

Addendum #2

Standing Committee - Appointed Position Reports

Membership Report

Trains 2012 Membership Report

Nov. 11, 2012

Membership Facts:

There are 343 members (last year at this time 320) including:

26 members are overdue less than 3 months

18 members are overdue more than 3 months

44 are Life members

271 members take the BB electronically of which 15 are family

72 members are mailed of which 3 are family

6 complimentary BB's are sent out by email

Also 4 members have their BB's delivered by hand (SAMRA)

We also send out 29 copies of the BB by email and 3 copies by mail complimentary to
NMRA and PNR officials

Membership Report - Revision

1 correction and some additional info

Membership at trains 2011 was 335

New members this year 22

Of the new members, 6 were for 6 months

Overdue this year who were 6 month members 0

Members that did not renew 14

Members who have email but receive the BB by mail 21

Brian Clogg

03/12/2012

Video Library Report

Don has no requests for the DVD's this year. He says that he will do the library for the next year.

Gladys Gooch

Publicity Report

As publicity coordinator I have attended events with the display, at Western Rails in March; The Mid-Island show in April, and the Mt. Cheam Lions show in Chilliwack this past month. The scale comparison panel continues to attract lots of attention, but the membership applications not much at all. I also have the coming events poster that is perused carefully by many, even asking for a handout of it. I suggest they check the 7th div website, which is on the poster, and on the "What is the NMRA" handout.

The young ones are still fascinated by the WGH video, on a loop, on the video player.

As I have advised Russ, I wish to step down as publicity coordinator, or at least disperse some of the responsibilities. We are suggesting we have subdivision representatives with display and publicity materials for local events. To this end the scale comparison panel has been photographed with the aim of making a poster for display on Corplas or other light weight panels which would be located with each subdivision representative, along with some of the other publicity materials. Do we have any volunteers, before Russ appoints some?

A big thank you to Bob Leggett for looking after the display at Western Rails this year, while I had fun on the MMRS modular layout. Also a big thank you to Jack Maloney for assisting at the Mid Island Show. The display at Chilliwack was pretty lonely as I spent a lot of time at the MMRS layout.

Dick Sutcliffe

Member Aid Report

Member Aid Annual Report

I had one request for member aid over past year; a request for assistance installing sound into a garden railway locomotive, which was successful. I am concerned that because I am no longer doing email that I may be missing some requests. For that reason I am resigning from the Member Aid position and suggest that someone with full computer access take over from me.

Bob Gardner

A. P. Report

7th Division AP Chairman's Annual Report November 2012

Congratulations to Mike Chandler for earning his Master Model Railroader (MMR) status! Anyone who is working towards their MMR knows what a great achievement Mike has obtained. Mike's MMR award plaque is in the mail and I am hoping to be able to present it to him at the 2012 TRAINS meet banquet.

I have reported all 7th Division AP activity in my AP Corner articles in each issue of the Bulletin Board, however sadly AP activity - with the exception of all of the merit awards and certificates that Mike Chandler earned - is down during the last year. In fact other than Jim Little's merit awards at Goldpan Express 2012 for his scratchbuilt HO CPR 6-wheel and 4-wheel wooden coaches, I am not aware of any other awards.

I am hopeful that those members already participating in the AP will get back at it in the coming year and I will be able to report on their achievements. And please remember that by request I can usually arrange for AP judging at other times than when meets or shows are being held.

For those of you not familiar with the AP, here is a paragraph about it from the NMRA website:

In simple terms, the Achievement Program (AP) is a travel guide, to help you on your journey through the world of model railroading. The AP also provides incentive to learn and master the many crafts and skills necessary in the hobby of model railroading. With the completion of each category, you will be issued a certificate acknowledging your achievement.

So why not check out < <http://www.nmra.org/education/achievement/>> and start your journey? I would be happy to be your travel guide.

I will be submitting receipts for AP Chairman expenses I incurred within the last year for postage for a total of \$22.02 to our 7th Division treasurer for reimbursement.

Respectfully submitted,
Russ Watson
PNR 7th Division AP Chairperson
Submitted October 23, 2012

Web Master Report

I took over from John Zuk at the last Trains meet AGM in November 2011. John had done a great job for many years but felt it was time to pass on the task to someone else. Much thanks to John for a job well done!

After I received all of the files from John and familiarized myself with them, I felt that some of the internal structure could be changed to make editing and maintenance easier. I tried to keep the same overall "look and feel". I also added a "blog" section where news and updates would appear on the main page. These updates could also be subscribed to using what is known as an "RSS Feed" so that members would get notifications whenever new items were posted.

The web site is still hosted for free off the PNR web site, but this comes with some restrictions, namely on the amount of information we can store on the server. There are also some technical limitations preventing us from adopting a better web page framework, something that I am proposing happen.

I would like to see the site move to what is called a "Content Management System" (CMS) which is just a fancy name for a program that runs on the server and manages the information in a very logical, structured way. In effect, you end up with web page templates that get content "poured" into them. This way, the look of the web pages is maintained in one place, but the various articles, posts, etc. can be edited simply without having to worry about messing up the page layouts. Also, lots of "housekeeping" details are maintained automatically and don't require me to carefully (and sometimes with errors!) edit a lot of messy HTML code. The blog posts and RSS feeds are in this category.

My plan is to put up a parallel web site hosted off a new personal web site that I will be building in the near future. This will give us a chance to play with it and for me to get some feedback. In the longer term, we may need to register a new "Domain Name" for the 7th Division specifically so that when the web site moves, it will not result in the members seeing any change. The cost for that is about \$15-20 per year, well worth it I think. We may also want to have the site hosted under it's own account somewhere, and the cost for that would be around \$10 per month, possibly less.

There is a need to have some policies that govern what goes on the web site, who can post, etc. Russ is looking into that, but any suggestions will be much appreciated and can be sent to either Russ or myself. (E-mails are on the web site, of course!)

One other benefit that a CMS gives, is the possibility of having "Member Only" sections that are not available to the public. The big issue with doing this is one of maintaining user accounts and passwords for the members, but there are ways to simplify the work.

Another avenue that may be worth exploring is to have tighter integration between the web site and the Bulletin Board, as they share a lot of common information. This might be something to consider as the Bulletin Board editorship changes.

Earlier in the year I added a counter to the site that counts the number of page loads. On average, there have been around 200 – 300 visits per month, so the web site is getting used.

Please send any feedback on what you think of the web site, both good and bad, but especially bad! We will be able to do much more when it gets moved to the new CMS, so I am open to any and all ideas.

Respectfully submitted:
Gregory Madsen, 7th Division Webmaster