

Meeting held on June 19, 2024, Meeting room, Bird-in-Hand Family Resort, Bird-in-Hand Pennsylvania

President Tim Stump called the meeting to order at 9:00 am, There were thirty-five members present.

BOD roll call: Tim Stump, President. John Groot, Treasurer and Webmaster, Teya Caple-Woods, Vice President, Bill Harryman, Vice President, Jon Molesworth, Director, Scott Fowler, Director, Ralph Wilcox, Director, Larry Otis, Marketing Director.

David Stachnik, Vice President, came down ill at the beginning of the convention and was unable to attend the meeting. David Snow, Membership Chairman, and Bob Somogyi, BTO Editor, were not in attendance but submitted their reports to Tim Stump via email for presentation to the club members.

Board members in attendance: Tim Stump, John Groot, Jon Molesworth, Scott Fowler, Bill Harryman, Charles Bartel, Larry Otis, Teya Caple-Woods and Ralph Wilcox

Request for comment or corrections to the minutes of the 2023 membership meeting as published in the BTO magazine were made. Hearing none, it was moved to accept, seconded by members, motion approved.

Financial report by John Groot: The club is a cash operation. As of the membership meeting, we had \$ 32,000. We still need to pay the hotel for this year's convention activities. At this time, we are about \$ 200 in arrears. John and Scott commented that this is not unusual for the club at this point in time. The nightly and banquet raffles are a significant contribution to the income for the convention. Raffle money covers the cost of the material that we purchase for the raffles as well as providing seed money for next year's convention. We do get some raffle items donated by hobby manufacturers and dealers; others purchased at a discount. We do provide complementary advertisements for those that donate. When making purchases from your local hobby dealer, tell them about the club and ask if they could contribute something for the next convention. If purchasing from one of the dealers or manufacturers that are advertised in the program, tell them that you and the club appreciate the support.

Motion made to accept, seconded, motion passed.

Teya Caple-Woods maintains the club inventory list. Our inventory consists of donated items as mentioned above for both the convention raffles as well as the monthly membership raffles, and club track. Most of the track that was used around the pond is club owned, with David Wierowski providing additional track for the pond and around the Pavilion. Teya Caple-Woods provided most of the track for the indoor layout. We have enough inventory to cover the monthly prizes and some for the 2025 convention raffles. For the monthly drawing, Teya "rolls the dice to generate a member number and selects that month's prize. The number is then sent to David Snow who then identifies the name of the club member. Club inventory is maintained at several BOD members' houses. Whoever has the club item for the month then sends it to the winning member.

An item of note, LGB donated more items this year than any other vendor and more than since the breakup. A Board member made the decision to accept, member seconded, motion accepted.

Membership report submitted by Dave Snow via email and read to the members by Tim Stump. "The membership, as of the first quarter board meeting on March 20, 2024, stood at 266. Since that time twelve

new members and three reinstated members were added, increasing the membership to 281. Out of the fifteen members added, four came from the Cincinnati train show. There was a total of nine members deleted, due to non-payment of dues, which brought the final total membership to 272, a net gain of six.” A question was asked if we do a follow up on why you did not renew your membership. We have done member surveys to address this issue. We have found that we lose members due to their passing, or they have reached an age where they are no longer in the hobby and feel that they no longer wish to participate in the club. This is the same issue faced by many clubs with membership ages similar to ours. Motion made to accept, seconded, motion passed.

Bob Somogyi submitted a report to Tim Stump who presented it at the meeting. Bob is asking for member photos from the convention since he could not attend. Need pictures, comments, etc. Can send pictures, etc. through email, etc. Bob’s contact information is found in the BTO or on the website under Contact Us. There was a discussion concerning the fact that we are all getting older. We need to have some backup for Bob, Graphic Design and publishing/editorial experience for magazine and calendar. Bob needs articles by members, comments, etc. to fill the BTO. Four pictures with comments can make up a page in the BTO. Home layout picture allows members to share their layouts with our members while pictures of show layouts give members an idea of what options we have to expand our hobby interest. Besides needing items for the BTO, Bob also needs pictures for the 2025 calendar by Oct 31. Looking into the future, the club is looking at providing digital copies in the future. Motion made to accept by a member, seconded, motion passed.

2024 convention report made by Tim Stump. Everyone is having an enjoyable time. One member is getting broken blue tickets that do not work! The East Broad Top event pointed out that there can be issues with heat or other accessibility issues. When planning events via email, phone calls etc., these issues are not always identified in advance. We need member feet on the street once a location is selected and events identified. East Broad Top is an example where the tours through the shops and round house was very difficult for some of our members. They are working on handicap access but are not fully there yet. The around the pond activity has been great. We have put application forms out at the pond as well as business cards with contact data that Tim had printed up on the tables in the pavilion for visitors to take. David Wierowski brought a large number of magazines to hand out also. Over the last year, local shows have donated tables for the BTO where we have run BTO engines and displayed club cars to inform the public what we offer our members. The barrel display in the vendor room was first introduced to the public at the East Coast show in Springfield, MA this year.

In 2025 the convention will be held in Helen, Georgia, at a Holiday Inn Express. We had a little over 100 attendees at this convention and are basing next year’s convention on this number. Because of the popularity of this area, the June dates that the club normally uses have had to be changed to July 13, to the 18<sup>th</sup>. The cost per room will be \$169 plus tax. This includes breakfast and free parking. Members cannot register just yet as the contract is not fully done. Rooms outside of the convention time are at a discount room rate of \$209 per night. We will post data on the facility as soon as the contract is complete. Because there are limited rooms available in the area, we urge club members to reserve rooms as soon as the data is posted on the web site.

Potential club cars were presented to the members. The Board decided at the last board meeting to use a grain car from AML for the 2025 club car. It is 1/29 scale PS-2 4750 CU FT 3-bay hopper car design. We will be ordering through RLD Hobbies. We can order 52 cars in the initial order and increase it by 4 at a time if additional cars are needed before the order is placed. LGB required a

minimum of 200 cars if we purchased cars from them. Piko offered a club car, but we needed to place the order for those before we had a meeting to discuss. We do appreciate the offer from Piko and LGB to provide club cars.

Member motion to use these cars was made, seconded, and passed. Cars ordered will be shipped by RDL Hobbies to club members. They will not be available for pick up at the convention.

There were comments on how to ship raffle winnings and prizes home when you cannot carry them on the airplane. For these cars and other items purchased in the vendor hall, we will work with the hotel to arrange for shipping to members' home.

Old Business:

Jon Molesworth reported that Facebook has been very active with over 3000 members. Have already had 9-10 posts today. We do not want to have sales on our club page and monitor postings to keep it related to modeling activities. Our Facebook page is over 12 years old.

Dave Wierowski made a statement to thank Tim Stump for the use of his trailer and house to transport club material and store it over the year.

Website report: Georgia information will be posted ASAP. The data for this convention has been removed.

A comment made by Rachel, girlfriend of member David Peters, that this was their first time at a convention and she and David felt so welcomed by the club members, as though they had been coming for years.

Moved to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 10:12 am.