



Havin' Fun Runnin' Trains

Big Train Operator Club, Inc. 2016 First Quarter Board of Directors Meeting

Date: March 1

Call to Order/Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by President Bill Harryman at 8:01 pm EST.

Roll Call indicated present: Jon Molesworth (Vice-President), Rich Dulski (Vice-President), Scott Fowler (Vice-President), John Groot (Treasurer), Dave Snow (Membership Chair), Bob Somogyi (BTO Editor), Ralph E. Wilcox (Director-Emeritus), Ralph S. Wilcox (Director), Ulrich Fassbender (Director), Dave Wierowski (Director), Marshall Adams (Convention Chairman), Bill Harryman, Charles Bartel

Secretary Report

Minutes from the December, 2015 board meeting were approved as posted on the Club's website.

No modification or additions were made.

Motion to accept made by: John, Seconded by: Marshall, motion Approved

Treasurer Report (as submitted by separate distribution)

Membership Checking: [\\$1,042.73](#)

Regular Checking: [\\$1,286.28](#)

Money Market: [\\$29,235.56](#)

PayPal: [\\$344.72](#)

- I have filed our 2015 tax return.
- We are current with the State of Georgia on our Corporate Registration.
- All current payables including the new BTO have been paid
- We have 23 Early Bird LaPorte Reservations for a total income of \$11,787.40 which includes 14 shirts
- We have sold 33 out of 51 Convention sets and 8 off color.
- We have sold 49 out of 51 Derrick cars

Motion to accept made by: Rich, Seconded by: Jon, Motion approved.

Membership Report as distributed by separate distribution

Current membership is 363, a gain of one over 12/8/2015 membership. Recruit a buddy program has brought in 3 members, two new and one renewable. May need a bigger office! Pay pal site is working well. We get two notifications from Pay Pal. One from shopping cart with all the data.

Motion to accept made by: John, Seconded by: Rich, Motion approved.

BTO Editor Report

Issue for the Spring went out pretty easily. Just starting the summer issue. Need photos and text. BTO is still costing us \$ 4.06.

Motion to accept made by: Rich, Seconded by: John, Motion approved

Convention Report

For LaPorte, we are in contact with most menus, we seemed to be good to go. Tall Tree movement between locations is being worked. There are 26 hotel reservations, 23 registration. Several registrants are not signing up for all events through the whole week. Hartland and Banquet activities are in good shape. Hope attendance at others will pick up with the early bird registration with them signing up the whole week's activity. Possible some would like to drive to the event since they will have their own cars. In a discussion, it was pointed out that parking of private vehicles at some venues would be a problem. Additionally, breaking out travel cost, etc, would create event management issues with tracking people. Finally, we need a minimum number of riders per bus in order to be effectively and efficiently cover the cost of the total event. We need to impress on people the need to use the total package.

Finally, we need trains to run. Lots of room available at hotel, who is very interested in this option.

Old Business

- Membership Drive
 - Recruit a Buddy Program—Dave Snow - everybody should have a copy of the recruit a buddy. Starting to mature. Working on certificate and voucher for printing.
- Contact Dealers to Distribute BTOC Literature—Scott – everybody is on board so far.(so good)
- Facebook—Bill Harryman- have put a few things up on Facebook.
- York Spring Show-Dave Wierowski (March 25 and 26)
 - Trying to get details for set up and where to get passes. Banner about complete. Stand will have all same color tubing. Should fold up nicely and fit in a car, should be for shipping if needed. Scott feels we can get in at noon on Thursday till 6. Ulrich will be there from Wednesday night, Dave will be there on Thursday. Has raffle prizes one per day. Has BTO, will give out one per member. Still need table cloth and banner for the table. John working on it. Brining power supply, extension cords. Back up blue table cloth being brought.



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- Club Cars
 - 2015 ½ BTOC Work Train Derrick car – did very well. Have two blue units. Hope they will be gone by June. Have some red cars.
 - 2016 BTOC loco from HLW – ended up with 31 orders by the deadline. Will do 5 off color to use as raffle and special prizes.
 - Club sets – some have received sets that parts came off. Not new information as there were four from members. Placard is not normally glued in, but someone at factory decided to do it. Silver ink had metallic content, created a small glue problem.
- 40th Anniversary activity – sent email on conversation with Chuck Jr. at USA. Most efficient if he runs two sets of two cars each set. One for each 10 years. Recommend a presell rather than a fixed number. Want to protect our financial status by not spending on excessive inventory.
 - Would like a subcommittee to work on these cars and the art work using member history. Two pictures on each car. Early members? LGB engines? USA would generate the artwork once we supply pictures. Would sell for \$ 130 per set. Question of metal wheels for the cars, say offer them at a discount. How many would actually run them versus put them on show? Would be cost effective to sell with plastic wheels. Members who would purchase to run would could put on their own wheels.
 - Scott presented a motion to go forward with two car set. Jon seconded. All in favor, motion passed.
 - Subcommittee to work on the artwork was discussed with Dave and Ralph asked to be on committee with their club background. Bill, Bob volunteered. Committee to report to Marsh.
- BTOC Work Train – With current cost proposal, we are concerned that it would not be of value to club members. Marsh is working the cost issues. The issue is that the artwork requires 16 hits of the pad printer. Maybe mate the derrick car frame to the tanks from the current proposal. Working the potential also. If it does not work out, we will terminate the work train. A discussion of USA tank cars indicated that they can't install hook and loop couplers. Additionally, USA does not have enough blank cars to be able to supply BTO artwork for the numbers we would need. Also, to print them, they would have to disassemble and then reassembled, a significant cost. Will come back to the board at next meeting with additional concept/ideas.
- Website Renewal and New Member Sign-Up
 - online renewals and new member sign-up via PayPal on the BTOC website
 - Web site has made it easier to click and join. Renewable notice does not list pay pal as an option. It is only a buck or two if they use pay pal. Seems to do what we designed it to do. We can refund within 90days. After that, we cannot get our funds back.
 - Can we advertise this option? It is on the website and was in the View from the Cab. Dave sends out notice one month in advance, reminder one month after, no action in two months, delete.

New Business

- Review and Approval of 2016 Budget
 - Action item Budget sent out this afternoon. Rich asking if BTO printing seems a little light based on early cost shared by Bob in his BTO report and number of members. About a \$ 1,000 difference. \$ 4.06 is printing, inserts, postage. Quick calculations shows about \$ 460 difference. Seems to be within tolerance. Motion to accept made by: Rich, Seconded by: Ralph Sr., motion approved
- Formal naming of Trivia contest to Joe Hylva Contest. Marshal Adams believes we should give it a more formal name.

Formally name it the Joe Hylva Memorial Triva contest. Had three core members, Al, Joe and Ralph Sr. Marsh feels it is very fitting remembrance. May need a by-law amendment. Will do that after this vote.
- (Item of Interest - Marshall had flashing light behind him. Navajo police was in the car. Break in conference, lighten up the meeting. Thanks Marsh)
 - Action: on successful passage of this naming, it was determined that we need to send an amendment to the club members to approve. Motion to accept made by: Marshall, seconded by Jon, Approved.
- 2018 club car
 - Action Item Presented in more detail recorded here.
 1. a 4 car USA 40th anniversary set sold in 2 groups of 2 cars each
 2. each car depicting a 10 year period of the club
 3. 1st set—one wood boxcar, one reefer—available January 2017
 4. 2nd set—one wood boxcar, one reefer—available September 2017
 5. presell in BTOs
 6. printing on 2 sides, 2 ends and the boxcar door if we want



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7. same copy/design on each side of car
 8. (Rita's already envisioning each car representing 10 years of club history, with the club medallion and Havin' fun, Runnin' trains on the ends of all the cars!)
 - Each side can contain copy and 1 or 2 photos—i.e.—photo ideas—the Richter brothers, Al Lentz, Al Stainz, convention cars, the LGB factory, the train at the LGB factory, the 10 year 1988 Pittsburg convention set, the 30th Anniversary set, convention photos, etc.
 - Rita would have you do the art and mark the photo areas' FPO'
 - Rita would produce the photos with her software based on pics submitted—at 100% scale or greater at 300dpi for no additional charge
 - Chuck's given me a \$120 cost per set including delivered to members (saving \$10 in freight by shipping 2 cars at once)
 9. We could sell for \$139 per set to add some \$\$ to the treasury
- Need a 2017 club car. Maybe a Piko car. Maybe get a flat car from USA and put a maid of mist boat on it.
 - 2017 is running a little slow in getting moving. For the train ride in Medina, Thursday is not a normal day to run trains because they do not have access to trackage rights. But they feel that is doable. Will not enter into contract until later in year.
 - 2018 convention Motion:
 - Action Item – made contact with red cabooses motel. Bob Snow and Marshal to make a road trip to Red Caboose. The establishment has been sold to new ownership. We are waiting to hear back for a feeling if they are interested. Wanted to be paid in advance for all rooms. We can't do that. Would try for 40 rooms. Dining car for banquet? Also have a dining room, use it for convention room. They would like to do a Wednesday to Wednesday so they only loses one weekend.
 - Steaming into history is a train ride that might be interesting. Little Engines is also in the area for a potential tour group. Information next December!
 - Could Piko do a hopper car for the work train? For 2017? Or 2018?
 - No additional new business was brought up.

Adjournment

Ralph Sr made motion to adjourn Rich Dulski seconded.

The meeting adjourned at 9:14pm EST

Minutes prepared by Charles Bartel, Secretary

Minute's submittal for approval by William R. Harryman Date March 1, 2016
Bill Harryman, President