

MINUTES
Board of Directors' Meeting
4th Division, PNR, NMRA, September 23, 2023

Attendees: Bill Messecar, Russ Segner, Ed Ives, Robin Peel, Alex Brikoff, Lee Marsh, Jack Hamilton, Dennis Terpstra, Lou Davis, Kurt Laidlaw, Bob Kenworthy, Magnus Christerson, David Yadock, Chris Woodruff

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

Officer Reports

Superintendent – Bill Messecar

Bill thanked the Board of Directors for an outstanding job done on all tasks before the Board. He did not have anything else to report at this time.

Assistant Superintendent – Bob Kenworthy

Bob reported three significant activities:

- He met with Bill Messecar and Al Lowe to discuss expectations and duties for his new role as Assistant Superintendent.
- He also went with Russ Segner to evaluate the Tacoma Convention Center facilities as to the suitability for a NMRA National Convention in either 2026 or 2027.
- Bob and Kurt Laidlaw visited the Olympia Clinic this month to evaluate their hybrid clinic process and determine the suitability for the Tacoma Clinic.

Treasurer – Robin Peel

Robin reported on the state of the 4D financial year which ended on June 30, 2023:

The 4D finished the year with an excess of income over expenditure of \$14,623. There are some good reasons for this:

- Unanticipated income from the PNR 2023 convention of \$8,227. The reduction in NMRA rebates (\$500 under budget) offset some of this good news.
- Significant, unbudgeted donations (\$4,951)
- Expenses slightly lower than budgeted (by \$1,870), especially by the HO Modular Group.

Income for Modular Groups

It is necessary to find a simpler way to manage income from the Washington State History Museum (WSHM) show attended by the 4D Modular Groups. The issue was:

- Should the income from the WSHM show be allocated solely to 4D.
- Should the income be split between 4D and the participating modular groups.
- Should the income be wholly split between the participating modular groups.

My proposed, compromise solution:

The income from the WSHM in 2022, 2023, and future years' shows, will be split 50:50 between 4D and the participating modular groups. For example, this would add immediately \$3,200 to the balance of the liability accounts for the 4D HO group and the 4D NTRAK group (for each group's attendance at the 2022 and the 2023 WSHM shows). Previously, a cap was placed on each group's liability account at \$5,000, to prevent the balances growing too large. I propose that this cap be maintained, and surplus funds be assigned to 4D to fund any newer groups with a small (or zero) balance

Endorsements of this proposed solution have been received from the 4D HiRail Group, the Freemo Group and the 4D HO Group. Input has not yet been received from the 4D NTRAK Group or the 4D ON30 group.

Motion: **A motion was brought before the Board to approve a policy to split the show income from the Washington State History Museum (WSHM) 50:50 between the 4D and the participating modular groups in 2022, 2023 and future years' shows. It was so moved, seconded and passed.**

Trailers and European Train Enthusiasts (ETE) – Chris Woodruff

4D owns five trailers, used by the 4D HiRail Group (two trailers, #2 and #6) the 4D HO Modular Group (#7), the 4D NTRAK Group (#5), and by the 4D HO Freemo Group (#4). The 4D HiRail Group is currently consolidating into a single trailer (#2) leaving trailer #6 (maroon) unused.

The local chapter of the European Train Enthusiasts (ETE) is seeking a trailer for their modules. They are not a 100% NMRA organization, so would not qualify as an additional 4D modular group (unless they persuaded all their members to join, which may be difficult). But they have an immediate need of our soon-to-be surplus trailer (#6) if a fair price can be agreed on. This trailer was purchased in 2017 for approximately \$6,000 and is large (7' x 16').

Action Item: **Robin Peel will identify a fair market price for trailer #6. Magnus Christerson will examine the trailer and report his findings to the 4D Board of Directors. The 4D Board will vote on whether or not to sell the trailer.**

Other Routine Treasurer's Items:

- With the approval of the Board (via email), I opened a 6 month, auto-renewing CD at Chase Bank with an interest rate of 4%, into which \$25,000 has been transferred from our Savings account (in which we still retain \$13,029). This can be seen on the latest balance sheet report. This should earn us \$1,000 per year in interest – 6% of our current budget.
- The 2nd annual payment of the NMRA rebate was received from PNR (\$400) on September 16.

Office Manager and Membership – Byron Osborn

Byron is working on the Pathfinder/mentoring initiative adaptation for the 4D. PNR is also working on a version of Pathfinder which will bring together a lot of tools for new members via Zoom.

Education – Jack Hamilton

Jack reported that he will do a second run at the Clinic Survey and find out from the clinicians if they are still available to do those clinics if needed. In the near future, Jack will send out another request for clinic information. Jack will talk to Kurt Laidlaw and Bob Kenworthy about their opinions of the Olympia Clinic's hybrid clinic process. This will be a precursor to establishing a Division wide standard process for hybrid clinics. Additional media equipment may need to be purchased.

Layout Tours – Lee Marsh

Lee reported that the second Saturday virtual layout tours have started again for this season. The problem is that they are exhausting the "pool" of local layouts so Burr Stewart and Lee Marsh have had to reach out beyond the 4D and PNR to find layouts for the tours. The ones that they have found so far have been well received by the audiences. Lee asked the Board for additional suggestions and ideas for finding future layouts for tours. For example, Greg Wright is building an outdoor layout and was suggested as a possible tour. Magnus Christerson suggested considering the European Train Enthusiast's layouts as tour possibilities. Jack Hamilton will put Lee in touch with the Bremerton Northern club as another tour possibility.

Achievement Program – David Yadock

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

David needs to contact Byron Osborn so that he can obtain new member's email addresses. Then he can contact them to see if they are interested in participating in the MMR program. It is also a good way to find out if they have a layout and see if they qualify for a Golden Spike award.

Modular Group Reports

Hi-Railers – Ed Ives

- Ed reported that during the Pandemic, several of their members have lapsed in their membership dues. This has since been corrected and everyone is now current.
- The “Red” trailer emptying is continuing.
- The group has recently participated in the Kelso Train Show at the Kelso Mall. They were located in the former Macy’s building so security was very good. The group found out that the organizers are planning to continue with two shows a year, in the spring and fall. They signed up for both shows.
- The Lynden Show is coming up in a couple of weeks and the Hi-Railers will be participating in that show. They are planning a 27 module, “L” shaped layout.
- The Maple Valley Show is coming up in mid-October. The group would like to participate but, as of yet, have not heard back from the show organizers.

4DNTRAK – Kurt Laidlaw

Kurt reported that he has taken over leading the 4DNTRAK group now that Al Lowe has stepped away. Last month, they had their annual business meeting. Kurt has become very proactive in making sure that all members are up to date in their membership dues. Three members of the group immediately paid their dues when Kurt reminded them that they would be out of the group if they didn’t pay up by the Lynden Show. The group plans to participate in the Lynden Show, the Maple Valley Show and the WSHM Show this fall. They might also participate in the Kelso Train Show starting next year.

HO Modular – Lou Davis

Lou Davis reported that they had a very busy summer this year. The module renovations are about 50% complete. The group plans on participating in the Lynden Show, Maple Valley Show and the WSHM Show later this fall. The group also had their annual NMRA membership review and, after correcting some lapses, is now a 100% NMRA group.

HO Free-Mo Modular Group – Larry Sloan

No Report.

Bremerton Northern – Jack Hamilton

Jack reported that the Bremerton Northern group is in place at the Kitsap Mall. The layout is being worked on and reconfigured to include switching capabilities. The group is also working on their AP Dispatcher Certificates to include as many members as possible. Otherwise, the club is up and running and in fine shape.

On30 Modular Group – Rich Blake

No Report. Follow-on discussion asked whether or not the On30 Modular Group is a sponsored group. This was initiated by an email from Alan Murray questioning whether they were sponsored. Russ Segner addressed their status and he did not believe that they were ever formally sponsored even though they participated in several 4D events. Robin Peel will remove the group from the 4D budget.

Action Item: Robin Peel will remove the On30 Modular Group from the 4D budget.

Clinic Reports

North Seattle Clinic – Lisa Murray

No Report.

Mt. Vernon Clinic – Al Carter

Al reported (by previously submitted report) that the Mount Vernon Clinic just had their season opening clinic, Dr. Nick Muff, MMR, on “Details Make The Difference”. Nick is always entertaining and offers great tips and suggestions. For October’s clinic, Bob Stafford will show how he makes trees out of rabbit bush.

They are going to try out hybrid clinics, since they draw from such a large geographic area (Lynden to Blaine to Custer to Bellingham to Arlington to Oak Harbor and Coupeville, not to mention a few of them

“locals” in Skagit County). They have a retired high school photography/videography teacher (Steve McCartt), who will be leading this group. For a spring event, they are thinking about the idea of not having a mini swap meet, but instead bringing back a “Saturday Clinic Day”, an event they have done in the past (pre-Covid).

Skagit Valley and Whidbey island Clinic – Rich Blake

Rich reported (by previously submitted report) that the Skagit Valley and Whidbey clinic is back to live clinics at the Oak Harbor Senior Center. They are meeting as usual on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 7pm. The next clinic is October 11th when Cliff Aaker will do a presentation on decal application. They haven't figured out the Wi-Fi in the building yet so a hybrid clinic with zoom may or may not happen. They need to experiment with the facilities and media setups first.

Eastside/Redmond – Russ Segner

Russ reported that the Eastside Clinic has started up again for the season. The first clinic was held last Thursday as a virtual clinic with a 3 person panel discussing Operations. The Eastside Clinics average about 20 people per Clinic.

Tacoma – Kurt Laidlaw, Kevin Klettke

This report is being given by Kurt Laidlaw. Kurt will be helping Kevin Klettke locally in Tacoma as Kevin has recently relocated to the Hood Canal area. To that end, Kurt Laidlaw and Bob Kenworthy have visited the Olympia Clinic to evaluate their process for presenting hybrid clinics. Kurt would like to move the Tacoma Clinic to the University Place Community Center which is closer to where he lives as well as being safer after dark than the current location and is also controlled by his HOA. The Community Center has a 50 seat meeting room. There is also a room rental fee that will have to be paid.

Olympia – Greg Wright

The Olympia Clinic has started for the season. They are continuing to use the hybrid model for clinic presentations.

Westside – Jack Hamilton

Jack reported that the Westside Clinic has relocated to the Kitsap Mall and had its first Clinic at the new location. It was very successful. Jack was happy to report that they had a visitor to the Clinic from Spokane after reading about it in WAZZUP.

Old / New Business

Old Business

NMRA National Convention Bid – Jack Hamilton

Ed Slintak communicated with Jack Hamilton after his visit here to look at the potential Convention facilities in the Tacoma area. This is what needs to happen next:

- Twenty five signatures need to be acquired from current 4D members as an indication of support for a local NMRA National Convention to take place.
- A committee of six people will be formed to meet separately from the 4D Board of Directors. They will be tasked with completing the Convention Bid per Robin Peel's original outline. The work will be split up among the six committee members. The proposed six committee members to be picked by Superintendent Bill Messecar are: Jack Hamilton, Russ Segner, Magnus Christerson, Kurt Laidlaw, Robin Peel and Lee Marsh.
- Once the Convention Bid is completed, it will be presented to the NMRA Board of Directors in February 2024 at their Winter Meeting.

Action Item:

Bill Messecar and Jack Hamilton will complete acquiring the needed twenty five (25) current 4D member signatures in support of a local NMRA National Convention.

Action Item:

A committee of six will be formed to meet separately and be tasked with completing the Convention Bid per Robin Peel's original outline. The work will be split up among the six committee members. The proposed six committee members to be picked by Superintendent Bill Messecar are: Jack Hamilton, Russ Segner, Magnus Christerson, Kurt Laidlaw, Robin Peel and Lee Marsh.

Online Storage – Magnus Christerson

Magnus reported that Burr Stewart suggested talking to the new media department head for Social Media at NMRA headquarters. They have some ideas about backing up media but it might be overkill for our needs. Meanwhile, Anton Faulk has given us access to the server where our 4D website is hosted. There is a Terabyte of storage space there that we can use. Although using that will be very much a manual process.

New Business

Annual Boeing Swap Meet – Bill Messecar, Russ Segner

This year's annual Boeing Swap Meet will take place on November 11, 2023. Doors open at 9:30 AM. The 4D is planning to have three tables of which one table will be complimentary. Russ Segner will have two additional tables of his own. Russ is asking for help in cataloging, pricing and setup. He will put an additional notice about this in the 4D Grab Iron. Bill Messecar mentioned that he will help Russ at the tables during the swap meet. Setup will be on Friday night before the meet although no merchandise is allowed on the tables until Saturday morning.

City of Destiny Festival – Kurt Laidlaw

Kurt reported that the 4D is being offered a display table at the First Annual City of Destiny Festival at the Foss Waterway Seaport Museum on October 21, 2023 from 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Kurt would be very happy to have one or more people help him at the table that afternoon.

Superintendent Bill Messecar adjourned the meeting via Zoom at 11:15 AM.

The next 4D BOD meeting will be tentatively held in-person Saturday, November 18, 2023, at 10:00 AM. This will be a combined 4D BOD Meeting and BOD Retreat to discuss the investment possibilities for the monetary windfall that the 4D has had this past year. The meeting will tentatively be held at the PNW Archives in Burien, WA.

Respectfully submitted,

Alex Brikoff
Secretary, 4th Division