



**VOLUME 35      NUMBER 1      JANUARY 2004**

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**CP Rail Holiday Train, Shoreham**



**Progressive Rail Santa's Express, Bloomington**



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## North Star Chapter Membership Information

Yearly dues are \$32 (this includes \$20 National dues and \$12 Northstar Chapter dues, plus \$3 more if you would like a family membership) made out to: Northstar Chapter, NRHS. Mail it to treasurer, Northstar Chapter NRHS, 1092 Humboldt Ave, West Saint Paul, MN 55118, or stop by one of our Saturday meetings and see what we are about. You won't be disappointed!

## About the front cover-----

Canadian Pacific Santa train at Shoreham Shops and Progressive Rail Santa Express in Bloomington. Photos by Dawn Holmberg

**January Meeting Notice:** The January meeting will be held at the St. Paul Fire Training Center on **Saturday, January 20**, at 7 o'clock pm. The program will be given by Jim George, with slides of local railroading over the last 20 years.

## Minutes of the December 20, 2003 Membership Meeting of the Northstar Chapter of the NRHS

The meeting was called to order at 7:16 p.m. in the St. Paul Fire Department Training Center by chapter president Dan Meyer with 24 members and guests present. A motion was made to approve the minutes of the November 15, 2003 meeting, as printed in the December issue of Northstar News. The motion was seconded and carried. **Treasurer** Joe Fishbein reported that we had \$4,657 in our checking account as of November 1, 2003. Checking account interest was less than \$1, for total income during November of \$0. Newsletter expenses during November were \$77, for total expenses of \$77. Cash in checking account, as of November 30, 2003, was \$4,580, of which \$2,840 was in the general fund and \$1,740 was in the GT 8327 restoration fund. Our current chapter membership is 81, of whom 10 have renewed for 2004.

**National director** Marty Swan reported on the NRHS Board of Directors meeting, which he attended on Long Island. Dan Meyer also attended the meeting and said he had fun and he promoted Rails to the Northstar.

**Trip director** John Goodman said he believes that 2003 will represent the end of fan trips as we know them, primarily due to insurance cost. In the future, we can go through Amtrak or we can visit existing tourist railroads or railroad museums. Reports are when the CN takes over the Messabe, it won't be good for railfans. The Proctor shops will probably close within a year. John suggested possible trips to Boone & Scenic Valley, the MTM's Osceola excursion train, the Illinois Railway Museum, or Duluth.

Dan Meyer reported on plans for **Rails to the Northstar**, the 2004 NRHS National Convention. The committee hasn't met lately, but will meet tomorrow at 3:30 p.m. at the Amtrak station. They have a rough draft of the brochure. We will need people to help with various tasks at the convention. Anyone interested should contact Dan. Dan noted things are looking better than a few months ago. Bill Herzog suggested a sign-up night for chapter members to encourage volunteers. A question was asked as to how we came up with the name of the convention - it was influenced by Dick Prosser's book. There was a question about insurance. A question about the possibility of a light rail shop tour led to a discussion. Pre-registrations are coming in - we now have about 250. Forms were passed out at the meeting, plus they are available from our website. The question was asked if we have enough hotel rooms available - the answer was yes.

The **holiday party** was discussed. We currently have 19 reservations. The deadline for notifying Mancinni's is December 31st. The program will be slides from the Bob MacNie Collection, and it is possible we might have something else. The restaurant has a screen, but we should plan to bring our own projector.

There was an update on the **8327 restoration** project. Dan Meyer announced the Northstar Chapter had received a \$1500 grant for the project from the NRHS, but the chapter has to raise a matching amount of \$1500. Bill Herzog, who leads work on the project, said we will try to get the engine presentable and get a plaque on it in time for the convention. It was noted this is the first time the Northstar Chapter has gotten a grant on its own.

There was an item on the agenda about the January meeting, but it was decided that no action was needed.

Our chapter by-laws don't state who chairs a membership meeting if both the president and vice president are absent. Our new president, Bill Herzog, will be gone for several months and vice president Doug Johnson may not be here some months. National director Marty Swan said that is willing to take January and treasurer Joe Fishbein said he is willing to act as back-up. Bill Herzog wants to serve as president for only one year, so we should think about who we want to have as our next president. We should be grooming a candidate for the next term. There was a discussion as to whether we need to set up a by-laws committee. It was noted the National NRHS is re-doing their by-laws - perhaps after that is done, we should look at ours. There was a motion by Bill Herzog, as an interim measure, we should allow those elected officials who are present to decide who runs the meeting if both president and vice president are not present. The motion was seconded by Dawn Holmberg and carried.

Dawn Meyer said he can get e-mail addresses for chapter officers - those who are interested can contact him.

It was suggested that the chapter buy a projector with a built-in screen, but the chapter already has one. Another suggestion was the chapter use a video tape player to promote the chapter. Dan Meyer has such a unit and is willing to lend it to the chapter. Many flea markets of railroad and model railroad items are willing to give us space free as a non-profit organization. Dennis Loudon said he is willing to spearhead the project to represent the chapter at such events. Another suggestion involved a computer disc. John Goodman has the chapter's poster holder in his office. The chapter owns a projector table, but nobody knows where it is. Kodak will be discontinuing manufacture of slide projectors - should the chapter buy another one while they are available?

A recent news item on CBS TV described how the UP wants payments from all firms making models of UP locos and cars - not only models of UP equipment, but also all the roads that the UP has ever purchased and even those railroads that they had purchased or merged with. The Lake Superior Museum sent a letter - they want to restore the private car Northland and are trying to raise money for the project. If people are interested, they can get Northstar News by e-mail instead of on paper, which would save the chapter money. Glen Holmberg is now printing it on his own computer. Bill Herzog said that we ought to congratulate Glen for his work as editor and production manager for the Northstar News. There was a round of applause for Glen. A question was asked if we should have an impromptu meeting of the board to approve the 2004 budget, but it is not ready yet.

Adjournment was moved, seconded, and carried at 8:13 p.m.

**Upcoming programs** planned are Jim George for January and John Cartwright for February or March. Glen Holmberg needs material for Northstar News - articles, news items, and photos. Pop is available. There was no door prize drawing this month.

The program was a members' night, with both slides and videos.

Respectfully submitted by Dave Norman, Secretary,  
Northstar Chapter NRHS

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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