

Austin Model Railway Society
July 20, 2019
LifeWorks
835 N. Pleasant Valley Rd., Austin

Minutes

Attendees

David Brockmeier, David Petersen, John Ames, Tim Giraud, Andy Curtis, Shjava Rouse, Steve Jackobs, Frankie Wright, Joel Davidson, Pedro Reyes, George Zapalac. Visitors: Mike Hitzfelder, Noah Jarrett, Jeri Jarrett.

Call to order

The meeting convened at 12:10 PM with David Petersen chairing.

Purchase of trailer

The executive committee is investigating the possible purchase of a used trailer to store and transport the club's modules. The trailer has been offered for sale by a local model railroader and is longer but not as tall as the new one which the club had been considering.

Search for temporary lease space

The executive committee is attempting to find a real estate agent who may be willing to help us find temporary lease space in a vacant storefront.

Planning for next phase of layout

David Petersen feels that the next phase of the layout, including up to 9 modules representing downtown Austin, will fit into the present space at LifeWorks. These will be 36" wide modules and will cost about \$10 more than the original 24" modules. Several attendees said they are interested in building one or more of these modules. One issue to address is how to build track in the downtown streets. Gator foam and styrene were two options suggested. David said he'd like to build these modules in his shop so that they will be consistent. He will schedule an evening meeting of the layout design committee in mid-August to flesh out plans for the next phase.

Membership

George Zapalac reminded everyone to pay their 2019 dues if they have not already done so.

Visitors Mike Hitzfelder and Noah Jarrett introduced themselves. Mike is a member of the CentraMod club in Temple and learned about AMRS through the NMRA Division meeting. Noah is a volunteer with the Austin Steam Train and is interested in joining AMRS as a youth member.

Website

Peter Kazmir has made some additions to the current website so we can provide more information to prospective members. David Petersen has listed his phone number as a contact for membership information and has already received some calls. He has also printed up some business cards to hand

out to potential members and offered to make more for anyone who wants them. Peter is still working on a totally new website to replace the existing site.

Rolling stock inventory

Pedro Reyes has set up a spreadsheet to keep track of rolling stock, and Peter is going to set it up so that anyone can enter their own information. It was suggested that the spreadsheet be password or write-protected for security purposes. The inventory will be used to set up operating sessions, to keep track of ownership of rolling stock, and to identify equipment that has passed certification.

Donated items

George reminded everyone who is interested in any items donated to AMRS by First Hobby to mark up the sheets that were distributed previously and send them to Riley Triggs. Riley will have a get-together at his house to go through the items and identify those we want to keep for the club and those we want to sell. Items will be sold to club members for their own use at half the list price.

George said that we are receiving inquiries about new donations almost every week. We are screening items that we feel are useful for the club but want to avoid collecting a lot of items that don't fit with our concept. He also brought some items from Harry Petheram's estate that were left over from the May train show. Some items were sold to members for a total of \$47, and other items were given away.

Need for more participation in setup and teardown

Concerns have been expressed that most of the setup and teardown is being done by the same half-dozen people every month. George said that he realizes that not everyone can devote a whole day or even a half-day to the club meetings every month, and several members have physical constraints that limit their involvement. But he asked that everyone who is able try to take part in either the setup or teardown so that the workload is spread out among more members. He suggested that we start the teardown by 3:15 so that we can finish by 4:00. Joel Davidson also plans to write up the procedures for connecting the power supply, and David Petersen will do a write-up on the entry gate, so that other people can help out with these jobs. They will provide a training session on these tasks at the September meeting.

Other business

David Petersen demonstrated the new rail anchoring system he and John Ames have been working on for the module ends to better align the rail ends. Features include:

- A 2" plywood roadbed piece at the end to better secure the track
- PC board ties to which the track is soldered at the rail ends
- DAP semi-gel CA adhesive to fasten the PC board ties to the plywood
- Screws to hold the module ends in place, rather than the press-fit used on the original modules

The goal is to retrofit the existing modules over time. David has developed a new fixture as a cutting guide to remove the old rail ends and replace them with the plywood and PC board ties. He and John are going to experiment with two of the existing modules before the next meeting. At future meetings we can begin repairing any modules that cause problems.

It was mentioned that something is needed to keep the alignment pins at the module ends from retracting. A piece of wood or a screw behind the pin were suggested to correct this problem.

The meeting adjourned at 12:40 PM.

Next meeting

August 17, 2019 - 9 AM to 4 PM at LifeWorks

Work session to repair modules

Inspection of equipment