

# THE FEVR FLASH

A PUBLICATION OF THE NEBRASKA RAILROAD MUSEUM  
1835 N. SOMERS, FREMONT, NE 68025, DECEMBER, 2009

## POINTS OF CONTACT:

**Nebraska Railroad Museum (NRM) and Fremont and Elkhorn Valley Railroad (FEVR)** 1835 N. Somers, Fremont, Nebraska 68025, ([www.FremontRailroad.com](http://www.FremontRailroad.com)), voice and fax - 402-727-0615 (office)

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:

Back issues of the FLASH and links to numerous railroad related sites may be viewed at [www.FremontRailroad.com](http://www.FremontRailroad.com).

## MAILING LIST:

If anyone wishes to be added to the FLASH email list they should send a request to [NPTCHM@Hotmail.Com](mailto:NPTCHM@Hotmail.Com).

## BOARDS OF DIRECTORS :

The Boards of Directors for **FEVR** and the **NRM** met December 02, 2009, at the Wilderness Lodge in Fremont. Attending were **Shirley Angermund**, **George Blessing**, **Dave Muttersbough**, **Charles Sedlacek**, **Dennis Wallen**, **Darrell Miller** (FEVR only), and **Bob Uubberheim** (FEVR only)

## REPORTS:.

Minutes from the **October** meeting and notes from the **November** meeting (which did not have a quorum) were reviewed and approved. The treasurer's reports were presented and approved.

## THOMAS MERCHANDISE:

The sale of remaining **Thomas** merchandise through two opportunities was discussed.

## STEAM LOCOMOTIVE:

The status of the privately owned **steam** locomotive currently in storage in the Hooper engine house that was brought on to the premises with the possibility of restoration was discussed. One of the BOD members will contact the owner in **Iowa** to determine what future actions should be taken with the unit.

## DINNER TRAIN CONTRACT:

Prior to renewal action of the operating contract with the **Fremont Dinner Train**, an analysis of the railroad's costs in providing motive power and trackage will be carried out. A renewal at the present rate appears not to be adequate to recover the costs of the service.

## MOTOR CARS:

One of the membership volunteers has expressed interest in repairing and maintaining the railroad's **motorcars**. The BOD gave enthusiastic approval to the proposal. Having

the motorcars in good condition would provide the possibility of providing rides to the public as part of the excursion season experiences.

## BUSINESS PLAN:

One of the BOD members will be contacting a group at the local **college** on the possibility of obtaining assistance with the development of the business plan.

## BOD ELECTION:

The NRM election committee counted the ballots submitted by the membership (see the qualifications of the nominees in the November FLASH) and presented the results. The three individuals who will take Board positions in January are: **Paul Eveland**, **Rudolph Daniels**, and **Melissa Peterson**. NRM Board members also serve in corresponding positions as FEVR Board members.

## OTHER:

The small piece of **West Point** property left from the CNW has been sold. The **DSLE** position had the BOD requirement was removed.. NRM will apply for membership in the national tourist railroad organization **TRAIN**. The donated Farmall **tractor** was sold. NRM will have representation at two **model train** shows in 2010. Appreciation was expressed to **Shirley Angermund** and **Jeff Blackmore** who will be leaving the BOD.

## NRM GOES TO TRAIN SHOWS:

NRM will have representation at two model train shows within the next two months:

### **Great Train Expo**

MidAmerica Center, Council Bluffs, IA

Saturday, January 30 - 10:00 AM-4:00 PM

Sunday, January 31 - 10:00 AM-4:00 PM

### **Lincoln Area Model Railroad Club and Museum**

Lancaster Event Center, Lincoln, NE

Saturday, Feb. 20 - 9:00 AM -5:00 PM

Sunday, Feb. 21 - 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

There will be table space at both events to display information about NRM and its activities. Special thanks to BOD member **Dennis Wallen** for making the necessary arrangements. Readers of the FLASH are asked to inform others about these events. Although the NRM deals with railroads where the scale is **12 inches per foot**, there is much to be learned and appreciated in the model world.

## WINTER WOES:

The FEVR, as is the case with all regional railroads, has suffered operational **difficulties** due to the two heavy snowfalls with high winds in the month of December. On the Class 1 roads with **CTC** (Centralized Traffic Control)

there have been many problems with remotely controlled switches, many often failing to close the points and requiring manual intervention because of accumulated ice and snow. On the FEVR, the traditional **New Year's Dinner Train** trip was cancelled - the first such occurrence in many years - because of high drifts. As of the 29th, locomotive 1219 train crewmen **Wallen** and **Foster** managed to break open the line only to a point south of the BNSF diamond. Fortunately, the Dinner Train is not scheduled to resume its schedule until later in January.

## BETTER STARTS FOR 1219:

On December 28th **Dennis Wallen**, **George Blessing**, **T.J. Foster**, **Al Schlapfer**, **Jason Shelton**, and **Cody Leu** installed the new batteries for locomotive 1219 that were delivered some time ago. The old set was in use for over fifteen years and was at the end of its service life. 1219 uses **eight** batteries connected in series giving a nominal voltage of 64 volts. The actual operating voltage is over 70 volts. Each battery weighs about 300 pounds so the use of a hoist was necessary.



NEW 1219 BATTERIES

## OTHER ITEMS OF PROGRESS:

**Dennis Wallen** has assumed the National Director's duties of handling membership records and in developing recruiting brochures and posters.

A **grant** application has been submitted for landscaping tools and equipment to enable improvement of the depot grounds and adjacent areas.

Plans to develop **advertising** through securing funds, developing billboards, and tourist orientated signage through granting agencies are underway.

A corrected and updated version of **information** about the FEVR has been submitted to the producer of the **Great Railway Journey** series.

Much appreciation to **Dennis Wallen** for his leadership in initiating these items.

**Best wishes to all for 2010!**