

KEEPING TRACK

Official Newsletter of the Abilene Society of Model Railroaders

Volume 3, Issue 9

November 1, 2007

Editor: Jim Gibson

The Word From the Prez

ASMR Has Full Slate of Events From Now Through January

I want to congratulate the new officers for the 2007-08 term. Dusty Garison was elected Vice President, Mel Herweck will be the new Treasurer, Cody Hilliard was re-elected as the Secretary, and you also re-elected me as your President. I sincerely thank you for that vote of confidence and look forward to working with you and enjoying our hobby together during the coming year.

I have great hope that the club will continue to grow. We've enjoyed good fortune in attracting new members this year, and we should make a special effort to make them feel welcome. We are also fortunate in having several opportunities to bring model railroading to the attention of the general public in Abilene and the surrounding area.

In support of National Model Railroad Month, we will hold our annual open house on November 10, and I hope a good number of you will participate by running trains and interacting with visitors as much as you can during the time we are scheduled to be open. In December, we will set up our modular layout at the Abilene State School's Christmas Lane, and again, I hope you will set aside as many evenings as you can to come out and help with the layout during that long-term event. Finally, in February we are planning to set up our modular layout for several days at the Mall of Abilene at a time period yet to be finalized.

Your President, Ken Riediger

ASMR Meeting Notes

The October 6 business meeting was called to order by Pres. Ken Riediger at 10:10 a.m. Cody Hilliard's minutes for the Sept. 1 meeting were read and approved. Treas. Dan Brady's report was not available at meeting time. Ken reported that the Abilene State School is making some changes this year and we may not be able to add the four feet of extra fencing around the layout we requested. Ken also reported that he hasn't found a Thomas the Tank train set yet but would be able to do so soon. He mentioned that the new wood skirting is going

up, but more help would be useful in getting it finished before the club's Open House on November 10. Ken England asked if anybody had any empty space at home they would be willing let the club use to store some of the excess material that is in the layout room. Charles Chinn volunteered to store the material if he can find some room in his garage. Ken England also asked if members would try and keep the layout room as clean as possible so it will look presentable to visitors. Ken Riediger then began the election for new officers. There was a lack of volunteers wanting to be treasurer, but the club voted for Mel Herwick, and he agreed to serve in that capacity, with Dan Brady remaining as interim treasurer until Mel is fully trained. The other officer positions were filled as follows: Ken Riediger was once again elected President. Dusty Garison was elected Vice President, and Cody Hilliard was re-elected secretary. The meeting was closed at 11:23 a.m. by President Riediger. The next meeting is scheduled for November 3.

ASMR Welcomes New Member

Commuting all the way from San Angelo just to be part of our club, Tyler Sumerix is the newest member of ASMR. He migrated to San Angelo five years ago and currently delivers pizza there for a living. Originally from Lansing, Michigan, Tyler is single and a life-long railfan who enjoys videotaping trains in action. He's an HO-scale model railroader, and says he also does train repairs. He likes many of the current and fallen flag railroad lines, but his favorites include Grand Trunk, CSX and Santa Fe. Please make Tyler welcome to ASMR.

Paneling Project Continues -- Phase I Completion Is In Sight

Thanks in large measure to diligent work by Ken England and Jim Gibson, and occasional help from various other members, including Cody Hilliard who cut all the special support boards, the initial phase of the new layout paneling project is nearing completion. Most of the removable and permanent panels have been installed around the inside and both ends of the HO layout's main horseshoe area.

With some finishing touches like installing a few more panels and the rest of the DCC plugs, and attaching Velcro strips to hold some of the bottoms of the corners snugly together, everything should be ready in time for the club's November 10 Open House.

The Editor Speaks

ASMR's Traditions Include Participating in Public Events

As Ken Riediger pointed out in his *Word From the Prez*, we have three significant club events scheduled or in the works from now through February that involve public displays of our trains. There are two good reasons why we obligate our club to be involved in public displays: 1. They provide excellent opportunities for introducing and showcasing our hobby and our club to the general public, and have often resulted in ASMR gaining new members. 2. They are an excellent way for members to enjoy great fun and fellowship both inside and *outside* the confines and environment of the ASMR meeting and layout facility.

As a matter of fact, ASMR was started by a group of model railroaders who got together 17 years ago to build HO-scale and O-gauge display layouts for the first Abilene Railfest. They enjoyed the layouts, the event, and each other's company so much that after Railfest was over they decided to formally organize a club (ASMR) in order to keep the fun and fellowship going. The club participated in Railfests annually for several years, and in subsequent community events that Railfest eventually morphed into, like Celebrate Abilene. The club also held open houses regularly, and

especially during other downtown events like Artwalk and the Christmas Lights parade, while ASMR was located in the Cypress Building. It's worth noting that when ASMR has been actively involved in public events, the club has tended to flourish and grow. Conversely, when participation in public events was neglected, club vitality and membership tended to decrease.

While public events are obviously useful, fun and in keeping with a long-standing tradition of ASMR participation in such activities, they are labor and time intensive. This is especially true of the State School's Christmas Lane, which is open every evening throughout most of the month of December. The fun part of an event like that can be diminished significantly if all the responsibility for setting up and manning the display layout is shared by only a few club members. As a long-time member of ASMR, I have been the "lone wolf" at a few public events, and I've been part of a team effort at many others. I can tell you that while I enjoyed both, the team effort was always a whole lot *more* enjoyable! Bottom line: Try and set aside some time for participating in the upcoming public events mentioned by Pres. Riediger and posted on the schedule of events. I guarantee that you will be glad you did, and so will your fellow ASMR members.

Model RR Meets & Events

Nov 10 – ASMR Open House, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Nov 10 - 11 – North Texas Council of Railroad Clubs 23rd Annual Train Show, Fort Worth, TX.

Dec 6 - 24 -- ASMR layout display at Abilene State School "Christmas Lane" event.

**November is National Model Railroad Month.
Be Part of ASMR's Open House on Nov. 10. Have Fun and Share
Your Model Railroading Enthusiasm with Others.**