

# KEEPING TRACK

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## The Editor Speaks

### **ASMR Members Out of Sight, But Shouldn't be Forgotten**

It's easy sometimes to overlook members who don't attend meetings and club get-togethers on a regular basis, but we shouldn't. Two cases in point are Jim Considine and Henry "Hank" Stillwell. Jim's been a loyal member for several years and wants to continue as one, but his vision has diminished to the point that he can no longer drive. The only way he can get to the club is if somebody will pick him up and take him back home. He has expressed an interest in spending time with us when we are running trains, so perhaps some of us, on a rotational basis, could make arrangements to pick Jim up at least once a month, or whatever is comfortable for him, and bring him to the club so he isn't left out of things entirely.

"Hank" Stillwell has also been an ASMR member for several years, but running the "Village Crossing" consignment store on South 14<sup>th</sup>, and operating his model train sales corner in it, kept him from attending meetings. Recently, some severe health problems have really slowed him down. He can't drive, and the limited times he can be "out and about" are spent at the Crossing. "Hank" still likes to visit and talk trains, so if you get a chance, drop by the Crossing, say "Hi" to him, and let him know we're glad he's a member of ASMR.

Carrying this idea a step further, if you are acquainted with any other member who hasn't been around lately, take it upon yourself to give them a call, see how they are doing, and let 'em know that we miss 'em. JG

### **ASMR President Balch Discusses Reasons Behind His Resignation**

I am sure most of you know I have resigned as president of ASMR. I want to apologize for not completing my term of office, but I am dead-sure it is the best thing for the club. I have too much going on in my life right now to be a good president, and we all know that ASMR needs a president to be

active and present on Saturdays and Tuesdays, at a minimum.

I sought the job initially because I had several ideas for increasing and diversifying the interest level in ASMR, and hopefully by doing so building up the membership. Part of my plan involved diverting some of the members' attention away from the club layout and spreading it around to other areas of interest in the hobby. By broadening our appeal, I felt we might be able to attract new members who were interested in something other than just running HO-scale trains.

My long-term focus was centered on getting enough new members to raise our monthly income to a level that would eventually permit relocating the club to a more desirable location. I hope someone else is thinking along those lines, and will pursue this goal and actually achieve it, because I believe it is essential for the club's growth, and perhaps even its continued existence.

We all have various needs and interests competing for a share of our limited time resources. Running a business, other hobbies I'm passionate about, and some physical health problems I have to get fixed and recuperate from are taking precedence over model railroading for me right now. Therefore, I feel it's best for me, and ASMR, to let another member who can devote more of their attention to the job, take the helm. *Don Balch*

### **Club Layout Yard Update #3**

Progress is finally underway again on the new and improved switch yard for the club's HO-scale layout. Ken Riediger and Cody Hilliard have scraped off most of the old track and scenery that remained on the modules to be redone, and Clyde Gayoso generously volunteered to donate some new sectional track, so rails should start going down soon. The current plan is to install "ladder" sidings as time and club resources permit on this much needed improvement to the layout.

### **Model RR Meets & Events**

Aug 20 – New Braunfels Train Show

**One Way to Make a Removable Scrap Metal Load:** Tear a one or two foot length of aluminum foil into smaller pieces, crumple them a little, and place them in a blender about 2/3rds full of water. Run blender for 30 seconds or so. Drain off water while holding back chopped up foil. Pour scraps onto paper towels to dry out. Loosely pack dried scraps into a gondola lined with plastic wrap, dribble on a coat of diluted white glue, and let it set up. Repeat this step until scrap pieces are all solidly stuck together. Lift out load, peel or trim away plastic wrap, weather (especially rust) to suit, and reinstall when dry. It's that simple!