

2021 Rocky Mountain Division of NARCOA – Annual Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 1108 MST, on December 4, 2021, by President Al Rodi. The meeting was hosted remotely utilizing Zoom as the digital connection medium.

Those in attendance were Al Rodi, Jerry Geiger, Jennifer Rodi, John Spiro, Phillip Walters, Alan Borchard, John Borden, Brian Deleplaine, Rob Small, Gus Mocilac, Doug Summers, Kenny and Carol Wilson, Doug Davlin, John Keeling

There were no 2020 meeting minutes to read back due to COVID-19 pandemic.

Al Rodi volunteered to step up as president and by acclamation was elected to the RMD board of directors for 2021/2022 term. This left Al's director-at-large position vacant. A survey monkey election by RMD members elected John Spiro to fill the remainder of the 2020/2021 term.

Financial Report

The Treasurer's Report was given by Jennifer Rodi:

2020 Financial Report

Beginning Balance for 2020 - \$12,825.75

Ending Balance for 2020 - \$13,435.75

Net Gain for 2020 - \$610

Denver & Rio Grande ~\$60 loss

Leadville, Colorado & Southern – Summer ~\$15 loss

Leadville, Colorado & Southern – Fall ~\$90 gain

Towner ~\$ 75 loss

We had 56 paid members for 2020

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

2021 Financial Report

Beginning Balance for 2021 - \$13,435.75

Ending Balance for 2021 - \$13,975.75

Net Gain for 2021 - \$540

Denver & Rio Grande Clean-up ~No loss/gain

Leadville, Colorado & Southern – Fall ~\$65 gain

Durango & Silverton & Cumbres & Toltec ~ \$205 loss (approved by the board)

We had ~41 paid members for 2021

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

New Business

Jerry EC Trip reports – 2 runs planned – medical issues cancelled July run – September run lightly attended – several dropped out at the last minute – railroad changing daily – family taking over operations of RR – laying more track – extending operations with holiday trains – have requested changes in operating mode - weekend operations with excursion train – adding special ops/excursion trains – hoping for two more runs in 2022 and will try to coordinate with other runs for out-of-state participants

Philip/Alan EC Trip reports – did lose participants because RR changes schedules twice – C&T – having issues with changes in mgmt and personnel – family problems, COVID, - otherwise a really good run – went well – C&T – lost several people – working for schedules for next year – see if we can find a better solution with parking for C&T – thank you to Alan for taking both runs at the last minute when Phillip was attacked by sciatica - difficult to orchestrate between the two RRs with their schedules – do not anticipate a change in the future – run earlier in the season with less traffic - at the mercy of the RR schedules...

Creede Branch Clean up - Big rock slides – back hoe cleared up – bad rail spot 307.5 due to motor vehicle accident – spikes and rotten ties loose – patch/fixed – line clear – south fork to road crossing at 4 UR – Rail bike had a successful season – only using 3 miles – to mile post 303 out of south fork – will need to be mowed for future runs – sickle mower needs a larger car to tow it to be effective

Rear end collision accident discussion (with Jerry) – Best Practices – rear end collisions – happen after lunch – altitude, temperatures, sleep – in Leadville try not to schedule right after lunch – 3 hour break – hydration is a keep issue, especially in warm weather – Sleep apnea at higher risk – passenger obstruction of forward view – passenger briefed to speak up and be vigilant for collision avoidance – understand how to stop the car, engine, brakes... - failure to properly signal slowing or stopping, especially around blind corners/curves – send someone back to flag – reverse movement

John Keeling should be in a position to handle Creede Branch operations - recently spoke with Don Shanks – lots of work necessary on the track – have equipment available but will need volunteers who are willing and available to work – work towards both work parties and excursions that are full – rail bikes will only work first 3 miles, possibly up to silver bridge, but will not know their plans until next season – will consider July run and then fall colors run, avoid narrow gauge runs –

Phillip – Revisions on mentoring procedures for a mentored operator – mentoring to happen during an excursion, as designated by the EC – more formal process than before - at the national level – operators misunderstand how excursions work – stemming from an incomplete mentoring process – all operators and ECs should review the mentoring process documents and understand the roles and responsibilities and changes – cannot just show up and ask to be mentored – new process is cumbersome – many railroads will not allow inexperienced operators

Turntable rule change discussion (with AI) - NARCOA Team to investigate the root cause(s) for incidents related to TT safety - Alarm, (effects all types) - Audio – cannot hear - Visual – added - Unintentional deployment – applies to powered unit - Move controls to remote location that cannot be accessed from inside car - Add power cutout switch that includes a visual indication of status - Passive Turntable lock (pin/latch) - Hydraulic version MUST have lock (pin/latch) in case of hose failure (springs alone will not

suffice) - Electric turntable (Dean Mark are recommended but NOT required to have a passive lock) - Electric les King/Dean Mark TT with "single bolt foot attachment" are required to be upgraded with the willits foot/base attachment modification. Electric Dean Mark TT "Electric Jack portion" are recommended to be revised to current standards or replaced to incorporate all current safety. It was suggested that the turntable changes be voluntary for one year to avoid uproar and to gauge how cooperative operators are to implement safety improvements without forcing compliance

The 2021 operating season was used for education and discussion. Rules were written at the last BOARD meeting then off to the SETOFF for review and comment. Possible implementation in 2022.

Election of Officers

Jerry Geiger volunteered to stay on as Vice President. John Spiro volunteered to stay on as a Director-At-Large. By acclamation these volunteers were re-elected to the Board of Directors for 2022.

Future Runs

- Hoping for 2 with narrow gauge – COVID dependent
- Leadville hoping for 2 runs – July, and fall color run
- Insured NARCO work party or volunteers for cleanup on Creed – weekend before Memorial Day weekend (Spiro)
- Cumbres and Toltec season TBD

The meeting adjourned at 1240 MST on December 4, 2021.