



NTRACKAGE Writes

The New Mexico Rail RunNers
Club Newsletter

Issue 239

February 2010

The March Annual meeting will be held at Annie's Soup Kitchen, 3107 Eubank NE, Albuquerque, NM 87111 at 7:00 PM We will eat at 7 so please be on time!



NTRAKage Writes February 2010 Issue # 239

Editor Dave Turner

NTrackage Writes is published monthly by the

New Mexico Rail RunNers, Inc.
PO Box 20507,
Albuquerque, New Mexico 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 NMRRNTRAK@gmail.com

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

© Copyright, 2006, NMRR

For Additional Information about NMRR Contact:

President	Jack Dietz	298-7240
Secretary	Dave Turner	828-3696
Treasurer	Charlie Baker	797-4750

Directors	Ed Duckett	792-8196
	Buzz Lenander	821-1931
	Ted Brooker	899-6350

Web site: <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 19th of each month. This will allow enough time to get the newsletter distributed in a timely manner.

Presidents line

President's Notes

Dear Friends and Fellow model railroaders I want to thank all of you who were able to attend the February General meeting. I think we covered a lot of subjects and are in good financial shape as we near our elections in March. Our Greeley trip appears now to be scheduled for June 4th through 6th and I'd like to thank Kent for keeping up on this issue. It has been noted that the Regional National model Railroad Association meeting is that same week end in Alamosa so this could be problematic. Kent will be putting up an interest list on the bulletin board so please sign up if you are interested in going. The trip to Greeley is a great trip and I highly recommend it.

The drawing module is proceeding very slowly and we need to get going on it. It has been determined that we will have an open house on April 24th so we really should have this project complete by that time. Some of you have voiced concern about the progress of this project but I have observed very few people actually working on it.

The DCC Special Interest Group (SIG) reports that as of January 15th the new NCE system has been installed and is operational. We did discover a few minor issues that needed correction. Our MOW crew came to the rescue spent several Friday work sessions in rewiring the fiddle yard of the layout to correct this issue. This of course was a rewiring project that we had wanted to complete anyway so this worked out well. Continual NCE education classes will be held to assist our members with the changeover. Additionally, the SIG will be purchasing another power booster which will allow the entire layout to be operated using DCC. Members who still prefer to operate DC equipment need not worry since any full DCC operations will be arranged outside of our regular operating sessions.

A discussion was also held concerning DCC operations to include train length, switching, and general operations. It was concluded that due to the number of trains being run at any given time train lengths should be limited to number of cars that can be set up on only one yard track. This length allows smoother operations and keeps the trains to a length that can be handled by most sidings. Unlike DC running DCC operations require a more active awareness by a train's engineer. Staying with your train and planning ahead of your desired route is more important since other trains will also be operating on the same trackage.

A new special interest group has also been formed to look into the idea of doing more realistic operations using DCC. Kent Shelton will be heading this SIG and interested persons should contact him in order to be involved in this effort.

It was also determined that an open house should be held on Saturday, April 24, 2010. We will be advertising this event and also putting out fliers at both Trains West and Wig Wag. As we prepare for this event we will need to do some cleaning and straightening up of the club house.

Finally, the news many of you have been waiting for. At this time the slate for our upcoming elections is as follows; Chris Gutierrez for president, Dave Turner for Treasurer, Charlie Baker for Secretary, and Kent Shelton for board member. The Annual meeting will be held at 7:00 pm, Tuesday, March 2, 2010 at Anne's Soup Kitchen. The cost for dinner, including tip will be \$17.00 per diner. Dinner will be a sandwich bar, including salad, sides, dessert, and drinks. It should be a lot of fun.

Jack

General Membership Meeting February 2010 cont.

Secretaries Report for General Membership Meeting February 2nd, 2010

Members present: Charles Baker, Bud Bechdel, Jack Dietz, Ed Duckett, Stuart Evers, Doug Gary, Chris Gutierrez, Buzz Lenander, Dayton Molzen, Jay Norman, Dan Pickering, William Randolph, Mike Shannon, Kent Shelton, Dave Turner

Guests: Jim Bullock

Call to order 7:00 PM by Jack Dietz, President Happy Ground Hog Day!! Greeley Colorado, the Freight Station Museum, has confirmed that June 4, 5 and 6 is a good date. Now it appears we have a conflict with the Regional NMRA conference the same weekend and several members may be going to that. Time will tell!

Secretary's report – The minutes of the December, 2009 business meeting and board meeting were approved by voice vote as published in the December newsletter. I missed an arrow pointing to Dayton's controller, sorry Dayton!!

Treasurer's report – The report as presented was approved by voice vote.

At this time our treasury is in good shape and there are some funds left in the DCC Sig group account for future DCC equipment. It appears we have about 10 sets of cars total sold in our 2 local hobby shops.

Old Business:

Greeley, Co. Kent will respond to Dave Trussel about the dates we could operate on the layout.

Drawing module - We need to work on the module every week in order to have it ready for Brian's show in May. It would be great if more members got involved in this process. There is now a big river bed and bridge to be placed.

Major work on the layout. The main yard has now been rewired and the issue with a short has been located and corrected. (it was a new power jumper feeding a switch frog) The double slip switch has been pulled and there is now a passing track for yellow. The next activity will be the demolition of the current diesel shops and fueling facility to make that bunch of track come back to life.

DCC – We had to return one throttle for repair. Chris G. also told the members that we may need a couple of additional pieces of equipment to make all lines DCC if we ever want to do that. It was brought to the floor by Stewart and agreed to by the DCC SIG that we should go ahead and get the required hardware. Chris G. will get with Doug on the order

New Business:

Open House – Plans continue for our first (hopefully of many) open house events. The thought is to have

Board Meeting January 22nd 2010

Secretaries Report Board Meeting February 13th, 2010

Board Members: Jack Dietz, Ted Brooker, Buzz Lenander, Charlie Baker, Dave Turner

Others: Chris I.O, Bud, Kent, Bill, Mike and Tom Willers (good to see you again Tom!)

Call to order 11:08


Slate for club officers nominated for positions will be published in the February news letter per club By-Laws.

We need to verify with Annie's that everything is OK for the March Meeting.

Chris G. is taking the drawing module to cut out the river bed.

We are thinking about getting a computer to us for DCC programming. Jack offered up a lap top that now has a defective hard drive and Dave is going to see if he has a drive and can get it operational.

We need to follow up on Brian's show and see what the details are this year. Normally we have heard



TRAINS WEST, INC.
ALL RAILROAD HOBBY SHOP

WARREN W. HATCH
President


3351 Candelaria NE, Suite A
Albuquerque, NM 87107
(505) 881-2322 • Fax (505) 884-8814
www.trainswest.com • 1-800-981-2322

Wig-Wag, LLC 
N-Scale for the Discriminating Modeler!

www.wig-wag-trains.com
Toll Free: 888-298-7177
e-mail: wigwag@thuntek.net

George Canham
3010A Altez NE
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87111


EMPEROR OF THE NORTH
N-SCALE CUSTOM PAINTING
Douglas Gary *OWNER AND MASTER PAINTER*



GEORGE BUSH 41

SINCE 1999
P.O. BOX 37212 ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. 87176
505 994-9099 www.emperortrains.com

The official dining car for the NMRR!



MARTIN ELSNER
MARIE ELSNER

3107 EUBANK N.E. ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. 87111
SCOTTSDALE VILLAGE 296-8601



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



Agenda for March 2010

New Mexico Rail Runner February Meeting Agenda Tuesday, March 2, 2010

The February general membership meeting of the New Mexico Rail Runners will be held at 7:00 pm, Tuesday, March 2, 2010 at Annie's Soup Kitchen, 3107 Eubank Blvd. NE. The board meeting will be held on Saturday, March 6, 2010 at the club house to include all newly elected officers and board members .

Meeting Agenda:

President's Remarks

Treasurer's Report

Secretary's Report

Old Business

1. Greeley Trip
2. Drawing Module
3. DCC SIG Report
4. Operations SIG
5. Other Old Business

New Business

1. Swap Meet
2. Elections
3. Other New Business

Adjournment

A study in concentration, or maybe a nap!



General Membership Meeting February 2010 cont.

one set day of the month but it was decided to try a couple first to see what type of response we get. We really need to have everything as clean as possible for the event. The first one is set for April 24th from 10 to 4.

New Article under development - Bud Bechdel is leading a group of club members in putting together an article on replacing the couplers on the Bachmann DD40AX with Micro-Trains.

DCC operations and overview – Bud suggested we set up some test tracks to let new users get up and going with DCC. Charlie said he felt this might be best handled with one to one mentoring. This would also help new to DCC members learn about switch gaps, etc from someone who had already learned the hard way. That said we do need to limit the train length so more people can enjoy running and not being frustrated by the tracks all being blocked, keep the track and switches clean, and don't just go off to get a cup of coffee and leave your train blocking the main.

Operations SIG – Kent is going to get a small group of members together to explore the possibility of running operations sessions on the layout. We intend to start out slow and easy remembering that “this should be fun”!

Annie's will host our March Business Meeting - On March 2nd at 7 PM. Please do come early. Watch the web page or for an email for the exact time. Cost is \$17.00 each and spouses and significant others are welcome to attend.

Positions open for the club this year – Nominations for offices for the election are: President, Chris Gutierrez; Treasure, Dave Turner; Secretary, Charlie Baker; board member, Kent Shelton.

State Fair – Dayton will do us honors in leading the annual State Fair show. Ted Brooker will be his man Friday this year. Doug recommended that when running trains at the fair that the operators stay outside with the trains and to better interact with the public. Dates are the 19th through the 21st of September, 2010.

Brian's Show – Has moved from their normal date to May 22nd this year and is under Golden Spike Enterprises. We are checking on if they want us and if so, how much space we will have.

Club Cars - We have a nice ½ page add in the N Scale collector magazine and hopefully will see some additional order with that exposure.

Meeting adjourned at 8:18 PM

Dave Turner, Sec. NMRR

Board Meeting January 22nd 2010 cont

something before now.

Also the date for Greeley, Co may switch to April. It does not seem to matter what dates we try for, there are always going to be some conflicts.

The planning for the open house is going forward with the date set for April 24th. A sample flyer has been sent out and is now being revised based on feedback.

The next NMRA meeting is March 6th.

It was asked what members can do with the Digitrax equipment. Some have sold some locally, and there is e-bay and Craig's list. We do know the Clovis group was interested in some of the clubs equipment but we don't know how much else they might want. Other local clubs may be interested if we let them know what we have available.

Meeting adjourned 11:36

Dave Turner, Sec. NMRR

I didn't notice the glue was wet when I put my elbow down.

