

# THE FEVR FLASH

A PUBLICATION OF THE NEBRASKA RAILROAD MUSEUM  
1835 N. SOMERS, FREMONT, NE 68025 SEPTEMBER, 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- 402-727-0615.

**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 August 5, 2009, at the Wilderness Lodge in Fremont. Those in attendance for their respective board positions were **Shirley Angermund**, **George Blessing**, **Charles L. Sedlacek**, **Maynard Porter**, **Erik Mutthersbough**, **Darrel Miller (FEVR only)**, and **Bob Ubberheim (FEVR only)**.

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

The past due amounts owed by the Dinner Train were noted. A subsequent motion was made and approved to send to the Dinner Train management a demand letter for payment of the delinquent amounts.

Member **David Fachman**, who was a guest at the meeting, presented a request to be allowed to bring a caboose he was purchasing on to the railroad property. He indicated that he would allow it to be used as part of the excursion train. A motion was made and passed to accept his verbal proposal with the understanding that a written contract be in place before any move is executed.

The crossing at **County Road 24**, south of Nickerson, has deteriorated and it has been necessary to remove some exposed planking. Train crews will be instructed to use caution at the crossing.

**Porter** indicated that all reporting to the FRA was current.

**Porter** reported on a meeting to be held with individuals supporting the development of the Business Plan and the Long-Range plan. (The meeting was later held and resulting

information is expected at the next BOD meeting.

The resignation of BOD member **Al Schlappfer** was discussed. It was noted, with appreciation, that he had donated funds for the repair of a leaking seal on the Ford hi-railer transmission. Member **Lawrence Addleman** will now work on track and Ms. **Angermund** will report the work to the FRA.

**Sedlacek** reported that he has located a company in Illinois as a source for coolant water treatment items needed for locomotive 1219. This company is a supplier to major railroads.

**Angermund** noted that excursion passenger count has been very low. This has been a problem in many sectors of the tourist railroad operations, with even some cancellations of remaining excursion schedules.

## OTHER ITEMS:

The entire membership was saddened to learn of the death of BOD member **Dennis Wallen's** daughter Nancy on September 11 in a highway crash in western Douglas County. The funeral was held the following Thursday. The parents were on vacation in the West when the accident occurred. The Wallens are residents of Mead, Nebraska. Sympathy is expressed to the family.

On Friday, September 25, a car struck and demolished one of the crossing signal stands at the Highway 77 crossing north of 23<sup>rd</sup> street. Repairs are underway. There was no train there at the time of the incident.

## RAILROAD NEWS:

The new bridge on the **Union Pacific** main line west of Boone, Iowa, is now in service. It replaces the **Kate Shelly** bridge which was constructed early in the last century and was named after a local young lady who prevented a major train wreck by notifying railroad personnel of a washed out bridge. That span over the **Des Moines River** was a bottle neck in traffic because of capacity limitations. The new double track span allows higher speeds. The old bridge will not be demolished and might serve as an access roadway.

## BATTERY LOCOMOTIVE:

The current on-line issue of *Railway Age* describes an experimental switching locomotive built for **Norfolk Southern** rated at 1500 horsepower that runs only on battery power, having no diesel engine at all. It uses 1,080 12 volt batteries and uses regenerative braking to help re-charge the batteries. It is claimed that it is able operate three shifts before recharging is needed. The recharge time

was not noted.

This unit is in the mode of the "fireless" steam locomotives used in some industrial plants in the past. These were "charged" with steam from a central plant and switched until a return for more steam was needed.

**Comment** - Although this unit has "zero" emissions at the operating location, just as in the case of "plug-in" autos, the electricity has to be generated at some place with consequent emissions. Also, there is a loss in efficiency each time energy is converted from one form to another. Since the major source of electricity is from coal fueled power plants, in a sense the use of this unit has the railroad returning to coal for fueling motive power.



DINNER TRAIN – Conferring after a Sunday run – L. to R. – FDT crew member?, FEVR brakeman Hunter Lafferty, FEVR conductor George Blessing, Dinner Train Manager Bruce Eveland

## EXCURSION SEASON:

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

## SPECIAL NOTICE:

There will be **NO** excursion service on Saturday, October 10, because of the annual Harvey House charter that day. The excursion service will operate on the regular schedule on Sunday, October 11.

## CHARTERS AND SPECIAL EVENTS:

Recent or upcoming events:

September 17 – School tour of museum

October 1 – School excursion trip

October 10 – Harvey House Charter

(Regular FEVR excursion cancelled on October 10)

To schedule excursions, call 402-727-0615)