

**MINUTES**  
**Board of Directors' Meeting**  
4th Division, PNR, NMRA, March 24, 2023

**Attendees:** Bill Messecar, Russ Segner, Ed Ives, Robin Peel, Al Lowe, Alex Brikoff, Ed Liesse, Lee Marsh, Jack Hamilton, Lisa Murray, Byron Osborn, Dennis Terpstra, Burr Stewart, Lou Davis, Alan Murray, Andy Goelzer

Superintendent Bill Messecar called the meeting to order via Zoom at 10:00 AM.  
The January 28, 2023 minutes were approved as written.

**PNR Convention Update – Jack Hamilton**

**Convention Registration Status**

Full Fare: 102  
Non Rail: 24  
Youth: 2  
Modeling With the Masters: 21  
Banquet: 74  
Layout Tours: 75  
Op Sessions: 61

The PNR Prairie Line Experience Regional Convention is still on. The food service issues have been resolved. There will be three meal a day service for all those registered for the Convention. Kurt is arranging a walk through of the hotel for the Convention Committee in April. Al Lowe needs to resolve Audio Visual equipment issues for the Convention. He will coordinate with Russ Segner and Ed Ives to assemble necessary equipment. .

**Officer Reports**

**Superintendent – Bill Messecar**

Bill reported a really great time at the Monroe Show this past February. He encouraged everyone to attend future shows, support the 4D and the people that put these shows on every year for us. There were lots of people attending with lots of things to see and do.

The upcoming PNR Prairie Line Experience Regional Convention also promises to be an outstanding event due to all the talented people working on the Convention Committee.

**Assistant Superintendent – Al Lowe**

Al reported that the Election Committee has met to identify potential candidates for the three upcoming positions on this year's 4D election Ballot. Those positions are two Director positions and the Assistant Superintendent position. Dennis Terpstra and Lee Marsh have agreed to run for another term for their respective Director positions. Al Lowe would like to find another person to replace him as Assistant Superintendent but has as yet to find a candidate.

Al will be using an electronic balloting platform called Election Monkey again this year to distribute and collate the ballots for the 4D election. This method was very successful last year when it was first introduced.

**Treasurer – Robin Peel**

Robin reported that significant "donations" were received from sales at the Monroe Train Show (\$1908). There is financial risk to 4D from the PNR convention, should the event's income not match its expenses. In addition to not receiving back our loaned "seed money" (\$2,000), 4D may be at risk for other liabilities incurred by the PNR convention.

It's time to approve the 4D 2023-2024 financial budget. The financial year begins on July 1, 2023, and we need to have an approved budget before then. Robin is calling for the various clinics and modular groups to submit their anticipated 2023 – 2024 budget needs to him for approval and inclusion in next

year's budget before the annual budget approval meeting. Robin stresses that it is very important for budget requests (especially major requests) to have prior approval and budget inclusion. Robin recommends that we repeat last year's budget process and assumptions. Assuming a regular sequence of train shows and events in 2023-24 as follows:

We will have income from the WSHM show (\$6,200 in current year).  
We will not have income from PSC or MOHAI shows.

As part of the budgeting process, Russ Segner reported that he is still the custodian of all the 4D donations. Russ would like to identify a new custodian to take over these duties which include marketing them to the public at the various shows and other 4D participating venues.

#### **Office Manager and Membership – Byron Osborn**

Byron reported that activity has been slow since the last meeting. There have been a couple of members and their families that have joined recently. One from Alaska and the other from central Washington. They have both been contacted and welcomed to the 4D.

Byron also reported that the Rails to Sails Show will be held again this year at the Foss Waterway Museum in Tacoma. It will be held April 1 and April 2 starting at 10:00 AM. This is a huge promotion opportunity for the 4D. The 4DNTRAK and the HO Free-Mo modular groups will be featured at the show. Byron would like to receive 8 to 10 electronic photos from each of the modular groups for the promotional photo show being planned. His email is: [bosborn10@comcast.net](mailto:bosborn10@comcast.net)

#### **Education – Jack Hamilton**

Jack reported that only about 18% of the Education Surveys mailed out to membership have been returned. Very disappointing. Jack will be stepping up his campaign of reminding people to return the surveys.

Jack also mentioned that we should be taking advantage of NMRA Reimbursement for Retention activities. He reminded that we've used this program before and that we should use it whenever applicable. Otherwise, we're basically leaving free money on the table.

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

Saturday layout tours are continuing with much success although the format is evolving to include occasional panel discussions. Recently, the aluminum benchwork panel discussion was very well received by the fifty some attendees. There are currently three presenters queued up but need to be confirmed and scheduled.

Burr is also requesting help with video editing due to the high volume of clinic videos from nearly all the 4D Clinics. Currently, the editors are Burr Stewart and Magnus Christerson. Recently, Al Lowe and Larry Sloan volunteered to help edit videos.

Burr also stressed the need to be aware of copyright issues when creating, presenting and editing videos and clinics. There could be consequential legal issues.

#### **Achievement Program – David Yadock**

David reported ([by previously submitted report](#)) the following AP status:

Joe Greene received Author certificate.

Submitted paperwork for Raymond Hagele for Volunteer certificate.

Working on collating information provided by Mike Stepner to see if he qualifies for his Volunteer certificate.

Jack Hamilton is also requesting people to help David out with AP evaluations since his work schedule prevents him from getting away easily to do on site evaluations.

## **Modular Group Reports**

### **Hi-Railers – Ed Ives**

Ed reported they had a very successful Monroe show experience. Their layout had twenty modules. Some members have been complaining about the bridges on Ed's modules not having enough overhead clearance to allow running certain equipment. As a result, six members have been building thirteen replacement modules.

There has also been discussion among members and visitors about train estate disposition. Ed has been directing them to a recent Mt. Vernon clinic about this very subject.

### **4DNTRAK – Dennis Terpstra and Kurt Laidlaw**

The Monroe show was also very successful for the 4DNTRAK group. For the first time in many years, they were in the main building. During the weekend, new members came to run trains and be with the group. 4DNTRAK recruited one additional new member.

PNR Convention rack cards were handed out to visitors. There will be a 4DNTRAK layout at the PNR Convention and the Rails to Sails show at the Foss Museum.

Kurt is using a new software to design and configure the layout for the PNR Convention. This software will also be used for future 4DNTRAK layouts.

The group is looking for volunteers to operate the layout at the Convention. It is currently being planned to operate only on a limited schedule. More volunteers, more operation.

### **HO Modular – Lou Davis**

Lou Davis reported that the group participated in the Monroe show and had a very successful weekend. They are processing applications for new members that joined during the show. One of the new members is Maverick Henderson and will be at the Rails to Sails show on April 1 and 2.

### **HO Free-Mo Modular Group – Larry Sloan and Andy Goelzer**

Larry Sloan reported (by previously submitted report) the following:

The HO Free-Mo group will be at the Puyallup Spring Fair. They will be at the Pavilion building on the second floor. The location is accessible by elevator. The fair is over two weekends but they only have enough people to cover the second weekend (April 20th-April 23rd). They have been given enough space to setup the entire 40x50 layout.

They need to get some NMRA brochures and other promotional materials, such as the NMRA banners and PNR Convention rack cards. Bill Messecar, Russ Segner and Byron Osborn will coordinate to get those materials to the HO Free-Mo group.

They would like to have a demonstration table where a modeler could give mini-clinics.

The HO Free-Mo group will also be at the Rails to Sails show at the Foss Museum on April 1 and April 2. They will have a fifty by fifty foot space to fill at that show.

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

Jack reported that the Bremerton Northern group is firmly in place at the Kitsap Mall. Both the HO and N layouts are no longer portable. The HO layout is being reconfigured to include switching capabilities as well as doing work sessions for AP credit. The N scale layout is now doing op sessions with train orders and timetables.

### **On30 Modular Group – Rich Blake and Alan Murray**

Alan Murray reported (by previously submitted report from Rich Blake) the following:

Alan reported that they participated in the Monroe show on Feb 25-26, 2023. They had 44 modules setup in a 28x50 foot space in the Pavilion building. This is the first time we had been placed in the Pavilion after over 10 years of participation. The flooring in the Pavilion was extremely uneven and made setup very difficult. Thanks to Russ Segner for helping Alan Murray in obtaining lumber and tools to make some floor risers for the module legs. It all worked out and they had a good show experience with 10 group members participating.

They will be at the Clamshell Days show in Ilwaco, July 15-16, 2023. Expecting small spectator participation. All PNR members invited. They announce in the Grab Iron if anything changes or cancelled.

Future shows include: Puyallup show in November or January, Clinton event in December.

## **Clinic Reports**

### **North Seattle Clinic – Lisa Murray**

Lisa Murray reported that the North Seattle Clinic averages 25 to 30 virtual attendees every month. The intent is to stay virtual due to the area where they would meet in north Ballard/Crown Hill area of Seattle gets very crowded in the evenings. Also, as a lot of attendees are older, it is easier for them to attend virtually.

The April 2023 clinic topic will be about building Free Mo modules presented by Larry Sloan.

### **Mt. Vernon Clinic – Al Carter**

Al Carter reported that the Mt. Vernon Clinic is currently in-person only although they are planning to possibly become a hybrid clinic later.

### **Skagit Valley and Whidbey island Clinic – Rich Blake**

Rich Blake reported (by his previously submitted report) the following:

Conducted first in-person clinic with 13 participants March 9, 2023 at the Coupeville Rec Hall on Whidbey. Cost was \$50 for four hours. We may use it again due to large floorspace availability. Free Wi-Fi is available. It is a possible option in the future to do hybrid clinics.

Next clinic is scheduled for April 12, 2023 at the Oak Harbor Senior Center which has an “arts and crafts” room for rental with media setup.

Zoom Clinics are still an option and very much desired and requested by many people. These inquiries were mainly from out of area/state/country participants who have been regular online participants. We are discussing hybrid clinics with zoom option but need to identify people with technical ability to help. If other clinics have figured out how to do this, we need to share best practices among the Division. They would like to call attention to the excellent effort Al Carter and members from both SV&W and Mt Vernon clinics have put into supporting each other as we ease back into live clinics. Great team effort from both clinic groups. They would also like to wish a speedy recovery for Ted Becker as his presence at live and online clinics is missed this season.

### **Eastside/Redmond – Russ Segner**

Russ reported that they will continue virtually for the immediate future.

The next few clinic topics will be scenery related including incorporating backdrops. Lee Marsh has been very helpful in providing input to these clinics.

They have had a very severe incident of Zoom bombing during a clinic recently, and as a result, additional security has been put in place to prevent future occurrences. Among those is that preregistration is now required of attendees prior to receiving the link to the clinic. Also, attendee’s full name is required upon Zoom log in.

### **Tacoma – Kevin Klettke**

They will continue their clinics virtually. Kevin lives a long way from Tacoma so it doesn’t make sense to do their clinics any other way.

### **Olympia – Greg Wright**

They will continue their clinics as hybrid. They have developed their process for doing hybrid clinics very well and plan to continue with the same process.

### **Westside – Jack Hamilton**

They will continue their clinics primarily as in-person at the United Way Room which they get usage of for free. They would like to recapture their lost attendees and return to pre-COVID audience levels. Long term plans are to move eventually to a hybrid format for the clinics.

Due to a brief COVID outbreak last month, the clinic on Meter Usage is rescheduled for April 2023.

## **Old/New Business**

### **Online Storage – Burr Stewart, Anton Faulk, Magnus Christerson**

Burr Stewart reports that Anton Faulk identified a lot of online storage space available on their provider's server where the Grab Iron website files reside. The plan is that once the PNR Convention is over, Burr, Anton and Magnus Christerson will begin a project to organize an efficient repository for all of our online media. .

### **MOHAI Show – Ed Ives**

Ed checked with Museum of History and Industry regarding them hosting a show for the 4D. They did not seem very interested. Ed will follow up later with them.

### **Pacific Science Center Show – Russ Segner**

Russ checked with the Pacific Science Center regarding a 4D show there. Building 4 is undergoing renovation this spring. The Science Center is uncertain regarding our show there. Russ will follow up with them as well.

A discussion was started regarding another possible time for the show. Perhaps Thanksgiving or sometime during spring?

### **PNR Regional Convention – Kurt Laidlaw**

Kurt provided a quick follow up to Jack Hamilton's earlier report. The convention registration is close to 90% of our target. Hoping to reach 100% by convention opening.

Kurt verified that Coco Grill will be open for breakfast during the convention.

### **Timesaver Layout, Convention Banquet and Mt. Rainier Scenic Railway – Russ Segner**

Russ reported that he has a well-built HO Timesaver layout that he would like to donate to someone to use at the various shows.

Russ also reported that he will be publishing the Convention Banquet Program and Menu in the Grab Iron shortly. The banquet will include beer, wine and a cash bar to complement a complete rosemary chicken dinner. The post dinner program will be presented by Jonathan Shafer of the Pacific Northwest Archives in Burien.

Russ started a discussion regarding the level of interest in a trip aboard the Mt. Rainier Scenic Railway train sometime later this year. Possibly in September. The fare will most likely be around \$100 to \$125 or so.

### **NMRA Interchange – Kurt Laidlaw**

Kurt highly recommended that people join the NMRA Interchange. It is an online discussion forum recently started by the NMRA and open to all NMRA members in good standing. The discussion ranges across all model railroad topics.

Superintendent Bill Messecar adjourned the meeting via Zoom at 11:27 AM.

**The Annual 4D Membership Meeting for 2023 will be held virtually on May 20, 2023 at 10:00 AM.**

**The next 4D BOD meeting will be held virtually Saturday, June 10, 2023, at 11:00 AM.**

Respectfully submitted,

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