

**ACCRS
HO Monthly Meeting
Minutes
October 3rd, 2014**

Meeting brought to order at 8:24pm.

Trainmaster Ed Carreno opened the meeting.

Next meeting November 7th. Last meeting until January. Holiday party in December. Actual elections will happen during the November meeting.

Regarding the calendar that is physically posted on the wall of the train club, Ed is not sure how the digital/analog days we're written up there, but he noticed it did not match the online website. He changed it. It is now correct through end of year, and the calendar on the wall and online agree. If you have an issue, please alert the trainmaster or assistant.

Carl asked about dues. He asked if they are the same as last year. John said they are the same. The dues begin to be due in November. They are late at the very end of February meeting if not paid.

Ed will post Good Guys schedule tonight. As always the online schedule is first come first served. Email Ed to signup, or put your name on the board upstairs.

Nominations

Joel, of the nomination committee, said that Joel and Ed are ok with being nominated again. Levi said he was interested in assistant trainmaster but did not want to be nominated at that time. We have a slate of incumbents.

Old Business

Fast clock

Ed has not heard from Wayne in the past month. The fast clock project remains in the same state.

Drive-In Movie

Joel has not created any new movies for the drive in.

Brochure

Marc has not done any updates on the brochure

Web Updates

Website updates are pending the completion of the new brochures.

Scenery Cutouts

We are currently waiting for people to sign up for cutouts projects.

Peter asked where will we store the cutouts. Ed said that's something for the team to come up with.

Operations

Dennis said its time to start getting back together to plan ops. Dennis said he had an email group, and we will need to make an ops group provision with the new email system.

There were some O scale people who were interested in joining the HO op, so that's why we need a special email list. Third Friday of the month was declared a get together day for planning. The op itself will happen on a Saturday.

The ops group proposed to meet every third friday so it doesn't clash with business meetings. November will be a month for doing planning but no running because of the two shows.

January is when the ops group will probably start running sessions.

Throttles

Ed is still polling people about throttle repairs.

Jim asked if the club throttles have been checked for proper operation. The club throttles have not been checked since the beginning of fair. Jim volunteered to check all the club throttles.

Joel asked if we are buying new throttles for the trolley and interurban. Ed said yes, we will buy two non wireless one address throttles.

Carl suggested a sign up sheet to checkout throttles. Ed was dubious, stating we have never done that before.

Procedures

Ed is now going to recruit for the procedures writing teams.

Ed explained the procedure team idea again. The purpose is to decide how to take care of stuff, check things out, and opening closing building, etc. Misuse and abuse policy should also be covered.

Dean says people don't treat club property like its their own. He made an example of how cars get left out of staged areas. Dean found a whole train left on the mainline in block 16 on one day. Dean almost hit it. We don't like this sort of thing. Everyone needs to help maintain the club.

Carl says the rules of procedure teams need to ultimately be voted on by the membership. Ed said once rules are already made that's when people get vocal. Ed said people will start having opinions once rules get written and we can vote to enact or change them.

Dean's Announcement

The Great train expo is best show we do outside of the fair. Dean suggests we try to move toward more DCC at the expo. He would like to see a slow drift away from analog. Dean enumerated on the advantages of DCC, more opportunities, more advanced controls.

Peter suggested eliminating some analog days and have more DCC days during shows and on Fridays. He stressed that we have more DCC running days during fair.

Ernest asked how often do we do analog vs digital. He suggested having a long term technology strategy if we decide to increase DCC. Going to digital long term allows us to get closer to the cool layouts we see on youtube. You can initiate a consist to go from point A to point B with self controlling switches. That's one example of what we could do. A more sophisticated layout could provide us these things.

Wunterland in Germany is the way it is because of built in intelligence.

Everyone has mix of digital and analog. The day may come when we don't do analog at the club anymore, but for now we can put in more DCC and still have some analog ability.

Peter said he is proposing doing away with analog completely.

Dean stated public is aware of sound on layouts, they expect DCC stuff. The hobby is going the way of DCC.

Ed said he's a techy guy. He likes converting to DCC. Ed has no issue with digital, but when you try to switch to an all DCC system, you alienate those that don't have digital. When you do that you force those not interested or not financially capable to decide to stay in the club. The club has been here a long time. There is potential to put some members at risk.

Dean said we made a rule for kadees, we made a rule for metal wheels. This is the same.

Ed said people have layouts at home that are not DCC. However to force DCC at the club means they may have to convert home layouts too.

Dean said we can show people how to install decoders or do it for them.

Ed said its not the ease of converting that is an issue, but it's the notion that you must convert or leave that is bad.

Dean said a lot of clubs are DCC only.

Ed said that's because they were new or starting over.

Paul stressed again, we are not talking about getting rid of analog.

Peter said in Santa Clara they just abolished analog, but were not going to do that. He just wants fewer analog days and more DCC days.

Ed worried that kind of suggestion might snowball.

John said historically the expo was usually done DCC both days.

Andy K said that volunteers at shows can decide to switch the day of.

Dennis said its not the people who are here, it's the people who come in later that might have a problem.

Dean said the members here should decide for those not here.

Ed said then you all better be here and signup.

Marc asked can we provide club DCC engines during the show.

Ed said yes lets do it the way we did at the fair.

Dean motioned to run DCC both days of show. Peter seconded. Motion passed.

Marc motioned to allow DCC club equipment for checkout during shows. Paul seconded. Motion passed.

Gary B Announcement

Gary B was going to be here but couldn't, so Ed will say it for him. Several places on the layout if you run one or many steam engines there is a momentary short. Whats up with that? We need to find those locations and fix them.

It seems to be shorting more than losing power.

Dean said in block 53 coming up the helix, there's some power loss halfway up.
Ed says we need to do look into that soon.
Jerry brought up before that some switches were damaged. One in passenger yard needs to be replaced.
Lee asked if we should fix before good guys? Ed said be prudent. Do we have to take things apart? If not then let's just clean the track before the show.

Andy K's Announcement

Andy thinks we can feasibly put narrow gauge in.
Carl asked is he proposing dual gauge?
No it's narrow said Andy. Like the trolley it is its own thing. There are some rails that are never used.
Peter asked does it cost money?
Yes we have to get narrow gauge track.
Peter asked how many people have narrow gauge?
Ed said it doesn't matter, as long as somebody wants to do it we'll accommodate.
Peter said there's not too much stuff to buy. Hobby shops don't have it often. A lot is homemade.
Ed said yeah, but again if there's interest we can do it.
Marc said if it can be automated like the trolley then that's more eye candy which is good.
So the idea is move Mesa village to where lumber mill is. Move lumber mill to Mesa.
No one uses reverse loop. Take reverse loop, mesa, and summit and the rail below it. Go up into work train area. Put a staging area there. Would not interfere with mainline.
Won't affect headroom in hidden.
Motion made by Marc that Andy give presentation next time. Lee seconds.
Motion passes.

Lee's Announcement

Joan at Just Trains is having an open house this Sunday from 10-4.

Tragan moved to adjourn. Lee seconded.
Motion passed and meeting ended at 9:14 pm.

Minutes recorded by Assistant Trainmaster Joel Clark.