



**Northstar Chapter
National Railway
Historical Society
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Credits

This month's cover:

In the March 2004 issue of the NRHS Bulletin, there is an article about the early history of the B&O Railroad. In the article, mention is made of the Bollman Truss, one of the first iron railroad bridges in the country. It was de-signed by Wendel Bollman, the "Master of Road" for the B&O in the mid-1850s. Hundreds were built as the B&O expanded their system, but only one survives today, preserved as a pedestrian bridge over the Little Patuxent River in Savage, Maryland.

Attached is a photo, circa 1870, of another Bollman Truss, this one on the Old Main line at Alberton, Maryland. This was a replacement for another Bollman bridge that was washed out in an 1868 flood; the trackwork seems to be recently constructed. Note the worker with a wooden leg sitting by one of the towers!

The picture (originally from the Smithsonian) and info were taken from the web site:
<http://www.trainweb.org/oldmainline/oml5.htm>

-- Joe Fishbein

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.

November Meeting Notice

The October meeting will be held at the St. Paul Fire Training Center on **Saturday, November 20**, at 7 o'clock pm. The program will be a slide show by Robert Koetz, from his vast collection.

Minutes of September 18, 2004 Membership Meeting

The meeting was called to order in the St. Paul Fire Department Training Center at 7:02 p.m. by **Vice-President** Doug Johnson with 18 members and guests present. It was noted there were nice photos in the September issue of Northstar News of our chapter picnic in August at Maiden Rock, WI. Minutes of the July membership meeting have not been published yet, so the vote to approve them will have to wait until they are published.

Treasurer Joe Fishbein gave his report for July and August of 2004. Cash in checking account, as of July 1, 2004, was \$6,420. Income for July and August was \$1 in checking account interest, for total income of \$1. Expenses during the same period were \$54 in Newsletter expenses, for total expenses of \$54. Cash in checking account, as of August 31, 2004, was \$6,367, of which \$3,127 was in the General Fund and \$3,240 was in the 8327 Restoration Fund. Total Chapter membership is 90. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the Treasurer's report.

National Director Marty Swan reported the fall NRHS Board of Directors meeting is coming up in Utica, NY. Marty said that we want to go to the meeting, but that, at this time, the train is sold out on the dates he needs to travel to get there for the meeting. He hopes he can still go.

Trip Director John Goodman reported those who were invited to a recent event at Spooner, WI had a good time. Charles Barthold's passenger car is very nice. It is a streamlined tavern-lounge originally built for the NC&CL. John gave information about a special train coming thru the Twin Cities for the Association of Private Rail Car Operators.

National Convention chairman Dan Meyer gave his report. He gave thanks to all chapter members who helped plan and put on the convention. He said, financially, we did well. We can repay the \$7,000 loan from the chapter used to cover costs before revenue started coming in and there should be plenty left over. We will be in contact with the NRHS national about the audit that is required.

There were pictures of convention events in Trains and Railroad & Railfan.

Old Business - Dennis Loudon reported that the Holiday Party will be Sunday, December 12, starting at 4 p.m. The cost will be \$21 and there will be a choice of three menu items: fish, steak, or chicken.

Dick Prosser had aortic valve surgery two weeks ago and is making a good recovery. He plans to move back to Minnesota next summer. He wants to give a lot of his stuff to the Hennepin and Ramsey County Historical Societies.

A question was asked about whether there would be a printed account of the **finances of the convention**. An announcement was made that any outstanding bills from the convention should be submitted as soon as possible so we can close the books on the convention. John Goodman reported that the Nominating Committee, consisting of himself, Bill Herzog, and Cy Svobdny, has met and will have a slate of candidates to announce at next month's meeting. It was suggested that we set up a committee to decide how to invest the chapter's share of the proceeds from the national convention, but it was pointed out that we should wait until we know the final amount. The Convention Committee will be disbanded after the audit is completed. Someone noted that chapter member Jim George does financial planning.

New Business - Northstar News editor Glen Holmberg needs help. Members could write stories, assist with editing, and help with production.

An announcement was made of the program planned for tonight. Then, at 7:22 p.m., the motion was made, seconded, and carried to adjourn the meeting.

The program consisted of a video of the trains passing our picnic site at Maiden Rock, WI, a "video slideshow" of a trip to Duluth, and a video on the last days of the Duluth, Missabe, and Iron Range in its last days as an independent railroad before it became part of the Canadian National.

Respectfully submitted, Dave Norman
Secretary, Northstar Chapter NRHS

Minutes of October 16, 2004 Membership Meeting

The meeting was called to order by **Vice President Doug Johnson** at 7:03 p.m. in the St. Paul Fire Department Training Center with 20 members and guests present. Minutes of several recent meetings have not yet appeared in Northstar News, so we cannot vote to approve them. Treasurer Joe Fishbein is not present, so we do not have a report from him.

National Director Marty Swan said the NRHS national leadership is currently putting most of its efforts into membership. Marty said that he will be attending the fall NRHS Board of Directors meeting in Utica, NY next Sunday.

Trip Director John Goodman met recently with Steve Sandberg and learned that he is planning a trip next spring to Duluth with restored Milwaukee Road steam engine 261. Sandberg also wants to take the 261 and its train to Kansas City when they open a railroad museum in the Kansas City Union Station next year. John said the equipment which had been used as a rail-themed restaurant/bar in Milwaukee had been sold to the Kansas City museum. John noted some of Sandberg's plans might conflict with events the chapter might want to organize. John said one place the chapter had never been to was the railroad museum in Green Bay, WI. He asked if there was any interest in such a trip. He suggested we could spend the night in Green Bay after our visit to the museum, then ride the excursion train at Spooner, WI on the way home.

Old Business - The Elections Committee, comprising Bill Herzog, Cy Svobdny, and John Goodman, has the following proposed **slate of 2005 candidates:**

President - Marty Swan
Vice President - Mark Braun
Secretary - Dave Norman
Treasurer - Joe Fishbein
Trustee - Dennis Loudon

John Goodman said he got a telephone call from Bill Herzog about the **8327 restoration** project. Steve Sandberg has done a lot of the planned work on the engine and it is estimated the work is about 70% done. Several members who had driven past the engine recently said it is looking much better. It was suggested we put lights on it for the holiday season, but this might create potential liability problems.

Dan Meyer reported for the **national convention committee**. He will be attending the upcoming NRHS BOD meeting in Utica and will present a check for \$5,000 to NRHS national as their preliminary share of the proceeds of the 2004 NRHS national convention held in Minneapolis. With luck, all accounts should be settled and everything wrapped up by the end of the year.

There was an **introduction of guests** and new members. The holiday banquet is set up, but we do not have a program lined up yet. There was a brief discussion of whether we should have our regular membership meeting in December in addition to having the banquet.

Adjournment was moved, seconded, and carried at 7:18 p.m.

It was announced the **program for tonight** will be presented by **Carl Wessel**, power systems engineer for the Hiawatha Light Rail line.

Material for **door prizes** had been donated, but the tickets had not been brought to the meeting, so we will wait until next month for the drawing.

John Goodman said he had received a letter from **Dick Prosser**, saying his heart surgery and recovery went well. Dick says he can't come in November to put on a slide show for us, but we should pencil him in for May.

Respectfully submitted, Dave Norman,
Secretary Northstar Chapter NRHS.