

THE FEVR FLASH

A PUBLICATION OF THE NEBRASKA RAILROAD MUSEUM

1835 N. SOMERS, FREMONT, NE 68025 JUNE, 2009

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- 402-727-8321.

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.

MAILING LIST:

If anyone wishes to be added to the FLASH email list they should send a request to NPTCHM@Hotmail.Com.

BOARDS OF DIRECTORS :

The Boards of Directors for **FEVR** and the **NRM** met June 3, 2009, at the Wilderness Lodge in Fremont. Those in attendance for their respective board positions were **Shirley Angermund, George Blessing, Charles L. Sedlacek, Jeff Blackmore, Maynard Porter, Erik Mutthersbough, Dennis Wallen, Al Schlapfer, Darrel Miller (FEVR only), Bob Ubberheim (FEVR only) and Ron Spahni, (FEVR only).**

Minutes from the previous **FEVR** and **NRM** meetings and the current treasurer's reports were presented, reviewed, and approved.

Porter reported that all FRA reporting was current as of the meeting date, as well as information about the tree chipper.

Discussion was held concerning the sale of some assets that are not needed for current operations. The large **diesel generator** unit that was formerly a military unit and the Farmall **tractor** that was donated were identified. The generator unit shows very little use, but does not fit needed power requirements and the tractor does not have a live hydraulic lift which limits its usefulness. Both have been in running condition but currently need batteries. It was suggested that both be put in operating condition prior to a sales attempt.

The **boom truck** has issues that make it unsuitable for highway use, but it would be of value in the train yard. Repairs will be made to enable that use.

There are also items in Hooper that need to be reviewed for possible sale and disposal.

Representatives of the Federal Railroad Administration (**FRA**) were again visitors.

Some things were identified that need priority attention for completion.

One of the **NRM** board members has donated a highway type sickle mower and a rotary shredder ("bush hog") to **NRM**. Both can be used with the Ford 2N tractor on hand. **Miller** and **Porter** brought the units from the donor's property.

BUSINESS PLAN:

The organization has been without a comprehensive business plan for an extended period of time. A business plan is an essential instrument as the basis of grant proposal writing and in seeking other support.

As a start at addressing this issue, a special meeting of **NRM** BOD members was scheduled for 11:00 AM on Sunday, June 14th at the depot.

(The meeting was held as scheduled on the 14th and the product was to be commented upon by the participants and reviewed at the next meeting.)

HOOPER RAIL YARD:

The business plan meeting scheduled for June 28 was cancelled and available help was used in Hooper cutting weeds and trimming brush. Among those assisting were **Al Schlapfer, Maynard Porter, Dennis Wallen, P.J. Foster, and David Fachman.** The recently donated tractor powered shredder was found to work very well.

DAY OUT WITH THOMAS™ :

The preparations for the event continue – see schedule in this issue.

BOOKS FOR SALE:

A limited number of books in which **NRM** has credits for some photos – **Images of Rail Nebraska's Cowboy Rail Line** - are available. There is a discount for **NRM** members. Contact **Shirley Angermund** at the depot phone – 402-727-0615.

NEW MEMBER:

We welcome another new member: **P.J. Foster!** We value your talents and ideas on how to do our work better.

MAINTENANCE OF WAY:

Al Schlapfer reported track work northeast of county road T. Working with him were **Lawrence Addleman** and **P.J. Foster.**

OTHER RAILROAD NEWS:

From the **Omaha World-Herald** via the news letter from the **NRHS Great Plains Chapter** (Grand Island): Federal stimulus money has become available for renovation of the Omaha Road depot in Dakota City, NE. The cost was reported to be \$187,627. It will become a museum and trailhead. There were 11 recipients of a total of \$7,067,678 in the

fund.

SAFETY IMPROVEMENT ACT:

The **Rail Safety Improvement Act of 2008** was passed by Congress in response to reports of rail accidents due to crew fatigue. Among other items, there is now a limitation on the number of consecutive days a crew person can work without rest days and also there is a cap on the total number of hours that may be worked each month in train service. Although aimed at the 24 hr/day, seven day/week Class 1 operations, it also will apply to short lines and probably tourist lines where the work schedules are generally quite different and fatigue is not a major factor. The latter applications may limit the ability of short lines and tourist lines to deliver the customary services.

POSITIVE TRAIN CONTROL (PTC):

The ability to stop a train when needed by automatic control has been mandated by Congress to be installed on many lines carrying passengers or hazardous materials by **2015.**

However, even that may fail, since a malfunction in the automatic train control system appears to be a cause in the recent rear-end collision of commuter trains in the Washington, D.C. area.

EXCURSION SEASON:

Excursions are scheduled to continue every Saturday and Sunday until the end of October. Boarding times are at 1:00 PM at the Depot at 1835 N. Somers in Fremont. **(See schedule exceptions below)** The 15 mile trip takes riders to **Nickerson** and return and is approximately two to two and one-half hours long. Fares are the same as those for last season and depend on the choice of vintage or climate-controlled coaches

CHARTERS AND SPECIAL EVENTS:

Currently scheduled in July are:

Charters;

July 2 - Karen Webster Elementary
July 8 - Conestoga Magnet School
July 9 - Little Kingdom School
July 30 - M&M Day Care
July 31 - Montessori School

John C. - Fremont Days

(No charters these days)

July 10 - 2:30 PM
July 11 - 9 AM, 12 PM, 2:30 PM
July 12 - 10 AM, 1:30 PM

Day Out With Thomas™

July 17, 18, 19, 24, 25, and 26.

No charters on these days – event trains only – see event schedule on ticket information site on www.fremontrailroad.com.