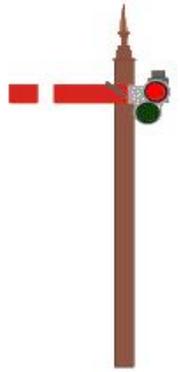


The Semaphore

THE OFFICAL PUBLICATION OF THE
WNC MODEL RAILROADERS, INC.



December 2009

VOLUME 39 NUMBER 4

Our next meeting is on December 3rd at 7 PM.

Send comments about and contributions to this newsletter to [editor](#).

Please keep us informed of changes in your address, phone number or email address.

Joe Norris
displays his
AP certificate
for
Civil
Engineering



Ben Bartlett,
Division 15
AP chairman,
presented the
award at the
meeting on No-
vember 5.

NEWS FOR OUR MEMBERS

OUR NEXT MEETING

Our next meeting will be starting at **7 PM** on **Thursday December 3rd**.

Clinic: Following the business meeting, we will have our annual Christmas Party.

Refreshments, fellowship and shop talk are encouraged. **All members are requested to bring something good to eat to share.**

Please contact Fred Coleman (at 699 – 0983 or [email](#)) to find out what is needed or what you are bringing.

Raffle Tickets: We have reach a 100 tickets sold. We need more sales, please join in the fun. Contact [Fred Coleman](#) for more info.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE MEETING, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2009

Ken Granzin, Company Clerk

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m.

Frank Pearsall explained how he became Superintendent. He thanked **John Williams** for his service to Division 15.

Dan Lang reported on the Apple Valley Club. They are preparing to dismantle the Asheville Division and will remodel the room where it is located before beginning construction.

Penn Bullock reported on the work with the Eliada Youth. The crew likes the new room downstairs better than the space upstairs. The organization of cottages at Eliada has changed recently, which has implications for how the crew works with the youth. There are now four sessions each Tuesday, two with those ages 6 to 12 and two for those ages 13 to 17. Sessions are also held the second Saturday of the month.

Ben Bartlett spoke about the NMRA Achievement Program. **Joe Norris** was awarded a certificate for Civil Engineering. **Ben** needs division members to serve as judges to assist him in evaluating requests for awards. Also, please tell **Ben** what certificates you have been awarded, the date, and the region of the award, so he can post achievements of division members.

Fred expressed concern for the health of **Kent Roberts**. He reported that **Bill Siebert** has been recovering well, as attested by his attending the meeting.

*The Christmas party will be held at the time of the December meeting at the Eliada meeting space. Please send **Fred Coleman** an [e-mail](#) regarding whether you will attend and tell him what you can contribute in the way of food.*

Fred has flyers to be distributed to promote the annual train show to be held 5-6 March. He has raffle tickets to sell; the prizes for winners are a 3' by 5' N-scale layout and a machinist's toolbox.

Ken Vasilik showed an impressive watercolor painting of the Bryson City yard painted by his wife **Ann**, and contributed it as a prize for the raffle at the Train Show in March.

Fred announced that the Piedmont Division has a home tour scheduled for this month. He also reported on

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(Continued from page 2)

his round trip train ride from Spencer to Asheville.

Frank announced that Division 15 will separate from the present organization. He said that the Division 15 members will meet to plan their future on 21 November. He spoke about the bylaws of Division 15/WNCMRR, which need to be revised. Frank said Division 15 was not interested in the modules, website, Eliada relationship, the annual train show, or the checking accounts which WNCMRR will keep. A lively discussion regarding this separation followed, consuming approximately one hour with no conclusions. Numerous members voiced their feelings. An issue of greatest concern, if there is a separation, is how to fund the insurance for the annual train show; an auxiliary issue is whether WNCMRR should require its members to be NMRA members. A special meeting to further discuss the matter will be held at Eliada Home on 19 November.

The meeting adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING HELD ON 19 NOVEMBER 2009

by Ken Granzin, Company Clerk

The meeting was called to order by Superintendent **Frank Pearsall** at 7:03 p.m. **Frank** stated that he was resigning from that post as of the end of the meeting. **Frank** stated that NMRA members should have received a mailing about the Division 15 meeting to be held on Saturday.

John Williams took over as moderator of the meeting. He reminded the group that insurance for public events held by WNCMRR is essential. For a WNCMRR to gain insurance through the NMRA, 100 percent of its members must be NMRA members. He provided several options for the club's future; he recommend the option whereby the WNCMRR becomes a 100% NMRA Club.

Wally Brown asked why this has become a requirement, and **Fred Coleman** replied that the NMRA instituted this policy recently because of a lawsuit against one club. Several members asked for or provided information about basic issues involving insurance and the need for the club to have this insurance.

Mike Smith *moved and Dick Burdette seconded this motion: The WNCMRR will become 100 per cent NMRA club. Formal discussion ensued and the motion passed 28-1.*

Gordon Fewster *moved and Mike Smith seconded this motion: The WNCMRR is to be a separate entity from Division 15 -- physically, organizationally, and legally. The assets of the former blended organization remain with the WNCMRR. The motion passed 29-0.*

Gordon Fewster *moved and Mike Smith seconded this motion: The Board of Directors of the WNCMRR will create a plan for implementation of the 100 percent membership requirement by the time of the club's January meeting. The motion passed 22-7.*

John stated that the WNCMRR Board of Directors will appoint officers who will serve for the rest of the next fiscal year (until June 30, 2010).

Wally wants the club to find an appropriate way to convey the results of the meeting to members who were not in attendance.

A discussion involved how to fund NMRA dues for members who cannot afford to pay them which will be taken up a later date.

The meeting adjourned at 8:42.

A REPORT ON THE DIVISION 15 MEETING HELD NOVEMBER 21, 2009

(*Editor:* As a consideration to our members, we are including a report on this meeting.)

Division Superintendent *Frank Pearsall* welcomed those present. There were about 20 folks present at the meeting in the Public Library in Fletcher.

Frank introduced *Ken O'Brian* as the Assistant Superintendent, *Ben Bartlett* as the Company Clerk, and *Mike Nicoletti* as the Paymaster. *Ben Bartlett* will also serve as the AP Chainman.

Frank noted that **Fred Coleman**, a SER Region Board Member, in our Division.

Frank shared his vision for the future of the Division, noting that nothing is fixed here:

- Hold quarterly meetings, tentatively quarterly the 3rd weekend of the month. Meeting places will vary through the area.
- Include several clinics at each meeting
- Include a brief "Show and tell" moment (actually 1-2 minutes) in which members can bring in evidence of recent accomplishments, share work in progress, ask question about challenges they face, and in general share their interests and work towards a goal of better model rail-roading.
- Meet with model railroad clubs with our service area, and other contiguous NMRA Divisions.
- Have layout tours, popular-vote model contests, Rail-fanning activities
- Participation in outreach opportunities (trains shows etc.)

After a short break, *Joe Norris* and *Mike Smith* offered an interesting illustrated presentation about their participation earlier this month in the Craftsman Train Show in Mansfield, Mass.

Frank said the next meeting in January will be in Fletcher

NEW NMRA MEMBER OPPORTUNITY

As a result of the action taken at the November 19 meeting, the club membership will include only NMRA members. For non-NMRA members, NMRA membership is a better deal than ever before with the NMRA's new magazine, *Scale Rails*. You can sample the magazine for a special price for anyone who has not previously been a NMRA member. See the [last page](#) of this *Semaphore* for details. To facilitate NMRA recognition of our 100% NMRA club, and their sanction of our March Train Show, take action to be a member of NMRA by Jan. 1, 2010. Thank You!

DUES, DUES, DUES

TIME TO FOR OUR ANNUAL FEES FOR WNC MODEL RAILROADERS



Our fiscal year starts September 1, 2009, so the collection of dues began at our September 3rd meeting. See Jim at our next meeting or please mail to:

Jim Fuqua, 2813 Hampton Drive, Hendersonville, NC 28791

If you are uncertain about your status check with the paymaster at 697-8346 or [email](#).



Sam Hopkins talking to **Clint Smoke** about his module and the Lionel engines he brought to our November 5th meeting



Pictures of Sam Hopkins
Lionel O Gauge module



Any members that are interested in 3 rail O gauge. Certainly there may be a few 'closet Lionel' types, who are just in denial about the center rail...

If you would like to get together with Sam, [email](#) him.



CLOSE UP VIEWS OF SAM'S ENGINES AND MODULE



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Visit www.nmra.org to see what you're missing!

*Rail Pass offer is for new members and those who have not been NMRA members for two years or more. Individuals can join at Rail Pass rates only once; membership renewal will be at the regular membership rate. Rail Pass members can attend conventions and participate in contests, but cannot vote or hold office and will not receive a New Member Pak.

Sign me up!

Fill out this form and include your payment.

U.S.: Send \$9.95 (U.S.) to NMRA-Rail Pass Membership,

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Canada: Send \$9.95 (Cdn) to NMRA-Canadian Rail Pass

Membership, 69 Schroder Cres., Guelph, ON N1E7B4,

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