



# Run 8

First Half Year, 2020

## News & Notes:

*Compiled By Bob Roth*

Let me apologize for the delayed publication of this newsletter as I had started drafting this issue back in February, but given the continuing change in conditions I delayed as I rewrote portions of this issue.

**Annual Meeting:** The Annual Meeting for the corporation of the Amarillo Railroad Museum will be held on Thursday, August 6, 2020 at 7:30 PM at the Museum which is the date of our next regularly scheduled Business Meeting. The main item on the agenda for the Annual Meeting is the election of officers. The positions up for election at this meeting are as follows:

President – currently held by David Jusiak  
Vice-President/Secretary – currently held by Bob Roth  
Treasurer – Brian Veach

If any members are interested in running for any of these positions, please contact either David Jusiak or Bob Roth about your desire to run for one of these offices so that we can be prepared with ballots for the election. The only position which has a prerequisite condition is that of the President; the individual must serve at least one term (2-years) on the Board before running for President.

**Coronavirus and Uncertainty:** As I rewrite this (again), the number of Coronavirus (COVID-19) cases in the local area is growing again and with the overall number of cases of the virus exploding within the State of Texas, there are fresh concerns about the Governor possibly imposing a new shutdown. As-is, the Museum was shut down from March 30 thru June 11 due to the restrictions of the original shutdown order issued by the Governor. As conditions change I will issue notices via e-mail with “Short Toots” as I have during these last few months.

Since mid-June, with decision by the Board, the Museum has been, and will continue to be open to our members only during our regularly scheduled hours on Thursday evenings and on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturdays unless we are directed to close the doors temporarily again due to the pandemic and efforts to stop the spread of the virus.

As a courtesy to our members and visitors, we all need to follow the guidelines issued by the government and the health agencies and be more vigilant in washing our hands and keeping the facilities at the Museum clean. Rules for the Museum are as follows:

1. If a member feels sick, they should not come out to the Museum. It is recommended that members take their temperature at home and verify it is below 100.5 degrees F.
2. Keep social distance from other members.
3. Wear a mask when in close proximity to other members.
4. Cover any coughs and/or sneezes; try to do this outside away from others if at all possible.
5. Use hand sanitizer to clean your hands prior to handling model railroad equipment and ensure your hands are dry before starting anything. A footnote on this: There was a safety message sent out concerning use of hand sanitizer a couple weeks ago within the DOE complex; as you know, most hand sanitizers have a high alcohol content and they had an incident in which an employee somewhere used hand sanitizer and touched something creating a static spark which resulted in his hands being burned due to the high alcohol content of the hand sanitizer.
6. Clean/sanitize any equipment you use.
7. Assist with cleaning in the Museum.

## *Activities Around the Museum...*



Nov. 14, 2019: Members present for a brief pow-wow.



Left: Nov. 14, 2019 – Student member Gabe standing behind 2 G-scale models he had assembled from kits. Right: Nov. 21, 2019 – New member Thomas Hanson running a train on the layout.

***Scenes from Oklahoma City Train Show      Dec. 7 – 8, 2019***



ARM Booth before show opened Saturday morning; other vendors shopping while we were setting-up.



David, Matthew and Gail Jusiak organizing items for sale.



G-scale: Thomas the Tank Engine & friends on the floor with the Rio Grande on modular layout in background.



Another view of the G-scale Rio Grande modular layout.



Storm clouds with lightning on an HO scale layout.



LEGO layout with LEGO cable-stayed bridge.

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## MEETING MINUTES

### ARM Meeting

February 6, 2020

#### Old Business:

Meeting Minutes from December 12 Business Meeting; Minutes were published in Run 8. Noted one typo was observed in the Minutes; Minutes were Approved as Published with the noted correction.

Treasurer's Report: Virgil read the Report from the Month of December. Virgil noted the Report for January hadn't been completed yet.

Beginning Balance:	\$12,700.80
Expenses:	\$ 1,119.59
Income:	\$ 4,882.00
Ending Balance:	\$16,463.21

The income in this report reflects our income from the OKC Train Show.  
Treasurer's Report was Approved as Read.

Car Sales Report/Update: No News.

Layout Construction: Tracy reported that Chris was working at Cuyler. They've started laying stuff between Canadian and Miami and Tracy has started working on the underpass by Miami. After that is done, the plan is to start working on the upper level.

Plans for the next 6-months – Let's discuss priorities under New Business.

Phillip Pratt Memorial Garden Railroad: Bob Roth asked for a little assistance from anyone that will be here on Saturday out in the garden to transplant 6 trees. Tracy recommended we get the holes dug for the trees and start watering the trees since we haven't had much moisture recently. Tracy recommended we get some wire "baskets" around the little pine trees to protect them, otherwise the deer will eat them up.

Bob Roth noted he had planted 4 tiny pine trees around the West side of the garden; last he had looked at them they were parched and he had watered them. He had picked them up at Lowes; they were by the Norfolk Island pines which are an indoor plant, and the lady running the garden center had come by and offered a deal on these "Stone Mountain" pines for \$3.00 each when they had normally been priced at \$12.98 each.

Building & Grounds Update: No news at this time.

Question was raised about moving the pole and other stuff out to the Museum. Bruce is trying to get moved and Tracy is helping him and thus is not available. Tracy noted he needs his son's help to move the railroad stuff off his property since he is a licensed truck driver. There was some discussion about possibly paying some of the folks that work for Trey; Tracy stated

we can hire some labor for \$10 per hour from downtown if needed. No date is planned to move this stuff at this time.

Handrail: Tracy noted he needs some time to build it, but he doesn't have the time.

#### New Business:

Potential Income Source: Bob Roth related he took a message on the answering machine a few weeks ago from Creative Rail Marketing; they were looking to lease track space for rail car storage. He had discussed with them that we have track, but we don't have access to it. He noted he had some back and forth discussion with them and they put him in touch with another gentleman and we are starting to explore the potential to get a switch put in. The initial request would be for storage of meat reefers and the potential income would range around \$3.00 per day per car. A question, would we want to manage the storage? Bob stated he didn't think so; they would charge a little fee to pay for them to manage the car storage.

Question: How much track footage can we dedicate to rail car storage? Bob had made a half-effort to get down the track and had gotten all-of 300-feet because it is so overgrown. Thought was to see how much room we have on the South track up to the road, and then look at the North track, again up to the road. The idea would be to try to keep the car storage all on the other side of the road. There is an issue with the road where the ties in the South track under the road are rotted-out. We have one other potential option with the stub end of the middle track; the switch is inoperable and he believed the switch to this track is spiked.

Tracy mentioned the frog to the one switch was damaged in the fire. Bob stated he believed the frog from the original switch that was removed is in the stockpile on our property. Further discussion brought up the issue of the switch laying behind Elementis; Bob related this switch had been placed there years ago by Talon when they were in the railroad track repair business; Bob had talked with someone at Talon after they got out of the railroad business and this person stated if the switch had been theirs, it was ours. We need to get this switch on our property.

Further discussion with the gentleman about car storage was that if one had land and track materials, it would be feasible to lay track and go into car storage. That said, the middle track would be relatively easy to extend to the road. Bob related the track materials obtained from Pantex were enough to extend a track down the length of our property. He noted the track feeding our property is all 90 lb. rail thru the switches and then it drops down to 75 lb. rail. The rail obtained from Pantex is 85 lb. rail. Unfortunately the switches that we received from Pantex were all 75 lb. switches; we have parts for 8 switches. Bruce asked about the other switches on our property, they are all 75 lb. switches.

Scale Test Car: Bob noted that we had asked BNSF for donation of the scale test car; we had no news on that. Bob had asked Jerry about it 2 weeks ago when he was at the Museum; Jerry had no news on it. Jerry had also at the time asked if they might be able to put the switch in.

#### C-SPAN Cities Tour:

Some months ago we received a request from Pantex historian to film a program at the ARM for C-SPAN concerning the White Train. They came and shot some footage some months ago. This was part of C-SPAN's Cities Tour where they were looking specifically at Amarillo. The

“Cities Tour” is airing on C-SPAN on 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> weekends of each month. The information that came out this morning mentioned a 48-hour special covering Amarillo is scheduled to air the weekend of Feb. 15-16 which will include information filmed at the ARM. It is supposed to air on Book TV, or C-SPAN2, or American History TV on C-SPAN3, or Suddenlink Ch.29 or 379. Bruce asked if someone could record it; a few members suggested they could try to record it.

Bob also noted that Friday, Feb. 23, a high tech C-SPAN interactive bus is to be at Horace Mann Middle School from 8:30 – 10:30 AM and at Caprock High School from 11:30 – 1:30 PM. This is supposed to be open to visitors.

Sale of Cross-ties: Tracy mentioned that he had been approached about someone wanting to buy some cross ties, but now that we might want to use some of those cross ties we don’t want to sell any. The Girl Scout camp was looking for 180 feet... Bob stated that he had looked at the one bundle of ties that someone had broken and stolen ties from and most of what was remaining in that bundle of ties was all rotted. This item was tabled.

Switch Panels: Kenneth mentioned that last year when he went to the National Train Show he got the idea to obtain the equipment to fabricate switch panels for the layout. As he got into it, he needed to learn software to operate it and he has been playing with it. Sheets of material come about 4’x6’ and they cost about \$89 per sheet which is a bit expensive, but one sheet will make quite a few panels. Kenneth noted that Bruce’s drawings gave him a great start. You can get almost any color combination you want in the sheet material. Kenneth passed around a sample panel for everyone to look at and in response to a question he noted he is trying to work on more efficient way to hook-up the panels at this time and then will look to the circuit boards.

Meeting Adjourned.

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# Run 8

Fall, 2020

## News & Notes:

*Compiled by Bob Roth*

**Corona Virus & Uncertainty:** The impact of the Corona virus on our country has been much greater than anyone imagined and it continues to have an impact on our lives as case rates around the country continue to be in a state of flux. Locally our case rate had fallen after the testing of the workers at the beef packing plants and at the prisons, and then it held relatively steady for a period of time until just recently when it started to increase again.

Impacts on the ARM have been significant and are still to be felt. We shut down the Museum completely, even to members from March 30 to June 11, and have only been open to members since then. We were closed in May when we typically hold an Open House in recognition of National Train Day which usually provides some financial contributions in our donation box; overall donations have been down significantly; and the Oklahoma City Train Show which has helped to provide significant income to the ARM these last couple years has been cancelled this year. We have also seen other organizations affiliated with the model railroading hobby impacted as the National Model Railroad Association (NMRA) cancelled their national convention and the National Train Show, and to make-up for the convention has hosted some virtual clinics over the internet. The Santa Fe Railway Historical & Modeling Society postponed their annual convention scheduled to be held this past June in Albuquerque and now plans to hold it next year – depending upon conditions.

**Window On a Wider World (WOWW):** As a “learning partner” in the WOWW program I received two requests for programs at schools.

**Request from the Friends of the Burlington Northern:** Many of our longer-term members may remember that we helped this organization when they held their annual convention here in Amarillo back in 2012. Please note that a request was received recently from a member of this organization asking if there was any interchange of trains or railroad cars between the Burlington Northern and the Santa Fe prior to the merger of these two railroads in 1996. They also requested if we might have a map of the trackage in and around the interchange from the early 1990s. Again, any information would be greatly appreciated.

**Thanksgiving:** Time for all of us to be thankful for the blessings we have received despite the trials that we endure, especially with the impact of the Covid-19 virus this year...



Left: Jan. 2, 2020: Tracy repairing switch at (railroad) East end of Hereford passing siding. Right: Jan. 11, 2020: Kenneth working on turnout control and signal wiring in the chase behind Canadian.



Jan. 25, 2020: Jimmy and Chris assisting Tracy in installation of plywood fascia around Panhandle.



Left: January 11, 2020: New member George Fuentes working on scenery at Cuyler. Right: February 6, 2020: Kenneth Berry showing-off new switch control panel prepared for the Amarillo East Tower area.



Feb. 20, 2020: Virgil Doyle checking a car to verify it meets ARM standards to operate on the layout.

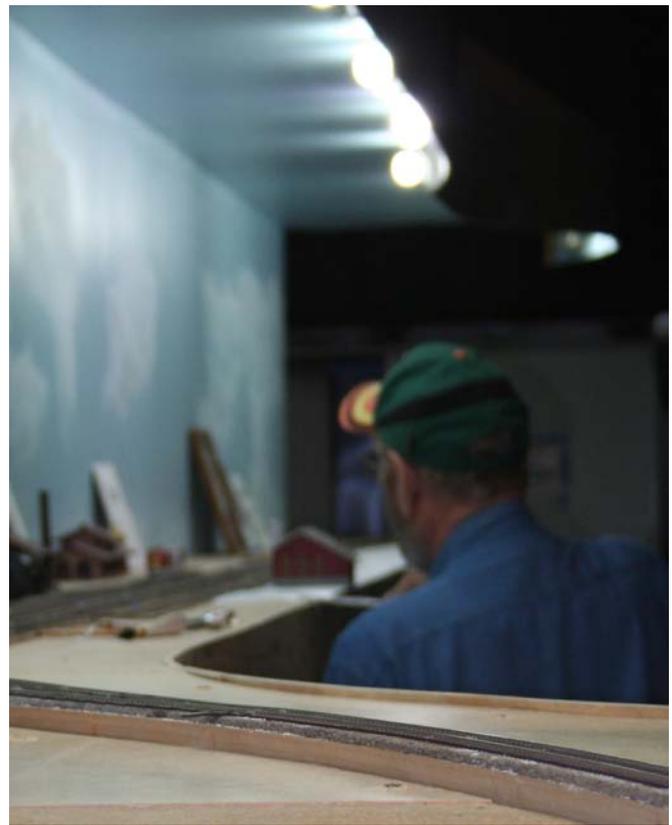


Above: February 20, 2020: Tracy starting to carve foam near the East end of Miami (Texas) to install a bridge. Below: Photo of bridge near East end of Miami that is to be modeled on the layout; photo taken on July 22, 2017. Note BNSF built a new concrete and steel bridge on the North side of this existing bridge when they double-tracked the main line.





February 22, 2020: Chris Mitchell installing support for extension of decking on the upper level at Texico above Canadian.



Left: March 12, 2020: Virgil Doyle showing Brian Veach the ARM financial records preparing Brian to take over the Treasurer's work. Right: March 19, 2020: Virgil spreading Sculpt-a-mold for ground base at Texico, New Mexico.



March 28, 2020: Crossing one major task off our laundry list... We took this Saturday to move railroad ties and rails from Tracy's lot to the ARM. Truck and trailer were provided by Tracy's son Trey. Above: Tracy operating the backhoe loading ties onto the trailer; Kenneth is on the trailer helping to direct, while Chris is on the ground behind the backhoe. Below: Using the backhoe to move rail. Bottom: Trailer is loaded with ties, rails, and power pole and is started on its way to the Museum with Chris following the trailer.





March 28, 2020: Initial attempt to unload materials at the Museum: Above: Tracy is using the loader to try to push the material off the trailer but this effort was unsuccessful. Below: In an attempt to unload the rail using brute force, Matthew Jusiak is on the trailer using a pry bar while Kenneth (foreground) and Chris pull on the ends of the rail. Meanwhile, Tracy went to fetch some other tools...



Top: Street side of the train station. Center: Track side of the train station. Bottom: The Castenada undergoing restoration and renovation.



Above: The tools that Tracy fetched included a rail turner, rail tongs and tie tongs. This allowed the unloading to go much quicker with significantly less effort. Matthew is on the trailer rolling a rail toward the edge of the trailer while Bruce is attempting to help keep the near end straight, Chris is at the far end and Kenneth is standing out of the way.





Above: Trey and Tracy use a second set of rail tongs to move the opposite end of the rail. Below: Matthew rolling the last rail off the trailer while Chris and Kenneth observe from a safe distance.





Above: Matthew and Trey pulling a tie off the trailer. Kenneth is standing by with the tie tongs while Chris and Bruce stand-by on opposite side of trailer ready to start pushing on the next tie. Below: The last ties coming off the trailer. Air Saycocie (orange sweatshirt) had arrived late but came over and assisted with unloading of the last ties. From left to right, Kenneth, Bruce, Trey, Tracy, Air and Matthew.



## Doings Around the Museum...

**Pause:** Given the pandemic with active community spread of the virus and various directives from the government directing the closure of “non-essential businesses,” the Board of Directors met on Monday, March 30, and reached the decision to close the Museum to all for an indeterminate period of time. The Board decided to re-open the Museum in mid-June to members only after some of the restrictions had been eased and the local rate of new cases in the Amarillo area had fallen.

The annual meeting was held on June



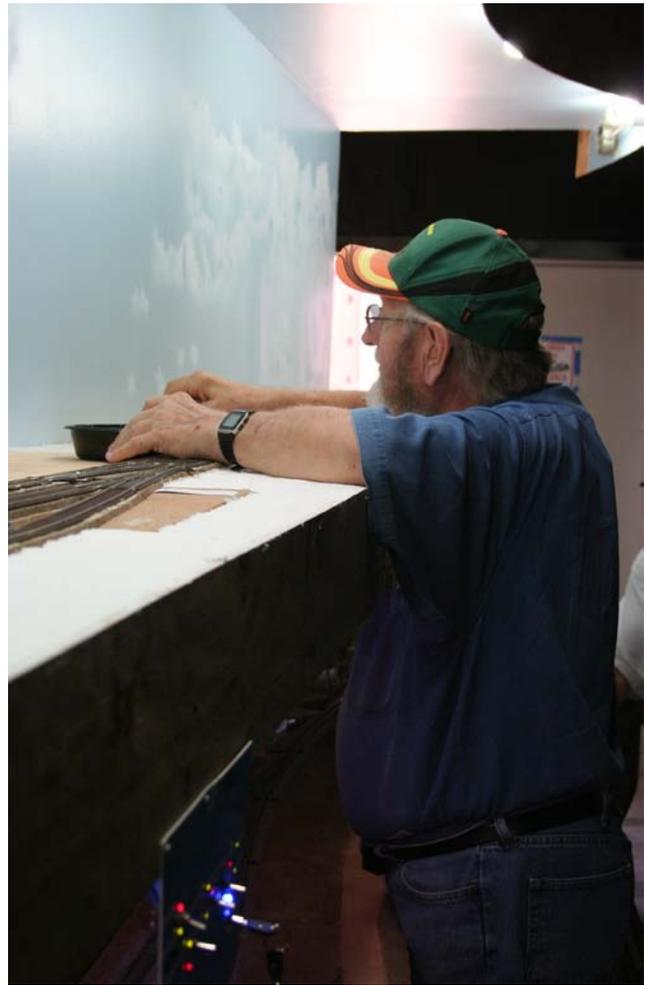
July 9, 2020: Above: Bruce weed-eating around the trees. Below: Brian is working on the books.





July 9, 2020: Above: Tracy had fabricated a 10-foot long mast as an extension to the utility pole and is drilling a pilot hole in the top of the pole to mount the mast while Chris holds the end of the mast steady and Kenneth observes the work. Below: The kit switch that had been abandoned behind Elementis had been moved onto ARM property.





July 11, 2020: Above Left: Air is assisting with clean-up of the layout at Miami. Above Right: Virgil applies Sculpt-a-mold scenery base at Texico. Below: Still July 11, this former Rock Island hopper was observed in a mixed train passing by the ARM 40-years after the Rock Island ceased operations.





July 16, 2020: Above: Tracy is using a special long-handles shovel to remove loose dirt from the bottom of the hole for the utility pole while Kenneth, (David and Gail's granddaughter), Matthew and Chris look on. Below: Checking the depth of the hole. (She volunteered to get down in the hole!)





July 25, 2020: Above: Jimmy works on one of his cars to repair a problem. Below Left: Thomas running a train on the main line at Pampa; the line extending to the bottom of the photo is the Clinton branch. Below Right: Chris is cutting a piece of masonite to serve as decking in a spot on the upper level.



**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Meetings:    The next Business Meeting for the ARM is scheduled to be held on Thursday, December 3, at 7:30 PM.**

Minutes from the last two Business Meetings are being distributed with the current issue of Run 8.

2020 Oklahoma City Train Show:    Cancelled.

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***Phillip Pratt Memorial Garden***

No additional photos to add this quarter.

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**Future Events:**

- |                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| Oct. 29,2020       | WOWW Program at Baker Elementary School in Canadian, Texas<br>(Program postponed due to weather; not rescheduled yet.)   |
| April 15, 2021     | WOWW Program at Friona   |
| May, 2021          | Annual Meeting of the ARM, 7:30 PM with Elections for Board Members of the ARM.  |
| June 15 - 20, 2021 | Santa Fe Railway Historical & Modeling Society Annual Convention in Albuquerque, NM.                                     |
| June 17 - 20, 2021 | Lone Star Region of the National Model Railroad Association Annual Convention; joint with Mid-Continent Region in Tulsa. |

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***History Box – Railroad Heritage of the Texas Panhandle***

This feature will return in a future edition of Run 8.

## **Railroad Historical Events:**

In looking at the NMRA calendar, historical events significant to railroads that occurred during the months of January thru March included the following:

Oct. 9, 1863	U.S. Congress set transcontinental railroad gauge at 4'-8½".
Nov. 7, 1885	Completion of Canadian Pacific Railway, Canada's first transcontinental railroad.
Nov. 18, 1883	U.S. and Canadian railroads first used Standard Time.
Dec. 12, 1887	U.S. Congress passed Interstate Commerce Act.
Dec. 26, 1917	U.S. Government temporarily nationalized railroads for WWI.
Jan.16, 1868	William Davis patented the refrigerator car.
Jan.31, 1935	Union Pacific M-10000 entered service as the "City of Salina."

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Left: July 25, 2020: Virgil taking a break with Peewee in his lap. Right: July 30, 2020: Bruce (left) and Thomas (right) holding the ground wire for the utility pole while Tracy works to straighten the ground wire.