

**MINUTES**  
**Board of Directors' Meeting**  
4th Division, PNR, NMRA, January 28, 2023

**Attendees:** Bill Messecar, Russ Segner, Ed Ives, Robin Peel, Al Lowe, Alex Brikoff, Ed Liesse, Lee Marsh, Jack Hamilton, Mike Slease, Lisa Murray, Byron Osborn, David Yadock, Dennis Terpstra, Burr Stewart, Al Carter, Lou Davis

Superintendent Bill Messecar called the meeting to order via Zoom at 10:02 AM. The October 29, 2022, minutes were approved as written.

**PNR Convention Update – Jack Hamilton**

**Convention Registration Status**

Full Fare: 69

**Break even target is 110. We need 41 more registrants!**

Non Rail: 19

Youth: 2

Modeling With the Masters: 12      Target 20

Hotel contract (revised) agreed to.

Banquet contract (third party) signed.

Ice Cream Social will be in-house (host committee) provided.

Clinics over 50 with preliminary schedule set.

Mini clinics being developed.

Layouts over 15 with preliminary schedule out. Layout tour packages will be offered at minor cost to attendee.

Op sessions are being developed.

In-house Op Sessions are being developed. Kurt Laidlaw has an N scale layout for this purpose.

Security requirements set. Volunteers being sought. Security plan being created.

4D will provide convention security and the hotel will provide hotel security.

Non-Rail destinations have been identified. They will be self-drive, self-pay.

NMRA Liability Insurance in place.

Contest parameters set. Awards identified.

A/V support is not finalized. Currently being worked.

**Need stronger push for Registration in 4D and other PNR Divisions.**

**Officer Reports**

**Superintendent – Bill Messecar**

Bill proposed that Russ Segner's position on the 4D Board of Directors as past Superintendent be formalized as a permanent position for Russ and future Superintendents going forward. Bill recognized Russ for his many years of service to the 4<sup>th</sup> Division as Superintendent and superb leadership.

**Assistant Superintendent – Al Lowe**

Nothing to report. Have been working as Clinic Chairman for the PNR Convention.

**Treasurer – Robin Peel**

Robin Peel brought up several points for discussion from his previously submitted report: We received payment from the Washington State Historical Museum (WSHM) for \$6,200. We received significant "donations" from sales at the Boeing (BEMRC) swap meet (\$2,987).

Completed change of signatories for Chase bank (Remove Russ Segner, add Alex Brikoff).

Trailers:

All trailers currently have valid registrations and tabs.

We have two trailers used primarily for storage (#4 and #6). Is this the best use of the trailers?

Discussion about the future direction of the 4D Hi Rail group may impact our trailer strategy.

There may be a financial risk to 4D from the PNR convention, should the event's income not match its expenses. Robin reported that the 4D has given \$2000 "seed" money to the convention.

NMRA rebate (\$402) seems 25% lower than budgeted (\$1700). Will there be additional rebates issued from NMRA via PNR this year? The typical rebate is \$1.00 per US member twice a year. There is no rebate for Canadian 4D members.

**Office Manager – Bill Messecar (reporting for)**

At the end of December 2022, there are 446 members in the 4D and 1370 members in the PNR.

**Membership – Byron Osborn**

It was reported that one new member has joined. Robert Benjamin has moved to Olympia and joined with the 4D people in that area.

**Education – Jack Hamilton**

A survey questionnaire was developed to determine people's skill levels, areas of interest and the direction of future clinics. This survey was initially tried out with the Westside Clinic with mediocre results. The next step will be to deploy this survey across the entire 4D membership and Clinics.

**Layout Tours – Burr Stewart and Lee Marsh**

Virtual Layout Tours are currently scheduled through April 2023. As of today, there are no layouts scheduled for tours beyond April. The number of layouts for virtual tours are fewer and fewer so new ideas are needed for the long term. It is being considered to move the virtual layout tours in the direction of having panel discussions. Suggestions for topics include Ops discussions and layout progress revisits.

The Layout Tour group has also been working on identifying Layout Tours for the PNR 2023 Regional Convention with Kurt Laidlaw and the rest of the convention committee. Currently, the Layout Tour signs are finalized as a simple crossbuck design.

There was also discussion regarding archival server storage space for the 160 virtual Layout Tours that are currently stored on individual's personal computers and uploaded to YouTube. A more secure storage location and media is needed to preserve these videos at their original resolution. The Layout Tours group will determine a recommendation and bring that back to the 4D BOD.

**Achievement Program (AP) – David Yadock**

A "Master Builder – Structures" Achievement Certificate review is being scheduled for: Mike Donnelly, Brian Ferris and, possibly, Greg Wright.

**Modular Groups**

**Hi-Railers – Ed Ives**

They attended the Ridgefield GATS show with a Lionel layout of 20 modules. The show had five layouts. It was well attended by the public.

They also attended the Puyallup GATS show with a larger Lionel layout of 24 modules. The show was 50% larger than the Ridgefield with more public attendance.

They have our application in for the Monroe show but no response yet.

They are investigating attending the shows at Elma and Centralia. The Elma show is the weekend before Monroe and not ideal.

They have been invited to participate at a railroad event by a delegation that included the mayor of the town of Elbe. They are seeking model railroad displays as part of the celebration. We've put our name down as being interested in participating. More later perhaps.

They now have new layout drapes, thanks to Marlene Pennington, replacing the old ones. There has been some complaining that some of the proprietary bridges on the layout do not allow some trains to pass. This was mainly from members that do not own modules and the noted bridges were part of my modules. The response was to suggest providing their own modules to replace mine and I would bring only 16 modules to show. This has at last created a rash of promised module building.

There has been an attempted theft of the red #6 trailer. The thieves managed to defeat the hitch lock and the hitch pin lock but were not able to remove the wheel lock. The locks have now been replaced with new as well as a GPS tracker added to the trailer.

The trailer has been relocated within the existing property closer to habitation.

It has become apparent to us that in the foreseeable future they will not be able to exhibit the large Gargrave's layout. The layout featured large radii curves suitable for large semi-scale locomotives, and a large 11 track computer controlled yard. It is mostly housed in the #6 trailer. The yard, yard entrance, 7 modules and personnel bridge are all 4D property. They seek authority from 4D to dismantle the layout, saving what they can and scrapping the rest. The personnel bridge would be repurposed for their retained Lionel layout. Trailer #6 is becoming a liability although the parking rental rate, free, cannot be beaten.

They need to dismantle and dispose of the layout before they can relinquish the trailer.

**A motion has been brought before the Board by the Hi-Railers group to approve the retirement of the Gargraves layout and salvage the 4D equipment for subsequent sale. Funds received from the sale of said salvaged 4D equipment will be returned to the 4<sup>th</sup> Division. The motion has been so moved, seconded and passed.**

#### **4DNTRAK – Al Lowe**

The 4DNTRAK group was at the Puyallup GATS show. Everyone in the group arrived on time at 12 noon. Due to poor communication on the show's part, they were told they couldn't set up until 2:00 PM. Saturday was the highest attendance while Sunday was lower. 4DNTRAK added one new member over the weekend.

#### **HO Modular – Mike Slease**

The HO Modular group was also at the Puyallup GATS show. They also reported a lot of confusion and miscommunication between GATS and Puyallup show management.

The group will be the Monroe show at Evergreen Fairgrounds at the end of February.

They did receive a confirmation of their participation.

Mike Slease announced that he is stepping away as chair of the HO Modular group. He will be replaced by Lou Davis as chair of this group. The 4D website will be changed as soon as possible to reflect this change.

#### **HO Free Mo**

No report.

#### **Bremerton Northern – Jack Hamilton**

The group is operating at the Kitsap Mall on Thursdays and Saturdays. They have high attendance during the weekends. They are no longer able to move easily so they are embedded in the mall.

There many different scales operating there now.

Lots of AP activity in the "Dispatcher" and "Structures" areas. The N scale modelers are building lots of structures for their layout mainly in wood.

#### **On30**

No report.

## Clinic Updates

### **North Seattle – Lisa Murray**

Activity has increased a lot at the North Seattle Clinic. Recently, Aidan Murray and Jacob Wright had both presented clinics at North Seattle. Subsequently, more people are interested in presenting clinics these days. There are clinics now scheduled at North Seattle through the end of the year. In part due to Lisa organizing and streamlining her clinic processes.

### **Mt. Vernon – Al Carter**

Al Carter is temporarily the acting Mt. Vernon Clinic chair while Ted Becker is recovering from a very serious illness. Ted has been in the hospital since August 19, 2022.

Currently, he is in a specialized recovery facility and slowly starting to breathe on his own without artificial assistance. His mind is very sharp and thinking about how to rebuild his layout when he is able to do so. Currently, he is slowly recovering and visitors are by appointment only. However, he would very much like to receive emails from people. His email is: [rail.bird@att.net](mailto:rail.bird@att.net)

The Mt. Vernon Clinic averages about 18 to 20 attendees every month from all over the Puget Sound area.

There will be a mini swap meet later this year in May.

### **Whidbey**

No Report.

### **Eastside – Russ Segner**

Eastside Clinic is currently hosting a series of Mini-Clinics virtually by different clinicians and including some new presenters. This series has had 2 installments and will continue through April. Attendance has been good and averaging 26 – 28 per clinic.

The Eastside Clinic will go in-person in May through July at the Stroum Community Center on Mercer Island. The facilities are very accessible and plenty of parking. The room rate is \$60.00 per hour.

As an alternative meeting location, the PNR Archives in Burien would also be possible and that venue would be free of charge.

### **Tacoma**

No Report.

### **Olympia – Greg Wright**

Very good response to the Hybrid Clinic format. There have been about 10 – 12 attendees in person at our clinic location with about 15 or more attending by Zoom. The Olympia Clinic will stay on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday schedule for the rest of the year. There have also been some excellent clinic topics lately.

### **West Side – Jack Hamilton**

The Westside Clinic will continue to be held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month at the United Way location.

The clinic will be going to a hybrid format once some technical issues are resolved at the United Way location.

Clinic chairs are being asked to send Jack Hamilton their clinic topic lists from the last year.

## **Old Business**

### **NMRA National Convention 2026 Hosting Proposal**

A decision needs to be made regarding the 4<sup>th</sup> Division's bid to bring the NMRA National convention to the Northwest in 2026.

Among the requirements for hosting this convention that need to be considered:

A bid package needs to be prepared for "National" which includes marketing data, room rates and other pertinent data to support the convention location.

There also needs to be suitable exhibition space for the National Train Show within reasonable proximity of the convention hotel.

Tacoma is such a possible location.

Convention committee expertise already exists from previously two hosted conventions.

Bill Messecar suggests arranging a meeting between the 4D BOD and the PNR

Convention Committee to discuss viability of convention hosting.

Jack Hamilton will reach out to NMRA to identify point person for convention hosting.

## **New Business**

### **Monroe Show Donations – Russ Segner**

Russ Segner will have four tables of donated items to the 4D for sale at the Monroe Show on February 25 and 26, 2023. He would like to have some help during the show at those tables as well as some help preparing for the sale ahead of time.

### **Railroad Books for Donation – Robin Peel**

Robin Peel has been in contact with a person that has many railroad books that they would like to either donate or simply give away. Bill Messecar and Robin Peel will examine the collection.

### **WAZZUP Info Frustration – Jack Hamilton**

Jack Hamilton is requesting accurate and timely clinic information to be submitted to him for the weekly WAZZUP mailing. Jack needs the information by 5:00 PM (1700 hours) the Friday of the week before the clinic is scheduled.

### **NMRA Interchange (Exchange) – Russ Segner**

Russ Segner wanted to emphasize and discuss with the BOD a new communications platform that was rolled out by the NMRA called "NMRA Interchange". It is similar to one of the relatively new types of collaborative communication platforms such as "Discord" and "Slack". Both Burr Stewart and Lisa Murray led lively discussions of the pro and cons of using this platform for more efficient communication at all three levels of NMRA. Russ recommended that a small focus group of people look into this platform in depth to see how we can best utilize it and whether it would actually provide more efficient communications.

Superintendent Bill Messecar adjourned the meeting via Zoom at 11:50 AM.

The next BOD meeting will be held virtually Saturday, March 25, 2023, at 10:00 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Alex Brikoff  
Secretary, 4<sup>th</sup> Division