

# RUN 8

January 2010



## President's Message

*by Bob Roth*

I would like to wish all the members of the Amarillo Railroad Museum and our friends a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! I am hopeful that I may finish some historical research (several different projects) and I have several models I would like to assemble during the holidays.

Out at the ARM world headquarters as 2009 comes to a close I believe that we are showing significant progress on the construction of the layout. We have the benchwork in-place for both levels along the East wall that will support Canyon on the upper level and Zita on the lower level and Tracy just started installation of the spline roadbed on the lower level extending out from the helix. Up top Tracy has been working on shingle installation giving the one leg of the layout a near finished look. Additionally the benchwork for Amarillo Junior Yard has been assembled but it is pulled out from the wall to leave room for painting of the backdrop and Virgil Young has been working regularly on the backdrop painting. We still have a long way to go, but we are definitely well on our way.

I was doing some reading on the growth of the Texas Panhandle and came across an article about the oil boom in Borger. Panhandle was the closest town to Borger and there was no railroad to Borger at the time thus the supplies were being delivered to Panhandle. The article indicated that trains were lined-up five miles outside of Panhandle to unload goods bound for the Borger oil fields and there were a number of trucking companies formed to haul the supplies to Borger. This ultimately led the Santa Fe to build their rail line up to Borger. I need to re-read this in more depth because there was a lot of information about Panhandle and other communities booming due to the discovery of oil.

Speaking of historical matters, we received our copies of the Amarillo Postcard History books from Arcadia Publishing at the beginning of this month and we have a limited number of copies available for sale. We are selling the books for the retail sale price (\$21.99) although members of the ARM can receive a 10% discount. One caution; Texas residents are subject to the Texas sales tax. I found the book *Amarillo Through Our Eyes – Celebrating 100 Years* published by the Amarillo Globe-News is also an excellent source of historical photographs that compliments the postcard book.

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Given the holidays and the fact that Thursday, December 24 is Christmas Eve and December 31 is New Year's Eve we will not have formal Thursday evening meetings for a couple of weeks prior to the Business Meeting. Local members may take "toys" out to the ARM on their own and test them on the track during the holiday period; just remember to turn-out the lights when you leave. Please have a very merry and safe Christmas, and I hope to see everyone in the new year.

Next Meeting: The next Business Meeting will be on Thursday, January 7 at 7:30 PM.

## BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

### **ARM Business Meeting**

December 3, 2009

#### **Old Business**

**Visitor:** Mr. Walt Gibson brought some maps, timetables, railroad books and other historical paper information from his collection. President Roth is cataloging the information.

**Meeting Minutes from November:** Approved as published in Run 8.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Virgil Doyle presented the Treasurer's Report for November 2009. The report was approved as read.

#### **Car Sales Report/Update:**

ART cars in 33000 series were received just before Thanksgiving. A third of cars are already sold. 205 of the cars remained prior to the business meeting.

MKT mechanical reefers will probably arrive in February/

Jerry Michels, chairman of the Car Committee, recommended that the Club use the magazine *Model Railroad News* to run our ads about new car offerings.

#### **Layout Construction:**

Significant progress made this past month: Virgil Young completed the backdrop painting on the East wall and turned the corner onto the south wall. L-girders and joists were installed along the south wall on the lower level for Zita to the SE corner, and framework was built for the Amarillo Junior Yard. Additionally a number of light fixtures were installed above the Junior Yard area.

Tracy and Virgil Doyle began laying the backbone of the spline roadbed off the helix onto the site of the rail welding plant. Several members worked on leveling and adding legs to the Amarillo yard module. Earl Carrell added some needed bracing. Tracy has also been adding shingles to the roof of the overhang. It looks good!

**Building & Grounds Update:**

Mowers: The mowing of the property was completed although some weed-eating is still needed to clean-up the area particularly behind the DOE train. We will look into repair of the mowers before the next growing season.

Flag Pole: It was suggested that we install a flag pole in the triangular spot between the sidewalks out in front of the building. A flag flying on the pole would echo the patriotic feelings of the members and would be a signal that we are open. By paving the area around the base of the flagpole, we would obtain space to display our commemorative bricks.

**Advertising:**

We were solicited by a salesman from the Yellow Book this past month looking for us to buy an ad in the book and in their on-line site. Proposed cost was more than our monthly membership dues. This has not been before the Executive Board, but the feeling is the cost is too high.

**2011 NMRA LSR Convention:**

No formal correspondence received from Lubbock to date.

**Housekeeping Schedule:**   Month of December: Jim Shook  
  Month of January:    Guy Pigg

Sign-up sheet for 2010 was started last month and we still have a lot of holes to fill.

**New Business:**

**Santa Fe Building Museum Coalition:** We had received a letter from Walter Wolfram stating they had temporarily halted their fundraising activities mainly due to the economy at this time, but also because they are considering their options. The letter raised a number of concerns with the museum location within the Santa Fe building including security due to courts located within the building, limited space for the museum, no space for display of railroad rolling stock, weekend access to the Santa Fe building, and a lack of parking around the Santa Fe building. I sent a letter response back to Walter relating that we still support the museum but we were under the belief the effort to locate the museum in the Santa Fe building was particularly to satisfy terms of the grant the county received for the renovation of the building. I noted that we have space available for the display of rolling stock and I issued an invitation to Walter to come and visit us. No response received to-date.

**Books from Arcadia Publishing:**

Postcard History Series – *Amarillo*; books were received in Amarillo on Tuesday.

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The book has many railroad-related pictures including the Santa Fe depot being built and early photos of the Santa Fe Building. The price is \$21.99. Members and paid internet members receive a 10% discount. Orders for delivery in Texas pay the Texas Sales Tax..

**New Book Offer:**

Request received from Arcadia Publishing asking if we might be interested in compiling a book of Amarillo historical railroad photos. No response received from the membership thus this item will be tabled. Arcadia will be contacted shortly...

**New Book offered by Amarillo Globe-News:** Interesting photos from newspaper archives.

**OKC Train Show is this weekend.** Anyone going?  
Flyers to advertise RI boxcars & new reefers?

**Director Tracy Ball asked the question, “What is our address”?** If a 911 responder attempts to locate our building using GPS, he would wind up west of our location. It is important that we get the street address corrected for visitors and for responders to 911 calls.

**ARM Work Dates:**

December 12  
December 26 – scheduled date, but being the day after Christmas...  
January 9  
January 23

**Next Meeting:** Scheduled Date is Thursday, January 7, 2010.

**Schedule of Clinics to be conducted following monthly Business Meetings:**

December	Photography of Norman Stuppi
January	3 Room House on Wrong Side of Tracks by Virgil Young
February	Decoder Pro by Jerry Michels
March	DCC Decoder Installation by Earl Carrell – Postponed
April	Installing Gear Boxes in Locomotives by Virgil Young
May	Sound Installation in Steam Locomotives by Virgil Young

**Parking Lot:**

**Train Spotting Event:** 24-hour train spotting event at the ARM. No contact to-date.

**Mission Statement:** Preservation of the rich railroad heritage of the Texas Panhandle through

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the preservation of railroad equipment significant to industries of the Panhandle and through model railroading

**Cleaning Schedule for 2010:**

January	Guy Pigg
February	Dan Juliano
March	Paula Young & Linda Sylva
April	
May	Andy & Beverly Lyle
June	
July	
August	
September	
October	Bob Roth
November	David Jusiak
December	

**Which Are You?**

Are you an active member; the kind who would be missed, or are you content that your name is on the list?

Do you attend the meetings and mingle with the flock, or do you stay at home and criticize and knock?

Do you take an active part to help your “local” along, or are you satisfied to simply say that you “belong”?

Do you ever volunteer to help the guiding stick, or do you leave the work to just a few, and then talk about the clique?

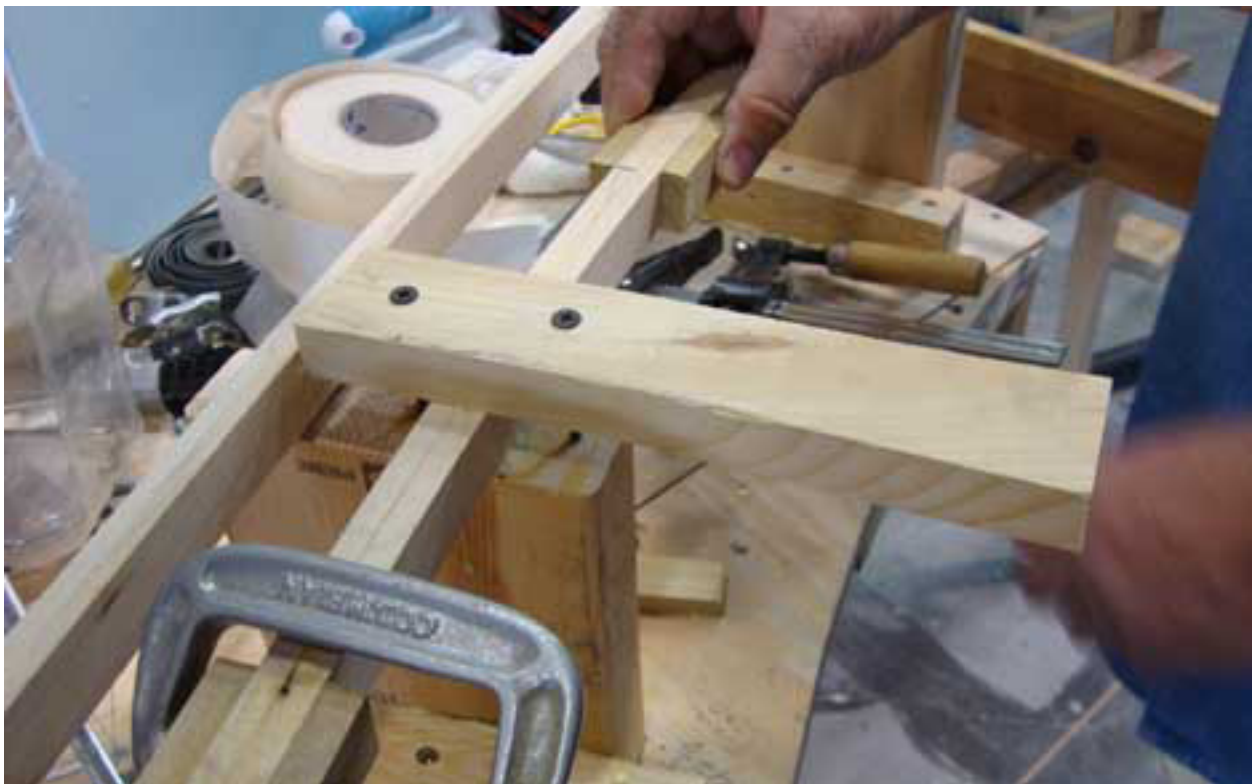
Come out to the meetings with hand and heart. Don’t just be a member, take an active part!

*The above was provided by Director Tracy Ball from his Motorcycle Club Newsletter.*

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Tracy Ball has shown much progress in shingling the roof. In this picture he is almost to the corner. All photos in this issue are by Tracy Ball



The backbone has been glued. Now the spacer blocks are being glued to the backbone in preparation for the next layer of the spline roadbed.

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The spacers were glued to the backbone, the outside layer of the spline has been glued to the spacers, and this is the beginning of the lower outside main line.

The top level of the south wall was completed to the west end.



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Tracy beginning work on the Canyon Wye, helix and upper level return loop for the upper staging yard. The big circular piece will be split so that the upper half can form a helix passing under itself and entering the return loop.



For those of you on the lookout for open loads, here are three condolas with prefabricated turnouts ready for a shoo-fly around a wreck, or for replacement use.

## **Stone Soup--Making Something from Nothing**

*by Virgil Young*

We are making great strides in building our layout. We are almost to the point where we can add scenery and structures to imitate the actual structures that existed in our cities and towns from Canadian to Texico. This won't be easy because many of the structures that were present in 1955 are gone. Depots, housing for workers, stockyards and water servicing facilities were sold, moved or demolished to remove them from the tax rolls.

What we do have, however, are standard plans for many of these structures and even better, some commercial kits that follow the standard plans. We are still lacking specific plans for petroleum jobbers, elevators and other industries located along the track. While most of the elevator companies were building concrete silos in 1955, there were enough corrugated iron elevators still remaining to add interest to the right-of-way. The concrete elevators probably still remain and the height, number of silos and general arrangements can be determined from contemporary photographs.

A highway usually paralleled the railroads, and service stations of all designs, lumber yards, grocery stores and usually smaller houses were spaced along the highway. There won't be enough space to represent everything, but study what remains and any available photographs for recognizable structures that can be scratch-built. Did someone say scratch-built, the term that strikes fear in the hearts of many modelers? Scratch building is like building a kit without parts or plans.

Most of you have read about or discussed how to arrive at an elevation of the walls from photographs.. Assume a door height of 6' 8" with a width of 2' 6". From that point you count off how many door widths are in the length of the wall and how many door heights are in the height of the wall. You can get a rough measurement for the height of all wall elevations by assuming the internal wall height is eight feet in newer construction and twelve feet in older buildings. Also assume that bedrooms are a minimum 10' x 10'; 12' x 12' may be a better figure. Once you have a rough diagram compare the proportions to those of the photograph. Place an HO scale figure next to the drawing for comparison. For the ultimate comparison, build a rough model from cheap cardboard with the doors and windows drawn in ink.

When you are satisfied with the proportions of the building, substitute scribed siding for the walls, Grandt Line windows and doors from their online catalog and roofing from Walthers catalog. Remember to paint walls and windows separately before assembly and add glass to the windows. Once you have all the walls completed, with the doors and windows installed, and curtains or shades on the inside, assemble the walls. Add the roof and cover it with the appropriate material. That wasn't hard, and you now have a structure that is scratch-built to a plan that you scaled from a photograph. Place it on the layout with pride, but first, weather it a bit!

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## Member Information

### **Amarillo Railroad Museum**

P.O Box 31105  
Amarillo, TX 79120  
Club House Phone  
806-335-3333  
13000 East U.S. Highway 60  
Web Site  
[Amarillorailmuseum.com](http://Amarillorailmuseum.com)

### **Ball, Tracy**

901 Whitehills Trail  
Amarillo, TX 79124  
654-4278/m,  
[tracy@amaonline.com](mailto:tracy@amaonline.com)

### **Carrell, Earl [Sandy]**

3313 Oxbow Trail  
Amarillo, TX 79106  
372-5781/w 679-4517/m  
806-477-2463m  
[anthonycarrell@suddenlink.net](mailto:anthonycarrell@suddenlink.net)

### **Doyle, Virgil**

6208 Fannin  
Amarillo, TX 79118  
356-0659 [vldoyle@aol.com](mailto:vldoyle@aol.com)

### **Ford, Jeff**

5506 Tawney  
Amarillo, TX 79106-4808  
236-3673 [bnsf\\_boomer@yahoo.com](mailto:bnsf_boomer@yahoo.com)

### **Fritsch, Ken & Donna**

10201 Snowball Trail  
Amarillo, TX 79108  
383-8022 [trainmasterk@aol.com](mailto:trainmasterk@aol.com)

### **Jusiak, David [Gail]**

3606 E. 31 St.  
Amarillo, TX 79103  
372-3796  
[gmjusiak@yahoo.com](mailto:gmjusiak@yahoo.com)

### **Juliano, Dan [Pat]**

1200 Jasmine  
Amarillo, TX 79107  
383-4919

### **Lyle, Andy & Beverly**

PO Box 3551  
Amarillo, TX 79116  
353-2559

### **Michels, Jerry [Judy]**

133 Dewey Rt 6  
Amarillo, TX 79124  
376-6548/h 354-5806/w  
654-9567/m [Asychis@aol.com](mailto:Asychis@aol.com)

### **Morris, Tommy [Shelley]**

960 Alamo Rd, Los Alamos, NM 87544  
505-661-1816 [tjmorris@lanl.gov](mailto:tjmorris@lanl.gov)

### **Osborne, Carter [Michelle]**

6302 Dreyfuss  
Amarillo, TX 79106  
[Osborne6302@nts-online.net](mailto:Osborne6302@nts-online.net)

### **Pigg, Guy**

913 S. Louisiana, Apt. B  
Amarillo, TX 79106  
373-9166h 683-4534m  
[gwp53@sbcglobal.net](mailto:gwp53@sbcglobal.net)

### **Roth, Bob [Kathy]**

6701 Alpine Lane  
Amarillo, TX 79109  
358-9774/h 676-8966/m  
[broth6701@sbcglobal.net](mailto:broth6701@sbcglobal.net)

### **Jim & Sandra Shook**

3300 Patterson Drive  
Amarillo, TX 79109  
322-0002  
[7drjim@arn.net](mailto:7drjim@arn.net)

### **Silva, Linda & Junior, Angel**

613 S. Spring  
Amarillo, TX 79104  
342-4118/h 433-4192/m

### **Soeborg, Pelle – Farumsodal 18, DK –**

3520 Farum, Denmark  
45-4499-8805

[pelle@soeborg.dk](mailto:pelle@soeborg.dk)

### **Sowle, Paul & Janet**

3206 Oakdale  
Amarillo, TX 79103  
373-7570 [pbjarb43@aol.com](mailto:pbjarb43@aol.com)

### **Sweeney, Joe [Ella]**

6208 Rutgers  
Amarillo, TX 79109  
355-1581

### **Young, Virgil & Paula**

4209 Kingston Road.  
Amarillo, TX 79109  
352-4498/h 584-4363/m  
[rayvirg@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rayvirg@sbcglobal.net)

### **Special Mailing**

The Marker Lamp  
Lone Star Region  
[DavidWL1944@aol.com](mailto:DavidWL1944@aol.com)

## Internet Members

### **Good, Brian**

578 Hawthorne Lane  
Harleysville, PA 19438  
[B3good@comcast.net](mailto:B3good@comcast.net)  
(610) 940-1626

### **Horton, Darrell**

13450 Baywind Circle  
Anchorage, AK 99516  
907-345-7286  
[dandkhorton@hotmail.com](mailto:dandkhorton@hotmail.com)

### **Copeland, Paul**

[pacopeland@cox.net](mailto:pacopeland@cox.net)

### **McCarty, Richard**

106 Gray Fox Road  
Mill Hall, PA 17751  
[rmccarty@lhup.edu](mailto:rmccarty@lhup.edu)  
(570) 726-7744

### **Randall, Rich**

301 Forest Drive  
Gettysburg, PA 17325  
[rand4449@aol.com](mailto:rand4449@aol.com)

### **Spadini, Dennis**

100 Van Ness Ave., AOMB  
San Francisco, CA  
415-565-2270  
[a969611d@aol.com](mailto:a969611d@aol.com)

### **Webb, W. N.**

PO Box 33  
Carnegie, Victoria 3163 Australia  
[noelatsf@optusnet.com.au](mailto:noelatsf@optusnet.com.au)

### **van Buuren, A**

Zuidpoolsingel 328  
2408 BS Alphen ann den Rijn  
The Netherlands  
[aavanbuuren@casema.nl](mailto:aavanbuuren@casema.nl)

### **Gary Leanz**

PO Box 1175  
Powell, OH 43065

### **Harry Carpenter**

1643 Rock Springs Lane  
Woodstock, GA 30188  
770-928-8472  
[hcarpenter@bellsouth.net](mailto:hcarpenter@bellsouth.net)

### **Frederick W. Thompson**

651 Azalea Drive #4  
Rockville, MD 20850  
301-424-0780  
[fwthomps@erols.com](mailto:fwthomps@erols.com)

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**Kevin Hughes**  
hangumhigh@yahoo.com

**Roberts, Carl**  
121 Springbrook Road  
Old Saybrook, CT 06475  
860-388-2565  
[eagleu18b@sbcglobal.net](mailto:eagleu18b@sbcglobal.net)

**Durbin, Brian**  
7-19 Forest Glen Circle  
Middletown, CT 06457  
860-613-0215  
bhdurbin@yahoo.com

**Coffman, Randall**  
1500 River Circle  
Richmond, KY 40475  
859-527-0476  
[randy@coffmaneng.com](mailto:randy@coffmaneng.com)

**David Hunt**  
611 Hillcrest Drive  
Blair, NE 68008  
402-533-2212  
david.hunt@huntel.net

**David Sieber**  
1420 Diamond Country Drive  
Reno, NV 89521-5185  
530-591-2230  
[Ealabhan0@live.com](mailto:Ealabhan0@live.com)

**Robert Federle**  
627 McDonald Street  
New Iberia, Louisiana 70563  
(337) 967-3454  
[rfederle@cox.net](mailto:rfederle@cox.net)

**George Kern**  
733 West Elati Circle  
Littleton, CO 80120  
(303) 738-9760  
n\_gkern@msn.com

**David Oppedisario**  
129 Meadow Hill Drive  
York, PA  
opleigh@verizon.net

**Cruz Hughz**  
cruzhughz@yahoo.com

**Brian Kriemendahl**  
P.O.Box 3220  
Edgewood, NM 87015-3220  
505-228-4499  
HighPlainsDrifter@zianet.com

**Butch Eyler**  
butcheylersigns@embargmal.com

