

# RUN 8

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE  
AMARILLO MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION  
NOW A PART OF AMARILLO RAILROAD MUSEUM

October 1999

## President's Message

by Jerry Michels

Welcome to the best time of the year! As the temperatures cool and the nights get longer, I really look forward to starting all those modeling projects I've put off during the summer. Anyway, there are some news items this month that will be of interest to everyone I'm sure.

### POSSIBLE LAYOUT TOUR IN FT. WORTH.

I was in Ft. Worth for the Missouri Pacific Historical Society meeting during Columbus Day weekend, and had a chance to visit the Lockheed-Martin Recreational Association's train show and layout. These fellows have a nice permanent layout that I think would be a great prototype for us to start thinking about our own plans for the future. I spoke with a few of their members about the possibility of our group meeting with theirs for a tour and brainstorming session this spring. They were very interested and invited us down whenever we wanted to come to both see and operate on the layout. I think this would be a great trip, and we could meet with an established club that has a permanent layout to talk about ideas. If we couple this with Tracy Ball's contact for a tour of the Trinity car shops, we could make a nice weekend out of it. More will follow in the future, but for now, let's look at sometime in April.

**LAND VOTE AND PLANS.** The vote on the land issue resulted in a majority (14 to 4, I believe) who did not believe that the TSTC property was too far, considering the potential it has. Therefore, we are proceeding with the purchase. The land will be surveyed on October 19<sup>th</sup>, and we will meet with the TSTC representatives shortly thereafter. Things are looking good for this property.

**CUSTOM CARS.** The PFE cars are selling well. We have an ad campaign well underway with a number of magazines and historical society groups. If you get a chance to mention the cars to people outside the ARM, please do so. The 1949 version of the PFE cars are in; the 1962 version should be here by the time you read this, with the NP cars arriving shortly thereafter.

**CHRISTMAS SHOW PLANS.** The Christmas show is just over the horizon, so it's time once again to get our plans together. Paul Sowle and Dave Jusiak have the raffle layout well underway. It's now at the club, so drop by to see it when you have a chance. It's

nice, and I think it will be a winner. **We will decorate for the show on November 18<sup>th</sup> at the regular Thursday night meeting.** Attached to this issue of Run 8 is a Christmas Show Schedule. It lists the dates and times we'll be open to the public. This year, rather than have a sign-up sheet at the club, I want each member to fill out the times they can be at the show, and we'll incorporate it into a master schedule. Please take the time now to check your calendars for the days and times you'll be available for the show. It really is important that you sign up early so that we can fill the time slots and plan the show correctly. Last year, five members filled over 50% of the slots. That was tough on those members. I want to specifically address the members who cannot show up regularly on Thursday nights. Here's your chance to participate. We have about 25 members, give or take a few. We also have 198 hours to fill and we need a minimum of three members at the show to open and have enough hands to run it securely. If you do the math, to be fair, each member should volunteer for 24 hours total. We will be open on 22 days from the Friday after Thanksgiving through the end of December. This is a fund raising activity for us, and we all need to participate. I realize not everyone has a huge amount of time to spend at the show; give it your best shot and **please get the sign-up sheet back to us by November 4<sup>th</sup>.** Either mail them or bring them directly to the club. We'll sort it out from there, post a master schedule at the club and include it in the next Run 8.

That will do it for this month. I want to keep it brief so you can take the time to think about the times you can sign up for the Christmas Show. Let's make it a record breaker!

## Secretary's Reports

by Virgil Young

**Board of Directors Meeting, October 4, 1999.  
Fire Station #4, River Road & Hastings.**

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 PM by President Michels. All five of the directors were present.

President Michels called on Treasurer Smith to report on the vote on the distance to the proposed site at TSTC. Treasurer Smith had a preliminary count but the board decided to wait until the deadline on October 8 before announcing the outcome.

The board decided to go ahead and have the survey done on the proposed land purchase so that after the business meeting on October 8, the club can proceed in obtaining written waivers from the City of Amarillo. It was generally felt that it would not cost much more to survey the triangular plot just north of the proposed plot while we were at it. We will not purchase the triangular plot at this time, however.

President Michels presented some financing options. He had talked with officers at the Amarillo National Bank. The bank will finance 75% of the land value at 200 to 250 basis points over the prime rate. This would be approximately 10.25%.

Another option would be to purchase a CD with the money we plan to use to purchase the land. The bank would draw the interest on the CD and we would pay an additional 2% to the bank. This would make the loan rate 7.75% as of Friday, October 1. President Michels did not ask about financing options on the building.

President Michels asked if we could develop a building schedule to present to the members. The board felt that it would be better to take the project one step at a time. First, purchase the land, then work out a plan for the building.

President Michels then asked Treasurer Smith about the Eveline Rivers Project. Treasurer Smith said that he had not obtained any commitments from prospective donors. He said that Eveline Rivers did not want him to contact any of her donors for additional donations. This restriction narrowed the field considerably. There was also the fact that this is the end of the fiscal year for most businesses and they usually committed to donations at the first of the fiscal year. President Michels will contact Eveline Rivers and point out that we can't get enough donations to install the model railroad this year but we will make an effort to obtain donations about January 1, 2000.

President Michels then asked about the Christmas Show. Director Sowle said that the bare layout is almost finished. He will make an effort to bring it to the club this next Thursday. If not then, he will bring it next week. President Michels pointed out the problem we have in getting members to sign up to operate the layout during the show and especially on the weekend of December 3-4, when the Oklahoma Train Show will be held. The club needs to take a number of cars to display at our table. The board also agreed to take out an ad in the Train Show program with pictures of the models and ordering instructions.

Secretary Young has out of town until today and has not called Intermountain about when the billboard

PFE version kits will be ready. He thought about two weeks. President Michels asked if we should start advertising the car now or wait until the cars arrive. The general feeling was that we advertise now using the pictures of the cars that President Michels built. There is a definite need for the website to publish pictures of the cars along with prices and ordering instructions.

President Michels asked Treasurer Smith to work up a recap of the money we have made on the FW&D boxcar and the Santa Fe Covered Hopper. Treasurer Smith said he had to talk with former Treasurer Doyle to find out how he posted the information in the books. He will try to have the figures available for the business meeting October 8.

President Michels also asked about our member status. There was only one member in arrears and Treasurer Smith said he would send him a letter as soon as he had the right address. Secretary Young will send Treasurer Smith an updated address list.

There was not much change in the status of the Helium car. President Michels said that he sent an Email message to Jeff Ford, President of TPRHS, offering to work with them to obtain transportation of the Helium cars to Amarillo. So far, he has not received a response.

President Michels asked Treasurer Smith to present the status of our mutual fund investments with the Treasurer's report each month so that it can be published in *Run 8*.

In other business, Secretary Young said that we need a display case for the Oklahoma Train Show so that our built-up cars can be displayed at eye level.

It was also mentioned that we need to sort through all of the issues of Model Railroader, Railroad Model Craftsman and other magazines so that we can take the extras to Oklahoma City and sell them.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM.

**Amarillo Railroad Museum Business Meeting  
October 7, 1999 Western Plaza**

President Michels called the meeting to order at 8:08 PM. There were 16 members present. President Michels asked if there were any corrections to the minutes of the last business meeting as published in *Run 8*. There being no corrections, the minutes stand approved as published.

President Michels called for the Treasurer's report. Treasurer Smith gave the following:

Beginning balance:	\$8,714.39
Income:	\$3,316.45
Expenses:	(\$3,913.37)
Closing balance:	\$8,117.47

Treasurer Smith also presented the following information on the club's American Century investment accounts:

Fund	Ann. Gain	Values 9-30-99	Ave
6-30-99		Select	\$12,329.78
\$12,954.26	19.65%	Ultra	\$11,829.58
\$12,421.39	18.85%	Heritage	\$16,439.26
\$17,078.19	11.74%	Totals	\$40,598.62
\$42,453.84	14.64%	The Treasurers report was accepted.	

There were some questions about how many refrigerator cars were ordered. So far, the club has ordered 1,500 cars. 900 are the PFE 1949 as-built paint scheme, 300 are the PFE 1962 billboard scheme and 300 are the 1960s Northern Pacific copies. Of these cars, 300 of the as-built 1949 PFE scheme and 100 each of the billboard PFE and the Northern Pacific copies are being assembled in China.

President Michels reported that the Eveline Rivers project is not getting much response from corporations. President Michels will visit with Ms. Rivers about postponing any action on our part until after January 1, when many corporations begin their fiscal year and are more receptive to requests for donations. Ms. Rivers does not want the club to solicit funds for this project from the corporations already sponsoring the Christmas coat program.

President Michels discussed the schedule for the Christmas Show. The schedule will be 12:00 Noon to 9:00 PM. The show will begin the Friday after Thanksgiving and continue through that weekend. The next weekend December 4-5, the show will open Saturday and Sunday from 12:00 Noon to 9:00 PM. The next two weekends, December 11-12 and December 18-19 will be the same. Beginning Monday, December 20 through Thursday, December 23, the show will be open daily from 12:00 Noon to 9:00 PM. On Friday December 24 and Friday December 31, the show will be open from 12:00 Noon until 4:00 PM. Beginning Monday December 27 through Thursday December 30, the show will be open from 12:00 Noon to 9 PM.

President Michels presented the results of the vote concerning the distance to the proposed site at TSTC. The vote was 12 no and 4 yes. A no vote signified that the distance to the site is not a problem. The next steps will be to obtain a survey of the property and investigate the financing of the project. The Executive board agreed at their last meeting to buy the land first and then consider financing the construction of the building.

President Michels talked with a vice president at Amarillo National Bank about financing the building. The banker presented two plans. In one, we could borrow 75% of the building cost and pay an interest rate at 2 to 2 ½ % above the prime rate. In the second plan, we would buy a CD equal to the cost of the loan and deposit it with the Amarillo National Bank. The bank would keep the interest on the CD and in addition we would pay 2 to 2 ½%.

Member Ball said that we would have to replace one frog and one complete turnout to have access to the tracks on our proposed site.

There was a discussion about the helium car. We have until next June to move the car. They have changed the number of the car we will receive, but it is in better shape than the one we were originally assigned.

President Michels said that Jeff Ford had posted on the TPRHS website that they were going to receive a helium car and the locomotive currently at Excel.

Director Sowle said that the basic layout and scenery for the raffle layout are finished and he will bring it next Thursday to begin final work.



