



MNOPS Spring Conference

The dates for the MNOPS Spring Conference for 2010 have been set. This year's conference will be held at Madden's on Gull Lake in Brainerd. The conference is scheduled to begin at 1:00 PM on Wednesday, April 14, and is set to run until 11:30 AM on Friday, April 16.

This is a bit shorter than past conferences. However, there is a track of 5 presentations on Thursday that is designed to be of interest to operators of smaller distribution systems. Sessions that are currently planned include discussions on the DIMP rule, what it means to small operators, and what some of the options for compliance will be, including a demonstration of the SHRIMP tool that will hopefully be complete by that time.

Other presentations will include a discussion of choosing and maintaining equipment for taking CP readings and an explanation of what all the data found on plastic pipe and fittings means and what is important to be recording when pipe and fittings are being installed in the ground.

Ben Sherman will also be doing a presentation on regulators and relief valves and the proper maintenance of this equipment.

Friday will open with a review of faulty material analysis, another topic which is being examined more closely and requires more attention with the implementation of the DIMP rule. I believe you will also see a keynote speaker to send you off with a positive outlook for the summer. I look forward to seeing many of you at the conference.

Jim

Contact information:
Jim Ramnes
MMUA Gas Circuit Rider
612-801-1768
Email me at jramnes@mmua.org

Gas Circuit Rider Program Review

Again this year, Mike has agreed that the MNOPS Spring Conference would be a great opportunity to get as many Gas Circuit Rider program participants as possible together to conduct the program review. The feedback from last year was positive, and this is the best chance of the year to get as many towns as possible together in one place to review what has taken place over the last year and discuss what the direction for the coming year should be.

The scheduling for this event is not yet firmed up, but it will be either April 14 or 15, likely just after the last session of the day and we should be wrapped up in time for you to get to supper and whatever else your evening may hold.

Last year I wrote that "**The feedback from the Program Review is crucial to the success of the program**". That has not changed. In order to do the best job I can in meeting your expectations, I need to know what those expectations are. Even if you don't think you have a lot to say, I appreciate your attendance. Just hearing what other towns may say might cause you to agree, or reinforce what they are seeing. That is the kind of information that helps me be as useful to you as possible.

Year End Details

One more reminder-it's the time of year when things like annual reports, MIS reports, and Voluntary Damage Reports are due.

You should all have received a communication from MNOPS as a reminder. If you have questions I might be able to help with, please contact me.