

Get On Board!

with the

Abilene Society of Model Railroaders

Mission

The Abilene Society of Model Railroaders (ASMR) is an officially chartered [501(C)4] non-profit organization. It was established to promote public awareness and appreciation of Abilene's Railroad heritage, and the important role played by railroads in national and local history. It strives to do this utilizing various educational programs and projects, including operating model railroad layouts.

History

In 1990, Abilene's mayor decided the city should begin celebrating its significant railroad heritage with a community festival which would include model railroad layouts. Responding to the mayor's call, several local model railroaders got together and built a modular HO-scale layout, and a Lionel "toy train" layout in time for the first "Abilene Railroad Festival" which took place the following spring.

The model railroaders enjoyed building the layouts for Railfest so much, they decided to form a club. Thus was born the Abilene Society of Model Railroaders.

Abilene's Preservation League provided space for ASMR to set up operating layouts in the old Cypress Building downtown, and for the next five years ASMR had a home there. During that time the HO layout grew steadily in size and



complexity, and was moved to the Civic Center each year for display during Railfest weekend. The Lionel layout was modified with an upper level for American Flyer S-gauge train operation. ASMR regularly entertained large crowds during downtown activities like Artwalk, City Sidewalks, and other special occasions. Sadly, in 1995, the club had to vacate the Cypress Building when the historic structure underwent a complete restoration.

ASMR Today

After several interim moves, the club is currently located in the old TSTI facility at 2043 North 2nd St., directly behind the former Coke bottling plant (now Higginbotham Brothers Lumber) on North 1st St.

ASMR presently operates one permanent layout. Due to space constraints, the one-time 22 X 48-foot HO-scale pike has been reconfigured to an 18 X 24-foot "horseshoe", with an L-shape leg that goes out 8 feet from one side and is 20 feet long. The layout has a double track main and is set up to run either conventional or "Digitrax" DCC-equipped engines.

Trains are controlled with plug-in, walk-around throttles. Wide radius curves and long straight-aways can easily accommodate 25 to 50-car trains. The theme is generally the 1950s "transition era", because members enjoy running both steam and diesel-powered freight and passenger trains.

The club also has a modular traveling layout. It is HO-scale and is built to be easily transported and quickly set up for display. It can be configured in different shapes and

sizes to fit available spaces. It has been featured at various local area public events, including the Abilene State School's "Christmas Lane".



Membership Information

Starting with less than a dozen founding members, ASMR currently has around 25. A wide range of ages, occupations, and interests in model and prototypical railroading are represented. Several members also have home layouts in various scales.

Membership is open to any person who enjoys model trains, railroad history and lore, "railfanning", collecting railroad memorabilia, or just about any aspect of the overall subjects of railroads and model railroading.

The initiation fee is \$25. Dues are \$15 per month for members

age 18 - 65, \$10 for ages 65 - 70 and 14 - 18, and \$5 for 70-plus. The "family rate" is \$20 per month. *Note: Members under age 14 must be accompanied by an adult. If their parent is a member their dues are only \$2 per month.*

Business meetings are held at 10 a.m., the first Saturday of each month. Clinics on various model railroad subjects are held from time to time, and the club also hosts periodic Open Houses for the public. Informal sessions for train running start at 7 p.m. on Tuesdays & 10 a.m. on Saturdays. Operating sessions are on the third Saturday of each month.



Please don't hesitate to drop in and visit with us during any of our informal Tuesday or Saturday sessions. If you have questions, feel free to contact any of the following club members:
Ken Riediger, president, 692-8419
Jim Frankenfeld, vice president, 676-5906
Cody Hilliard, secretary, 690-9574
Ken England, treasurer, 695-2458

ABILENE SOCIETY of MODEL RAILROADERS



**2043 North 2nd Street
Abilene, Texas 79603**

(See contacts on back of brochure.)

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