

KEEPING TRACK

Official Newsletter of the Abilene Society of Model Railroaders

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Editor: Dusty Garison

The Harvey Girls

The Women Who Tamed the West



Enjoying the 2025 Abilene Railroad Festival

The 2025 Abilene Railroad Festival has come and gone, but what a GREAT weekend it was!

It all got started on Friday night, September 12, at Frontier Texas with a delicious meal and a fascinating presentation by Marita Richards (*at left*) and her program about "The Harvey Girls: The Women Who Tamed the West." She spoke about the terrible meal options that faced travelers in the west before Fred Harvey and his revolutionary ideas about food and service, including the wait staff to work in his trackside restaurants: the "Harvey Girls."

The activities continued all day Saturday, from ASMR's multiple layouts in various scales to historical presentations throughout the day, from hearing great stories and live music to arts & craft projects and decorating train cookies, and from riding the trackless train to enjoying good eats from the various food trucks — there was something for everyone to enjoy! We appreciate all the hard work by Corrender Taylor and the Abilene Preservation League, and the countless volunteers who stepped in and helped. See the additional pictures inside on page three.

Here's to the **2026 Abilene Railroad Festival**. All aboard!

Ramblings from your Prez

Railfest is Over, but ASMR Activities Continue

Here's hoping that everyone who participated has recovered from Abilene Rail Festival 2025! It was a busy time, but everyone did a much better and quicker job of setting up and tearing down this year. In between we saw a great response from attendees, and as you'll hear we also picked up some new and prospective members! Next year is already in the planning stages so plan on joining in next year.

For those of you that have not been by the Club in the last couple weeks you may notice we are more rumpled and torn apart than normal. The fire sprinkler system is being checked and recertified, and this has triggered the replacement of all the sprinkler heads and system testing. For us that means a lot of moving things around to allow contractors room to be able to reach all the ceiling heads. We are finally on the downhill side but still have some pallet racking (in lieu of scaffolding), cabinets, donated model railroad items and dusting to put back in their normal spots.

As many of you already know, we have been blessed with some wonderful model railroad donations in September. We have enough quality structures to finish off several new layout features along with possibly adding on to the HO layout to display more layout scenes. If you're interested in adding input and your building expertise please speak up, there will be enough opportunities to help, for everyone.

Since RailFest, and as we move into the holiday season, we are seeing more visitors and exposure. With this in mind we need everyone that can to help with finishing projects on the layout, helping with cataloging – repairing – cleaning donated and overflow club items. We would like to have some of our overflow items available for sale / fundraising for our Open House, coming up in December. We need the room, and this will allow us to put a little more cash in the savings account.

Your Prez,
Dan



ASMR Meeting Minutes September 2025

A meeting of the ASMR was opened at approximately 10:00, September 6, 2025, by President Dan Schueler. The following members were present or arrived after the meeting had started: Ken Riediger, Scott Strickler, Dusty Garison, Cody Hilliard, Dan Schueler, Fred Rogge, David Hills, Amanda Leggett, Kent Stark, Reed Leggett, Jerry Wagamon, Jonathan Scherr, Jim Gibson, Christopher Stephens, Don Balch, Darrel Rich.

Minutes

The minutes of the August meeting were read by Secretary Cody Hilliard. A motion to approve the Secretary's report was made by Jim Gibson and seconded by Ken Riediger with all members in agreement.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Ken Riediger reported that the balance of the account as of September 1 was \$925.37 with total club assets equaling \$9680.22. A motion to approve the Treasurer's report was made by Kent Stark and seconded by Jim Gibson with all members in agreement.

Old Business

- Dan started the meeting by introducing new member Darrel Rich.
- Dan then asked if there were any updates on the renovation of the layout. Nobody had any updates.
- Ken reported that we had 2 members past due for a total of \$215.00.
- Ken and Jerry have some trains for sale.
- Ken's operating session would be on September 20.
- Ken reported that the calendars are in and they are nearly all sold. He mentioned that we might have to order more.
- Dan mentioned that the fifth camera has been installed.
- Ken did not have anything to report on the signs.
- Dan started a conversation about Railfest by updating the club on what we were planning.
- Kent reported that Scott is doing a clinic on graffiti decals after business meeting. .
- Dan was happy to report that the bathroom was operational for the members, but we would need to keep it clean or we would lose those rights.
- Election of club officers is in October so the club needed to have their nominations done at this meeting. Jim Gibson made motion to nominate current officers, and this was seconded by Fred Rogge.
- Dan then moved on to Facebook and mentioned that Jon's wife is going to help with getting Facebook working properly.

New Business

- Dan let everyone know that we had an O-gauge layout donated to the club just in time for us to use it at the Railfest.
- Fred volunteered to open the layout up for anybody that came by while the rest of us were at Railfest.

With no further business the meeting was closed at 11:01 by President Dan Schueler.

Respectfully submitted,
Cody Hilliard, Secretary
Abilene Society of Model Railroaders



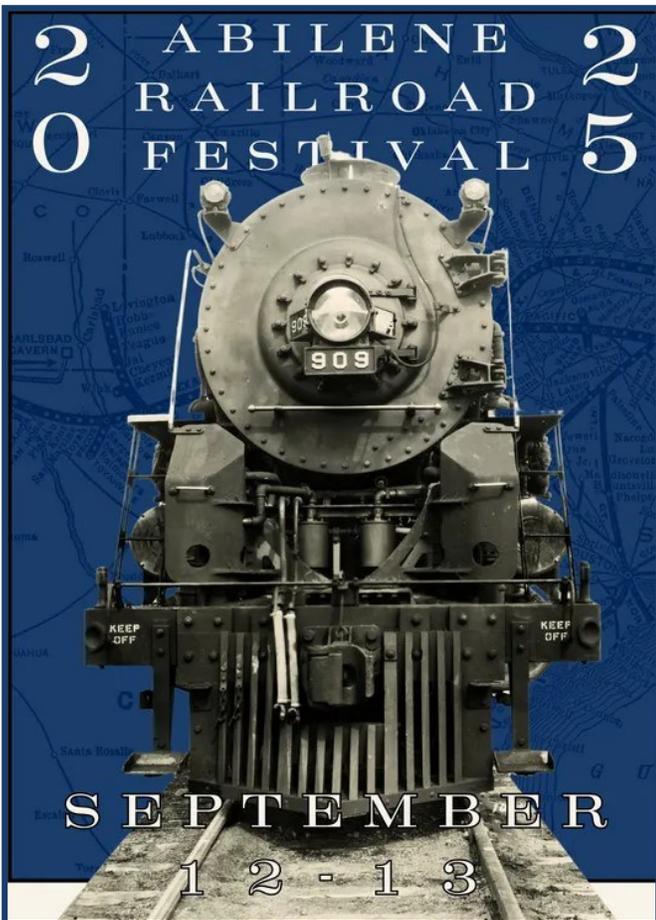
KRBN RR September OP Session by Ken Riediger

Well, the September Op Session actually started August 27th. On that day we had set up for a group of real railroaders to come operate the layout. Lonny had invited several of his railroad buddies to come. Only Bill Stein came but he brought a family he knew with him – a father and two boys. They are the same ones that came to the August Op session. This group ran a total of six trains while compiling no errors. Bill had not been to the layout for several years (on a previous railroad OP Session). This time the youngest son (Nate) operated a train with his dad instead of railfanning like he did the previous session.

For the September 20th OP Session, we had six operators – Lonny, Dusty, Cecil, Reed, Jonathan and rookie Connor Gardner. We also had one railfan, Billy. Connor is a new club member that joined the club after Railfest. This group moved the last eight trains of the “day.” We had one train that “hogged out” and that was the local out of Kannapolis yard. He kept getting put in the sidings to let other trains pass by the dispatcher. He was able to make it to East Kannapolis and had to let a dog catch crew (me) finish the work. Lonny will come over on the 29th of September to help reconcile the Kannapolis Yard, then I can start a new “day” and get trains ready for the October OP Session. It is exciting to be getting some new crews to operate.

Hope to see you at the next session on October 18th at 1:30 pm.

*Seen at the Abilene Railroad Festival...
Thanks to Ken Riediger and others who contributed
photos — for MANY more, go online to
[abilenepreservationleague.org/newslettersandevents/
past-events/25-abilene-railroad-festival.html](http://abilenepreservationleague.org/newslettersandevents/past-events/25-abilene-railroad-festival.html)*



The Editor Speaks –

AT THE FALL PLANO TRAIN SHOW

So, Abilene was not the only place to enjoy lots of railroad-related fun in September. There was a terrific train show last weekend in Plano!

Many of us have attended the annual Plano Train Show that occurs every year in January — weather permitting! But there is also an autumn show, which for various reasons, our club does not usually attend. But at least a few of us were able to attend last month, and I (for one) thoroughly enjoyed it!

One of the things I appreciate are the personal touches that the various model builders display in their individual modules. There's no telling what you might see, from Candyland or a circus, to Harry Potter and dinosaurs, and from logging lines to highly detailed passenger terminals: the imagination and showmanship is really fabulous!

As the saying goes, *Model Railroading is Fun!*

Dusty

