

THE FEVR FLASH

A PUBLICATION OF THE NEBRASKA RAILROAD MUSEUM

1835 N. SOMERS, FREMONT, NE 68025. JUNE, 2012

POINTS OF CONTACT:

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For excursion only- 402-727-0615

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For Dinner Train only- 402-727-8321.

(The Fremont Dinner Train is a separate business)

BACK ISSUES:

Back issues of the FLASH and links to numerous railroad related sites may be viewed at www.FremontRailroad.com.

MAILING LIST:

Questions about the list may be sent to the FLASH editor at nptchm@hotmail.com.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

The NRM Board of Directors met at the Clarion Inn in Fremont on June 6, 2012. Present were Treasurer/Executive Director **Angermund**; BOD members **Daniels** (BOD president), **Blackmore** (BOD Vice President), **Swetnam** (BOD Secretary), **Eveland**, and **Fachman**.

Absent: **Blessing**, **Peterson**, **Powers**, and **Muthersbough**.

Guests: **Charles L. Sedlacek**, **Mel Cunningham**, **Bruce Eveland**, **Josh Kay**, and **Hunter Lafferty**.

Announcements:

President **Daniels** reported on his contact with the **FRA** track inspector who had learned of the track owner's proposed repair schedule. **Josh Kay** commented on the helpful suggestions on repair techniques that the inspector gave during his recent visit. (Note: there is another call by President **Daniels** for track repair crew volunteers for July 7.)

BOD actions:

The treasurer's report was approved by unanimous vote.

The ballots received for the vote by the membership on the Constitution and Bylaws document were opened and counted. The approval criterion of **2/3 approval** vote needed by membership ballot was exceeded and the BOD voted unanimously to accept the vote. The BOD Secretary was instructed to send a copy to the Nebraska **Secretary of State** for filing. The new Constitution and Bylaws will become effective **July 1**. (Note: the earlier proposed date of June 1 was postponed in order to accommodate the needed BOD procedural actions.)

BOD member **Fachman** reported on the progress in the restoration work on the RPO car. The funds from a grant from the **Union Pacific Foundation** and a member's donation have been expended. The BOD approved an additional amount mainly to provide for professional lettering services. (Note article this issue)

The BOD met for a short time in closed session for a personnel matter.

Cunningham reported that the new switch locks have been installed and most of the keys issued.

Because of the July 4th holiday, the next BOD meeting will be held **July 11th** with the membership meeting immediately following.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER:

Will return next issue.

UNION PACIFIC:

Steam locomotive **844** arrived at the location adjacent to the Omaha College World Series on June 14, maintaining the trip schedule from Cheyenne as planned. It left the Heritage Park facility in Council Bluff on **June 29** and arrived in Cheyenne June 30 after an overnight stop in North Platte, NE.

The Union Pacific suffered a very unfortunate incident in the **head-on** collision of two freight trains near the Oklahoma Panhandle town of Goodwell. The crash took the lives of **three** crew members and resulted in a massive diesel fuel fire. The cause has yet to be determined.

RADIOS:

The necessary **handsets** to complete the changeover to narrow band operation have been located. NRM is fortunate to have expertise among its members for **programming** the used but very good units for operation here.

RPO CAR RESTORATION:

BOD member **David Fachman** has provided leadership in the restoration of NRM's RPO (Railway Post Office) car and in finding information about the unit. According to his research, the car was built by American Car and Foundry in Indiana in **1922**. It weighs over 69 tons and is just over 74 feet long and close to 10 feet wide and 14 feet high.

According to him, it was **donated** to our organization by one of the immediate predecessors of the present BNSF and is one of only **four** of its kind left and the only one in regular excursion service. **Two** of the others are on static display- one in Galesburg, Illinois and the other at the Museum of Transportation in St. Louis, Missouri. The **third** is at the Illinois Railway Museum and is used once a

year to demonstrate mail sorting.

In addition to the repainting to original colors, repair has been done to the **running gear** and windows. The external **lettering** will not be applied after the operating track has been cleared of brush that might damage it.



NRM RPO CAR UNDER RESTORATION

(George Blessing photo)



HUNTER LAFFERTY'S WORK

(Dave Fachman photo)

The **interior** of the car will probably not be restored completely to former operational levels since the unit will be in regular excursion passenger service and will continue to have a concession stand. Also, because of the wide exterior **access** doors, the car is ideally suited to the use of a chairlift for the mobility impaired.

There is extensive information on RPO cars on the Internet on sites like **Wikipedia**.

CHARTERS AND EXCURSIONS:

Excursions are boarding at the Depot at 1835 N. Somers Ave, Fremont, Nebraska, at 1.00 PM every Saturday and Sunday until the end of October. Climate controlled cars are **not** available Saturdays.

On **July 14** and **15** Fremont is celebrating John C. Fremont Days and the **special** excursion trains will run at 10 AM and 1:30 PM both days instead.

For more excursion and other railroad information the see NRM site at www.FremontRailroad.com

Charters available by reservation. See Points of Contact at the start of this publication.