

**DENTON AREA
MODEL RAILROAD CLUB**



DENTON, TEXAS



Club Edition

September, 2006

Club web site: <http://www.trainweb.org/damrrc>

North Texas RR Clubs Web Site:

<http://www.dfwtrainsshows.com/index.html>

DENTON AREA MODEL RAILROAD CLUB

Minutes of 8 - August -2006

The August meeting was called to order at 7:03 PM by Club President Tom Fisher. The minutes of the July 2006 meeting as circulated in the August Newsletter were approved. There were 27 members and one guest (Bob Estes) present.

Treasurer's Report by Kevin Williams; The report was read and approved

Metroplex Council Report by Dave Gramm;

Train Show Update. Fort Worth has 163 tables reserved, including 49 dealer tables; Plano has 223 tables reserved, including 69 dealer tables. One half-page ad each is scheduled in the September/October, November/December and January/February issues of the Cowcatcher Roundup, and advertising in local newspapers is being explored. Special motel rates are available for the Fort Worth show at the Days Inn Fort Worth and for the Plano show at the Super 8 Plano; ask for the train show rate. Work assignments, including the 14 hours to which our Club has committed, will be made at the Sept. 19 Council meeting.

Web Page. Updated Web page should be on line now.

New Club. Blackland Rail Gang has joined the Metroplex Council.

Announcements

Historic Photos. Kevin Williams will e-mail to Club members a Web link to historic photos of the Denton area.

N Scale Equipment. Ethan Goin reported that a Loram rail grinder has been sighted in the peanut spur at Aubrey, working its way south.

Welcome Back. Tom Fisher and the Club welcome back Mike Havey.

Old Business

North Texas State Fair. Fred Williams distributed admission and parking passes to those who will be working with the N-scale modular layout during the North Texas State Fair Aug. 18-26. A total of 22 members signed up to work during the fair. Members who need to change times are encouraged to find a substitute and arrange for transfer of passes. Fred and Jim Fagan are emergency contacts.

Free-Mo Module Updates.

Work Sessions. Work sessions have made good progress. No work sessions scheduled in August due to Club's participation in North Texas State Fair. Jon Moore moved that the Sept. 12 Club meeting be held at the regular time at the Goins' and be followed by a work session, Kevin Williams seconded, motion carried unanimously. Additional work sessions are scheduled at the Goins' Saturday Sept. 9 at 6 p.m., Saturday Sept. 23 at 6 p.m. and Tuesday Sept. 26 at 7 p.m. All Club members, regardless of scale and whether they will have a Free-Mo module, are encouraged to attend. September work sessions will concentrate on track and wiring, with a goal of having half of the modules operational by the Fort Worth Train Show.

Loops. Reversers will be needed for both loops and the wye. Jon Moore moved that Dave Gramm and Dave Taverner be authorized to purchase reversers, plugs and wire for all modules at a price not to exceed \$300, Jim Fagan seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Construction. Dave Taverner reports that 39 module frames have been completed and are ready for track-laying. Dave is exploring ways to brace the PVC legs to make them less wobbly.

Skirting. Dave Taverner is checking availability of alternative skirting materials from a company that builds trade-show displays.

Scenery. Rick Schleppehorst has a new work assignment that will occupy most of his spare time; Dave Taverner will provide future updates from the scenery committee while Rick settle into his new duties.

Operation. Free-Mo layouts are operation-oriented, rather than display oriented, so the Club will need to develop an operating

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Club Officers

Tom Fisher
President

Dave Gramm
Vice-President

Pat Hiatte
Secretary

Kevin Williams
Treasurer

Newsletter Editor
Dave Taverner
nkplt@yahoo.com

From the President's Notebook

My fellow pikers,

As everyone is aware by now, our participation at the North Texas State Fair was a success, despite two small problems: (1) we were placed in a tiny, secluded building in the back of the fairgrounds and (2) we were not included in any publicity or announcements, nor mentioned on the NTSF web site.

The net result was that few fairgoers knew where to find us or that we were there at all. Some visitors even told us that they looked for us and expected to see us at our old location next to Elsie the Cow. The media people we were requested to prepare for never showed up, most likely because they didn't know about us either. Fred spoke with the NTSF staff about our two concerns, and they are at least aware.

Nonetheless, it was a victory. Everyone showed for his or her promised shifts, so we were fully staffed as needed, and we were well received by our visitors. Next year we will set up our FreeMo layout, which will require a lot more space. Publicity and cramped quarters should be no issue at all.

On Saturday, October 14, the city of Gainesville will be celebrating its Depot Days festival. They spent decades gathering the funds needed to restore their depot before the bulldozers could get to it, and today it is indeed a thing of beauty. It now serves Amtrak and was once operated by the Katy and Santa Fe. It even had a Harvey House restaurant, with an upstairs dormitory where the Harvey Girls lived. The curator of Gainesville's Morton Museum and Santa Fe Depot's Museum asked if we would be interested in setting up a display at that time.

So on August 16, I drove with Jim Fagan and Dave Taverner up to Gainesville, and we spoke with curator Shana Powell about setting up one or both layouts. We agreed to show the N scale in the depot and maybe – just *maybe* – we can squeeze some FreeMo into the Morton Museum. We will set up on Friday evening and conduct operations all day Saturday. This should be an enjoyable experience.

And finally, as I said last month, the FreeMo project is coming along well. We will have resumed construction by the time you read this, and the layout may be in good enough condition to show part of it at the Gainesville festival. We'll see when the time comes.

– Tom –

Editors Note:

I must admit that I am terrible at identifying diesels. I have trouble telling a SD-7 from an SD-40. So, if we could get some input from our members, I thought we could have a column on diesel spotters. I could post some pics showing your favorite diesel or one you would like to be able to learn to spot when you are railfanning. Let me know what you think? Dave

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plan for the layout. Operations-minded members of the club are encouraged to submit suggestions. Shane Murphy pointed out that module owners will need to plan for sidings and spurs for train meets and passes and industrial switching.

New Business

Gainesville Museum Display. The Club has been invited by Shana Powell, the curator of the Morton and Santa Fe Depot museums at Gainesville, to display its modules Saturday, Oct. 14 during Depot Days at one or both museums. Dave Taverner moved that the Club accept the invitation, with nature of display to be determined by space available, Kevin Williams seconded, motion carried unanimously. Tom Fisher and Dave Taverner will inspect the museums and report on space available.

Santa Fe Railway Historical and Modeling Society Convention Display. Russ Covitt, who is in charge of exhibit space for the Santa Fe Railway Historical and Modeling Society convention June 21-24 at Midwest City (a suburb of Oklahoma City) offered the Club space for a display. Admission to the convention would be complimentary; Club members would be responsible for transportation and lodging. Consensus was that the Club will consider the offer and respond by the end of the year.

Membership:

The active membership remained steady at 41.

Program; No program this month.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Pat Hiatte, Secretary

RAILROADING TERMS

Last issue's term: "Beanery;

A railroad eating house.

This issue's term: "Angle Bar"

Do you know what it means?

Next module sessions Saturday, September 9th. See entire schedule on page 3 of the newsletter

Train Shows and Club Meeting Schedule Thru October, 2006

Next business meeting at 7pm **Tuesday, September 12, 2006**

Meet at the **Noel Goin's home**, work session to follow short meeting.

Do not meet at the civic center this month!

October business meeting, Tuesday, Oct 10, 2006

Gainesville Depot Day, October 14, 2006. We will set up the N-scale layout in the Sante Fe Depot in Gainesville and maybe the Free-mo in the museum if we have some ready!



Free-Mo layout work schedule for September; All work sessions will be held at Noel Goin's home.
See below for directions.

Saturday, September 9th, 6:00 P.M. to 9:30 P.M.

Tuesday, September 12th, 7:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M.; business meeting followed by a work session.

Saturday, September 23rd, 6:00 P.M. to 9:30 P.M.

Tuesday, September 26th, 7:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M.

The first Saturday session will be getting the extra braces on the loop modules, gluing in the foam and laying roadbed. Work will progress as needed from that point with each session. We would like to have at least enough modules with roadbed and some scenery done in time to present at the Gainesville exhibit. I will give more details at the club meeting.

For directions to Noels home, please email Dave T.



Photos from the 2006 State Fair exhibit

**DON'T FORGET, THE BUSINESS MEETING WILL BE HELD AT
NOEL GOIN'S SHOP AT 7:00 PM, WORK SESSION TO FOLLOW
THE MEETING. PLAN TO ATTEND!!**

DO NOT GO TO THE CIVIC CENTER FOR THE MEETING, NO ONE WILL BE THERE!