

The Word From the Prez

ASMR is a "Vibrant" Model Railroad Club

As we start the second quarter of this year, I was thinking of all that has already happened in the first quarter and I was pleasantly surprised. We may be a relatively small club but we do have a lot going on. In the past three months we increased membership, we expanded our physical facilities, and several members went on a club trip. Looking ahead to the second quarter, we have at least two club trips planned, and who knows what else may come up? At one time ASMR seemed to be kind of dormant for awhile. Today, I think we are a vibrant club with lots going on. We are expanding with an N' scale layout. I love seeing several young people getting involved. Let's keep this interest going. For those that missed the Brownwood Museum trip, you missed a good outing. It was interesting to see what is going on in our area. Anyone with ideas for future trips should contact me or mention them at a business meeting. Thanks for everyone's support.

Your President, Ken Riediger

said that he has not finished a draft of club standards yet, but will have it soon. Ken R. welcomed new members Jason and Mary Wiley and son Robert, Danny Radisewitz and son Sawyer, and Mark Kennedy and son Joseph. Ken R. said he has a list of model train items for sale by someone in Chicago, if anybody is interested. Mike Z. said he wants to pass the roster job to someone else and Mel H. agreed to do it. Dusty G. asked about Founder's Day this year and Jim G. said he had heard there wouldn't be one, but would check to make sure. A bulk buy of metal wheels was brought up, and both Kens said they would check on a source. Ken E. said that all members need to mark their equipment with their personal color codes, and brought paint and brushes to do the club cars. Dusty G. said the website is up to date except for some missing newsletters. Mel H. moved and got unanimous approval for a rule that a member has to belong for a year and be in good standing before they can be issued a key. The meeting closed at 10:57 a.m.

ASMR Group Visits Brownwood Museum

ASMR Meeting Notes

The March 1 business meeting was called to order by Pres. Ken Riediger at 10:05 a.m. Minutes of the Feb. 2 meeting were read by Secretary Cody Hilliard and approved. Treasurer Mel Herwick read his report and it was approved. Pres. Riediger noted that a wall and shelves are now up in the spare room, and Dusty Garison said he is still working on an N-scale layout proposal. Nick Kenneally was welcomed back from his overseas deployment. Jim Gibson asked about the financing for an N-scale layout, and the conclusion was that it is an "open issue" now, but will probably be a "joint venture". A trip to the new Brownwood Railroad Museum was discussed, and a date of March 15 was agreed upon, with a departure time of 1300 from ReMax Realty. Dusty G. presented a detailed itinerary for a trip to the Metroplex to ride the TRE, light rail and trolley, and a proposed date of May 10 was set. Ken England said he has coordinated a date of April 12 with Jim Norwood for an operating session on Jim's layout in Fort Worth. Ken also



L to R: Dusty Garison, Jim Gibson, Jeffrey Cowen, Steve England, Ken England and Ken Riediger on board the Lehnis Railroad Museum's caboose. Photo by Carla Hill

Right after lunch on Saturday, March 15, five ASMR members and a guest departed ReMax in Ken England's SUV for Brownwood, to visit the new *Martin and Frances Lehnis Railroad Museum*. Along with Ken E. were Dusty Garison, Steve England, Jim Gibson, Ken Riediger, and his guest

Carla Hill. At the museum, the group met up with Jeffrey Cowen, a Brownwood native, who had come down separately with his family. The museum is a modern, 6,000 sq. ft. structure that currently displays part of a huge collection of railroad memorabilia, china and model trains gathered by Martin and Frances Lehnis. The couple, who lived in Early, TX, for many years bequeathed their extensive accumulation to the City of Brownwood before they died. The biggest item there is the depot from Kress, TX, and the next two largest items are a Santa Fe caboose and a business car. All three are being restored because of damage from long-term exposure to the weather. One of the museum volunteers, Jack Lamkin, who is involved in much of the restoration, eagerly showed ASMR visitors around and discussed some of his current projects. Members of a recently formed local model train club were busy building the framework for a multi-scale operating train display. Conveniently located near the Lehnis museum is Brownwood's historic Santa Fe depot and Harvey House, with Santa Fe steam locomotive No. 1080, a 2-6-2 "Prairie", on static display out front. And, if all that isn't enough, the museum has a railroad scanner playing near an outdoor patio area overlooking the Santa Fe tracks, where freight trains regularly pass by. Who could ask for more?

The Editor Speaks

Twin Cities Model Train Museum is Truly Awesome



A view looking across part of the Twin Cities Model Railroad Museum's gigantic, O-scale (2-rail) layout in St. Paul, MN. Shown are three major bridges, with a power plant in the foreground and a cityscape in the background. This is only about one third of the total layout, which seems to go on forever! Photo by Jim Gibson

I recently traveled to Minneapolis, Minnesota, and while there, I had the opportunity to visit the Twin Cities Model Railroad Museum in nearby St.

Paul. The museum's centerpiece is a huge O-scale (two-rail) layout, and it is something to behold. Five trains can run at the same time, and were busily coming and going in all directions. Both steam and diesel locomotives were in action, and they headed up a nice mixture of freight and passenger consists. City-scapes and rural landscapes range from spectacular to magnificent, and the layout is large enough that the trains don't dominate the scenery, even in O-scale. There are numerous well-detailed and eye-catching mini-scenes, including a scrap yard, an industrial area, a coal yard, a roundhouse complex, a replica of the 1914 Great Northern passenger terminal in Minneapolis, a couple of towns, and some very impressive bridges. A streetcar powered by overhead wires even travels between two urban areas. The longest, straightest section of track on the layout is a representation of the right of way below the rugged bluffs along the Mississippi River in Southeastern Minnesota, complete with tunnels at both ends and a paddle wheel steamboat on the acrylic "water". There is even a model of the building the layout is located in, which originally housed the Northern Pacific's enormous Como locomotive shops. This extensive historic railroad facility has been converted into a beautiful complex of office and commercial spaces called *Bandana Square*. Fortunately the original massive wooden beams and trusses have been preserved and are visible throughout the building. In addition to the layout, the walls of the museum's display area are covered with poster-sized historic photographs, real railroad memorabilia, and numerous model trains on static display. On the technical side, the layout still uses conventional power with tethered throttles, and has a block system for operating multiple trains. As I surveyed the layout and its surroundings, all I could think of was, "What a lucky train club to have such a fantastic setup in a historic railroad place like this!" If you are ever in the Minneapolis-St. Paul area, don't pass up a visit to the Twin Cities Model Railroad Museum.

JG

Model RR Meets & Events

Apr. 12 – ASMR operating session at Jim Norwood's layout in North Richland Hills

Apr. 26 – 21st Annual Jamboree, New Braunfels, TX.

May 10 – ASMR trip to the Metroplex to ride TRE, DART and the McKinney Ave. Trolley.

May 25 – 28th Annual Lone Star Train Fair, Fort Worth, TX.

