

The Mainline

ALL POINTS NORTH MODEL RAILROAD CLUB



Volume 21

Number 11

November 2002

Side Tracks

Steve Hashagen

Those who missed the October meeting missed a very informative meeting and a great clinic afterwards! We got a detailed explanation of the footprint of the proposed layout, a detailed cost analysis and the proposed timeline surrounding the adoption and construction of the layout! Plus we got the bonus of a great clinic on weathering structures from Stephen Foster!

I urge each of you review the construction and assessment timelines (reviewed in this issue of **The Mainline**), the footprint (a copy has been posted at the club since a week before the October meeting) ask questions but most importantly be at the November meeting to re-review and VOTE. If you can't be there to vote please take time to cast your vote in any of the ways outlined throughout this issue, but remember that the vote must be in writing and signed or e-mailed from your e-mail address. There should be no reason to have not cast your vote. Why am I asking for everyone's vote when the by-laws only require a 3/5 majority to pass an assessment? It is because we are spending your money to build your layout & you should have ample opportunity to vote.

We also settled on Saturday December 14th for the date of our 21st annual Holiday and awards party! Please plan on attending this event as we have a great time and it's a chance to socialize with our spouses and for me to recognize those members who have gone the extra mile for APN over the last year! I sincerely hope everyone can attend to help us celebrate our best year ever and to recognize those who helped make it happen!

2003 Election Committee Members

Your fellow club members have elected the following to the 2003 election committee:

Terry Bryant

Dave Tumulty

Stephen Foster

Their duties include ensuring all members running for office are full members "in good standing", and to be present at the January 2003 meeting to distribute, collect and count the ballots.

The Mainline

The Mainline is published by **ALL POINTS NORTH Model Railroad Club**

The opinions expressed here are those of the authors and may not reflect those of the club or its members.

The Mainline welcomes your contributions and comments. The deadline for all articles is the 25th of each month for the following month's newsletter.

Articles must be submitted in writing or via

E-mail to:

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ALL POINTS NORTH Model Railroad Club

meets the **third** Saturday of every month @ 10:00 a.m. at our club located @ 611 S. Magnolia Drive, Conroe, Texas 77301.

Visitors and prospective members are always welcome!

Visit our website on the worldwide web

@ www.allpointsnorthmrrc.org

2002 Officers

President Steve Hashagen
936-321-1200

Vice President Willie Watts
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Secretary Robert Miller
936-273-6737

Treasurer Jerry Williams
281-292-5102

Member-at-Large David Spencer
281-441-7911

The Mainline Staff

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APN "Board of Directors" Elections

Elections are coming up in a few months and now is the time for any interested persons to explore the possibility of serving on the board of directors. For those who are new, elections are held at the January meeting each year. The process starts in October when the president asks for, or appoints, three members to serve on the election committee. Their job is to produce the ballot and oversee counting the ballots and announcing the results on Election Day.

The only requirement for serving on the Board is that you be a full member in good standing. I have posted a sign-up sheet on the club bulletin board for those who wish to put their name on the ballot!

You can review the duties of each office in your copy of our by-laws. If you have lost yours or need a new set of by-laws just ask me at the upcoming meeting! Serving on your clubs board is a lot of work, but I can tell you from 7 years of experience it has many rewards. I look forward to answering any questions you might have about the opportunity to serve your club.

Fall 2002 GATS Reminder

This years fall GATS show is scheduled for November 9th and 10th at the Pasadena Convention Center, 7902 Fairmont Parkway, Pasadena, TX. The hours of the show are 12:00 to 5:00 both Saturday and Sunday.

We will be looking for people to help APN host its usual booth to promote our club.

Calendar of Events

November 9 th & 10 th	2002 GATS Pasadena Convention Center, 7902 Fairmont Parkway, Pasadena, TX 12:00 to 5:00 both Saturday and Sunday
16 th	10:00 am APN Monthly Meeting @ the club. IMPORTANT VOTING
16 th & 17 th	Layout Tour open house 12:00 – 6:00 @ club both Saturday and Sunday
December 14 th	2002 Annual Holiday and awards party @ Steve Hashagen's house for members' and spouses 5:00 pm to whenever!

November Open House Scheduled!

We have signed up for the November Layout Tour and will be open Saturday & Sunday November 16th & 17th from 12:00 noon until 6:00!

Saturday is also the day of our very important business meeting so plan on attending both!

Happy Birthday!

November 7 th 23 rd	2002 David Spencer Terry Bryant
December 31 st	2002 Joe Osbolt

Maintenance Schedule Balance of Year and 1st Quarter 2003

November 2002

Joseph Ewing Team Leader

David Funk
Kevin Grandjean
Steve Hashagen
Mike Kremheller
Scott Kurzawski

December 2002

Miguel Macias Team Leader

Ray McClure
Bob Miller
Charles Richmond
Matt Sell
Will Smith

January 2003

David Spencer Team Leader

Ken Stanley
Randy Thomas
David Tumulty
Willie Watts
Jerry Williams

February 2003

Marty Barkley Team Leader

Terry Bryant
John Christiansen
Aaron Coates
Duane Darling
Steve Dennis

March 2003

Joseph Ewing Team Leader

Jim Dunnuck
David Funk
Kevin Grandjean
Steve Hashagen
Mike Kremheller

Please remember that if you have a conflict that prevents you from helping with maintenance during your month find someone to switch with you and mark the changes on the roster posted on the club bulletin board.

Vote on Permanent Layout Footprint and Assessment

As mentioned in last month's issue in The Mainline during the October meeting we reviewed the permanent layout footprint, and reviewed the financial needs as well as its accompanying proposed assessment. It was agreed that we should try and get as many members as possible voting on the footprint and construction assessment.

We will be voting on the layout and assessment at the November 16th business meeting. If for some reason you can not attend we are asking you make your voice heard another way:

- Email me from your e-mail address at shashage@houston.rr.com and let me know your vote.
- Print, vote, and sign (unsigned votes cannot be counted as I won't know who's vote it is) the copy of the ballot attached to this newsletter. Please slip your completed ballot under the door to the office.
- Stop by the club and either use a ballot I have provided on the bulletin board or just cast your vote on a plain piece of paper (please remember to sign the ballot so we know who has voted).

This is the review/voting timeline as it stands now:

- **November 1st** deadline for proposed revisions and/or modifications.
- **November 18th** re-presentation (based on any revisions) of revised footprint or final review and vote on acceptance of footprint and assessment timeline.

If the proposal passes the following is the timeline set down at the October business meeting:

- \$250.00 assessments would be due January 18, 2003. For those who would like more time we will extend that date to July 1, 2003 (that gives you nine months to pay). Asking for money from some as early as January allows us to begin construction in February.
- Layout room to be cleared out by February 1, 2003. All modules not being used in the small meeting room layout and all personal items must be removed by this date!
- Concurrently, a small layout to be set up in the meeting room throughout construction to run and program trains.

As far as the modules go, all privately owned modules can be disposed of by their owners as they see fit. They can be sold, taken home, donated to the club, whatever!

All club modules will be labeled with a selling price that will include the modules, legs and everything on it except the structures (structures will be saved for the permanent layout). Any club owned modules left over will be offered for sale to other clubs or anyone outside the club. If we have no takers they will be dismantled and disposed of. All club owned modules must be out of the building by March 1st. Hopefully this allows time for club members to pick the ones

they want by January and then get us another couple of months to get the words out to others.

November 2002 Header Photo

Steve Hashagen provided this month's picture of the new "Milwaukee Road" Hiawatha lounge car from the 1930's.

Analog Vs No Analog Support on Our Permanent Layout!

The issue of wiring our new layout for both analog and DCC was revisited at the last layout meeting. It was felt that we needed to decide this issue by a vote at the next meeting. I have attached the excerpt from Scott's memo of Saturday October 26th explaining the issue, in case you did not receive it.

Scott wrote:

"At our last Layout Committee meeting, the topic was brought up as to whether or not we should spend the money and time to equip the permanent layout for analog support. The last time the club addressed this issue, the general membership, primarily Mr. Foster, was quite adamant about making sure we equip the permanent layout for BOTH analog and DCC control. The idea was to basically turn the entire layout over to a single analog throttle or turn the entire layout over to DCC, where multiple operators could operate simultaneously.

Since that time, a lot has happened as members got more exposed to DCC and saw the benefits, e.g. sound, constant lighting, etc. and there has been a significant trend to move away from running trains under analog control altogether.

Therefore, when the Layout Committee addressed the permanent layout wiring schema during our last meeting, the topic of should we support analog control or not needed to be addressed. Mr. Foster, as well as the other committee members present, which also included our President, felt that we should drop analog support from the permanent layout entirely and wire it strictly for DCC operation only. This would save money, time, and reduce wiring complexity.

Please note, however, that an analog test track is planned to run along the back of the new workbench and will run its entire length, approx.

25'. Grant it, there are no curves, turnouts, or grades on this test track, so it is merely a length of track that you can use to see if your

loco runs or not, and to see if the loco has the running characteristics that you would like in order to justify installing a DCC decoder in it.

The President said that since we are getting down to crunch time on finalizing the permanent layout scope, we should bring this up for a membership vote at the next monthly business meeting to decide the issue before construction.

This "Analog Support on the permanent layout" vote is, therefore, scheduled to take place on Saturday, November 16th, 2002 at 10 AM."

If there are any questions about this issue or what it means please take a moment to ask Scott, Stephen Foster, me or any other committee member.

*******Please see page five*******

for an official ballot on the
permanent layout!

You may use this ballot if you want to cast your vote before the meeting or if will not be attending. Please be sure **to sign the ballot** so it will be counted.

ALL UNSIGNED BALLOTS CANNOT BE
CONSIDERED IN THE VOTING AND MUST BE
THROWN OUT!

Official Proxy / Vote

APN's Permanent Railroad

A yes vote is for both the layout footprint & the assessment for its construction

A no vote is for both the layout footprint & the assessment for its construction

Yes _____

No _____

Signed _____

Date _____