

**Minutes of the March 28 Meeting
Texas Gulf Division of the Lone Star Region of the
National Model Railroad Association, Inc.**

Meeting was called to order at 11:15 at M&M Hobbies by President Ray Byer.

First order of business was a short introduction by all the club foremen and Div 8 members attending.

Treasury Report: Submitted by Treasurer Peter Bryan. Thanks to the Iron Horse 08 convention, the treasury has a balance of \$6602.66 and \$45.00 in petty cash. With no outstanding bills at this time.

Waybill Report: Submitted by Tom Marsh Editor. It was noted that the membership roster has about 50-70 email addresses that bounce with another 100 or so of the roster having no email. It was urged that to please update any address and email changes with the NMRA National as well as Div 8.

Future waybill deadlines are May 23, Aug 15, and Nov 7. The Waybill is always looking for any stories, articles, etc.

LSR Conventions: 2009 LSR Convention will be held in Dallas (Irving) at the Sheraton Grand DFW Airport hotel. The dates are June 3-7. The cost is \$68 and this includes the train ride on the Grapevine Vintage RR scheduled for Thurs night. Hotel room rate is \$98 per night.

The prototype tours have been announced and they include BNSF Operations Center, McKinney Ave Transit Authority (Street Cars), and Trinity River Maintenance Center.

It was also noted that you can register online (with Pay Pal) as well as make hotel registration by going to the Trinity River Interchange Web Site.
www.trinityriverinterchange.com

Future LSR Conventions: 2010 San Antonio

2011 Div 8 or wild card. Steve Barkley, of Beaumont, indicated that Beaumont would be interested in hosting a LSR Convention, but had several questions first. Discussion was tabled until the end of the meeting.

Increasing the Participation in the Div 8 Meetings. The President asked how “we” can increase attendance at meetings. One suggestion to offer clinics at the meetings. It was also suggested that club foremen go back to their respective clubs and get the clubs more involved in attending meetings.

Future Div 8 Meetings: 1st annual Chili cook off at the Alvin Depot. After much discussion on if such an event was feasible, it was decided to hold the event on Saturday May 30 at the Alvin Depot. When asked who would be in the chili cook off, several members raised their hands. The president asked for those members who plan on making chili, to email him by May 2nd to make sure they will be in the cook off. It was also noted that 40 trains a day pass through Alvin.

Progressive dinner – in the past Div 8 held a progressive dinner/layout tour where you start at one house for appetizers, move to another house for the main course and finally wind up at third home for dessert. This idea was well received and tentatively has been planned for the summer. The date will be determined at the Chili cook off.

Next div 8 meeting will be at the Gulf Coast RR Museum on Sat July 25 at 10 AM.

Annual picnic at HALS will be Sat Oct 10. This is not a public run day.

NMRA VHS Tapes – Bob Were asked if the NMRA tapes have been located. It was determined yes they did exist, but no word on where they wound up. It was advised to post something about the missing tapes in a future waybill to see if they can be located.

New Business: Div 8 was asked to recognize two new clubs in the area.

The two clubs are Petticoat Junction – A club that meets monthly at a BBQ place up North. All that is required is you have a love of trains and BBQ.

The Second club is the Club in Beaumont.

Tracy Mitchell asked if some money could be donated to HALS in appreciation for everything that the club has did for the Div such as hosting the annual picnic and being open for the LSR conventions whenever they are in Houston. This donation would go to a new bridge for their expansion. It was opened up to the floor for discussion. The amount of the donation was set at \$1000. Tom Marsh made the motion that \$1000 be donated to HALS to be used for a bridge. The motion was

second by Jim Long. The motion passed with zero votes against. The \$1000 check will be handed over to HALS at a future date.

LSR Convention that will be hosted by div 8 that was tabled was brought back up. Steve Barkley had several questions on what entails with hosting a convention. All the questions he asked were answered, and suggestions were given to Steve as to what Beaumont has to offer as well. Steve will take the information he got and go back to the Beaumont group to ask them if they still want to host the convention. Steve was advised that the LSR board members from Houston need to know what their intentions are by June, so they can convey it at the board meeting that is held on Sunday of the convention.

If no other wild card city (Lubbock) steps up for 2011, it was suggested that Houston takes the 2011 slot, and have Beaumont take the 2012 slot. This idea will be brought up at the board meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:50.

Respectfully submitted,

Tracy Mitchell MMR
Div 8 Secretary