

2023 Rocky Mountain Division of NARCOA – Annual Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 1005 MDT, on November 4, 2023, by President Chris Weaver. The meeting was hosted remotely utilizing Zoom as the digital connection medium.

Those in attendance were Chris Weaver, Jerry Geiger, Al & Jennifer Rodi, John Spiro, Richard Reiff, Leland Stewart, Gus Mocilac, Grant Sorensen, Darrell Arndt, Rob Small, Mike Brickner, & Phillip Walters.

The 2022 Annual Meeting Minutes were read back by Jennifer Rodi and were approved as read by the membership in attendance.

Election of Officers

Jerry Geiger's term as vice president is up and he is willing to continue to serve in this position. There were no other interested parties.

John Spiro's term as Director-At-Large is up. He is moving on to other priorities. Grant Sorensen has expressed interest in this position. There were no other interested parties.

By acclamation Jerry Geiger and Grant Sorensen were elected to the Board of Directors for 2024.

Financial Report

The Treasurer's Report was given by Jennifer Rodi:

2023 Financial Report

Beginning Balance for 2023 - \$15,610.53

Ending Balance for 2023 - \$16,171.94

Net Gain for 2023 - \$561.41

Administrative Costs ~ \$40

RMD Hats - \$693.06

Leadville, Colorado, & Southern ~\$125

Summer run ~\$50

Fall run ~\$75

Durango & Silverton ~\$130

Summer run ~\$135

Fall run ~-\$5

Cumbres & Toltec ~ \$185

Summer run ~\$110

Fall run ~\$75

Colorado Pacific (Towner & LaVeta) \$400

LaVeta ~\$975

Towner ~-\$575

We had ~42 paid members for 2023

The report was approved, as read, by the membership in attendance.

Old Business

- RMD now has its own email address. Moving forward, announcements, newsletters, and updates will come from this email address and not Jennifer Rodi's email address. Please add RMDNARCOA@gmail.com to your contact list.
- The PayPal account has been established for this purpose and the details are included on an updated Membership form.

New Business

- Acknowledgement of Phillip Walters and his 75+ trips along the Animas River supporting the D&S RR as EC for over 14 years. D&S is a challenging run with opportunities to navigate personalities and grades. Phillip highlighted the contributions of many others including Alan Borchardt and Steve Treibel for their continued help and support in making these runs successful. Many members added their positive experience and accolades.
- Richard Reiff will step up to help with this transition and take over the EC responsibilities for the D&S runs.
- Leland Stewart, our area representative and vice president on the NARCOA board, provided a briefing on NARCOA Annual Meeting in Chicago. See the SetOff for additional details.
- Run reports
 - o Phillip – See treasury report for financials – 4 NG runs – 2 in summer and 2 in fall – Phillip had to write himself up for an incident/violation in the yard in Antonito – switch position was misaligned – always look at the position of the vehicle in front of you – trust but verify. The rest of the runs were uneventful and RRs were happy. Took care of both runs in the fall. Fun as last runs as EC with smaller groups and fewer passenger trains so they had the entire line to themselves.
 - o Richard – Towner line followed by LaVeta Pass – 10 or 11 cars on Towner and 16 or so on LaVeta Pass run – no mechanical issues with cars breaking down – coming back up the 3% greased rails resulted in slip sliding away – 1.5 hours to get up the hill – could not get test run to Antonito accomplished due to blocked line so ran to Fir and back
 - o Jerry – Leadville – 2 runs – 1 in July with 10 cars and 1 in September. RR replacing about 1,500 ties. Birdseye curve will have part of hill removed to improve visibility and taking it to Devils Tail tangent – raised the track 5-6 ft and straightened it out – RR long-term plans to start running passenger trains to Devil's tail tangent and storks curve with better scenery. Alan Hale was able to attend a run for the first time in a while. RR adding trains and evening runs for the motorcars for a change of pace. Handed out hats and they enjoyed those.
- 2024 New Runs
 - o Jerry – RR will operate up to May with weekend runs, month off for maintenance, and then start up for summer around Memorial Day – special excursion trains and

BBQ trains – Challenge finding lodging space when the RR is busy – exploring an RV park on their property – RR would like to see RMD participate in a winter run – they plow as necessary daily past French Gulch – Send out a proposal for interest for a winter run for membership. Potentially looking at fee increases for future runs. Also issues finding companies to provide port-a-potties –

- Richard will work with Philip and Alan to develop the schedules for upcoming narrow gauge runs. May/June timeframe for spring run and late summer early fall run. Will aim for before mid June for D&S C&Ts –LaVeta – early to mid May on a weekend – Santa Run for December 2023.
- Jerry – Work parties on the Creede branch – last Creede Branch cleanup run was 2021, looking at May 18, 19, 20, 2023 for another – weekend before Memorial Day weekend – question was raised about the tools necessary to clean up the line – proposed a potential look at the beginning of May to better determine what is necessary – discussion about liability with track maintenance – lets reference the NARCOA work group details – create a list of required work and deliverables for work/cleaning that needs to be done. Leland provided perspective on experience in Texas – Suggestion of indemnification – Chris requested this to go back to the board to discuss maintenance work on clean up runs – Chris requested to table this discussion and set a separate committee to discuss further WRT RMD's policy – John was clear this is just cleaning work and not maintenance – operations manual 301 section E -
- Chris wants to publish planned runs with tentative plans – either just a list of potential runs or a list with tentative dates – Phillip shared his experience in scheduling the narrow gauge tour
- Thank you to Chris for running the meetings. Thank you to all that posted timely on the website with run info – Thank you to Leland for attending the meeting.
- Phillip will put together a proposal for how much the website costs and other administrative costs and send that to the board to discuss and determine a path forward.

The meeting adjourned at 1205 MDT on November 4, 2023.