

# The Splitswitch

Home of the San Antonio & Northern Railroad

January 2006

[www.samrarail.org](http://www.samrarail.org)

volume 63 issue 1

## JAMBOREE 2006

This is the last Splitswitch before the Jamboree. It will be the last meeting, the last discussion, the last everything. The time for talking and planning has passed. It is now time for action and work.

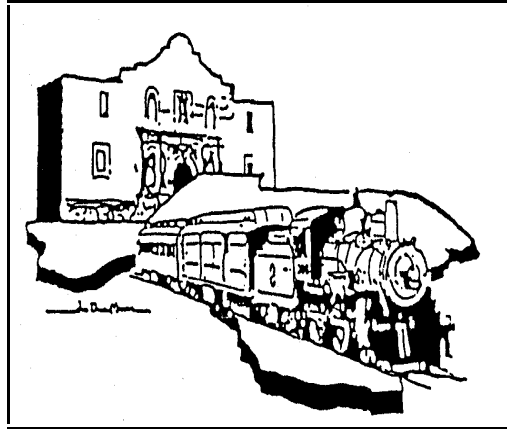
As we all are aware, the Jamboree is what makes our low dues, our on going layout work, our monthly expenditures possible. Everything we do is directly related to the success of the Jamboree.

SAMRA needs each and every member to go to work. We need flyers circulated, people talked to, friends and relatives encouraged to attend the show. Whatever any of you can do to get people to the show is what we want.

All the committees have been working to obtain vendors, exhibitors and create advertising for the show. We have done as much as possible. The rest is now up to the members. Remember, this is your club. In the last few years, we have seen new members join, younger members that we need to keep our organization going. Let's have a great turnout of support so we can have a great Jamboree.

The Jamboree will be held on January 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>, 2006, at Live Oak Civic Center. We will be looking for help starting at 2:00 p.m. on Friday, January 27<sup>th</sup>. So clear your calendars, mark the dates, get your "honey-do's"

(See Jamboree pg. 2)



## San Antonio Model Railroad Association, Inc

**Maintenance Crew # 1**  
**Workdays**  
January 7 & 21

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## Monday Morning Breakfast Group

Meets @ 8:00 am every Monday  
Denney's - 281 & Bitters

**Board of Directors**  
Tuesday, January 10  
7:30 pm at Museum

**General Membership Meeting**  
Friday, January 13  
7:00 pm at Museum

**Lone Star Region**  
Saturday, January 21  
2:00 pm at Museum

**Layout Management  
Committee**  
Monday, January 9  
6:30 pm at Museum

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Please accept my wish that you all have the GREATEST CHRISTMAS ever. Let it be a warm and loving family event, and that it celebrates the true meaning of Christmas - the remarkable birth of the Christ-child. Let us all remember that it is this birth that we celebrate. The gift giving and feasting is not the reason for the holiday but rather a symbol of our love for Him and for mankind.

Also please know that I am extremely grateful for all the support that I have been shown by the members of SAMRA during a very trying period in my life. It was and is a real help when it was sorely needed. THANKS!

May this be a memorable holiday for each and every one of you. Also, let's not forget that four short weeks after New Years is our Jamboree. We immediately have to turn our attention to the Jamboree to make it the success that it needs to be to continue to pay for our rapidly developing layout.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND  
HAPPY NEW YEAR!**



## Jamboree (continued from pg. 1)

done. This is when your club needs you to be available to help. With all of us working together, I'm confident this will be our most successful Jamboree yet.

We are the number one show in San Antonio. The hardest thing to do is to maintain that standing. We can only do it with your help.

Call me at 210-218-4872 to volunteer.

Thank you.

Paul Lawler



### TEAM #1

**SHARON MAINZ 822-6409**

Jim Atterbury	656-4258
Bill Carpenter	684-6418
Jim Dart	699-0424
Bill Eubank	651-9521
John Green	658-5623
John Green Jr.	830-620-0415
Paul Lawler	647-4306
Pat & Joe Mackin	342-4829
Joe Mainz	822-6409
Ron Nagel	653-7679
John Sanders	677-0977
Charles Spangler	830-228-4694
Paul Steves	494-6350
Robert Stobbe	830-890-2573
Robert Taylor	655-3501
Jim Tucker	677-0710

## CHRISTMAS PARTY THANK YOU

SHARON MAINZ

I think everyone who made it to Biff Buzby's for supper enjoyed their meals—I know I did. Thank you Harold Scott for setting that up

It was great seeing all of you at the party. I want to thank also everyone who brought those delicious desserts—did my share of tasting quite a few. The suggestion was made that next year you put your name on the dessert you made and bring the recipe too.

**Most of all, I want to thank John Lowrance, Mike Dickmann, Vernon Luza and Allan Beck for providing that outstanding music that really made the evening special !!!!** (also all you who sang along too)



## 'CANS'

Remember to bring your empty aluminum cans to SAMRA for recycling. The money made from recycling cans goes into the general fund to help pay for the needs of the club. This is an easy way to put some extra money into the treasury without digging into your pockets.



**PLEASE HELP!**

## CLINIC

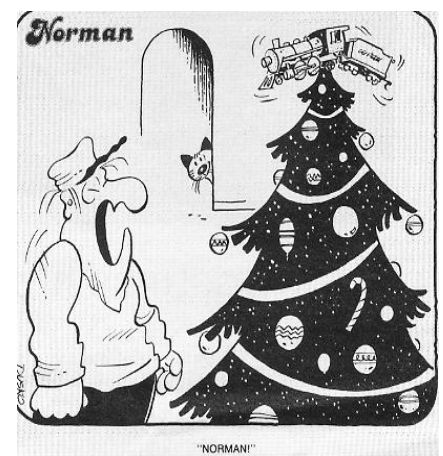
Mr. Hugh Hemphill will be the guest speaker at our January clinic. Mr. Hemphill is the Ex. Dir. of the Texas Transportation Museum Inc. in San Antonio, and has written a book, *The Railroads of San Antonio and South Central Texas*. He will talk about the events leading up to the writing and publication of his book. Mr. Hemphill has been a frequent visitor to SAMRA and we look forward to his presentation at our clinic in January.

The February clinic will be hosted by Al Boos who always give us good modeling tips. He will be working with cast urethane, showing us how to construct molds and make parts for cars, buildings, etc. It should be an informative clinic.

In March, John Forist will present his clinic originally scheduled for last November. John will show us how to plan, build and run a layout on the computer.

We have some interesting clinics lined up. Hope to see you all there.

Thanks,  
Paul Lawler



# JANUARY 2006

# SAMRA

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
HAPPY NEW YEAR Westlakes Mall 12-4p	MMBG Work Night 6:30-9P		Workday 9A-2P "Krispy Kreme"		Westlakes Mall 4-7p	Workday 8A-12P Westlakes Mall 10A-6P Maint. Crew #1
<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
Westlakes Mall 12-4p	MMBG Work Night 6:30-9P LMC 6:30 PM	BOD 7:30 pm @ Museum	Workday 9A-2P		Westlakes Mall 4-7p General Meeting 7:00p @ Museum	Workday 8A-12P Westlakes Mall 10A-6P
<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
Westlakes Mall 12-4p	MMBG Work Night 6:30-9P		Workday 9A-2P		Westlakes Mall 4-7p	Workday 8A-12P Westlakes Mall 10A-6P LSR 2PM Maint. Crew #1
<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
Westlakes Mall 12-4p	MMBG Work Night 6:30-9P		Workday 9A-2P		Westlakes Mall 4-7p	Workday 8A-12P Westlakes Mall 10A-6P JAMBOREE 10a – 5p
<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>				
Westlakes Mall 12-4p JAMBOREE 10a - 4p	MMBG Work Night 6:30-9P					

**MMBG** – Monday Morning Breakfast Group meets 8:00 @ Denny's 281 & Bitters

**LMC** – Layout Management Committee Meeting

**MGWT** – Module Group Work Time

**Westlakes** – Westlakes Mall Module Group Open House

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Joe Covert	16
Bill Laird	16
Jim Dart	18
John Forist	18
Bill Eubank	20
Shirley Schaefer	22
Paul Steves	26
Robert Hagerty	27
John Barteau	30

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Jack & Arlene Morgan	12
Robert & Ginny Jawalka	15
Jim & Geri Temple	28
Gary & Brenda Maitland	31

## LSR CONVENTION - 2006 "Tracks to the Alamo"

The start of a new year finds members of the 2006 Lone Star Region convention planning committee rushing headlong to finalize preparations for the June 1-4 convention to be held in San Antonio.

Committee chairpersons are busy lining up clinics, prototype tours, home layout tours, operating sessions and non-rail activities. As we push closer to the convention date, they will need the help of other SAMRA members. There will be dozens of volunteers needed to help man the contest room, assist homeowners with the layout tours, help prepare and man the silent auction room, and monitor and provide assistance to clinicians. If you have interest in helping, please contact the following chairpersons:



Contests – Mark Schroeder  
Silent Auction – Charlie and Dawn Spangler  
Layout Tours – John Lowrance  
Clinics – Al Boos  
Non-Rail activities – Barbara Dickmann

Our committee is putting together a great convention, so we urge fellow SAMRA members to make plans to attend. Here's a brief look at what's planned:

- SAMRA's Harold Bryant will lead a hands-on clinic on soldering. There's an Extra Fare cost for the clinic, but for your \$15 you get a new soldering iron complete with stand, solder and a heat-sink tool. The clinic will be limited to the first 25 participants.
- Those fans of the Missouri-Kansas-Texas Railroad will want to make sure they attend Ray George's clinic. George, a long-time Katy Historical Society member and author of two Katy books – "Katy Power" (1986) and "Missouri-Kansas-Texas Lines – In Color" (1992) – will discuss Katy operations in San Antonio and South Texas.
- Plans are coming together for prototype tours of the Trans Texas Rail Shop and Capitol Cement. Harold Schroeder's Trans Texas Rail Shop is a car and engine rebuilding operation. And the visit to Capitol Cement could provide SAMRA members some invaluable ideas on modeling an industry that has traditionally relied upon rail support. Extra Fare cost is \$15 for each tour with a limit of 40 attendees per tour. See Al Boos for information.
- Don't forget the two decaling clinics that SAMRA's Dennis Pierce will be conducting. Each class is limited to 16 participants and costs \$15. But participants will walk away from the clinic with one of just 32 2006 LSR commemorative cars, which are certain to be collectors items. Better yet, the cars will be lettered for SAMRA member Charlie Spangler's DawCha Southern Railroad. Sign up now while you can!
- And for those who just love a good massage, Non-Rail chair Barbara Dickmann has made arrangements with a masseuse to give 1-hour, full-body massages for \$55, or 10-minute to 15-minute upper neck massages for \$10. Scheduling of this Extra Fare offering depends upon advance notification. So if you are interested, talk to Barbara Dickmann or e-mail her at [mdickmann@hotmail.com](mailto:mdickmann@hotmail.com).

And remember, you can keep abreast of the latest developments by checking out the official convention Web site at [www.samr rail.org/LSR](http://www.samr rail.org/LSR). SAMRA member John Forist is doing a great job of posting updates.

(See "LSR" pg. 5)

LSR (continued from pg. 4)

And if you would like to receive our weekly e-mail briefings on the convention, just send an e-mail to [gem21@sbcglobal.net](mailto:gem21@sbcglobal.net) and I will put you on my e-mail address list.

Until next month, let's ride the "Tracks to the Alamo" for 2006!

Gary E. Maitland  
Chair, 2006 LSR convention

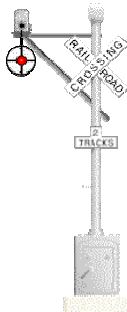
*Happy New Year*

**From Harold Scott:**

SAMRA's landmark sentinel, the semaphore, dark for the past few weeks is now aglow. It seems high winds a few weeks ago caused the arm to loosen and expose the white light. OH! "For a few good men," to paraphrase the Marine Corps motto.

One talented SAMRA member Scott Pringel, and aide de camp (son Josh), analyzed the problem and on Dec 5<sup>th</sup> 2005 fixed the semaphore. We now have a shining red light again. A big pat on the back to Scott and Josh for a job well done. The repair was made in such a way that this should not happen again.

Further, the mercury vapor night light on the West side of the building had been out for several weeks. Scott returned and replaced the bulb and everything is back to normal. More pats on the back for a job well done.



**Twas The Day After Christmas**

Twas the day after Christmas, and  
all through the house,  
Every creature was hurtin', even  
the mouse.  
The toys were all broken, their  
batteries dead;  
Santa passed out, with some ice on  
his head.

Wrapping and ribbons just  
covered the floor,  
While upstairs the family  
continued to snore.

And I in my T-shirt, new Reeboks  
and jeans,  
I went into the kitchen and started  
to clean.

When out on the lawn there arose  
such a clatter,  
I sprang from the sink to see what  
was the matter.

Away to the window I flew like a  
flash,  
Tore open the curtains, and threw  
up the sash.

When what to my wondering eyes  
should appear,  
But a little white truck, with an  
oversized mirror.

The driver was smiling, so  
lively and grand;  
The patch on his jacket said  
"U.S. POSTMAN."

With a handful of bills, he  
grinned like a fox.  
Then quickly he stuffed them  
into our mailbox.

Bill after bill, after bill, they  
still came.  
Whistling and shouting he  
called them by name:  
"Now Dillard's, now  
Broadway's, now Penny's and  
Sears. Here's Robinson's,  
Levitz's and Target's and  
Mervyn's. To the tip or your  
limit, every store, every mall,  
Now chargeaway-chargeaway-  
chargeaway all!"

He whooped and he whistled  
as he finished his work.  
He filled up the box, and then  
turned with a jerk.  
He sprang to his truck and he  
drove down the road,  
Driving much faster with just  
half a load.

Then I heard him exclaim with  
great holiday cheer,

"ENJOY WHAT YOU  
BOUGHT....."

## Yaak from Kaak

Our Christmas party, December 10, 2005 was a big success. Members who attended were the Robert Barkers, Al Boos(es), Jim Connors, Mike Dickmanns, John Greens, John Green(s) Jr, Wayne Hammelmanns, Ernie Kaaks, Paul Lawlers, John Lowrances, Vernon Luzas, Joe Mainzes, Jack Morgans, Dennis Pierces, Scott Priegels, Troy Robins, Don Scotts, Paul Steves (s), Dan Wolpers, and also, Barteau, Beck, Bond, Booth, Eubanks, Schroeder, Harold Scott, Taylor, Tieken, John Forist and friend, and Paul McCabe.

Mike Dickmann drew the custom car by Al Boos, and Chuck Booth drew my paper sides match built car. Our raffle drawing, an outdoor lighted train, was won by our President, John Barteau.

Sharon Mainz did her usual great job of decorating the conference room and setting it up for the “ooey gooey” and our Christmas tree was decorated by Sandi Barnes. Everything looked really beautiful- thanks so much!!

We had music by Mike Dickmann, John Lowrance, Allan Beck and our new member, Vernon Luza---the group is now called the SAMRA Railroaders, and was enjoyed by all.

It was really good to see Jim Ladd back again- you have been sorely missed.

Donations:

Cookies	Jim Ladd
Sodas	Sandi Barnes
Saw blades	Paul Steves
Electrical Supplies	Dr. Carl Marnatti
Bag of lichen	Dr. Carl Marnatti
Doyle Bond	24 cans of Dr. Pepper
HO cars	Robert Morrison ( from Winston-Salem, N. C.)

If I've left anyone out, I do apologize and will correct it in the next issue.

Don't forget ---- Dues are due January 1, 2006.

**Ring out the  
old year.  
Ring in the  
New Year!**



***The Splitswitch***

San Antonio Model Railroad Association, Inc.  
7702 Narrow Pass St.  
Live Oak, TX 78233 - 2947



**San Antonio & Northern Railroad**

**COMING EVENTS**

**Houston - World's Greatest Hobby On Tour  
January 7 & 8, 2006**

**George R. Brown Convention Center, 1001 Avenida de las Americas**

**San Antonio – San Antonio Model Railroad Assn. Train Show  
Saturday (10a-5p) and Sunday (10a – 4p), January 28 & 29, 2006  
Live Oak Civic Center, 8101 Pat Booker Road**