



DENTON AREA MODEL RAILROAD CLUB

Minutes of December 12, 2006

The December meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Club President Tom Fisher. The minutes of the November 2006 meeting as circulated in the December 2006 Newsletter were approved. There were 28 members and two guests – Ed Boduch and Harry Campbell -- present.

January 2007 Club Meeting Location Change;

Please note that the January 9, 2007 Club meeting will be held at Shane Murphy's shop near Texas Motor Speedway. Directions will be provided. Please bring a chair.

Treasurer's Report by Kevin Williams; Treasurer's report was read and approved.

Metroplex Council Report by Dave Gramm;

Fort Worth Train Show. Dealer tables totaled 219, near a sell-out. Although official attendance will be provided at the Council Board meeting Dec. 19, preliminary figures indicate paid attendance of more than 1700, comparable to that of prior years.

Plano Train Show. Scheduled Jan. 13 and 14, 2007. Dealer tables total between 235 and 240, with five to eight on the waiting list. DAMRRC is committed to six hours' work during the two days of the show, reduced from nine hours due to Dave Gramm's preparation and mailing of flyers promoting the shows. Dave will circulate a sign-up sheet via e-mail. Special train show rates are available at the Super 8 Central Expressway in Plano; call the hotel for more information.

Train Show Hot Line. Train show hotline (817) 721-5064 remains operational

Announcements;

Unclaimed Tools. George Gillespie reported that a small bag of tools was left at the Fort Worth train show. No member claimed the tools at the meeting, so they remain in George's hands.

Harry Brown. Jim Nance reported that Harry Brown is awaiting the results of a biopsy but hopes to be able to join Club members at the Plano Train Show.

BNSF Calendars. Pat Hiatte made 2007 BNSF calendars available to Club members.

New Track at Mingo. Bob Tickner reports that track is being laid at the new cement terminal on Union Pacific at the dead end of Mingo Road.

Operating Session. Tom Fisher announced that he plans to hold an operating session on his late. Tentative date for the operating session is March 24, 2007.

North Texas State Fair. Fred Williams reported that it is likely the Club will be invited to renew its participation in the North Texas State Fair for 2007.

Old Business;

Free-Mo Module Update. Work on the Free-Mo modules continues. The Free-Mo layout will be set up Jan. 6, 2007, at Shane Murphy's shop near Texas Motor Speedway for completion of additional work and test running prior to the Plano Train Show. Jonathan Moore moved and Fred Williams seconded that the January 9, 2007, Club meeting be moved to Shane's shop, motion carried. Club members are asked to bring their own chairs to the meeting.



Club Officers

Tom Fisher
President

Dave Gramm
Vice-President

Pat Hiatte
Secretary

Kevin Williams
Treasurer

Newsletter Editor Dave Taverner nkplt@yahoo.com
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Plano Train Show. The N scale modular group is planning not to participate in the Plano show and to make the space that would have been devoted to the N scale modules available for setup of additional Free-Mo modules.

Participation in Santa Fe Historical and Modeling Society Convention at Oklahoma City. The Club renewed discussion of displaying modules at the Santa Fe Historical and Modeling Society Convention in 2007. Russ Covitt, who is organizing the exhibits at the show, reported that the Club needs to decide no later than the February meeting whether it will participate.

New Business

Hats and Shirts with Club Logo. Russ Covitt reported that several Club members had expressed interest in ordering shirts and caps with the Club logo. Russ also reported that the manufacturer of the shirts and caps ordered earlier feels it necessary to re-digitize the Club logo for improved embroidery. Including the \$75 fee for redigitizing the logo, hats will cost \$10 each, shirts \$20 each. Dave Tavemer moved and Jonathan Moore seconded that the Club order 15 hats and 10 shirts, with the cost to be re-imbursed by individual members as they purchase the items; motion carried. Russ will arrange to order the hats and shirts.

Elections. Fred Williams moved and Dave Gramm seconded that the current officers and directors of the Club be nominated for an additional term; motion carried. Additional nominations were: Shane Murphy nominated for President by Troy Minnick; Roy Baines nominated as a director by Jim Fagan. Jimmie Sparks moved and Jim Nance seconded that nominations be closed, motion carried. Election of officers and directors will take place at the January 9, 2007 Club meeting.

Round-Robin Operating Session. Shane Murphy brought up the possibility of a Saturday-afternoon series of operating sessions at his layout and those of Rick Schleppehorst and Pat Hiatte. Club members expressed interest in such a series of sessions. Additional details will be developed and shared with the Club in future meetings.

Membership;

The active membership remained at 42.

Program;

Roger Bee showed slides of a variety of subjects.

The meeting adjourned at 8:02 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Pat Hiatte, Secretary



A Word from Our Leader!

My fellow pikers,

Our FreeMo layout's debut at the Fort Worth show was a resounding success. Many visitors were intrigued and impressed with it, apparently the first FreeMo layout to be seen at any Metroplex show. Dave Taverner's presentation (including a field trip to our setup) went a long way toward making FreeMo concepts well-known. Some of the modules were beautifully scened and the electrical system was partially operational, with a few gremlins to flush out, naturally. This is all positive and encouraging news. I am personally looking forward to the layout's progress, as are so many in our ranks.

The N scale plans are starting to move forward. Although we are still undecided about going with FreeMo standards, an alternative plan is feasible, with DC power and without duckunders. When I earlier asked for ideas from everybody, I got quite a bit of verbal response and one written suggestion. Former club member Chuck Woodward was good enough to have sketched out a track concept and a possible module arrangement. His plan called for a single main line with a backdrop fixed full length down the center, like a long dorsal fin, and a staging yard appended to one side. A few of our people responded that such an arrangement would work, but they want such things as two main lines, no branch line, an in-line yard and some other kind of view-block than a backdrop.

The New Year 2007 will offer, I believe, an even greater chance for us to blow our own horn. With the FreeMo railroad getting fleshed-out and with the next generation N scale in our minds, we will be the most envied club in the entire Council. It's going to be a fabulous ride and everybody has a first-class ticket. Happy New Year, everyone!

Happy railroading, Tom



NORTH TEXAS TRAIN SHOW

Plano, TX

January 13,14-2007

RAILROADING TERMS

Last issue's term: "Rider Car: A car built during the war period for hauling an extra crew member and sometimes local freight. Often resembled a caboose but was run behind the engine.

This issue's term: "Blue Goose"

Do you know what it means?

Special Work session and Change of location for January meeting

The club will have a shake down of the Free-Mo Layout this coming Saturday, January 6th. The purpose of this setup is to get all the bugs out of the layout prior to the show. We had so many problems at the Ft. Worth show, we thought it would be best to get it working first this time. Shane has offered his shop building again for the shake down. We need all the modules at Shane's place at 10 am so we can try to have the layout together by noon. We will then spend the rest of the day making sure wiring is done, making track repairs, whatever else we need to get it running. We can use help from all the members because this is huge effort. We will be setting up 38 modules and trying to make it run. If we are successful we will have a run session on Tuesday, January 9th.

The club meeting will also be at Shane's shop on Tuesday so do not go down to the Senior Center. Be sure to bring your own chair or you might find yourself sitting on the floor. We will meet the regular time of 7pm, have our meeting and election of officers and then we will have an operating session so we can get an idea of how it will go at Plano. **This will be the icing on the cake for all our hard work we have put in on the new layout.**

Here are the directions once again to Shane's place. This is at an airport close to Roanoke off of I-35 west. This is NOT his layout building in Denton. The airport road is not marked well so look for a paved road, next to a field about 1/2 mile east of I-35 on FM1171. Turn south on the road. When you enter the road into the airport, stay on the main road and it will go past some buildings, then turn right and continue on around another curve to the left. Look for two blue and grey buildings and head for the second building. See the directions below.

Address is 11803 Cleveland Gibbs Road - Roanoke, TX 76262

Take 35W south, exit FM 1171 (the next exit south of FM407).

Go east on 1171 about 1/2 mile, turn right (south) on Cleveland Gibbs Road.

You will enter airport property, road then turns west, crosses a taxiway (remember planes have right of way!), then road turns south again. Just at that south turn is my place, two blue & grey metal buildings., the smaller of the two buildings is 11803 Cleveland Gibbs. There is a good, cheap cafe at the airport called the Blue Hanger Cafe if anyone gets hungry. My cell phone 817-819-1626. Shane Murphy

Support your club Attend Meetings

Train Shows and Club Meeting Schedule Thru January, 2007

**Special set up and bug out session, Saturday January 6, 2007
at Shane Murphy's shop in Roanoke**

Next business meeting at 7pm Tuesday, January 9, 2007
Meeting to be held at Shane's shop, followed by a run session on the new layout.

Plano Train show is January 13-14, 2007. More details at the next meeting.

February meeting is Feb 13th, 2007

Don't Just Sit There, Build Something!