



The WIG – WAG

The Official Newsletter of the NMRA – MCoR

Cedar Rapids, Davenport & Moline Area

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The Meeting Minutes

Cedar Rapids, Davenport & Moline

Fall Area Meeting

Saturday, October 8, 2005

Official Meeting Minutes

- Meeting called for opening at 10:05 AM on Saturday, October 8, 2005 at the Cedar Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce. At the beginning of the meeting there were 20 people present. Allen Merta covered housekeeping items for the meeting and then there were introduction done by Gary Zillyette, Allen Merta and general introductions from the audience.
- To start off there was a brief history of the NMRA, its regions and the break down of the divisions/areas in the state of Iowa. There was talk of the “Great Change” of the NMRA to take place after January 1, 2006 and what it would entail for our area and that we may gain additional members. With the change approaching there was a request from Gary Z. to update everyone’s name, address and e-mail information.
- John Shaw and Whit Johnson talked about the MMR / AP / Golden Spike (Master Model Railroader, Achievement Program, Golden Spike) and basically gave some information as to what they are, and the different areas in which an MMR can be earned.
- Gary Z. talked about the Wig-Wag website and why it was set up and what the plans are for it in the future which would come later during the day.
- Gary Z. asked of the audience what it would take for us to be an active division and what the feeling was from the group in the audience. Much discussion took place as to a constitution, by-laws and filing information for the state. Questions were asked as to why we would need to have these items in place, and how restrictive are we going to make the rules to be followed. The question was followed up that we need to have a constitution and by-laws for state filing information. The overall goal is to have the constitution and by-laws in place as guidelines to be followed. Finally, the question was posed to prepare for petition for becoming an active region. The open discussion lasted for about 45 minutes, it was the feeling that a break was needed for others to talk among the group.



The break times were popular times for discussions amongst attendees. These discussions prompted significant discussion during the more formal portions of the meeting.

- At 11:37 AM after the break there were 24 people who were signed in. There was a brief talk regarding the silent auction. At 11:47AM the question for becoming an active division was addressed again. There was a question regarding NMRA judging of models at meetings. However, it was answered that judging just needs to be available at meetings, but it is not necessary that members bring something to be judged. Whit Johnson talked about how in the afternoon; the audience would get to see how a typical judging takes place. Lee Bertholf from Waterloo asked where he and other NMRA members would / could attend meetings. It was suggested that we try to petition the Thousand Lakes Region to release some of the addresses up near the HWY 20 area, such as: Cedar Falls, Waterloo, Dyersville and Dubuque.
- At 12:05PM, Peter Jaynes brought the petition for becoming an active division up again to the audience. Ted Persoon brought it to a motion, which was seconded by John Shaw. A majority of votes from the audience moved us to become an active division upon Mid-Continent Region (MCoR) BOD approval in January 2006.
- At 12:09PM, the petition was passed around to be signed which would move us into an active division status upon Mid-Continent Region (MCoR) BOD approval in January 2006. It was brought up to the audience that until an official election was held that Gary Zillyette would be Interim Director, Allen Merta would be Interim Superintendent, Tony Bowen, would be Interim Clerk, and Peter Jaynes volunteered to be the Interim Paymaster. John Shaw made the motion to accept these people in the interim positions, which was seconded by Jim Schaefer. The motion to accept Gary Zillyette as Interim Director, Allen Merta as Interim Superintendent, Tony Bowen, as Interim Clerk, and Peter Jaynes as Interim Paymaster passed with a majority of votes from the audience.
- The question was raised about a possible name change for the group. It was suggested that Gary Z. pass around a sheet for possible name ideas and would also post this on the website.
- Allen M. also made the statement that the constitution and by-laws would appear in a future issue of the Wig-Wag Newsletter and on the web site once our attorney has reviewed them.

- At 12:22 we broke for lunch until 1:30
- Our meeting was called back to order at 1:40 after our lunch break.
- The newsletter and Website were talked about as to the future of them and how we would fund them. It was shared that both are currently being funding out of pocket by Allen M and Gary Z. The average cost currently for a full year of the Wig-Wag would be around \$11.40. Many suggestions were brought up about doing the newsletter as a possible PDF file. Those without computers would then have their newsletters mailed to them. At the same time the list for updating was being passed around to update any mailing and e-mail information. Gary Z. brought up the idea of having local hobby shops possibly run an ad to help with the offset of the newsletter. Most agreed that they would rather see a small ad if we would choose to go that route in the future. Ted Smith suggested that a hat be passed around to help with the cost of the newsletter.



Left to right, Peter Jaynes, Allen Merta, Whit Johnson (Mid-Continent Region Secretary), and Gary Zillyette discuss technical points during one of the breaks at the meeting.

- Gary Z. talked about up coming plans with the website and welcomed comments from the audience of what they would like to see. It was brought up to possibly make it more kid friendly in the future, or have a separate site for students, and also the possibility of Boy Scout involvement for their railroading merit badge. The ideas that were mentioned would be discussed at a future meeting. It was also suggested to list items on the website such as train shows, other railroad related events, and layout open houses. Also additional links to other railroad related organizations. It was suggested to get our information into local hobby shops regarding our website and events that may be coming up. A suggestion of this being done as a poster or flyer would be a good way to get the word out.
- 2:30 we took a small afternoon break. The Interim Clerk checked the sign up sheets and at that time we had 27 people who were signed in.
- At 2:45 after the break we talked about the World's Greatest Hobby. There was some discussion as Gary Z. is an ambassador of WGH and it sounds as if other members are familiar with it. It was moved to table the WGH until a future meeting.
- At 3:00 NMRA judging was going to take place on an entry by John Shaw. Richard Napper, Whit Johnson, Rick Liebich, and Allen Merta conducted judging. Shaw's D&H caboose scored 105

points, exceeding the 87.5 points necessary for a merit award in NMRA's Achievement Program. Following was going to be the Chinese Gift Exchange followed up by the Door Prize give a ways. It was decided to roll the items brought for the Chinese Gift Exchange into the Door Prizes. The meeting adjourned at approximately 3:40 PM. I, Tony Bowen left at 3:00 to get home to have my layout open as part of the day's activities.

Recorded By CRD&M Interim Clerk:
Tony J. Bowen
Saturday, October 8, 2005



Rick Liebich, Director of the Kate Shelley Division (west of the CRD&M Area) (left), and Richard Napper, President of the Mid-Continent Region of the NMRA visit about MCoR and division details.

What's Next? What's Happening Now?

I realize it has seemingly been very quiet since the meeting on October 8, so now is a good time to let you know what is happening.

Constitution & By-Laws

Member and attorney Phil "Flip" Klinger is working on the constitution and by-laws. His charge is to combine the two documents into one general document that addresses the requirements of the State of Iowa filing for legal status of the organization and satisfy the terms and conditions of the Mid – Continent Region and the National Model Railroad Association so that we may obtain our charter. Our intent is to have officers elected for 3-year terms, all of which would be staggered. The Division Superintendent could not serve consecutive terms. The purpose behind this is to rotate responsibilities and ensure that new ideas are constantly coming into the organization. It is also a good way to avoid burn-out. The 3-year term also allows an individual to accumulate all of the points necessary for Association Volunteer if one chooses to seek his / her Master Model Railroader designation.

In January, the MCoR Board of Directors will accept and vote on our petition to become an active division. Following that action, we hope to be ready to file for our legal status with the State of Iowa Secretary of State. We will also be submitting our documentation to the U.S. Internal Revenue Service for designation as a 501c(3) non-profit educational organization.

Activity Plan

As mentioned earlier, the constitution and by-laws will be very general. As part of my responsibility as the Superintendent, I hope to present an Activity Plan to the membership suggesting activities by which we can further the hobby, improve our skills, improve communication, and increase camaraderie amongst members. This will be something similar to an operations plan. The intent is that it serve as a guide for keeping our division active.

I have received outstanding input from a number of members and will be asking for input from others. One thing that readily becomes apparent, there is not a shortage of ideas, suggestions, or opinions in this division. This is good! The more ideas that come forth, the better and stronger we are as an organization.

Division Name

We need to have the name of our division settled upon right after Thanksgiving. This allows us time to insert the new / old name into the petition to MCoR and submit it to the President and Board of Directors; and into the legal documents to the State and the IRS.

In the meantime, please log onto www.thewigwag.org to suggest new names and vote on a name for our division. There are several options presented, plus you can vote to keep the name as is. If you do not have access to our web site, contact us. We will make sure your voice is heard and your vote is counted!

The Wig – Wag

Many of you indicated at the meeting that you would prefer to receive the newsletter electronically. We are moving forward with implementing that request. Our target date is to have this fully operational with the January issue. However, I hope to conduct a beta test with the December issue with a selected group of members.

We have dubbed the December issue the *Super Tips* issue. Please send your modeling tips, ideas, how – to's, and photos to Allen Merta at armerta@msn.com. His mailing address is 5919 Purple Drive NE, Cedar Rapids, 52402. We have already received an excellent modeling tip from Jim Schaefer in Davenport.

Annexation?

We had representatives from Waterloo and Dubuque at our meeting showing interest in joining with us as an active division. Technically, Waterloo, Dyersville and Dubuque are part of the Thousand Lakes Division, which includes Iowa from roughly Highway 20 north, Minnesota, North and South Dakota, a portion of Wisconsin, the Canadian province of Manitoba and the western portion of the Canadian province of Ontario. The Thousand Lakes Division has 10 areas / divisions with only 2 divisions being active. After we have our charter, we will petition the Thousand Lakes Region and the National Model Railroad Association to change the regional and divisional membership status of those members living in the Waterloo, Dyersville, and Dubuque areas, and along the Highway 20 corridor in general into our division. Model railroading is strong in these areas and the NMRA members in this area feel disconnected from the Thousand Lakes Region because of the distance and because the areas serving northeast Iowa are inactive divisions. This process may take a while, but our membership will be much stronger.

Passes

When the passenger train was about the only way to travel, having a pass authorizing one to ride the train was a real asset. Passes were issued by the railroads for certain employees and their families. Various officials, especially those in a position to do the railroad a favor, were often honored with passes. Usually there was some limitation printed on the pass such as expiration date or limitation of division or route and type of train on which the pass could be used. These passes were printed on fairly heavy cardstock and they were about billfold or credit card size with rounded corners to facilitate insertion into a billfold. The name of the railroad was prominently displayed, usually in a fancy font. Many had the word "PASS" so that all would know what the card was for. Most were numbered.

The NMRA has and promotes a Pass Exchange Program. At the October 8 meeting, I mentioned that I had created a pass for my model railroad and that I had entered it in the Pass Division of the Model Contest at the National Convention in Cincinnati this past summer. I was very lucky and won second place. A number of people asked that I include my pass with this issue of *The Wig – Wag*. My pass is enclosed. On the line labeled PASS, I write in your name and I sign it in the lower right hand corner. I ask that you sign it on the back. It's very simple and follows common practice.

Upcoming Events

November 5 - Kate Shelley Division's 13th Annual Fall Meet. United Community School, US Hwy. 30 between Ames and Boone, IA. 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Admission \$5.

November 12 / 13 – Trainfest – America's Largest Operating Model Railroad Show will be held at the Wisconsin Exposition Center at Wisconsin State Fair Park. For more information visit www.trainfest.com. This is an NMRA sanctioned event.

CRD&M Area member Buzz Pinnow and owner of Midwest Trains Associates, 1114 State Street, in Bettendorf, is holding an open house for their layout on Sunday, November 20, 2005 from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm. The layout is HO scale, has DCC, four major yards, and numerous staging tracks.



This is a small view of Jim Huddle's Cincinnati Central Railroad. This is an HO scale layout, 99% started and 95% complete, set in the time frame from 1955 to the present. It is a mainline coal hauler that is greatly influenced by the C&O Railroad. It has lots of C&O diesels running through West Virginia scenery, including farms and river gorges. This layout was featured in the October 2004 issue of *ScaleRAILS*.