

# NORTHSTAR NEWS

The editor wishes to apologize for the lateness of the Northstar News for May 2002. Due to a computer virus this issue was unable to be distributed as it would also have spread the virus.

Thank you for your understanding- Lauren Maiden, Editor

*An Amtrak Concern, continued from page 7*

of Representatives can be easily found. Each elected Congressional rep can be sent an email directly from their web sites. I would also suggest that each person send a hard copy of that email to their reps too as sometimes emails have a habit of sometimes being discontinued.

For those members that don't have a PC, below are the mailing addresses of the Senators, House of Representatives and the President:

The Honorable.....	The Honorable.....	The President
U.S.Senate	U.S. House of Representatives	The White House
Washington, DC 20510	Washington, DC 20515	Washington D.C. 20500



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Vol. 33 Issue 5

May 2002

## Minutes of the Northstar Chapter, NRHS, Membership Meeting, April 20th, 2002

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. in the St. Paul Fire Department. The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. in the St. Paul Fire Department Training Center by President Dan Meyer with 28 members and guests present. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the February 16,2002 meeting, as published in the Northstar News. The motion carried. Approval of the minutes of the March 15,2002 meeting was deferred, as they have not been published yet. Treasurer Joe Fishbein was not present to give his report.

National Director Marty Swan reported that NRHS Chairman Leroy Dietrich had a stroke and has not been able to carry out the duties of his office. Marty said that he had volunteered to take charge of issuing 25 and 50 year pins. In our chapter, two local members are due 25 year pins, plus one in La Crosse. Arrangements will be made to present them with their awards. A flyer is out on the planned trip of U/P 3985, which will visit the Twin Cities. The NRHS Board of Directors met last week in Harrisburg. Issuing of 25 and 50 pins will

be getting back on schedule. Chairman Dietrich is in bad shape, so volunteers went to his house and checked records. There is now a new staff and production procedures for the NRHS National Bulletin. Issues 4 and 5 from 2001 are now out and issue 6 is in press. The first Bulletin of 2002 is being worked on. The Activities Annual is no longer being numbered, so delays in putting it out won't delay other issues of the Bulletin. There will be 5 regular issues of the Bulletin. Eau Claire has applied for Chapter status.

Russ Isbrandt attended the Spring BOD meeting, held in Harrisburg. The rail trip in conjunction with the BOD meeting was completely sold out - if there are any problems with a car on the train, there is no way to move people to another car. He reported on the status

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of events at this year's national convention. The 2003 convention will be June 30-July 6 in Baltimore, with a theme of "Star Spangled Rails." There is a lot of information on the NRHS website. The trip at the BOD meeting was great if you paced it, but very hot onboard. From on the train, you couldn't tell what kind of engine was on the front of the train.

Trip Director John Goodman reported that he had spoken with Steve Sandberg of the 261 group. The trip to Duluth isn't sold out yet, but sales are going well. John said that he will be riding the 3985 trip and plans to talk to Steve Lee of the UP. Only a few chapter members are going on the trip. John does not have plans for any other trip. The chapter will not be running a bus for this year's 261 trip to Duluth.

Marty Swan said that he had not yet made reservations for our Holiday Party at Timmucel's. The restored Milwaukee Road depot in Minneapolis was suggested as a site for the party in a future year. We usually hold the party on the first Sunday in December, but that is very early in the month this year, so we could hold this year's party on December 1st or 8th - the 8th was suggested unless that date is booked. Marty was told to go ahead with the plans without a formal motion.

The annual chapter picnic was discussed. Several possible locations were suggested. Dave Norman said that he would check

with Don Johnson about visiting his live-steam railroad at Coon Lake. A visit to the St. Croix Live Steamers was also suggested. Possibly, we might have the picnic instead of having a regular monthly membership meeting in July.

Lauren Maiden has been doing a good job as editor, but we need someone (or a group of people) to act as Production Manager. Otherwise, we may not have a newsletter if we don't get help. A question was asked about exchange newsletters.

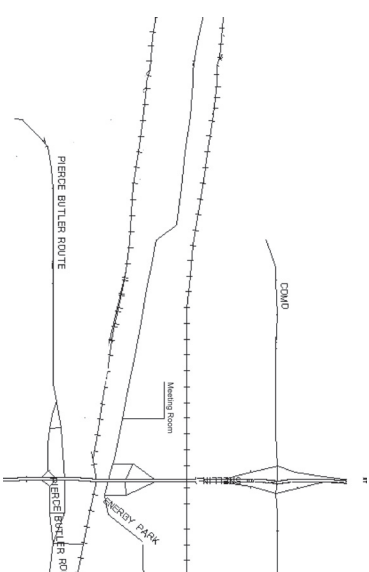
The 2004 National Convention Committee will hold its next meeting on Saturday, May 4th. The suggested meeting time was 4 p.m. Others are welcome to come and observe the meeting.

Old Business - The subject of a possible new meeting location was discussed. Most suitable meeting rooms would cost money. Andy Koetz had personal business and forgot to get the key last month. The Minnesota Transportation Museum does not have a suitable meeting space available. A question was asked about our donation to the Lake Superior Transportation Museum to the fund to repaint the DM...IR diesel - the check was written at the last meeting and presumably has already been sent.

New Business - There was none.

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**The April Northstar Chapter,  
NRHS Meeting is Saturday,  
May 18th @ 7:00 PM  
@ the St. Paul Fire Department  
Training Center.**



Directions: Take Snelling Ave to Energy Park Drive. Exit and turn right at the bottom of the ramp. Watch for the entrance gate to the Firefighters Training Center. (Look for the cement building that looks scorched.) If you go past Midway Stadium you have gone too far.

*Meetings are usually the third Saturday of the month*

*in the St. Paul Fire Department Training Center.*

*NEXT MEETING: June 18th @ the St. Paul Fire Department Training Center- Program TBA in the May Northstar News*

**An Amtrak Concern from  
Member Joe Harper**

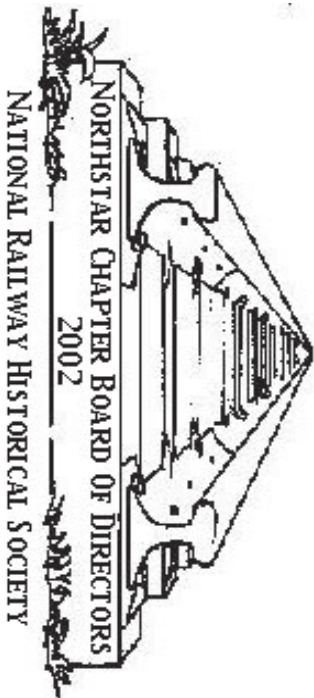
May I suggest that in the next edition of the Northstar News that a suggestion be made to the membership enlisting their help to write a brief note to both Senators in Minnesota (Mark Dayton... Paul Wellstone) as well as to their appropriate House of Representative for whatever District the various members of the Northstar Chapter may live in for the purpose of getting the necessary funding needed to maintain a national railroad system and hopefully bring it up to a reasonable standard we can all be proud of. Eliminating a form of mass transportation just doesn't make sense. Congress gives so little to Amtrak compared to all other forms of transportation and highway maintenance.

My concern is that the long distance Amtrak trains may well be discontinued as early as October of this year. What a shame it would be not to have "The Empire Builder" to ride anymore not to mention the disappearance of "The Southwest Chief"(in existence since the 1930s), "The California Zephyr", "The Coast Starlight", "The Capitol Limited" and "The Lake Shore Limited" just to mention a couple of other famous long distance trains also in peril of being discontinued.

Each person who has an available PC can go put the words "Library of Congress" in their search engine and the names of the Senators and House



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*Disclaimer: The opinions expressed in the Northstar News are not necessarily the opinions of the NRHS or the Northstar Chapter.*

## Obituary Continued from Page 5

A memorial service and small concert is planned for 10:30AM in the lobby of Ted Mann Auditorium, University of Minnesota on May 3, 2002.

Memorial contributions are being accepted by Fairview Hospice, 2450 26th Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55406.



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Amtrak's Auto Train went on the ground - 12 cars were on their sides and 4 people died. Service resumes today. Amtrak did not post notices of train-offs, but might be able to get away with a shorter advance notice. The status of action in Congress is that money for Amtrak has been approved by the Senate, but may not get through the House. The Greater East Area Model RR club will be holding a flea market of railroad and model railroad items next Saturday, April 27, at 10 a.m.

Adjournment was moved, seconded, and carried at 7:45 p.m.

The program was presented by Baron Behning. His daughter shot a video of trains in Japan in March of this year. He also showed scenes on the BNSF, an excursion train out of Duluth, a time lapse tape on the Minnesota Transfer, and a fan-trip behind CB... Q #5632 from 1963.

Respectfully submitted,  
David Norman  
Secretary Northstar Chapter NRHS

## Minutes of the Northstar Chapter, NRHS, Membership Meeting, March 16th, 2002

*By John H. Goodman, Acting Secretary*

The meeting was called to order by President Dan Meyer at 7:10 p.m. in the meeting room at the Twin City Amtrak station, with 20 members and guests present.

R. Linebarger moved that that approval of the minutes of the February 2002 meeting be deferred until they are published in an upcoming issue of the Northstar News. The motion was seconded by M. Swan and carried.

Joe Fishbein gave the Treasurer's report. We have 62 members who are paid up for 2002. Checking account balance, as of 12/31/01, was \$5,264. We have \$3,524 in the general fund and \$1,740 in the 8327 restoration fund. We had to pay \$400 to rent the James J. Hill House for our January meeting, but the 38 people in attendance each paid \$5, for a total of \$190. The net cost to the Chapter for the meeting was \$210.

President Meyer and Treasurer Fishbein reported that a budget for 2002 was approved calling for anticipated expenses of \$1,655.

Marty Swan gave the National Director's report. The 2002 Grand Canyon Trip and Convention pre-registration booklet is now out, so members can now make advance registrations for all aspects of the convention.





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Dan Meyer, Chairman of the 2004 National Convention Committee, reported that the next committee meeting will be next Sunday, March 24th, at the Amtrak station. He also reported that we now have a website for the 2004 convention.

John Goodman gave the Trip Director's report. Trips behind restored Soo Line engine #2719 in April were cancelled due to a decision by Canadian National RR too require \$50 million in insurance coverage. The 2719 group is not able to obtain this type of coverage at the present time. Our plan to purchase tickets on this trip is moot, as the trip is cancelled. John also spoke about the upcoming trip of Milwaukee Road #261 to Duluth in May and the June trip by Camerail and the Union Pacific to Des Moines and Kansas City.

Old Business - There was none.

New Business - President Meyer requested that someone else take over assembly of the Northstar News, as it is somewhat of a burden to him, as he has many other duties. He noted that it would be possible to put it on the Chapter's website, so members could obtain it that way. That would save the Chapter the costs of printing and postage, instead of having to mail out the newsletter.

John Goodman made a motion to set up a committee to investigate a possible new meeting site for Northstar Chapter monthly meetings. Jim McLane seconded the motion. This issue

arose because tonight's meeting had to be moved to the Amtrak station at the last minute. Member Andy Koeltz was not able to get the key for the Fire Department Training Center in time for the meeting, so a hasty change to the Amtrak station was needed. John's committee will look into possible new sites and costs for same.

John Goodman reported that the Lake Superior Transportation Club is requesting donations for the repainting of their ex-DM...IR locomotive #193. Bill Herzog moved to have Northstar Chapter donate \$100 to this fund. The motion was seconded by Russ Isbrandt.

A motion to adjourn was made by Russ Isbrandt and seconded by Ron Linebarger. Meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m

## The Battle of the Weldon Railroad

*Submitted by Jeffrey "Remo" Williams*  
This year's Saint Croix Civil War Weekend Re-enactment, held at "Fortis Folle Avoine Historical Park" on Fathers Day weekend, June 15-16, will include three battles this year, with the highlights being "The Battle of the Weldon Railroad." The Civil War re-enactment crew has built a representation of the Weldon Railroad line complete with depot, 600 feet of rail line, and telegraph lines. The scenario includes a railroad handcar, loaned by the Lake Superior Railroad Museum, which will pump it's way across the field to the depot. The handcar will be attacked

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by Union artillery (lots of explosions), and Confederate forces will face off to defend Reams Station. Relive the horrible phase of Sherman's campaign when U.S. troops cut telegraph lines, burn buildings, and come upon and destroy railroad tracks, turning them into "Sherman's bowties" by twisting the rails around trees. President Lincoln (Fritz Kline) will be back this year, as well as Union medical tents with scenes not for the faint of heart. Forts Folle Avoines Historical Park is located in Burnett Co. WI. Two miles west of Hwy. 35 on County Road U, between Webster and Danbury. Phone: (715) 866-8890 E-mail: fahp@centurytel.net

## Northstar Chapter Obituary

*Submitted by Dan Meyer*

Our former chapter trustee, Paul Freed, passed away in April after a long battle with cancer. In addition to the unknown (to me) talents listed in his official obituary below, Paul was an enthusiastic railfan. He attended most Northstar chapter meetings, and when he traveled he would investigate the local railroad attractions. Railroadng was not a big part of Paul's life, it was apparently just a small part of his life. Even so, he enjoyed railroads and the presentations at chapter meetings. His will be missed.

Freed - Paul W., age 74, died on April 16, 2002 at his home in Minneapolis after a long struggle with cancer.

Paul was Professor Emeritus of Piano in the School of Music at the University of Minnesota and an active pianist in the community both as soloist and chamber musician. He taught piano at the University of Minnesota from 1957 until his retirement in 1992.

He was a graduate of Hamline University, held an Artists Diploma from the Basel Conservatory in Switzerland with Paul Baumgartner and advanced degrees from Florida State University with Ernst von Dohnanyi in piano performance. He was President of the Minnesota Music Teachers Association from 1969-1971 and founder of the state wide syllabus program. He was recently given the President's Award by the MMTA for lifetime achievement.

He was born in Hampden, North Dakota on July 7, 1927 to the late Palmer Otto Freed and Marjorie Maud Freed (nee Oke).

He is survived by his sister, Marcia Freed Taylor of Essex, England and brother, Bruce Freed Embro, Ontario, Canada; nieces Lucy Taylor of Birmingham, England, Bridget Freed of Minneapolis, Lesley Freed Sukosky of Hockessin, Delaware, and Nora Freed Arkonovich of Portland, Oregon, two grandnephews and one grandniece, and a large group of friends and students.

A funeral will be held at the GILBERTSON FUNERAL HOME in Devils Lake, North Dakota on Monday, April 22. He will be buried at Storlie Cemetery in Hampden, North Dakota.

