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**7th Division PNR/NMRA Annual General Meeting 2014 Held
During Trains 2014 At The Cameron Recreation Centre,
Burnaby BC On Sunday November 9 2014 From 1400 To 1600
Hours.**

Minutes

Call To Order

Superintendent Russ Watson called the meeting to order at 1405 hours in the Cedar Room of the Cameron Recreation Centre, Burnaby BC. 27 members, including 5 executive members, signed in. Also included in the membership count were 2 member guests from another Division.

2014 Agenda

Motion to accept by Ken Rutherford, Seconded By Greg Kennelly – Carried.

Minutes From 2013 AGM

Motion to accept by Tom Carr, seconded by Dick Sutcliffe – Carried.

Old Business Arising From 2013 Minutes

- The Publicity Coordinators Position replacement. Dick Sutcliffe has held this position for many years and wishes to retire. To date no replacement has volunteered. Russ Watson pointed out that Greg Kennelly volunteered to manufacture replacement display boards that are much lighter and far easier to transport and set up than the old set. The objective was to have 4 sets – 1 stored in Victoria, 1 stored in Nanaimo, 1 stored in the interior, and 1 stored in the lower mainland. Dick reported that in addition to his request for a replacement, two items come to mind:

1- The National Headquarters for the NMRA is located in Soddy Daisy, Tennessee, but is no longer in the Station building in Chattanooga – that has been sold. That information needs to be updated on the panels.

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Old Business Arising From 2013 Minutes (Continued)

2- Ted Alexis dropped off information about the next meet in Victoria, unfortunately in Metric format – it doesn't fit. Someway has to be found to adapt this information into Imperial format.

- Bill Hewlett Slide scanning presentation. Greg Kennelly reports that due to other projects, he hasn't had time to work on this project. He hasn't had any requests for individual slides, but if he did, he certainly could provide a copy of individual slides upon request. Further to that, Ken Rutherford asked if there was a list showing the collection contents. Greg replied that he thought there was and said he would locate it and publish it on our web site.

- Jim Ferrier collection. Russ Watson reports that no further progress has been made. Doug Mayer (unfortunately unable to attend this meet), has previously put out a call for volunteers to come to Revelstoke, to help him sort and document the material, because it is not a one person job. Because of limited response (only Mike Barone responded), the project has not progressed. Russ is therefore considering removing it from any further AGM discussion, at least until more support is found. Dick Sutcliffe asked that that not be done and stated that the membership needs to be kept aware of this collections existence. Its current storage location is secure and easily available should a need arise.

-Local Membership meetings. Ken Rutherford held one in Nanaimo in December last year. Further he understands that Graham Stokes regularly holds meetings in the North Shore for his group of modelers. Ken states that he doesn't know if outsiders have the opportunity to take part. Russ Watson said that it was his intention to hold one last summer in the Quesnel, but he found the cost was excessive for what he planned, which was a 2 day mini meet. He still wishes to pursue the idea, perhaps somewhat scaled back, because he feels the idea is worthwhile.

- Printed bags for 7th Division promotion. Ken Rutherford stated that he looked further into the idea and found the cost to be prohibitive. He found that unless you have a very unrealistic (for us) quantity to be printed, the cost per bag is excessive. He spoke with Clark Kooning at NMRA Headquarters and he stated they were looking into something like that, but he's heard nothing further. He therefore recommends we close the item from further discussion.

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Old Business Arising From The 2013 Business (Continued)

- 2016 PNR Divisional Convention. Gary Hazel did not make it to this meeting. However Registrar Lori Sebelley spoke on the events behalf. She stated that organization of the event was well underway. It will be held mid to late June 2016. They have secured a venue. It will be in the Shaw Center at the top of the hill in Salmon Arm. There are 2 rinks we will use, with the larger for the main show and perhaps the smaller will be entirely Freemo. In the area there is Community Centre Available as well as a curling rink we can use if need be. There has been a website created: www.selkirkexpress2016.ca however as of this writing it is not functioning yet. The Convention Hotel will be Prestige Harbourfront Resort & Convention Centre right on Shuswap Lake in downtown Salmon Arm. Other major hotels have been notified as well as well as the usual agencies – Chamber of Commerce, Tourist Bureau, Rotary, Etc. Donna Hazel is organizing a non rail program for spouses attending the convention. There will be bus tours available to the Revelstoke Museum and down to Vernon.

- Interior Spring Meet Financial Float revisited. It was decided at the last AGM that the 7th Division would take possession of these funds at the end of every Spring Meet, and hold them in trust until the next meet. The idea was that this would be more secure, by eliminating the possibility of these funds disappearing in the event of the demise of the last club holding them. However it is quite evident that this has caused considerable concern with some long time members of the interior clubs. In a nutshell they feel that they raised this money originally and it is neither the 7th Division's nor NMRA Property. Also they feel this would force all future clubs organizing future Meets to fall under NMRA rules to get sanctioning. Something that they feel is not necessarily in the best interest of the hobby.

Motion to reverse the last AGM Motion to hold the \$1000 In trust and restore it to the Interior Clubs by: Mike Barone, Seconded by Doug Kelleway. Carried.

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Elected Executive And Appointed Position Reports

Treasurers Report

- Larry Sebelley summarized and presented his written financial report for the year ending October 31 2014. (see addendum #1)

Summary

Revenue - \$2609.

Expenses- \$895.

Net Profit - \$1714.

Motion to accept by Roger Behn, Seconded by Tom Carr – Carried.

Secretaries Report

- Bob Leggett spoke and presented his written secretaries report. (see addendum #1)

Presidents Report

- Russ Watson read and presented his written Superintendents report. (see addendum # 1)

Vice Presidents Report

- Tom Carr read and presented his written assistant superintendents report. (see addendum #1)

Membership Coordinators Report

- Brian Clogg read and presented his written Membership Report. (see addendum #2). Brian stated that the figures are only up to the beginning of

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Elected Executive And Appointed Position Reports (Continued)

October as he has not received the figures for November. Further to this Russ Watson led a short discussion on the declining renewal of memberships. He noted that part of the problem could be the renewal process at head office of NMRA (Canada). It is entirely handled by Clark Kooning and Russ felt, that in his opinion, it was too large a job for just one person. Our Membership Coordinator, Brian Clogg has been working on the problem. As well, Dick Sutcliffe stated that Clark has found a member in his area who has good knowledge of computer systems to assist in handling paper work. Russ is hopeful that the situation will improve from now on.

BB Editors Report

- Adrian Noble was not at the meeting and he had not previously submitted a report. Russ Watson spoke on his behalf, and stated that Adrian has followed his instruction to get the BB out, on time every time, regardless of the amount of content available. Mary Ann and Doug Kelleway have been distributing the postal copies of the BB regularly. Russ feels that this area is being handled quite well.

Video Library Report

- Don Gooch was not at the meeting but he had previously submitted a report. Bob Leggett stated that the report noted two DVD's had been loaned out in the last year. However Russ Watson restated his belief that the video library has become redundant in this age of internet information. He feels we should re-evaluate this program in future, with the view of selling off the DVD's and eliminating this service.

Publicity Coordinators Report

- Dick Sutcliffe had not previously submitted a report, but stated at the meeting, that although it was still his desire to retire from this position, his job was considerably easier thanks to having the new lighter display boards stored in multiple areas of the province. In the last year he has set them up at West Coast Rails Show, the Spring Meet at Kamloops, as well as the shows in Nanaimo, Victoria, and Chilliwack.

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Elected Executive And Appointed Position Reports (Continued)

Member Aid Chairmans Report

- Mike Barone gave a verbal presentation and stated that there have been no requests for assistance in the last year. However he plans to write a series of short articles to place in the BB during the coming year.

AP Chairmans Report

- Russ Watson read and presented his previously submitted AP Chairmans report. (see addendum #2)

Director At Large Report

- Ken Rutherford stated that he had no report under this heading.

Web Master Report

- Greg Madsen apologized that the website was not as up to date as it could be, due to having too much work to do with the Trains And Portland websites. However Brian Clogg has volunteered to carry on as the web master. Greg plans to clean up the site and turn it over to Brian in the near future.

Jack Work Memorial Trophy Coordinators Report

- Rene Gourley was not at the meeting, but Russ Watson Spoke on his behalf. There will not be an award this year. Russ stated that the award is a rather specialized award and as such is not awarded every year. However there are several modelers of note that could be eligible in the future.

Ross Heriot Golden Spike Award Coordinators Report

- John Green spoke about his previously submitted report. 5 nominations were received this year, 2 of which were previous winners and therefore ineligible. Out of the 3 remaining, a winner was selected and will be presented at tonight's banquet. **Secretaries Note** – The winner awarded later at the banquet was Greg Madsen.

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Area Representatives Reports – Subdivisions

Secretaries Note – It was decided prior to the meeting, that this year, due to time restraints, there would not be any verbal reports by area representatives. However, they would be included in the minutes. All written reports that were submitted are included below, along with the addendum where they can be found.

South Vancouver Island

- Ted Alexis was not at the meet and had not submitted a report. However, Ken Rutherford spoke on Teds behalf – see Mid Vancouver Island below.

Mid Vancouver Island

- Ken Rutherford stated that the Nanaimo Show will be held on April 26. However the Victoria Show has lost its venue in September. From now on the show will be held on the 3rd Sunday in May, which falls on May 24 this year. There has been some discussion about combining the 2 shows in Victoria and not having one in Nanaimo. For this year at least, that is not happening. As well, some have proposed holding a Spring Meet in on the Island, but for now, it has been judged to be not practical.

North Vancouver Island

- Don Forsyth did not submit a report.

Lower Mainland – Tri Cities To Hope (North Fraser)

- Tom Carr submitted a written report. (see addendum #3)

Lower Mainland – Langley To Hope (South Fraser)

- Larry Sebelley submitted a written report. (see addendum #3)

Lower Mainland – Vancouver/Richmond/Burnaby/New Westminster

- John Green submitted a written report. (see addendum #3)

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Area Representative Reports – Subdivisions (Continued)

Lower Mainland – Surrey And Delta

- Brian Clogg did not submit a report.

Lower Mainland – North Shore To Pemberton

- Graham Stokes did not submit a report.

Interior – Kootenay Region

- Mike Barone did not submit a report.

Interior – 100 Mile To Prince George

- Russ Watson submitted a written report. (see addendum #3)

Interior – Okanagan/ Thompson/ Shuswap

- Doug Mayer did not submit a report.

North Of Prince George

- Adrian Telzyn did not submit a report.

Positions Open

- Kamloops/Bulkley Valley To Prince Rupert.

New Business

2014 Election Results

Russ Watson announced the following – Bob Leggett is re-elected as Secretary, Larry Sebelley is re-elected as Treasurer, and Ken Rutherford is re-elected as Director At Large.

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2015 Spring Meet

- Russ Watson stated that there has not been a bid for next year. He previously mentioned that he wasn't disappointed by this, because it would only create a conflict with the National Meet in Portland. Also, there likely won't be a spring meet in 2016 either, as there would be a conflict PNR Divisional Meet in Salmon Arm.

Insurance Requirements For Event Venues

- Ken Rutherford has looked into privately purchasing excess insurance to meet the venues requirement of over \$1 million liability insurance. The NMRA provides only \$1 million automatically. For his event in Nanaimo the venue told him that they considered his show to be low risk and they would accept the \$1 Million coverage as adequate. For other shows that require more than that, he has decided that looking into it now is not practical, as there is some uncertainty about the future venues. The Victoria Show paid US \$100 to buy the required additional insurance from NMRA HQ and Trains 2014 paid \$30 per day to the Cameron Rec Centre to add coverage to the NMRA standard policy.

At this point Treasurer Larry Sebelley raised the issue with our guest, newly elected PNR President, Michael Highsmith. Larry stated that we have been told that we are the only division that has requirements for higher than \$1 million liability. He was wondering if the 4th division (which Michael is part of), has had to deal with this problem. Michael said that what we were told is not true. Several other divisions are dealing with this issue. He makes a living in the insurance industry and is taking this problem on in his new position as PNR President. He feels it is not right that the membership is not being told all the facts. However it is a well-established fact in the insurance industry, that the total amount of coverage is not made public in order to prevent excessive claims. The NMRA actually has \$5 million in coverage.

NMRA Gauges For 7th Division Promotion

- Ken Rutherford came up with the idea and purchased 20 of these gauges (10 - HO, 10 - N Scale), some of which were given out at this meet. Ken stated that he was quite pleased by the response. The NMRA booth is slightly out of the main

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New Business (Continued)

stream of the public and felt it was a good “hook” for starting conversations. 6 gauges were given out – draws every 2 hours.

Michael Highsmith

Russ Watson stated that that Michael had asked to address us as a way of introducing himself in his new position as PNR President.

Michael made mention of several problems throughout the division and a new way to look at these difficulties. He used the example of Russ Wilson, the quarterback of the Seattle Mariners. This season he adopted the mantra of “Why not me, Why not us”? The 4th Division has taken this to heart with good results:

1 – Volunteerism. Don’t just broadcast the need for a volunteer, it doesn’t work. Approach specific people and ask them to do a job. People want to be asked.

2 – Promotion of Membership. 4 out of 7 Divisions do not have anyone to handle this. They need to do what we do with setting up a booth. Have business cards to hand out with a place for your name, phone #/email address. On the back list the advantages to join the NMRA. Give out old NMRA Magazines with an information page stapled inside.

3 – Home layouts. Encourage people to look at membership lists and contact other members to invite that are close by.

4 – Clinics. We call them Membership Meetings. The 4th Division has 7 areas where they hold Clinics. They are held at someone’s layout every month, except summer, first of all for fellowship – just to get to know one another and just talk. A local hobby shop may be invited to show any new products.

5 – Young People. He noted that almost half of the public attending our meet were under the age of 10. Provide things that interest younger people. Lego, Brio, Thomas, and a children’s play area are good examples that we are doing. Virtual Railroading is a whole new area that is becoming huge in popularity. There are probably 2 to 3 times in a person’s life to attract them to our hobby.

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New Business (Continued)

Trains 2014

Although not on our agenda, Superintendent Russ Watson noted that Show Manager, Michael Batten was in attendance and asked him if he had any comments about this weekend's meet. Michael stated that all indications are that the show was successful. As of early afternoon attendance had exceeded 2000 and was probably going to greatly exceed last year. The committee attracted a larger amount of exhibits and worked hard to provide a better show. Michael acknowledged that this success creates challenges, the largest being that this show is bumping against the upper limits of this venue. The committee has been looking at other facilities, but at this point not looking for another facility. The committee acknowledges the work of the previous committee in their unsuccessful search. Therefore they feel that the next move is to contact all of the stakeholders in this show to determine what their view is for the future of this event. In the past this show has been made up of three parts: 1 – Swap Meet, 2 – Divisional Meet, 3 – Public Show. If it is decided to continue this course, a new venue is required. If the decision is to eliminate some of the previous parts, then a new venue may not be necessary. In other words, when they decide what type of show people want, then a course of action will follow. Accordingly a questionnaire will be sent out early in the New Year to most vendors, 7th Division Executive, and major exhibitors.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by Tom Carr at 1545 hours.

Respectfully Submitted

Bob Leggett

7th Division Secretary