

***RUN* 8**

April 2007



President's Message

by Bob Roth

Special Note: Due to Easter falling on the first weekend in April, the Business Meeting will be moved back to Thursday, April 12.

We had a good presentation by Mike Harter at our March Business Meeting on Passenger Trains in West Texas. Mike is a history teacher at Amarillo High School and has been working on his presentation for some time and came to us with hope for additional input and feedback. Mike related his presentation is a work in progress and he hopes to refine it. One thing Mike indicated he particularly lacks is photographs of the passenger trains that came thru Amarillo. Mike has obtained images of various passenger trains serving other parts of the state, but is looking for photos of the San Francisco Chief, the Texas Zephyr and the Rock Island's Choctaw Rocket that he can use in his presentation.

I want to offer special thanks to Dan Juliano and his wife Kate, Virgil & Paula Young and Linda Silva and Junior and Angel for their time representing the ARM at the Make-A-wish Car Show on March 3-4. While this isn't a big event for the ARM, it serves as a way to advertise our presence in front of the public. Speaking of the public, there was an excellent article published in the Amarillo Globe-News on Tuesday, March 20 that dealt with sons following their fathers into the hobby of model railroading. This was a very positive article. Following its publication we received a number of telephone calls from various people asking for information about the ARM.

At the first work weekend of the month Earl Carrell and his wife Sindy grilled pork loin and all present enjoyed a feast. Couldn't this type of event, including some hobo breakfasts, become a special draw for scheduled work weekends?

Concerning the switch materials at Pantex, the Executive Board is looking at the weekend following Easter, April 14, to retrieve the switch materials. It is going to take a number of loads to move all this material. The most difficult part is that the materials are piled rather than stacked and the time-consuming part of the work will be picking up the material so it can be loaded. Pantex safe work requirements will apply on Pantex property, so be sure you bring a strong pair of gloves. I need a list of names and social security numbers for the members who will go to Pantex to assist with the loading. They will also need to carry photo ID.

One last item, one of the calls I answered was from "Mike." He has a Lionel "Cannonball Express" train set he is looking to sell; it is a complete train set in its original box and he claims it is in mint

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condition. He apparently checked with Don at Hobby time and found it was probably purchased around 1986 – 1990. If anyone is interested, Mike’s phone number is 324-9662.

Given progress on the layout design, we hope to provide a presentation on the layout design following the April Business Meeting. Don’t forget that we will start the Business Meetings at 7:30 PM rather than 8:00 PM.

MEETING MINUTES

ARM Business Meeting

March 1, 2007

Old Business:

Meeting Minutes: Published in Run 8. Approved as published.

Treasurer’s Report:

It was noted there had been many transactions in the last few days of February thus some of the numbers weren’t final as of the time of the Business Meeting.

Checking Beginning Balance:	\$ 6,258.35
Expenses:	\$14,142.53
Income:	<u>\$21,342.68</u>
Ending Balance:	\$13,458.50

<u>Expenses:</u>	Electric	\$ 81.25	<u>Income:</u>	Cust. Car	\$10,606.60
	Nat. Gas	\$ 297.96		Donations	\$10,000.00
	Water	\$ 102.11		Dues	\$ 685.00
	Phone	\$ 38.71		Svgs. Interest	\$ 3.00
	Bldg/Lumber	\$ 0.00		Shirt Sales	\$ 51.08
	CC Fee	\$ 38.19		Reimbursemt	\$ 0.00
	Car Postage	\$ 0.00			
	Loan	\$ 478.69	<u>Month of February Accrued Liabilities:</u>		
	Extra Pmt.	\$10,000.00		Layout Const.	\$
	Supplies	\$ 0.00		Bldg/Lumber	\$
	Purchases	\$ 0.00		Office Supp.	\$
	Layout Sup.	\$ 0.00		E-Bay	\$
	Layout Design	\$ 2,000.00		Postage	<u>\$</u>
	Car Svgs.	\$ 0.00			
	Insurance Act	\$ 0.00			
	Labor	\$ 560.00			
	Cash (for Lbr)	\$ 90.00			
	Ins. – Liability	\$ 0.00			
	Capital One	<u>\$ 455.62</u>			
		\$14,142.53			

Special Note: We received a \$10,000 donation from A&K Railroad Salvage in lieu of delivery of some of the railroad material that was removed from the Pantex Plant to Panhandle. The Executive Board decided to apply this donation against the outstanding principal on our building loan to reduce the total outstanding balance on the loan.

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Mortgage: Following the Treasurer's Report there was discussion about making extra payments of \$100 per month to reduce the outstanding balance of the mortgage loan and work toward paying it off sooner than if we just make the regular monthly payments.

Car Sales Report/Update: Earl Carrell had an update report from Jerry Michels.

The ART car inventory is sharply down. We have approximately 4 cars per number left; we had 8 different numbers. Kits are currently sold out. We should be getting another set of cars soon. Jerry has more orders; we just can't fill them from current stock.

Layout Design Status: E-mail request was sent to Byron Henderson, Layout Designer

Received a schedule for proposed updates

Received revised plan for Kingsmill with write-up

Upper Deck Plan to be completed by 3/04

Completed Design 2-weeks after LDC feedback (3/25 or later)

Payment of \$2,000 requested now; \$1,000 after upper level done and \$1,000 final payment after final design provided.

Building Research: Started List in December; Volunteers:

Tom Jones: Hoover thru Canadian

Virgil Young: Hereford & Black

Earl Carrell: Pampa

Jerry Michels: Bovina & Umbarger

Need more volunteers to research towns along the railroad.

Layout Construction: Base for the Staging yard is on hold for completion of ceiling work.

This led to a discussion about other work required including scrapping the old light fixtures.

Need to get plans drawn-up.

Building: Thank you to folks that worked on move from AutoCraft to ARM.

Maintenance Issues: Heating system, toilet

Railroad Track: We need to pick-up the switch materials from Pantex.

We need to finish sorting out track material soon as possible to ensure quantities were delivered. The window of opportunity to "shop" for more parts is limited.

Housekeeping Schedule: Month of March – Dan Juliano

We still need members to sign up to fill out remainder of the year.

Make-A-Wish Car Show: March 3-4.

Move-in Friday, March 2 from 4:00 PM – 9:00 PM

Need list of workers; a sheet was being circulated.

Entry point will be the center entrance on the East side of the Civic Center

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New Business:

Next work dates: March 10 & 24. (2nd and 4th Saturdays of the month.)

Clinic: "Passenger Trains in West Texas" following the Business Meeting

Next Meeting: **Date moved to April 12, 2007.** Meeting is to start at 7:30 PM

Announcements:

The annual election for Amarillo Railroad Museum Officers will be conducted at the May Business Meeting, scheduled for May 3, 2007, at 7:30 PM. The two Director's positions are to be determined this year. Tracy Ball and David Jusiak are the incumbents, and both have indicated they will be candidates this year. Any member over the age of 18, in good standing, who has been a member at least one year, is eligible to run for this office. Husbands and wives in a family membership are considered equal. They are both eligible to vote and to hold office.

Paul Sowle came to the Club meeting last Thursday. He is feeling much better after he received a pacemaker. He brought along several complete turnouts he has been working on.

Donna Fritsch is home from the hospital, though still on I.V. and antibiotics. She has to go back to the hospital as an outpatient on Thursday for another test procedure.

Please continue to remember Paul and Donna in your prayers.

Cleaning Schedule:

January	Tom Jones
February	Virgil & Paula Young
March	Dan Juliano
April	Tracy Ball
May	Andy & Beverly Lyle
June	David Jusiak & Joe Sweeney
July	
August	Tracy Ball
September	
October	
November	
December	

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Work Weekends

Work weekends usually mean Saturday only, the 2nd and 4th weekends of the month. At the March 10 workday, Earl and Sendy Carrell prepared roast pork loin for lunch and everyone enjoyed the day. Would special meals, such as Grilled Hamburgers, Hobo Breakfasts, Beans and Cornbread, Chili and Cornbread, or Meatball and Spaghetti lunches increase the turnout at least one workday per month? Only one family would need to prepare the lunch for the day and donations to defray the costs would be expected.

We have been held back by lack of detailed layout plans from Byron. These are coming in, including the first level plans with X, Y Coordinates included. Last Thursday night, Tracy and several others, including a visitor, Don Jones, began plotting some of these locations on the floor to build the benchwork. Hopefully, construction on the Helix benchwork and its approach tracks can be started soon. These segments are critical to the completion of the loop-to-loop temporary layout.

While we are discussing benchwork, an examination of layout lighting would be appropriate. This author and Earl Carrell have been constructing two eight-foot sections of the Panhandle/Hereford areas to be used as demonstration of lighting practices. A question arose over the City Code requirement for Conduit. Since Tom Jones works closely with the City in his construction business, he was asked if conduit would be required.

Tom replied: *Basic answer – conduit IS required for all voltage above 24 volts for a fixture. Our model railroad WILL be a fixture according to Ron Gibbs, the City electrical inspector. Therefore, unless we have only low-voltage lighting, all the lighting must be armored. This can be EMT metal conduit, plastic conduit with grounds, or metal armored cable – NOT BX or AC type cable. Type MC cable is approved.*

I discussed with Ron the idea of making the layout an appliance and he said he WILL NOT approve that. This is a change from his opinion of a few years ago and reflects the new electrical code.

Since we had forgotten about the train power cable, Tom was asked and he replied: *The only wire that must be in conduit is voltages above 24. (Telephone can also be run bare even though it has 90 volts when ringing). Track power, etc. can be run anyway we want.*

All of these factors will be considered as various lighting possibilities are examined and demonstrated. These modules are being built to demonstrate overall lighting practices and not necessarily benchwork construction. Twilight, nighttime, dawn and the transition to regular day time lighting will be sought, as well as special effects such as thunder-and-lightning storms.

Using different types of lighting poses special problems for the photographer. The most balanced lighting for regular daytime operation and casual snapshot photography will be used, but professional, close-up photography will require separate, color-balanced floodlights.

Construction of these modules is NOT intended to interfere with work on the main benchwork construction. Work has been done at odd hours while waiting for construction plans for the main benchwork. Questions and suggestions are welcome; it is a work in progress.

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