

# KEEPING TRACK

Official Newsletter of the Abilene Society of Model Railroaders

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Editor: Jim Gibson

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

### **Bicentennial Era Paint Schemes Available For Period Railroads**

Well, I hope everyone had a great 4th of July. It reminds me of 1976 when America celebrated our country's 200th birthday. You are probably thinking, "What does that have to do with railroading?" A lot, really. For those of us old enough to remember it, the railroads painted one or more locomotives and/or other equipment in a special patriotic paint scheme to honor the country's Bicentennial. As we try to recreate the real world in scale, we can even go to the extent of running Bicentennial trains. Yes, Athearn and Atlas have brought out locomotives in bicentennial paint for BN and ATSF. I have two for each road, as that is the era I am modeling. No matter what era you model there is something available to you. The longer we model the more there is to choose from, and the better stuff seems to get.

I want to extend a special thanks to Jim Gibson, Cody Hilliard and Ken England for joining me in Baird on June 27, for our "Baird Trade Days" train exhibit. I was a little disappointed after all the work of setting up the portable layout to only have about 30-40 visitors. Luckily, we were not out in the 100+ degree heat, because we were originally going to be in an open air pavilion. Fortunately, we ended up in the air conditioned courthouse basement. I think the extreme heat must have put a damper on the whole Trade Days event, because from our vantage point, it didn't even look like there were all that many people on the street between the courthouse and the depot, which was the focal point for visitors

*Your President, Ken Riediger*

## **Second Riediger Ops Session Shows Progress Over First**

Note: The second operating session on Ken Riediger's home layout was held on June 20, and the following comments are his personal observations on that event.

"Well, one positive note was that attendance doubled from May to June. And, as more

people participate, there will be more fun to be had. The main thing for me is that it gives me the inspiration to finish getting the Rail-OP software set up in my computer. Since the last ops session I have completed getting all 1,000+ cars in the system, along with 100+ locomotives. The locations of all cars and locomotives are also entered in the data base, along with my routes and my trains. After getting all that done, I am finding I may have to add a route or two more for some of the trains I want to run. I am hoping that by the next ops session I will be up and running well enough to provide operators with manifests to run by. If not, I am sure I will be able to no later than the August ops session. Thanks to all for showing an interest and for your support. I am pleased to be able to share my layout with you, and I invite anyone who is interested to join us for the session in July." **KR**



Above: We always try to have something new and different on the modular display layout every time we set it up, and one of the new items for the Baird Trade Days event was a wind turbine on one of Jim Gibson's modules. It was realistically "powered up" intermittently by the breeze from an oscillating fan near the layout, as you can tell by the blurred turbine blades in this picture. Photo by Jim Gibson

## **ASMR Meeting Notes**

The June 6, 2009 business meeting was called to order by Pres. Ken Riediger at 10:00 a.m. Minutes for the May 2 meeting were read by Sec'y. Cody Hilliard and approved. Treas. Ken England's report, which included the fact that total club assets were \$3,899.77, was also

approved. Ken R. said that the Baird Trade Days train layout will be in the shed building on Friday afternoon, June 26. He also said the operating session at his house will be June 20, at 1:30 p.m. There is nothing definite yet on the next operating session at Jim Norwood's. Brenda Turner said she is still working on the car wash idea. Ken E. said the key situation has been somewhat resolved, but he still is trying to complete the roster of all who have a key. It came up that the donated layout bought by Clyde Gayoso still needs to be delivered to him. Ken R. said he would provide 11 stanchions for the event at Baird. He also stated that the club's HO layout needs a UR-91 remote. There were two choices: buy his, which is currently on loan, or buy a new one. Members approved Pres. R buying a new one at approximately \$134. Members also approved buying another more powerful power supply for the HO layout, to better handle increased power demands from all the locos with sound units. Jim Gibson requested permission to exchange one of the club's two MOPAC merchandise box cars for a comparable boxcar of his with a different roadname (Santa Fe), and members approved the swap. The meeting was closed at 10:32 a.m. by Pres. Riediger. Next meeting is set for July 11. Note: After the meeting a "hands on" program for building modules was put on by Cody Hilliard and Keith Savage.

crowd show up. If that doesn't happen, some would consider their effort to have been wasted, and in some ways that may be true. As for me, speaking as one who has spent a lot of time and effort building and scenicing modules for the display layout, transporting and setting them up at several public events, and running my trains on them, I choose to take a more positive view. If I knew *in advance* that an event, especially one in another town, like Baird's Trade Days, was going to draw a very limited number of visitors, would I volunteer to participate? Probably not. But since I did, do I feel like I wasted my time? Not really, and here's why. The limited number of visitors who did come by during the time we were set up in the Baird courthouse basement seemed to really enjoy our layout, and made enthusiastic, favorable comments that were sufficient to make me feel appreciated for the trouble I had gone to. Besides that, I enjoyed working with ASMR members Ken Riediger, Cody Hilliard and Ken England to put on our train display. Sharing our hobby with others at public events, and enjoying the fellowship of model railroaders are two of the major reasons I've remained a member of ASMR for nearly two decades – even when circumstances connected with either of those factors were less than ideal! JG

**The Editor Speaks**

**Low Attendance at an Event Isn't Necessarily a Total Loss**

When you go to a lot of trouble for a public event, it is nice to have a sizeable, enthusiastic

**Model RR Meets & Events**

Aug. 15 – New Braunfels Summer Model Train Show, New Braunfels, TX.

Aug. 22 – TCA Lone Star Division Show, Plano, TX.

Sept. 19 – 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Temple Model Train Show, Temple, TX.



**Nick Kenneally Visits Golden Spike Historical Railroad Site In Utah**

*Last May, while TDY to Salt Lake City, Nick Kenneally got a chance to visit the Golden Spike National Historical Site, located at Promontory Point, about an hour and a half north of Utah's State Capitol. He was impressed by the "extremely well kept park" there, and the two beautiful reproductions of the 1860s steam locomotives, "Jupiter" and "No. 119" (shown above), which are used in reenactments of the 1869 Golden Spike Ceremony.*

Photos by Nick Kenneally