

ARM-GR Newsletter

August 10, 2025

2025-1

The Amarillo Railroad Museum, located at 1301 I Avenue, Amarillo, 79111, approved the formation of the Special Interest Group, Amarillo Railroad Museum-Garden Railroad “ARM-GR” on May 10, 2025. The group currently operates with an executive committee consisting of designated officers: John Emerson (Chairman), Milton Engelke (Vice Chairman), and Ken Watson (Secretary-Treasurer).

ARM-GR meetings are held monthly at the Museum or another designated venue. Information about the group's vision statement, membership options, and financial objectives has been published, providing details about opportunities to join AMR, ARM-GR, or GR depending on individual interests. www.amarillorailmuseum.com/arm-garden-railroad.

This newsletter contains the vision statement, membership invitation, and financial goals; upcoming editions will focus on reporting club activities.

The Club's initial task involves reconstructing “The Phillip Pratt Memorial Garden Railway that was originally built in 2011 as a memorial for Phillip Pratt, who passed away in 2010. The railway was donated by his mother, Ms. Carol Abraham. Environmental factors over the past decade have affected its physical condition, and ARM-GR has determined a full reconstruction is necessary. Details of the new layout and design can be found in the Vision statement. Demolition of the previous structure commenced in early May 2025, with plans for reopening on May 9, 2026, during the next open house event, when train operations are scheduled

Several photographs have been included to document these activities. Utility poles contributed by XCEL, the local utility provider, have also been noted; the initial delivery consisted of more than 72 poles, generally in good condition. The poles were inspected and cut to required lengths for use in constructing a retaining wall around the perimeter of the design.

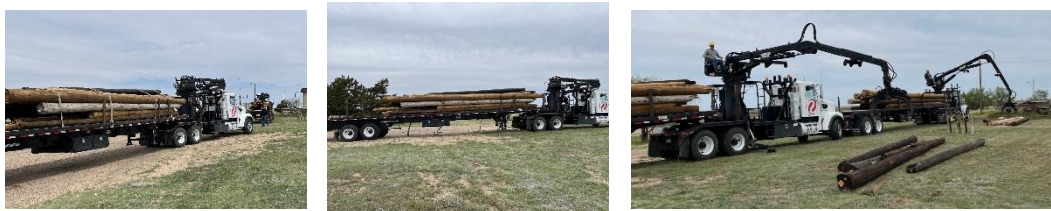


FIGURE 1 INITIAL XCEL POLE DELIVERY APRIL 14, 2025

..



FIGURE 3 THE FUN BEGINS



FIGURE 2 TRACY BALL SORTING POLES



FIGURE 4. JOSEPH STEWARD HELPING WITH DEMOLITION OF THE OLD RAILROAD



FIGURE 5 KEN WATSON AND TRUSTED BOB CAT MOVING LOGS



FIGURE 6 JOHN EMERSON STUDYING THE LAYOUT



FIGURE 7 TRACY BALL DIGGING THE TRENCH FOR RETAINING WALL



FIGURE 8 LOGS SLABBED AND READY TO SET IN TRENCH



FIGURE 9 TRACY BALL AND KENNETH BERRY ON THE SAW MILL SET UP TO SLAB LOGS



FIGURE 10 KEN WATSON AND T BALL SETTING FIRST POLES

As of August 18 we have successfully set, anchored and concreted in 150 poles and feel like we are half way to our goal. Which we have revised over time as our original estimate was for 200 poles for the entire retaining wall. Looks like we'll approach 400 poles and of course we reordered additional poles from Xcel.

Although work on the retaining wall is progressing slowly, efforts are ongoing to develop the future growth plan for the ARM-GR as described in the attached documents. This includes inviting new members and conducting fundraising activities to support these objectives.

We thank everyone who contributed to this project, including Joseph Stewart, Thomas Hanson, Kenneth Berry (who provided the sawmill for slabbing), Tracy Ball (for his dedication and use of the John Deere loader-backhoe, as well as trenching with the mini excavator), Ken Watson (GR's Secretary Treasurer and operator/provider of the Bobcat skid steer), John Emerson (Chairman of GR and chief engineer/designer), and Milt Engelke (newsletter editor and Vice President).



FIGURE 11 RETAINING WALL AS OF 8/18/2025

More next month! mce editor