

Estes Valley Model Railroaders Officers and Directors Meeting Minutes, 21 January 2012

Attendees: Rex Beistle, Bob Trump, John Thut, Fred Mares (guest), Jim Thompson, Lynn Patten, Robert Trumbull

Secretary: Don Widrig

President Bob called the meeting to order at 1:00pm.

Rails in the Rockies Update

The Library is proposing a photo contest in which kids will take photos of the RITR and have them judged. All photos would be given to the Children's Librarians for judging and they would announce the winners and award prizes at the Library some time after the show is over.

The Library also wanted to have a "loco decorating" contest. **Bob** showed a cutout loco that we are making and the kids will decorate about a week before the show. Judging and awarding would be similar to the photo contest.

Moved-**Rex**/Seconded-**Lynn**. Approve the Library ideas. Both ideas approved. **Bob** will cut out 30 masonite locos.

RITR Hospitality Suite: **Bob** outlined an idea for renting a hospitality suite at the Rocky Mountain Park Inn from noon on Saturday until noon on Sunday. Cost was estimated at \$82 for one night. We would supply food and beverages at our cost. The idea is that the officers of the club would invite selected vendors, participants, friends, etc to the suite for some after-show hospitality between 5pm and 7pm. **Don** suggested that it would be a waste to not have someone stay the night. Perhaps an invited speaker or some such could stay there. Just a thought.

Youth in Model Railroading: **Bob** announced that the number of Youth in Model Railroading complimentary rooms would be reduced to 6 room nights which the Rocky Mountain Park Inn is paying for. Bob has suggested that we will review our policy of offering complimentary rooms to Youth in Model Railroading again next year after we see how eager the group is to volunteer at our show.

Trumbull Shadow: **Robert** announced that he would like to retire from the Treasurer's position at the end of his year's term. He requested that someone be approached to become the new Treasurer next year and this person could shadow **Robert** this year to learn the ropes. This would be especially timely if the person could shadow **Robert** during the RITR show.

Secret Security Person: **Don** accepted the role of the SSP coordinator for the show. He is to find at least two other club members who would assist during the show.

☞ **Don** will check on **Jim Mount**'s status and his possible participation in the show.

Club Programs

John initiated a lively discussion regarding the types of programs for the monthly meetings. Ideas included:

- Entertainment, including movie nights
- Information programs
- Mini-clinics
- Contests



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*In a separate communication after the meeting, **Rex** suggested that a door prize be included as part of the programs. He suggested something like a display box or similar small but useful prize would be appropriate.*

The group felt that contests were generally not a good program because only a very few people ever entered.

The idea of a movie night, complete with popcorn, was well received. The movie "The Man Who Saved Christmas" was suggested. It's the story of A.C. Gilbert and his contributions to the toy train hobby.

The group got interested in having some sort of a continuing mini-clinic that would run from month to month. As a suggestion, how about having a hands-on session that takes up most of a meeting and would have all interested members build their own diorama using club-supplied materials. The clinics could have a session on scenery, track work, wiring, structures, etc. At the end of the project, the dioramas could be judged and a small number of the winners could be exhibited in the Library display case during February. Of course, some careful planning will be required to make sure the materials are available, workstations are set up, and sufficient time is allowed to tear down everything, clean up, and leave before the Library closes at 9pm.

It was decided to form a small committee to explore the mini-clinic idea and present some ideas to the club at the net club meeting. Committee members include **John** (chair), **Bob**, **Fred**, **Jim**, and **Don**.

☞ **John** will organize a plan and call the committee for a meeting soon.

Website Update

Lynn reported on the status of the club website. Lots of old material removed and new material urgently needed. The group was interested in whether or not a RailsInTheRockies.com domain name was available. It's not. However, the .net and .org versions are available.

☞ **Lynn** was authorized to go ahead and purchase the .net and .org domain versions. Also, he will communicate with the owner of the .com name and see if it can be purchased.

Lynn reported that the current EstesValleyModelRailroaders domain name is going to expire in October of this year. It is currently held in **Al Howard**'s name and this would be a good time to convert it over to **Lynn**. **Don** suggested that an effort be made to synchronize the new RITR name contracts with the EVMRR contract so that all future renewals would come at the same time.

The group also decided to have a limited and non-public web page that would contain a club roster. No confidential information would be included such as email addresses, financial data, etc. The page would NOT be accessible via a link on the main web pages but would be accessible to members who knew the "secret" URL. It was decided NOT to include password protection. It turns out that we currently do not have a comprehensive single source of our membership info and **Lynn** needs a file in order to prepare the list.

☞ **Don** will take the initiative to prepare a consolidated membership list by combining the info from **Bob**, **Robert**, and others. Once the list is prepared, he will send it to **Lynn** for inclusion in the website.



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Donation Policy

Jim Thomson brought up the matter of the (non-existent) club policy for the handling of donations. Here is the problem as Jim sees it:

- Avoid "ambush" proposals at meetings.
- Members are often confused or uncomfortable with having to vote on something they are uncertain about, opposed to, or which may be embarrassing to discuss in front of the proposer.
- Proposals may be of minimal interest to most members, but very important to the proposer.
- There is social pressure to "go along".
- Some proposals are not in the best interest of the club as a whole.
- Some proposals are outside the mission and purpose of the club.
- Many people have the feeling that since we have lots of money it doesn't matter.
- We have approved donations in the past without following the direction of the bylaws.
- Direction at the last meeting not in keeping with the bylaws.

The group agreed with these issues. Interestingly, this discussion then veered off into a discussion of how the club maintains its policies and procedures. Short answer: it doesn't. With respect to maintaining a Policy and Procedure handbook, this will require further study and agreement. In the meantime, **Robert** is starting to document his Treasurer procedures for future inclusion in the handbook. **Laura** has updated all club files and procedures as they pertain to Rails in the Rockies.

While discussing the idea of policies and procedures, **Bob** requested that the group look over the existing documents (if you can find them) and let's move toward updating the documents to reflect how the club operates today.

Getting back on track, **Jim** presented a draft of a proposed Donation Policy. The group offered several thoughts and ideas on the policy. More idea and comments should be directed to **Jim** via email.

☞ **Jim** will update the Donation Policy draft and submit it for further consideration by the group before presenting it to the members.

Club Outings

The group discussed ideas for several outings. Included were ideas for:

- Glenwood Springs trip in May, before Memorial Day
- Colorado Springs Trolley Museum
- Cheyenne Train Station and/or Roundhouse
- Golden Spike Ceremony in Promontory (ask Rich Bray about this)

It was decided to poll the members to test their interest.

Budget Review

Robert led the group through the proposed budget for 2012. It was decided to combine the Magazine Subscription line item with the Major Gift line item. Moved-**Don**/Seconded-**John** to accept the budget as revised. Approved. Robert reported that the current Treasurer operations were maintained on two



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Excel spreadsheets, one for the club and one for the NMRA Division. **Don** suggested that it might be worthwhile to look into converting to a QuickBooks system. Tabled until later.

Board Meetings

Should Board meetings be open to all members? Moved-**Rex**/Seconded-**John**. Open to all members. Approved.

Status of Hon3 Layout

Bob reported that the current layout is set up in his basement and is being worked on primarily by himself and Fred. It was agreed to schedule a layout meeting at **Bob's** house after RITR.

☞ **Bob** or **John T** will do the scheduling for a layout meeting.

Status of On30 Layout

Bob and **Fred** reported on the current planning of the layout. Bob showed off some sample track plans and described the idea for the modules. They will be 5 feet long and 30 inches deep. At this point, the layout is deemed to NOT conform to the NMRA standards for interchangeability. However, the club might, at some future time, develop an interchange module that would match up to a standard module from someone else.

Next Meeting

The group agreed to the next Executive meeting on April 21, 2012. Time and place TBD.

Meeting Adjourned at 4:45Pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Don Widrig, meeting scribe

