

# NORTHSTAR NEWS

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Make checks payable to Northstar Chapter NRHS. Send reservation form and payment to H. Martin Swan, PO Box 65320, St. Paul, MN 55165-0320

Please reserve me.....seat(s) at the Northstar NRHS Christmas Banquet @ \$16.50.

Name of person making reservation.....

Name(s) of other person(s) in party.....

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(Please do not include membership dues in this check)

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Northstar Chapter, NRHS  
2642 Clearview Avenue  
St. Paul, MN 55112



# NORTHSTAR NEWS



Vol. 33 Issue 10

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## Minutes of the September 21st, Membership Meeting of the Northstar Chapter NRHS

Vice-President Doug Johnson called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m. in the St. Paul Fire Department Training Center with 19 members and guests present. Chapter President Dan Meyer was not present - he was in northern Minnesota to ride the special excursion train on the Erie Mining railroad.

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the minutes of the June 15, 2002 membership meeting, as published in the September 2002 issue of Northstar News. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the minutes of the August 17, 2002 membership meeting, as published in the

September issue of Northstar News.

Treasurer Joe Fishbein was not present to give his report.

National Director Marty Swan reported on the National Directors meeting held during the

NRHS national convention at Williams, AZ in August. There were several changes in the national officers because of death or ill health. The Activities issue of the Bulletin will be going to press soon. There are plans for a railroad photography group that could be used to encourage people to join NRHS. The

Webmaster reported that the NRHS website is getting 145 hits a day just for the convention coverage. The National Operation Lifesaver program has accepted NRHS as a full partner in their program. This year's RailCamp was very successful. The first session in 2003 will be July 6-12, immediately following the Baltimore convention, with a second session July 20-26. This year's Railway Heritage Grants were announced. A preliminary report on this year's Grand Canyon convention indicated 750-800 people were registered. The 2003 convention in

Baltimore is ready to

receive pre-registrations. There will be many

excursions, none with steam. The next BOD meeting will be

Sunday, November 3 in Mt. Pleasant, IA. Due to a schedule conflict, Marty will not be able to attend, so someone

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else from the chapter will have to serve as an alternate delegate. Three members of the chapter received awards for 25 years of continuous membership: Bill Herzog of Minnetonka, Sylvester Knaption of La Crosse, WI, and Andy Papulas of Minneapolis. Sylvester Knaption and Andy Papulas got their awards by mail. Bill Herzog got his lapel pin at the convention at Williams, AZ. He will get his letter of congratulations at the next meeting when he is present.

Trip Director John Goodman had no plans to report on. He did note that there is a trip-taking place this weekend on the Erie Mining railroad in northern Minnesota.

Marty Swan reported on the 2002 NRHS national convention in Williams, AZ. He enjoyed the sunset trip to the Grand Canyon behind four FA diesels on the Grand Canyon Railroad. That was the only event of the convention that he was able to attend. Marty also described his trip on Amtrak to and from the convention. After leaving the convention, he went west to California, then north, and then came home on the Empire Builder. Doug Johnson also attended the convention. He attended the banquet. The after-dinner speaker described Walt Disney's fascination with railroads. Doug described the talk was somewhat long, but interesting. Doug took Saturday's steam train to the Grand Canyon. There were several other steam engines at the station when the train arrived there.

There was a report on plans for the 2004 NRHS national convention. The NRHS National Convention Committee will be coming in December to check on how we are coming with our planning for the convention. The next meeting of the convention committee will be on Sunday, Oct. 13th. More people are needed to help with the preparations for the event.

The chapter's Holiday Party will be held Sunday, Dec. 8th. Details will be in next month's issue of Northstar News. Contrary to previous reports, Tinucci's is not moving to Woodbury, but is just opening a deli there. The program isn't definitely set yet. It's possible that we might have a speaker about the Hiawatha Light Rail project. Doug Johnson noted that he recently had a tour of the new shop building being built for the light rail line.

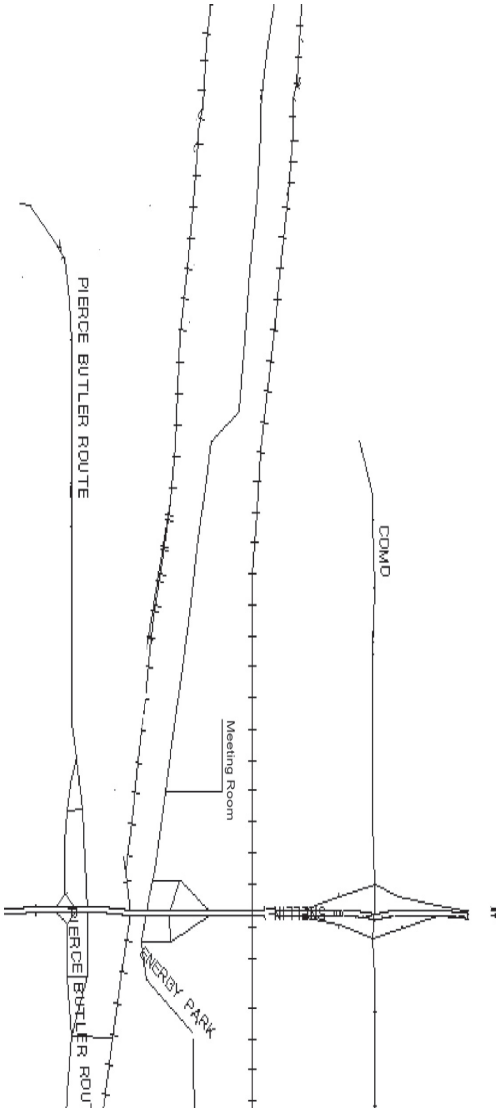
Dennis Louden reported for the Nominating Committee. All existing officers are seeking re-election. Next month, the committee will give its official report. Nominations from the floor will be accepted at the November meeting, followed by the election.

There was no Old Business or New Business. Doug Johnson asked if there were any guests or visitors at the meeting.

The program will be presented by Aaron Isaacs, of the Minnesota Transportation Museum. He will show what he considers to be the best of the MTM's slide collection.

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**The September Northstar Chapter, NRHS Meeting is  
Saturday, October 19th @ 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.

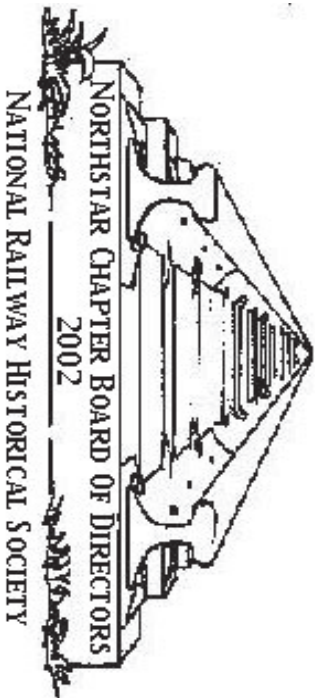
Program for October has been changed and is a surprise per Glen Holmburg

*Meetings are usually the third Saturday of the month in the St. Paul Fire Department Training Center.*

*NEXT MEETING: November 16th @ the St. Paul Fire Department Training Center-  
Program will be Dick Prosser*



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

**The Northstar News is looking for a new EDITOR to start in January. Lauren has an internship which will not allow her the time to continue being the editor-- those interested in putting out this monthly publication should talk or email DAN MEYER.**

**The Northstar News can also be read ONLINE! <http://www.northstar-nrhs.org/>**

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Next month's program is tentatively going to be presented by Jim George.

A motion to adjourn was made, seconded, and carried at 7:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, David Norman  
Secretary, Northstar Chapter NRHS

## Marty's Trip Report from the National Convention hosted by the Grand Canyon Chapter of the NRHS

Just got back yesterday from the most wonderful trip I have taken in years.

On Aug 20 Bill Herzog and I took a one way rental car to Kansas City from the Twin Cities. We were forced to do this since Amtrak refuses to allow the Empire Builder to connect with the Western Trains in Chicago. The ride is an easy one down I-35. Once in KC we did a little railfanning and then went to the beautifully restored Kansas City Union Station for dinner. After 61 years of life I finally found out what the difference between a Kansas City Strip and a New York Strip steak is—KC Strip has a bone, NY Strip does not.

We then moved over to the Amtrak station to wait for our slightly tardy Chief. While waiting for the Chief to come, a member of the Kansas City Chapter that I know came in to catch the train.

Next morning, after a great night of sleep, I headed to the dining car observing that eastern Colo. here looked just like eastern Colo on the California Z route. I met Bill and the another NRHS member that had boarded at KC for breakfast.

Breakfast was limp, soggy French Toast and pork sausage. The pork sausage was about the size of a silver dollar and as thin as a piece of paper. I decided to have French Toast on each of the trains I was on to see if the chefs did anything different with the national menu.

I could not believe the change in the landscape this day. I had been led to believe that the route of the Chief (2 sleepers, dining car, lounge 4 coaches and rear end sleeper) was boring. Boy was I wrong, we went from arid country to mountains back to rocky arid country and almost everything in between. I was transfixed with the views moving pass the lounge window.

Arrival at Albuquerque was early and allowed me plenty of time to purchase \$140 worth of bracelets for the wife and family from the Native Americans at that location. Cash only, no checks, or credit cards. This did leave me a bit short in the billfold.

Shortly thereafter disaster struck. I had been having problems with a pinched nerve in the back. The Dr. has prescribed steroids and muscle relaxers and they had been



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working. Up to the point where we had joined the main line of the former ATSF the ride had been fast and smooth. Once we hit the main line the ride became faster and not smooth at all. We bounced all over the place with violent side to side jerks. On one of those side to side jerks, my back nerve said forget it and pulled. That gave me pain across the whole back and made every sudden movement a joy of paralyzing pain.

About this time my friends and I went to dinner and that was ok (the National pork chop was just OK) but when I tried to stand up after dinner the back when ballistic. I got down to my room and put the heating pad on it, which seems to help. The last hours, into Williams were not all that fun.

Arrival into Williams was close to on time and I hobbled over to the van, which would take us to our hotel. The damned thing appeared to have been built without shocks and the first part of the journey was over a rutted dirt road. By the time we got to the hotel, I had to be helped to a standing position by Bill and others and then I slowly, in much pain, got off the bus and made my way into the lobby. My friends helped me with my luggage and when the desk clerk saw me, she changed my room from way off yonder to right around the corner. Thank you Thank you Thank you.

A night of cooking myself with the heating pad, no activity, the medication all seemed to help and the next morning I was able to move again—although I could feel the thing tugging me and knew I had better be very very careful.

On Thursday Aug 22 I was to ride the NRHS Convention trip to the Grand Canyon. Since this was the only convention trip I could take I sold the farm and got a dome seat.

And what to my wondrous eyes did I see. An ATSF Pleasure Dome car. The one dome car operated by pre Amtrak carriers that I had never ridden. Oh My! No kid seeing Disneyland for the first time could have a greater thrill then I had. Since I had some NRHS business to perform that morning and couldn't board right away, the NRHS people operating the car reserved one of the parlor swivel seats for me. And then the icing on the cake was that we were pulled by an ABBA set of Alco FAs. I love first generation diesel far more then I care for steam. The Grand Canyon Chapter, NRHS, gave us continuous treats ranging from water and soda to cookies, to fruit to cheese and meat plates. What a wonderful wonderful day. The view out the flat glassed car (still in its original configuration) was pine, then scrub pine, then arid treeless land, then scrub pine and back to full size pine. We got to the Grand Canyon and I rode the bus that the Chapter had provided for us mobility disabled persons, up to the rim for my first ever view of the upside down mountain as early Native Americans called it. Man oh Man!

I then went into the El Tovar Hotel built by Fred Harvey and went to the restaurant for a meal. “All sold out” I was told. No problem. I walked into the restaurant and found another NRHS member who was sitting alone and asked if I could join him. No problem. So I dined on

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Seafood Chowder and Lamb Shank that evening in a former Fred Harvey restaurant.

Later we all went back out to the rim to watch the sunset. Bliss.

Then back to our train for nighttime ride back to Williams, but tonight was the full moon. Just what more could anybody ask for?

Hats off to the NRHS Grand Canyon Chapter for their hassle free user friendly operation of this train. And for all other aspects of the Convention that I was able to attend.

Next morning was NRHS Board of Directors meeting, and the annual membership meeting. I was busy selling the merchandise of the NRHS.

At any rate I sat, alone, in the lobby until 1:00 am when the van started to get ready to take us over to the station. Once there we had to wait until 2:15 for the train to come in. I hit the hay almost immediately not even stopping to brush my teeth.

About 3 hours later I heard an announcement being made, which I was trying to ignore until I heard the words Sacramento and Coast Starlight. That woke me up and I flagged down my attended that told me we would be bused from Barstow to San Luis Obispo.

To be continued in Next Months edition of the Northstar News

## NORTHSTAR CHAPTER NRHS ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BANQUET DEC. 8, 2002

Our annual Christmas Banquet will once again be held at Tinucci's high quality buffet. We will gather at 11:00 am and after a short social time will hit the line with its goodies of Roast Beef, Chicken, Ribs, Breakfast items, Salads etc etc.

We will have a program, to be announced, after we eat.

Our price this year is \$16.50 which includes a soft drink of your choice. Tinucci's will also include 2 gift certificates for our drawings.

Cut off date will be Dec. 4.

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