

Apple Valley Model Railroad Club

Meeting Minutes

January 24, 2023

President's Remarks (Rob Wright): Bill Davies, Vice President, opened the meeting at 10:00 AM due to a scheduled absence of Rob. He also served as Secretary, absent due to illness.

Randi Leder from Fully Promoted (EmbroideMe) was introduced and provided an overview of their services and new ordering process. She provided 4 versions of shirts that they will be stocking and asked members to contact her directly for any orders. She will also drop off a book, which can be kept at the Depot, with examples and pricing of the shirts they will carry. While there is no more order limit, she did state that the time for delivery could still depend on the number of orders. Finished shirts will be delivered to the club for member pickup. Payment can be made over the phone by credit card at the time of order, or when the shirt is picked up by the member. She remained for the meeting and took orders once the meeting adjourned.

Reminded members that if you borrow something from the club, return it. Do NOT take things from the club without telling a board member or committee chair. Help keep the club area clean by taking out trash, vacuuming, picking up after yourself.

Feedback from members on the annual party was positive and many expressed a desire to return to Burntshirt next year. Comments were made regarding the quality and positioning of the sound system and a request to make sure the program agenda is published, such as when the skits are to be performed. A request was made to reconsider the Country Club, whereas it was pointed out that it was more expensive, and we didn't have a private room.

VISION MEETING INPUTS: Announced that a Vision Meeting would be held 14 February and encouraged membership participation regarding improvements, thoughts, and activities going forward.

Vice President (Bill Daviess): no report

Secretary (Brad Jones): no report

Treasurer (Larry Morton): \$700 in donations were received this in December. \$680 dues from members were received. (Total of \$YY received and \$ZZ spent. Balance is now \$AABBCC.) Need to get from Larry as we moved on pretty quick.

Ombudsman (Dave Simmons): The Fifth Wednesday is Jan 31st. Bill Raymond will present on "Operations Set Up". Dave asked members to be aware that one of the new UT6D throttles battery pack is still missing and asked members to be vigilant.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Membership: (Chuck Place): Joshua Long and Rich Coleman were voted in as new members. Neither member was present due to work. We have several applications to vote on in upcoming meetings.

Reminded members that if someone under age 18 asks about membership, that their parents/guardians should be provided a handout on "Junior Membership Guidelines" and not to hand out Junior Membership applications. An application can be provided after consideration by the BOD.

Mentor Program (Ken O'Brien): There are many new members that can only attend Saturdays and are having problems completing the mentoring program, since several mentoring activities are provided on Wednesday. There was discussion regarding previously recorded sessions to close this gap. The possibility of handouts was also mentioned.

Good and Welfare (Earl Hall): no report

Website/Publicity: (Tom Hagerty): Meeting minutes and the new club roster are now available on the website. It was noted that formatting needs to be reviewed. If the roster is downloaded or printed from the website, the members email address rolls to a separate page. A request was made to consider displaying in landscape format.

HO Operations (Ben Bartlett): Reminded members to put away club throttles in the closet. Last Ops session was interesting but enjoyed by attendees. Chuck Batherson stated that much progress has been made on the signal system in Asheville. He asked that when closing down the computer at Melrose Junction, DO NOT save the files when prompted, simply shut down the system. Saving the files overwrites the work done to configure the signals.

Electrical/DCC (Dan Lang): Turnout #17 on the Hickory Panel is working. Note this is a tortoise system and not to expect a quick action. There was mention of 8 power districts only 5 of which actually active on the layout, with 3 providing no input. There was a question and discussion on ballistic tracking. Regarding the new throttles, note that the screen can go black but the throttle is still active, noted by the green flashing LED. Instructions on the new throttles can be found on the bulleting board across from Hickory.

Scenery (Terry Ketcham): Refurbished and provided additional details to the backdrop in Black Mountain. Continues to replace plastic or out of date vehicles, with metal cars and trucks reflecting the layout period. Will be on the lookout for such vehicles at the upcoming WNC Train show. Ed Clark has done a lot of roof details and piping on the Caton Mill.

Outdoor Layout (Larry Williams): Scott has installed several new artificial trees and Larry will be replacing several live trees. Shawmut Car Shops donated two Norfolk and Western cars for the layout, and thank you note will be provided and some of their shipping covered.

Scott brought in a G Scale model of the Depot's Southern Caboose that he recently completed.

Club Computers (Dave Hull): no report

City Liaison (John Ryan): Terry provided an update on the City plans for 7th avenue upgrade, 7th Ave to close block by block starting January 29 for the next 3-4 months. Maple avenue will remain open. Plan is to finish before farmer's market opens in May

He noted that the city will provide access (keys) for the workers to use the Depot Restrooms and meeting room table during their work. He asked members to keep the table clear during that time.

The city installed a new electrical outlet that mitigates the Fire inspector's finding regarding the use of an extension cord violation on heat tracing for outdoor water feed. The city also replaced bulbs in the emergency lights, all are now functioning.

Engineer In Training: (Chuck Place): 3 EIT were expected for this month's training. It was noted that this program is different from our Junior Membership program.

Sales and Donations (Kevin McGill, Pete Bain, Steve Anderson,): Donated items will be out in the meeting room on 21 January, prior to the WNC Train show, for first dibs by members.

The club purchased 2 banners to display at train shows and events. The banners are stored above the opening to Linville Yard.

OTHER ITEMS

Next Meeting: February 28th at 10AM.

Old Business: None

New Business: Larry Morten's overview of a potential "Train Day" event on the 4th of July was positively received.

Update on possible train from Hendersonville to Asheville, NS did not say no but passed it up the chain.

Planning group still looking for depot property in Asheville.

Attendees: 34 were present

Meeting ended at 11:25 am.