



GATSME Model Railroad Club Minutes of the General Business Meeting Held January 4, 2007

This meeting was held in the club's meeting room, with 19 in attendance. 3 more arrived during the meeting. The meeting was called to order at 7:32 PM by Jerry Anderson, President.

REPORTS

The minutes of the previous meeting were read by Frederick Monsimer, Club Secretary, and approved as corrected on a motion made by Bruce Sergeant, seconded by George Weissgerber. The correction was that Francine had been approved as a probationary member, not a regular member.

Jerry Anderson said that he was honored to have been elected president of the club, and that it was amazing to think that this club had been around for over 50 years as a volunteer organization. We have an excellent club and layout; this is due to the efforts and leadership of the members and officers over that time. The contributions of all the members are valuable, and everyone should try to share the knowledge that they have with their fellow members. He asked that the committee chairmen seek out and consider all opinions that are brought to them, and asked the club members to bring any ideas they have to those committee heads. He read the list of Superintendents and Committee Heads, as follows:

Operations Superintendent....Chris O'Brien
General Superintendent.....Doug Baer
Track.....Val Pistilli
Electrical.....George Weissgerber
Scenery.....Jay Pastelak
Narrow Gauge.....Bob Rule
Equipment Foreman.....Charlie Woodward
House.....Jerry Anderson
Publicity.....Charlie Liggett
Of course, the elected officers are:
President.....Jerry Anderson
Vice President.....Tim Wells
Secretary.....Fred Monsimer
Treasurer.....Rich Barlow

Jerry said that he felt every member should belong to at least one committee, and should be willing to help with club projects. He asked the Vice President and the Superintendents to give a brief description of how they plan to get us moving in the right direction.

Vice President – Tim Wells said that the next few weeks would be used to poll the membership and see where the interests of the members lie, and then we will try to align our projects with the people who are able and willing to do them.

Treasurer's Report – Rich Barlow reported that we had \$195.96 in the checking account and \$5529.36 in the savings account. He also said that during the shows on December 16 & 17, we had 271 visitors, and that our income from the shows was as follows:

Fishbowl Donations.....\$547.00
Raffle Tickets.....\$57.00
White Elephant.....\$200.35
Club Cars.....\$119.00

He suggested adding another CD in January, and eventually having one for each month, so that one would be rolling over each month. This would allow us to keep some money available for when the time comes that we have to move.

General Superintendent – Doug Baer said that he would review each area of the layout and see what areas need to be worked on. He would like to create a five-year plan, identifying where we are and where we want to go.

Operations Superintendent – Chris O’Brien said that he felt one of the things that attracts people to this club is our interest in operations. There is a core group of serious operations-oriented people in the club, and others who are interested, but not to the same degree. He would like to relax the intensity of the schedule, at least in some areas, to give newer members some experience running without quite so much pressure. There will still be some jobs that are more intense, so the experienced operators will have plenty to keep them busy and interested. We have visitors who come here to operate because we have a great layout and they like to run with us, but he would like to get more GATSME members involved also. Val mentioned that May 19 would be the date for our Invitational Operations Session. Jerry said that it was good to see that we were planning well in advance, so the members had a chance to put the event on their calendars and prepare for the event.

Val said that he had found buyers for 10 of the old 5-channel radios; the club had 6, so any members who have radios which they would like to part with, should let Val know.

Dave Bennis said that he noticed two things at the show; one was that the tower operators were not consistently calling the trains as they passed, and that some operators appeared to have forgotten that the signal system had been reactivated. He asked about the switches at the West end of Gateway Yard, and Bill Plank said that those switches were interlocked in a specific way for operations. During the show, this causes confusion for some people; if you don’t know how this interlocking works, just ask. Chris said that the Union Station operator “runs the show” in the area between Port Jct. and Gateway West. If someone wants to throw a switch in these limits, they need to check first with the Union operator. Chris said that eventually all the switches will be numbered so they can be addressed via the DCC throttles, but that they are currently controlled from the panels. Bob Rule said that the Operations Committee needs to develop a plan, and then train the rest of the club members on the proper operation of the railroad. Jerry said that during shows, we need to have one person designated to be in charge of the show, to ensure that we don’t have a bunch of folks standing around in the club room, and one train running on the railroad. Chris said that this should start with him or Dave Bennis, and then run down the list of officers if they are not able to attend. Bob Rule recommended that radio checks be done by each operator after they arrive on their station; calling for a radio check when you are standing in the club room, five feet from someone else, is not adequate. George said that, when calling the trains during shows, they should be identified with an easily-recognized name, rather than calling out the locomotive number.

Charlie Liggett mentioned that the NMRA Operations Call Board would be moving to an electronic version, replacing the paper version.

House – Jerry said that we would follow the same format as the previous year for cleaning; two people need to damp-mop the floor; the trash needs to be emptied, and the bathroom needs to be cleaned. Bill Hubbard, Francine, and Brad will be doing the cleaning for this month.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion made by George Weissgerber, seconded by Mike Logan, the meeting was adjourned at 8:28 PM, a duration of 56 minutes.

Respectfully Submitted,

Frederick Monsimer,
Club Secretary