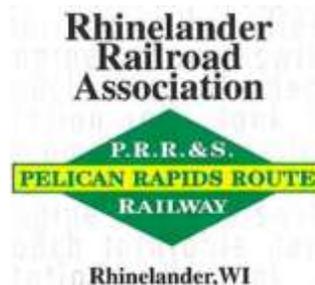


# Warrant



August 2012

---

The RRA Business meeting of August was held on July 25<sup>th</sup> due to the fair closing off access to the depot. Meeting was started at 6:50pm and ended at 8:10pm.

There was no treasurer report was given due to Norm Braeger's health issues.

## **President's Message: Greetings from the "Old Man" by Jim Brown, President RRA**

Just a few lines to let members know what is going on as we start to "fall into fall". Last month, due to my mix up of dates for our business meeting of R.R.A. it was held on the Wednesday before the actual date due to the fair at Pioneer Park. Sorry about that!

At the meeting Norm Braeger, our long time treasurer, handed me his resignation as treasurer of R.R.A. due to health issues. Just to let members know, it is now taking three people to fill Norm's shoes and what a wonderful job Norm was doing! I have assumed the job as treasurer along with Alan Duchrow, secretary of R.R.A. The third person involved in this is Brian Koehn who has taken over running the Depot and the manning of it during the summer months. At this time R.R.A. will be looking for a new treasurer. More on that later.

Now, good news, bad news, good news! We were allowed to get back in at 123 Brown St. to set up our module system. Good news!, but bad news, Tim found a renter for his store, so out we go! Now, good news! Tom Theilig found us a new home and we will be moving in by the time you read this. It is the old dollar store in Trigs Shopping Mall. We will be able to stay in there until February of 2013 or possibly longer. Thanks Tom!

To find out more about what is going on in R.R.A., please plan to attend the next business meeting which will be held at the Depot on Wednesday, September 5th, 2012, at 7:00 pm. Hope to see you there!

**Take care, Jim Brown, President, RRA.**

Due to the cost of ink, paper & postage, a change in the format of the Warrant has become necessary. It was discussed that the Warrant should now be published without color at this time with it being a maximum of three pages, front and back, bringing the Warrant down to a total size of six pages. It was also brought up that the Warrant should be published and sent out one full week before the monthly business meeting, with it including the final agenda items that will be discussed during the monthly business meeting. This was discussed between the members present, voted on & approved.

## ***Rhineland Railroad Association August 2012***

Due to health concerns within the Roger Blocks household at times, it has been difficult to get the Warrant out promptly. Though this is no one's fault, the Warrant will be done by Brendan Marquardt with assistance from Alan Duchrow as to relieve Roger of the stress of writing two newsletters. Roger has agreed to this and has given the club a substantial amount of material for articles for publication. We would like to thank Roger Blocks for publishing 23 newsletters since October of 2010.

As many people from the club know, our business meetings were somewhat unproductive. It was noted that the meetings were easily sidetracked with many different conversations going on at once and many members missing what was said. To solve this, members of the directional committee meet to establish a version of Roberts Rules of Order, which will be used to conduct meeting. These rules were first tested during the August business meeting and it was found that much more was accomplished in a shorter period of time, with little or no objections and with every issue fully solved and voted upon. The rules are as follows (subject to change):

- A agenda is to be followed and the meetings conducted by President Jim Brown or by Vice President Bob Lake.
- Each agenda item must be submitted to one of the following people- President Jim Brown, Vice President Bob Lake, or Secretary Alan Duchrow, at least one week before the business meeting in time for publication of the Warrant. Items may be added during any time of the month.
- The agenda will be followed in the order the items are submitted, in conjunction with the meeting format
- Each agenda item will have ten minutes to be explained and discussed before being voted on. If the topic needs more time, it is to be voted upon to continue the discussion, or to end discussion and put it on the next month's agenda.
- Other topics will not be discussed until the agenda is completed and all topics listed are decided upon. Once agenda is completed, anyone may present other topics for discussion, provided there is time.

The Format of the Meetings will be as follows (subject to change):

1. Call meeting to order
2. Read minutes
3. Read Treasurers report
4. Committee reports
5. Old business agenda
6. New business agenda
7. Announcements for agenda for next meeting
8. Other topics
9. Adjournment

We are looking for a new treasurer to be nominated to take place of Norm Braeger, since he has officially resigned as treasurer of the RRA due to health complications. Treasurers' duties have since been assumed by President Jim Brown and Secretary Alan Duchrow. Our prayers go out to Norm and we hope he may return more frequently to our weekly gatherings. I would personally like to thank Norm for his many years of dedicated service to the club and we hope you know you are already missed.

A new laptop computer will be purchased under the direction of Brendan Marquardt to replace the 14 year old machine that has just stopped working. The computer will service the clubs needs to produce and publish the Warrant and be used for other club purposes, including but not limited to, being an inventory & reference database and for assistance with programing

## ***Rhinelanders Railroad Association August 2012***

the digitrax system. The price of the computer was limited to being under \$400 and a computer has been purchased at a price of \$348.19 along with a Microsoft Office package, a wireless mouse, and storage backup devices.

A couple people from the club have started inventorying our rolling stock with the items listed in a spreadsheet. As of 8/5/12, four hundred and fifty cars have been inventoried and pictured with more being completed every week. With the cars being inventoried, we have realized that we have a lot of items we don't use or want, so we are going to try to sell some of the items at the upcoming model railroad show in Minocqua, WI.

We would like to thank Brian Koehn of the RRA, as he has assumed the duties as coordinator of the depot during the scheduled summer months at Pioneer Park. For a thanks to Brian, the club has made him an Honorary Life Member. Thank you Brian for a job well done.

On Tuesday August 14<sup>th</sup>, several of us went to Tomahawk to David Ahles residence to pick up two well thought out N-Scale portable layouts. He has also donated many N-Scale rolling stock items, railroad videos and video cabinet, a handmade magazine holder with many magazines and catalogues. He has given them to the club and has given no restrictions on what the club should do with any of the items.

Mr. Ahles also proudly showed us his HO layout while we were there, which was in his basement and suspended in a mid-air eye level creation that had great detail with much attention put into it. Thank you Mr. Ahles for the tour and donations.

## **The Mod Squad**

The Mod Squad as its being called, is a formed committee with four members charged with all the operations of the modular layout. The committee consists of Tom Kolbek, Jim Brown, Brendan Marquardt, and Bob Lake with Mike Koltz as an alternate in case the first four members can't make the show. The committee is in charge of moving the layout and manning it during the shows.

Jim Brown owns the trailer that the modular will be transported in and the first test run with it has taken place, with the layout being moved out to his house and back into town in the days between moving out of one store and into another. The layout ridden flawlessly with no damages.

The assembly of the five of the sections took just under an hour with five of us. So to set up for a show should take about two hours from taking it out of the trailer to running with DCC operation. It was talked about to have our own clinics to instruct all members of the club the operations of the modules, including the operation of the DCC system, scenery making and building. This topic will be included on the September 5<sup>th</sup> club meeting agenda.

The layout is currently set up and is being worked on with a goal of completion for the Minocqua show, in the old Family Dollar storefront in the Trig's mall.

## **2013 Convention Planning Committee Meeting**

*By Bob Lake*

Peculiar. Not "Ha Ha" peculiar, but "strange" peculiar. It seems that individual motivation either provides individual achievement or dismal results. Nothing down the middle.

And it seems that committees fail to arrive at a consensus in time to meet an emergency while swamping the individual achiever with the very devil's details. The Key it seems, is to select a

## ***Rhinelanders Railroad Association August 2012***

large group of individuals; swamp the devil with a multitude of details rivaling the stars in the night sky until the group is frozen into a position that can only be evacuated with a fragile consensus that provides for every contingency, accident and emergency, thus leaving only one path carefully trod, open for eventual execution.

Good ideas were torn apart, carefully thought out suggestions failed in the final analysis, egos were bruised, toes were stepped on and even then, a good old fashioned Donnybrook was narrowly avoided. We have arrived smarter, better prepared, re-enthused and well supported.

Our meeting of Wednesday last, consisting of the volunteers planning the October 2013 Winnebagoland Division Meet and many interested supporting members of both RRA and Three Lakes Model Railroad Club (TLMRC) were surprised to find an emerging plan that may have great possibilities. Something of this magnitude in the hands of a mix of neophytes and experienced leaders may not always progress smoothly since no clear understanding of what is expected is borne by every participant, and human nature being as it is, it is an uphill battle to get the whole body moving in unison. I think we have arrived at the desired jumping off place with everyone on board and excited about the future.

Or maybe I am just projecting myself on others.

We are hitting the road in high gear. Such wounds as may have occurred in our deliberations give evidence of healing. Smiles are reappearing on pleased and happy faces, and I am glad I am a member of such a vital and exciting group. This venture should be a real boost to our clubs and our morale!

## **Planning Committee WLD/RRA/TLMRC : Aug 22, 2012**

The meeting began, as scheduled, at 5PM. In attendance were Tom Kolbeck, Jim Brown, Alan Duchow, Mike Koltz, Brendan Marquardt, Paul Wussow, Bob Lake, Clint Olson, Roger Blocks and Chairman Bob Dumke.

Review of accomplishments: Keynote speaker: Bob Nadroski, retired Wisc. Central executive confirmed. David Allen, Contest Chairman, confirmed. Have backup speaker (if problem at last minute) Dave Hintz a former Soo line employee.

Promotions: First flyer draft presented: OK'd 3 fold in color (was \$169/1000 B&W, or \$222/1000 color.

Liaison: Need a list of the Hobby Shops (and other potential outlets) for flyers from Division (including phone numbers and internet information).

A key question to answer: How many clinics and workshops? Figure 7 hours available 9AM – 4PM: Regular Presentation 30 min (20 talk+10 Q&A) : Clinic 45 min -60 min (talk or show and tell), Workshop (longer duration... nixed this). Facility is a constraint: only one clinic at a time. Here is what I seemed to hear:

9:00AM – 10AM	Std 45 min NMRA Clinic for avid model builders If a handout is presented... gets AP credit
---------------	---

## ***Rhinelanders Railroad Association August 2012***

Figure general public will begin arriving around about 10AM and drift off by 3PM

10AM – 11: AM                      Intro to Model RR – leaning towards gen public  
11AM - 12 Noon                    Layout building – a topic that the public also likes  
if handout presented & they go 45 min gets AP credit

12Noon – 1 PM                      Lunch... Run Photos of our layouts in the Clinic Room  
Sort of a Layout Tour for those who cannot travel.

Sometime about mid – day the door prize would be awarded

1PM - 2PM                            Intro to Model RR – a repeat of the 10 AM Clinic  
2PM - 3 PM                            Layout building – a repeat of the 11AM Clinic

Thought was to have the best clinics first and last... for the serious folks.

3 PM = 4 PM                         Std 45 min NMRA Clinic for avid Model builders  
(This would not be a repeat of the 9AM offering)

Topics heard from the group: Intro to Model RR, Rail fanning, Module Building, History of Soo or C&NW (local or major), history of Thunderlake RR, Conversion from DC to DCC (layout and engines), Reasons for joining a Club.

The content of the above to be agreed upon by subcommittee on programs: Blocks, Wussow and Brown.

Next meeting will be Sept 26, 2012 at 5PM at the Depot.

Adjourned at 6:40 PM after a highly involved, very productive, always interesting, somewhat noisy, rarely quiet and totally enjoyable discussion.

*Respectfully submitted. Roger G Blocks, acting scribe.*

### **The Directional Committee Explanation**

The directional committee consists of people who are very dedicated to the club and/ or were in a elected position. The purpose of the committee is not to run things and take over, but to add advice and suggestions of well thought out and attainable goals, to keep the club in a stable position and keep things running as they are running. The meeting also discussed of ways to make the club money and it is much easier to discuss about certain topics involving fundraisers, the pancake breakfast, ect., with 5-6 people that with 10+ people. The committee will bring most of the things talked about up at the meeting if they are relevant and need further attention and approval. If you have questions feel free to contact one of the officers.

### **Railroad Happenings: those Semi-local events...**

Sept. 13-16, 2012- **Soo Line Historical Society** Annual Convention

Thief River Falls, MN Info at: [www.sooline.org](http://www.sooline.org)

***Rhinelanders Railroad Association August 2012***

Sept. 29-30, 2012 **Northwood's Model RR Club**

Annual Train Show And Swap Meet Saturday September 29, 2012 10 A.M. to 4 P.M. & Sunday September 30, 2012 10 A.M. to 3 P.M. At: MHLT Elementary School, 7450 Titus Drive, Minocqua, WI call 715-358-2570 or 715-356-6656

Oct 13, 2012 **NMRA [Winnebagoland Division Fall Meet](#)** in Wausau, WI

<http://www.wld-nmra.com>

Oct 21, 2012 **Model RR Show and Swap Meet** – Circle B Recreation 6261 Hwy 60 – Cedarburg, W

Nov 10 – 11, 2012 **Trainfest**, Wisconsin State Fair Park, West Allis, WI Info at:

[www.lammscape.com/cedarcreek](http://www.lammscape.com/cedarcreek)

**Rhinelanders Railroad Club**, business 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday, 7 PM at the Logging Museum Depot, operating / maintenance any Wednesday 7 PM same location or with modular layout. See [www.rrahome.org](http://www.rrahome.org)

**Three Lakes Model Railroad Club**, dates open, meet at members' homes and / or with the Rhinelanders Railroad Association. See [www.tlmrc.org](http://www.tlmrc.org)

Questions, comments: call Superintendent: Paul A Wussow 312-543-4989

Praise or congratulatory: call Editor: Roger G Blocks 262-989-4338

Warrant written by Brendan Marquardt and Alan Duchrow with items contributed by Roger Blocks, Jim Brown, Tom Kolbeck, and Bob Lake