

# THE FEVR FLASH

A PUBLICATION OF THE NEBRASKA RAILROAD MUSEUM

1835 N. SOMERS, FREMONT, NE 68025 APRIL, 2008

## POINTS OF CONTACT:

**Nebraska Railroad Museum (NRM) and Fremont and Elkhorn Valley Railroad (FEVR)** 1835 N. Somers, Fremont, Nebraska, 68025, (www.fremontrailroad.com), voice and fax - 402-727-0615 (office)

For excursion only- 402-727-0615

**Fremont Dinner Train (FDT)** - 630 N. H St., Fremont, NE 68025

For Dinner Train only- 402-727-8321  
(The Fremont Dinner Train is a separate business for which the FEVR provides motive power and trackage.)

## BACK ISSUES:

All back issues of the FLASH may be viewed at [www.fremontrailroad.com](http://www.fremontrailroad.com).

In addition, numerous links to other websites of commercial railroads, tourist railroads, the Fremont community, and more information on the FEVR history and equipment may be found there.

## BOARDS OF DIRECTORS :

The Boards of Directors for FEVR and the NRM met April 2, 2008, at the Wilderness Lodge in Fremont. Those in attendance for their respective board positions were **Darrel Miller, Maynard Porter, Al Schlapfer, Bob Ueberrhein, Erik Mutthersbough, Ron Spahni, David Jorgensen and Shirley Angermund.** President **Angermund** conducted the meeting.

Minutes of previous meetings and the treasurer's reports were presented, reviewed, and approved.

A question was asked if the charges for late payment of run fees was being paid as specified in the contract with the Dinner Train operator.

**President Angermund** was authorized to sign an agreement with the **Terracon** company to take soils samples regarding a possible environmental cleanup in a shed in Hooper.

There was a discussion of the concerns of the citizens of Hooper and the condition of the railroads premises there. The need for sorting the tie piles there and the painting of the privately owned cabooses on the property was brought up by **Ueberrhein** who is a resident of Hooper. **Porter** suggested the hiring of someone to do mowing there.

**Angermund** indicated that the Thomas event might be cancelled if the Dodge County Supervisors do not approve pending grant funds for repair of the track and bridges needed for the event. (Note: the funds were later approved)

The purchase proposal from **Mark Vaughn** was discussed and a list of questions to be transmitted to him was formulated. A major item included was the need for a qualified appraisal of the NRM property before a sale would be considered.

A lease agreement with one of the Board members for a rail saw was approved.

The next meeting was scheduled for May 7.

## DAY OUT WITH THOMAS™:

With the approval of grant funds for infrastructure improvement the event will be held as scheduled for **July 18,19,20,25,26 and 27.** The museum and railroad will need community volunteers to help before and during the visit.

Tickets are available on the Internet at [www. Ticketweb.com](http://www.Ticketweb.com) or by telephone at **1-866-468-7530.** See [www.Fremontrailroad.com](http://www.Fremontrailroad.com) for more information and also watch for the ad in the Directory of Tourist Lines and Train Museums in the June, July, and August issues of *Trains Magazine* (publication date is approximately one month ahead of cover date). This visit will bring many visitors to bolster the local economy so it is essential that local civic organizations lend their support.

## TRACK & BRIDGE REPAIR:

The **RAILWORKS** company will soon start tie replacement and bridge repair in the vicinity of the golf course on the FEVR line. Ties which were salvaged from the rail line west of Hooper displaced by highway construction will be used there. The approval of the grant funds for infrastructure rehabilitation has made the work possible in preparation for the Thomas event.

## WORK DAYS:

**Dennis Whelan, Josh Kay, and**

**Al Schlapfer** worked on brush and tree clearing along the right-of-way between **Yager Road and US 77** on Saturday, April 19.

## ROAD TO HOOPER:

On April 20, two members of the FEVR Board visited the railroad property in Hooper to assess the situation and recommend an action plan to address the improvements needed. Documentary photography was performed for archiving. Inspection of the GE locomotive batteries showed that three of its batteries could be reclaimed by charging and that the fourth needed to be replaced.

On April 26, the three batteries were placed on charge and on April 27 they were found to have recovered. A new battery will be purchased to replace the defective one so that the locomotive can be returned to service.

On April 27, **George Blessing, David Fachman, Erik Mutthersbough, and Al Schlapfer** left Fremont for Hooper in two hi-rail vehicles to inspect the track.

The right - of - way vegetation had been previously mitigated by contractor **Egbers** using a modified agricultural field stalk chopper. The entire trip was made by rail except for the Maple Creek bridge which, although the rail is in place, needs to have final spiking done.

The inspection crew tested switches and painted switch points. They reported the route in surprisingly good shape in spite of the long-out-of-service time due to the bridge closure.

## CHARTER SCHEDULES:

Current **2008** schedules include:

School charters: May 2, 7,  
and 9.

## ORPHAN TRAIN:

A total of 57 passengers rode the Orphan Trains April 26 and 27. The number was diminished by those unable to travel from Minnesota because of a very late Spring snow storm there!

## EXCURSION SEASON:

The regular **2008** excursion season will resume in late May. Charters are continuing for schools and other groups..