

# KEEPING TRACK

Official Newsletter of the Abilene Society of Model Railroaders

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Editor: Jim Gibson

## The Word From the Prez

### **ASMR Continues to Grow and Several Activities Are on Tap**

Another year seems to be flying by. Two months are already gone and it's like we just started 2008. The good news is that ASMR is growing! We now have three father-and-son pairs who recently joined the club. (Note: Two other parent/son pairs have been members for awhile.) It is so great seeing the youth getting involved. We need to really encourage these young people. Another good thing is that our military members who have been deployed should be home soon.

As we talked about in our last meeting we are planning a trip to the new train museum in Brownwood the middle of March. We are also looking at a trip to Ft. Worth to ride the TRE to Dallas, where we'll transfer to DART, and also catch the McKinney Ave. trolley. We're planning to bring spouses and friends along to make it a family fun trip. Also coming up a little later this spring we're planning a trip to Jim Norwood's for an operating session on his KCS layout. This should be a thrill for our new folks, as well as a kick for our "old heads" who've done it before.

I've been thinking that we need to get back to having a program after each business meeting. Our new members have lots of questions and this is an excellent way to show them some of the "tricks" of model railroading. To make this happen, I need some of our more experienced modelers to step up and give demonstrations. Even those of us who have been around model railroading for years can probably also learn something. Thanks for being part of ASMR.

*Your President, Ken Riediger*

### **ASMR Meeting Notes**

The February 2 business meeting was called to order by Pres. Ken Riediger at 10:10 a.m. Minutes for the Jan. 5, 2008 meeting were read by secretary Cody Hilliard and approved. Treas. Mel Herwick presented up-to-date reports for the past three months and they were approved. Mel mentioned that he needs to get his name on the checking account. Ken R. said that the room next door has been rented and a partition wall is

under construction for a storage area. Dusty Garison said he has designed some N-scale layout plans and wants to form a committee to come up with proposals for the club to consider. Motion for a committee was made and approved, with Dusty being chairman. Ken R. said the trip to Brownwood fell through, and Jim Gibson proposed March 15 as a tentative date to reschedule it, which was approved. Other excursions were discussed, including a ride on the TRE and light rail in the Metroplex in April. Mel mentioned that we need to send overdue dues letters to some members. Ken R. said that Mark and Joseph Kennedy joined recently, and Ken showed some of the HO-scale equipment donated by Charles Dougherty from Midland. Cody H. will prepare a thank you letter for Mr. Dougherty. A motion by Ken E. for keeping all the donated items for a year, fixing up and using the ones we want to, and disposing of the rest after that, was approved. Mike Z said he has gone over all the club related photos he has and put them on two CDs. Ken E. brought up an article in the NMRA Bulletin which talked about a California model train club that instituted a work program to get members involved in layout upkeep and suggested that we consider such a program. Dusty proposed that Ken E. come up with a tentative plan for maintenance and standards and present it next month for consideration, and he agreed to do it. There being no other business, the meeting closed at 11:10. Next meeting will be Mar. 1.

### **Introducing ASMR's Three New Father and Son Pairs**

Three father and son pairs have recently joined ASMR. First is Mark Kennedy and his son Joseph, who should be familiar faces to most of the members because they visited the club several times prior to joining. Next is Danny Radisewitz and his son Sawyer, who is a big fan of *Thomas the Tank*. Third is Jason Wylie and his son Robert, who is a Boy Scout and a participant in the railroading merit badge class taught by Jim Gibson and Ken Riediger during January. We welcome this "bumper crop" of new members and look forward to sharing the wonderful hobby of model railroading with them.

## The Editor Speaks

### Phoenix Area Phone Book Turns Up Great Hobby Shop

One of the things I try to do whenever I go on a trip to another city is check out the phone book for hobby shops. On a recent visit to the Phoenix metroplex, which includes suburbs like Gilbert, Chandler, Mesa, Tempe, etc., the phone directory turned up a veritable gold mine of hobby shops. One that looked particularly interesting to me because its ad said it had a large selection of structure kits and scratch-building supplies, was Mesa Models. We were staying with friends in Gilbert, which is near Mesa, so while the wives went mall-hopping, my friend and I headed for Mesa Models. It turned out to be a much smaller hobby shop than, say, Discount Model Trains in Addison, but it was really packed with lots of goodies in both O and HO scales that I hadn't seen in the DFW area. Although we had planned to hit two or three other hobby shops in the area, my train buddy and I spent so much time browsing at Mesa we had to bypass them in order to squeeze in a quick visit to the nearby Confederate (now Commemorative) Air Force (CAF) Museum in Mesa before it closed for the day. (Okay, I

admit it, I also love old airplanes, especially the WWII vintage ones.) Anyway, the dealer directory ads in *Model Railroader* and other train magazines are also a good source of information on hobby shops, but just be aware that some of them advertise in their local phone book, but not *MR*, *RMC*, etc.

One other railroad-related thing I noticed on the trip to Phoenix is that there's sure a lot of east/west railroad traffic alongside I-10 in southern Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas -- until you get to the junction of I-10 and I-20. Once we were on I-20, we didn't see much in the way of trains any more. Sometimes I wonder if the Union Pacific trains just go through Abilene westbound and then disappear???

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

Mar. 15 – Tentative date for trip to the Lehnis Train Museum in Brownwood.

Apr. 26 – 21<sup>st</sup> Annual "Texas RR Jamboree", New Braunfels, TX.

TBA – Club Trip to the Metroplex to ride TRE, DART, and McKinney Ave. Trolley.

TBA – Club Trip to Fort Worth for Operating Session on Jim Norwood's HO-scale layout.



Motoring along on I-10 in Arizona during a recent vacation trip, we enjoyed this view out the front windshield as we passed a powerful quartet of Union Pacific diesels. All emblazoned with "Old Glory", they were pulling a long string of container cars through the desert landscape at about 65 miles per hour. *Photo by Jim Gibson*