

# KEEPING TRACK

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Issue Editor: Dusty Garrison

## ***The Word From The Prez***

### **Some Progress on new layout Lots More Remain**

We have had another busy month as we prepare the new Westwood location for the club's move there. I want to thank the members who have put in many hours of work helping to remove some unwanted structural obstructions, preparing the walls and painting them, moving electrical wires and switches to better meet our needs, and disassembling the old layout. After a large amount of debate we chose one of Cody Hilliard's CAD designs for a new layout. With slight modifications it should allow us to use many parts of the old layout.

We still have a lot to accomplish during the month of June. Among other things, we need to get the current layout removed from our old location and transported to the new Westwood site. We must also sort through everything in the back room, transfer items worth keeping to the new location, and trash the rest.

On a personal note, I would like to thank each and every one of our members who are veterans. Your service is what makes this country strong and allows us to enjoy the freedom to gather in groups and clubs.

*Your President, Scott Fritz*

## **ASMR Meeting Highlights**

Pres. Scott Fritz opened the May 5 meeting at 10:00 a.m. Cody Hilliard presented the Apr. 7 minutes and Treas. Ken England reported a total asset balance of \$4,302.24. Eight members are late on dues for a total of about \$500.

Ken England had no news to report on the status of the Cultural Affairs Council street train or events. Scott F. said he has updated the club website. Ken E. reported

on purchasing new folding chairs and a table for club meetings.

Ken R. said his next home layout Ops Session will be May 19. He said most of the calendar project photos are ready, and Cody will be taking a couple more on the new layout to go with them. He asked members to turn in any photos they would like to submit for consideration. He also said the defective Digitrax equipment repairs are underway, and he has acquired an 8-amp power booster he will sell the club for \$220.

Cecil Walston told members he will have to drop out of the club for the next 12 months due to his new job with the Texas prison system. Jim Gibson expressed a desire for more discussion before any expansion of the layout into the back room area is actually started, and the matter was left open. The meeting adjourned at 10:18. Next meeting will be June 2.

## **KRBNRR Ops Session Report**



Above: Chris Bisset puts some "body English" into making a switching move during the May 20 Ops Session on Ken Riediger's home layout. Photo by Jim Gibson

This month's Ops Session on my KRBNRR took place on May 20, with five operators and two visitors ("railfans"?). Those manning throttles included Ben Diamond, Chris Bisset, Michael Wehmeyer, Travis Garrison, and Alex Wold. The "railfans" were Charles Chinn and Jim Gibson. (Note: Crews reported seeing Gibson trackside taking photographs.)

Electronically speaking, I don't recall any problems. About the only thing preventing a near perfect session were a few of the usual "learning curve" experiences for some operators not as familiar with KRBN layout locations and practices as the old pros. Alex handled the yardmaster job in Kannapolis, and traffic flowed smoothly for the day. I hope to see you at the next session on June 17th at 1:30 p.m.

**KR**

preparing and painting walls, and reinstalling missing ceiling panels.

Second, we have to finish tearing apart the old layout, trying to salvage as much of it as possible, and move it to the new location. This is also under way, but there is still a lot of hard work left just getting everything ready to move. Part of this includes taking out a section of the north wall next to the



*Here is a dramatic example of some significant progress in preparing the new ASMR train layout facility on Westwood for occupancy. On the left is the room as it appeared, unpainted, after removal of some unwanted structural elements and taping and bedding the sheetrock. On the right is the room after painting by Ken Riediger, Jim Gibson and Tony McKinney during the afternoons of May 24/25. The open ceiling panels are where Kent Stark, Cecil Walston, Scott Fritz, Ben Diamond and Chris Bisset have been installing new wiring.*

Photos by Jim Gibson

## **The Editor Speaks**

### ***It Takes Members To Make a Success***

Having been through previous relocations of ASMR, what is going on now is like "déjà vu all over again" to me. I am really pleased that we finally secured a new and improved home for our club, especially when it is in a part of town which will offer us better visibility and public access. I feel certain that opportunities for fulfilling our mission in ways that weren't possible before, as well as gaining new members, will be greatly enhanced.

But, new opportunities also bring challenges -- and we are faced with some big ones! First, the new location has to be prepared for our occupancy, and that is happening. Unfortunately we are already behind schedule despite diligent efforts by several of the club's members with projects like rewiring, removal of unwanted barriers that were installed by previous tenant(s),

helix to ease removal of it and other large module sections. Once everything is ready, we can arrange for moving day, which will really require an "all hands on deck" effort.

Third is rebuilding a layout to fit in the new location, but I will address that issue in a future editorial column. The point I want to emphasize here is that we need to step up our game and get moved ASAP, so we don't have to pay double rent any longer than absolutely necessary. This means that every able-bodied member needs to show up at every opportunity and do whatever they can to expedite the relocation process. Some of us have even been working between regular meetings to get things done, and I foresee much more of that kind of extra effort being needed to keep things on track. To those members already pitching in, keep up the good work. To everybody else, we really need your help!

**JG**