

To: NRHS Board of Directors and Advisory Council  
From: Jeff Smith, NRHS Bulletin Editor  
Date: February 14, 2022  
Subject: *NRHS Bulletin* Status Report

The *NRHS Bulletin* reached a milestone in 2021 that has not been achieved since I became editor 22 years ago. For the first time in many decades we published all 4 issues of the magazine within the calendar year on the cover. I hope to continue this trend with all 2022 issues published before the end of 2022, although the unique circumstances of the pandemic allowed our contract authors to focus more heavily on writing in 2020 as they were locked in their homes. It is unclear if that will be a sustainable scheduler or not.

For 2022, Issue number 1 is currently in layout with two feature articles and will be in the mail to members sometime in March. Issue number 2 will be a single topic issue on the Rio Grande and I hope to have that in the mail in June.

We continue to look for content to publish in the *NRHS Bulletin*. If you or anyone you know anyone that is interested in writing for us, please have them reach out to [bulletin@nrhs.com](mailto:bulletin@nrhs.com). Topics can have anything to do with railroading in North America and authors do not have to be members to be published in the *NRHS Bulletin*.

It has been 17 years since we last looked at the visual design of the *NRHS Bulletin*. Back in 2005 the design changes we made were dramatic with the move to a larger format and to an all color publication. In 2023, we are going to release a redesign of the *NRHS Bulletin*. The redesign will be a minor visual refresh and not as drastic the redesign 17 years ago. Here are some of the elements that are being considered:

- A thicker premium stock cover to make the magazine feel more high-end and increase its durability
- Moving to a more modern design treatment to the layouts, font/typeface choices, captions, index pages and a consistent design for maps
- Evaluation of new content that we can publish on a regular basis. A few ideas being considered:
  - Dipping into our photograph archives and publishing a short photo essays 2 to 4 times a year
  - Establish a regular column or two around various topics in preservation
  - Evaluate the role that book reviews continue to play in the future
- I will be adding a short editorial in the front of each issue as a way of contextualizing the content that the reader is about to read and provide information that could be provided as part of the articles.

More details will come later in the year regarding the redesigned publication. For now, if you have questions, concerns or suggestions please reach out to me at [bulletin@nrhs.com](mailto:bulletin@nrhs.com).

Thanks,  
Jeff Smith  
Editor, *NRHS Bulletin*