed everyone's support and visits. Our next meeting will be on July 12<sup>th</sup> at the Club House and will include our annual picnic. We will be putting out a list to see how many plan to attend and what each of us can bring. Until next time, keep on rollin'.

# General Membership Meeting Minutes

Secretaries Report June 3rd, 2007

Attendance: Charles Baker, Bud Bechdel, Ted Brooker, Jack Dietz, Ed Duckett, Chris Friedmann, Chris Gutierrez, Buzz Lenander, Kito Luke, Dayton Molzen, Kathy Montoya, Jay Norman, William Randolph, Dave Turner, and guest, Tim Schilling.

Meeting held at club house.

7:00 Call to Order, Jack Dietz, president

Secretaries Report: Approved as published.

Treasures Report: Update by Charles Baker on current state of expenses and income. Approved. All but 2 members are now paid and current.

Officers meeting will be at the club house June 7th.

July general meeting will be July 12<sup>th</sup> at the club house to coincide with picnic. Officers meeting to be held ???

Tim Schilling, representing the NMRA, thanked the club for our participation in the regional convention. Besides the layout at the convention center, some members also held open houses at their home layouts. Seems one of our members, to remain unnamed, made off with a bunch of modeling awards. Seems Ted turned out to be the “salesman” of the show”, while helping Doug out it seems he cleaned out the shelf for a couple of lines.

Old Business:

1. Dayton reported that there is no new news about the State Fair. We will be there September 12-16<sup>th</sup>. Mark your calendars and be there if you can!
2. The order to Digitrax is still pending. With everything else going on, this has moved to the back burner for a while. A listing of decoders and what they fit will be reprinted and brought to the club.

New Business:

1. July 12<sup>th</sup> picnic listing of goodies to bring will be placed at the club. Remember, there will be no general membership meeting on the 1<sup>st</sup> of July!! We will have the picnic at the club. We can cook outside and have plenty of space inside to sit. A sunshade or 2 for outside might be considered.
2. Club car: OK, probably no “Red or Green” but there should be more ideas than that. Jack has been his usual busy self and come up with a grand idea. He has templates for 3 cars, Plug door box, Std 40’ box, and 40’ reefer in outline form. You design the car and the club will make a decision. Jack will hide the identity of all those submitting a design to keep things on the up and up. Kathy suggested the winner get a set of the cars and everyone thought that was a great idea so design something you want. Cars will be ready for our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

# Calendar for July 2008

NMRR Picnic July 12th at the Club House  
New Mexico State Fair Sept 12th-16th 2008  
Gone in 60 seconds!



## Our Local Hobby Shops

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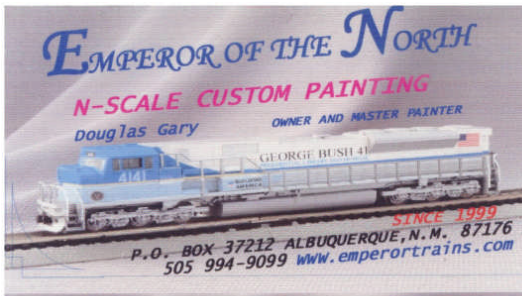
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## General Meeting Minutes

3. Buzz brought to the floor a motion that all members older than dirt (most of us) need to recruit a member under 30. (Seemed like a good idea to him since he already has MOW Chris). Most agreed it would be a great idea if we knew anyone under 30!
4. Wiring the modules, to include the yard, will take some time. A suggestion is that we either put the Belin yard in the layout or the Barkin Bill turnarounds in place as a temporary solution.
5. Jack did a demo of "ground goop" that he used on the drawing module. Recipe is as follows: 1 part cellulose clay (paper mache), 1 part vermiculite, 1 part earth tone paint (or color of your choice) and 1 part Tight bond glue. You can add Lysol to keep it from molding if you are going to store it. The material has some texture when applied, will hold ground foam before it dries, and has enough body to form small hills.
6. Last but of most importance, HAPPY BIRTHDAY KATHY!! Not a day over 29 (that was for Buzz) and if ever there was a member that deserved the cake it definitely is her!! We would have been out in the street (OK, storage which is worse) was it not for Kathy.

Meeting adjourned and cake served!

Dave Turner

Secretary, NMRR

## Board Meeting Minutes

Officer's meeting:

June 7, 2008 1:00 pm

At the Club House

Officer's Present at meeting:

Jack Dietz

Buzz Lenander

Charlie Baker

Kit Luke

Chris Friedmann

1. Bud Bechdel showed us how to use Kato expansion tracks as connector tracks from module to module. The system works very well and we will bring it before the entire club at the July meeting.
2. Bud also stated brought up a serious problem with the handicap module when using Kato passenger and coal cars. (See page 6)
3. Finally on the club car design:

## Board Meeting Minutes continued

- ⇒ Members can submit possible designs to Jack so they can be entered into the competition
- ⇒ Entries will be displayed without being identified by designer only a number
- ⇒ The top three designs will be submitted to Micro Trains in order to assess the cost of each.
- ⇒ The final decision will be put to a vote of the general membership.
- ⇒ The dates have not been determined.

## Special Note about Kato electrical setup

### Operating Note:

We have discovered a situation that could be extremely hazardous and expensive for our club members. When running Kato passenger cars and coal porters, the automatic shut-off of the handicap module does not always work. The issue seems to be the way these passenger cars feed power to interior lights and maintain a continuous electrical current for smooth operations. Apparently Kato feeds power through the trucks and also connects the two sets of trucks together with a power strip. Due to this design, power can be transmitted past the electrical isolation and by passing the handicap module's electrical cut-off feature. In the future, all club members should take care to avoid the disaster of a train going over the edge of an open gate.

No electrical interruption occurs because the power strip feeds current past the isolation and on to the next section of track

