

# THE FEVR FLASH

A PUBLICATION OF THE NEBRASKA RAILROAD MUSEUM

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

## POINTS OF CONTACT:

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For excursion only: 402-727-0615

**Fremont Dinner Train (FDT)** - 650 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.

## MAILING LIST:

If anyone wishes to be added to the list they should send an email request to [NPTCHM@Hotmail.Com](mailto:NPTCHM@Hotmail.Com). The address will be used for no other purpose than the Flash.

## BOARDS OF DIRECTORS :

The Boards of Directors for FEVR and the NRM met November 12, 2008, at the Wilderness Lodge in Fremont. (The meeting was rescheduled from November 5 because of numerous conflicts for the Board members). Those in attendance for their respective board positions were **Darrel Miller (FEVR only)**, **Al Schlapfer**, **Charles L. Sedlacek**, **George Blessing**, **Bob Ubberheim (FEVR only)**, **Erik Mutthersbough**, **David Jorgensen (FEVR only)** and **Shirley Angermund**. President **Angermund** conducted the meeting.

Notes from the previous **FEVR** and **NRM** meetings (there was not a quorum at the previous meetings) and the current treasurer's reports were presented, reviewed, and approved. Discussion about the treasurer's report expressed concern about the late payments from the **Fremont Dinner Train** and about the unexpected **\$2500 bill** for the transpiration of the Thomas event engine (from Canada where it was prior to our event).

There was discussion about the problems of accidentally misplaced trip reports. Two reports were currently still missing. The correct completion and filing of these reports which are needed to file FRA reports is a reoccurring problem and needs more attention by train crew members.

**Ms. Angermund** again gave an update on items from the Day Out with Thomas™ event. It has been confirmed that the event

here will again be in the last two weekends in July next summer.

A BOD member has donated a Gardner-Denver trailer mounted air compressor to NRM. Driven by a diesel engine, it is capable of 185 cfm at 90 psi. It will be useful in clearing trackways at crossings and in driving air tools.

## HIGHWAY 91 SIGNALS:

**Mel Cunningham**, FEVR signal maintainer, and **Shirley Angermund** had a meeting with the Nebraska Department of Roads (NDOR) and the BNSF railway concerning the operation and needed repair of the FEVR crossing signals at highway 91 at Nickerson.

It appears that both NDOR and BNSF may be able furnish some of the parts needed to repair the FEVR crossing gates there.

## BNSF DIAMOND:

FEVR signal maintainer **Mel Cunningham** has followed up the change in signal circuitry proposed by the BNSF at our "diamond" intersection with it. The change was approved at a previous meeting pending review by Mel.

**BNSF** has indicated that the change will reduce the maintenance needed, benefiting both them and the **FEVR**. It appears that this change is not a precursor to an implementation of **CTC** (centralized traffic control) by the BNSF on their track which runs from Ashland to Sioux City. It is currently unsignaled under track warrant control. (note: since the diamond was installed by the CB&Q, BNSF's predecessor, some 30 years after the track now used by the FEVR was laid, the maintenance of the diamond and its signals is BNSF's responsibility.)

## BRIDGE REPAIR:

An inquiry to the local disaster management agency revealed that the damages in Dodge County due to last summer's flooding was not sufficient to cause a disaster declaration for the county. Thus, there will be no funds available from that agency for bridge repair either at Maple Creek or south of Nickerson. In order for a declaration, the damage amount must equal at least four dollars per person in the population in the affected area.

## FRA VISIT:

Officials from the Federal Railroad Administration (**FRA**) visited in November to inspect equipment and track. Although items were mentioned in the follow-up reports that needed improvement, none would indicate immediate cessation of operation.

The FRA indicated their willingness to

present a workshop on track maintenance for the FEVR personnel. This is currently scheduled to be held at the Wilderness Lodge in Fremont, starting at **7:00 PM, December 10**. Attendance should be considered mandatory for those who are involved in track work now or who will be.

The BOD passed a motion expressing appreciation to the FRA visitors for their advice and help.

Visitors at the NRM meeting were **David Fachman**, **Cody Leu**, and **Jason Shelton**.

Part of the NRM meeting was occupied by an Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter. No immediate action was taken on the matter.

There were no declared nominees to be placed on the ballots for the three positions on the NRM BOD. Ballots with write-in opportunities for the positions have been sent to all qualified voters and are due back no later than **7:00 PM, December 3**.

**Jason Shelton** and **Cody Leu** are to be commended for their work at the depot and the grounds. Restoration and installation of lighting are particularly noticeable, contributing to the safety and efficiency of night operations.

## SANTA RUNS:

Christmas season runs with Santa Claus in cooperation with the FDT are currently scheduled for **November 30** and **December 7**. Contact the FDT at 402-725-8321 for times and details.

## UNION PACIFIC TRACK:

The November 25 issue of the *Pilot-Tribune* of Blair, Nebraska, carried an article expressing safety concerns associated with the rail traffic after the double tracks are completed between Fremont and Blair. The project is scheduled to begin in 2009.

## CALIFORNIA CRASH AGAIN:

The September 12 head-on collision between a Metrolink commuter train and a UP freight in Chatsworth, CA., killed 25 and injured 135. Recently, the same carrier **side-swiped** another freight, resulting in four passenger injuries. Both incidents appear to be due to crew errors including not responding to track signals. Metrolink is reported to be considering changing the contractor which supplies its engineers.

## EXCURSION SEASON:

Excursions will resume in May, 2009.

## CHARTERS:

Depending upon weather and operating conditions, charter trips continue to be available. Reservations are being taken for the rest of 2008 and for 2009.