

# RUN 8

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

September 1999

## President's Message

by Jerry Michels

### URGENT - YOUR VOTE REQUIRED!

There is one item to discuss this month. As most if not all of you know, the ARM has been considering a property at TSTC, east of Amarillo on US60. By now most of you have had the opportunity to look at the land. If not, I strongly urge you to make a quick visit to familiarize yourself with the property. Although the property is very reasonably priced, and has many features that will be valuable to our future plans, the question has been raised about the distance to the property from members homes. Therefore, as the president, I am allowing a full membership vote on this issue. I want to make it very clear that this is an extraordinary circumstance, and that this vote is one of those rare occurrences where the decision is so important to our future that I find it necessary to have all members participate rather than having the Executive Board act absolutely in their constitutionally-chartered purview.

At the back of this issue of Run 8 you will find a separate sheet with a pre-addressed ballot. Please read the ballot and vote as you see fit. Fold the ballot so that the address shows, tape, stamp and drop it in the mail. The votes will be counted at the October Business meeting and the results announced.

I urge you to vote as soon as possible, and please mail the ballot. Do not bring it to the club where it can be lost, and do not delay in voting. This is your organization, and I expect 100% voter turnout.

If the majority decides that the distance is too great, by voting YES, we will abandon any further pursuit of the TSTC property. In that case, other properties may or may not be considered by the Executive Board in the future. If the membership decides that the distance is acceptable, by voting NO, the Executive Board will provide additional information on all properties under consideration. If the vote results in a tie, the decision will be made by the Executive Board. This vote should be made strictly on the distance issue and not be concerned with property costs, improvements, buildings, layouts, etc.

Student and associate members are not allowed to vote. For family memberships, each adult member is allowed one vote, children are not allowed to vote.

That does it for this month. Thank you for your consideration of this very important matter.

## Secretary's Reports

by Virgil Young

Board of Directors Meeting August 23, 1999  
Jerry Michels home

President Michels called the meeting to order at 7:33 PM. All of the board members were present.

President Michels reported on the Eveline Rivers Project. Letters have been sent to possible donors and some phone calls made. Jerrell Smith, son of Treasurer Smith, is working on the project as a Boy Scout project. Wall brackets for the track supports have been installed. The layout will use Lionel O-scale equipment.

Secretary Young reported on the PFE car project. Intermountain will re-do the bodies and ship them to us for replacing the bodies in the kits already on hand. We will also add the two extra sprues for proper color of the parts. We will send announcements of the kits and cars to the UP, RI and NP Historical Societies. We will have to advertise these kits more than we have done with other special cars because there will be so many more of them.

President Michels said that there would be another open house this coming Saturday, August 28. Five members have signed up to work during this session. President Michels suggested that we should operate one of the sessions with DCC. He still has not heard from former member Mike Norberg about

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that we have a sign-up board to insure that there are enough members present to hold the sessions and to provide each participant a chance to operate his equipment.

Director Sowle announced that the raffle layout for the Christmas Show will measure 4x8 feet from plans published in *Model Railroader* for December of 1998 and January of 1999. It will be multilevel, have 18 inch minimum radius and use sealing foam for scenery over a Styrofoam base. The club will welcome contributions from all three dealers in Amarillo and will post advertising from the contributing dealers..

The Christmas Show will begin the Friday after Thanksgiving through that weekend, then every weekend thereafter until Christmas week. The show will be open every day of Christmas week until Friday noon on December 24. We will see how the show goes before deciding whether to open the week after Christmas.

President Michels has received notification on the Helium car. It is now sitting at Excel Helium Plant waiting for the club to take delivery. Members who work at Pantex will inquire about storing the car on Pantex tracks.

Treasurer Smith reported that the agreement on purchasing the land at TSTC has been sent back to Waco. The land will cost \$11,000. Treasurer Smith will rent a tractor this coming weekend, August 28, to mow the proposed property.

Member Tom Jones arrived about 8:30 PM and explained what the city might require for the roads on the TSTC property. He said this is especially important to us because of the expense. The club must be very clear on what the city will require before we buy the land.

Member Jones said that the paperwork on the sale of the Roberts Street property is complete except that we are waiting on the Title Company.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:55 PM.

Business Meeting, Amarillo Railroad Museum  
September 2, 1999 Western Plaza

President Michels called the meeting to order at 8:12 PM. There were 17 members present.

President Michels asked if there were any corrections to the minutes as published in the August Run 8. There being none, the minutes stand approved as published.

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

Beginning balance:	\$9,197.51
Income:	\$1,653.64
Expenses:	(\$2,159.89)**
Ending balance:	\$8,691.26

\*\*\$1,443.65 of the expenses was paid to Intermoun-

tain Railway Company on the 192 PFE cars already received.

Old Business:

Treasurer Young reported that the extra sprues for the PFE reefers have been received. The new shells should be in next week. There is little to be gained by packing the sprues until the shells have arrived. Our ad for the PFE cars appeared in the October issue of *Model Railroader*. The advertising for the PFE cars on the web site has not changed.

Treasurer Smith reported that letters requesting donations for The Eveline Rivers Project have been sent. Brackets for the corners are installed and construction will probably start in October. The layout will use Lionel or other O-scale equipment.

President Michels discussed the Christmas Show. Director Sowle is in charge of construction and announced the raffle layout will be based on plans appearing in the December 1998 and January 1999 issues of *Model Railroader*. It will be a multi-level HO layout with 18 inch minimum radius. Scenery will be sealing foam over a Styrofoam base. It will be ready to run by the time the show opens the Friday after Thanksgiving. All three hobby shops will be asked to contribute, and, in return for their contributions, the club will post their advertising near the raffle layout. The show will continue through the Thanksgiving weekend and every weekend thereafter until Christmas week. During Christmas week the show will be open every day until Friday noon, December 24. Decisions about opening the show the week after Christmas will wait until we see how the show goes.

The open houses that are being held on the last Saturday of each month need more members to participate. President Michels asked for ideas on how we can increase member participation.

The proposed purchase of the TSTC land was the next item to be discussed. President Michels said that he and Treasurer Young visited with the City Engineer, Mike Smith, and he agreed to check the land to see if the club could get a variance on curb and gutter requirements. A call to TSTC in Waco revealed that the streets on the TSTC land were never deeded to the City. Mike Smith, after looking at the land, felt that we could obtain a variance. However, we want a written agreement with the City before we buy the property. The site must be platted before we can proceed. Platting will be done after the land is mowed.

President Michels then asked if there were any disagreements on the club's purchase of the TSTC property. There was much discussion, both pro and con, about the purchase.

President Michels announced that we had received title to a Helium car MHAX 1143. It is resting at Excel Helium Plant awaiting pickup.

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President Michels said that letters would be sent to all members telling them that the regular club meeting scheduled for September 16 would be at the TSTC site at 7:00 PM.

Member Griffis and Chris Chambers are continuing a discussion about obtaining the Pantex railroad cars for our display. Member Griffis is also asking about parking our Helium car on Pantex track. President Michels reported that TPRHS has also requested the Pantex cars.

An inquiry into any contacts that members have with BNSF had little response..

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:30 PM.

Both reports respectfully submitted,  
Young, Secretary

Virgil