

KEEPING TRACK

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2015 ASMR Open House Offered Visitors Many Things to Enjoy



Top Row, Left: Several visitors enjoy Dusty Garison's G-Scale "Polar Express" layout display. **Right:** A family looks at some familiar buildings on Ken England's Abilene scene area. **Middle Row, Left:** Scott Fritz shows a family the N-scale layout display, while behind him a lad in a red shirt checks out the "Thomas Tank" layout. **Middle:** Ken Riediger shows a young visitor how to blow a train whistle with his DCC controller. **Right:** A group of visitors watch as Alex Wold powers his beautiful Amtrak passenger train across the lower canyon bridge. **Bottom Row, Left:** A mother and son try their hand at transmitting Morse Code. **Next left:** A display of historic railroad artifacts set up by Dusty Garison and Jim Gibson. **Third Left:** Another mother and son peep through a viewing window to watch a train going up the helix. **Right:** Dusty Garison takes a well-deserved break during one of the brief lulls in visitors. Photos by Jim Gibson

The Word From the Prez

Thanks to All ASMR Members For a Very Successful 2015

I hope each of you had a great Christmas and that Santa brought you some nice Model Railroad “toys”. I want to offer a sincere, “Thank You” to each member who helped with the club’s 2015 Open House and made it a very successful event. A special thanks goes to those who participated in the interviews the television stations did. Thanks to publicity like we got, more and more people are finding out about ASMR and our mission.

We gained a new member thanks to our Open House, and several other visitors showed an interest in joining ASMR, as well.

All of our displays were well received by visitors, and one thing that really impressed me was seeing some of our newer members involved with Open House activities in various ways, and especially interacting with visitors.

I love the educational aspect of these events, and it makes me happy to hear a visitor respond to a member’s explanation about something related to real or model railroading with: “I didn’t know that” or “I didn’t realize that”.

We are now embarking on a New Year, so I want to wish a “Happy New Year” to each of you!! I hope 2016 brings several new opportunities for the club, and I look forward to capitalizing on our 25th anniversary as much as possible, including a special celebration in April. I also anticipate fun and fellowship on our trips and other club activities. Let’s all enjoy 2016 together and make it the new best year ever for ASMR.

Your President, Ken Riediger

ASMR Meeting Notes

Pres. Ken Riediger opened the Dec. 5 business meeting at 10:03 a.m. Jim Gibson read the Nov. 7 meeting minutes for Sec’y. Cody Hilliard, who was absent. Treas. Ken England reported a club assets balance of \$5,824.28. Ken R. welcomed new member Alex Wold. Jim G. reported that he, Ken England, Ben Diamond, Dusty Garison, and Mel Herwick had all been working on scenery for various areas on the layout. Ken R. mentioned having an “Easter Egg Hunt” operating session and said we need signs for it.

About 11 members are behind on dues for a total of nearly \$1,000, according to Ken E. Sending

past due letters was tabled until 2016. The calendar fund raising project is coming along well, according to Dusty G. Members decided not to order any more for this year. Ken R. said his next Ops Session will be Jan. 16. Ken E. said he has returned the 501c3 application to the IRS with the corrections they required, including a bylaws amendment recorded with the State of Texas.

Members decided to shoot for a spring, 2016, date TBD for a club trip to the train museum in Frisco. Ken E. had nothing new to report on the storeroom project. Ken R. said he had 100+ visitors to his home layout Open House, about equally divided between Nov. 21 and 22. Preparations for the club’s Open House were discussed, including Dusty G. doing a G-scale display, Scott Fritz and Alex Wold doing an N-scale display and Ken R. setting up the Thomas layout. Dusty G. and Jim G. also discussed putting together a display of historic railroad artifacts. Ken E. said he will take care of placing ads in the *Reporter-News*. Ken R. said he will be doing a “show and tell” at Dyess AFB on Dec. 18, and members agreed to have a 25th Anniversary special event on April 9. The meeting closed at 10:48.

2015 Open House

A Winner by Any Measure

Whether you judge by the steady stream of visitors who showed upon both days, or the smiles on the faces of young and old visitors alike, or good TV and newspaper coverage in the local media, this year’s Annual Open House has to go into ASMR’s log book as a very successful event.

As already alluded to by Pres. Ken Riediger, it was really great to see new members like Scott Fritz, Cecil Walston, and Alex Wold jump in and become “heavy lifters,” alongside the “old heads,” during their first ASMR Open House.

There were numerous noteworthy additions to the “work in progress” scenery on the club’s big HO-scale layout. Crowd pleasers from the past like the “Thomas Tank” layout that kids could activate with a red button, an N-scale layout, and a G-scale pike with a “Polar Express” theme, were all back. In addition, two educational attractions made their debuts. Jim Gibson rigged up a Morse code key and “sounder” that visitors could send messages on, and Dusty Garison and Jim collaborated on an attractive display of historic railroad artifacts.

On the financial side, visitors dropped about \$100 in the donation bucket, and purchased \$180 worth of 2016 club calendars. Hats off to all those who showed up and participated.

JG