

The Splitswitch

Home of the San Antonio & Northern Railroad

June 2006

www.samrarail.org

volume 63 issue 6



Tracks to the Alamo

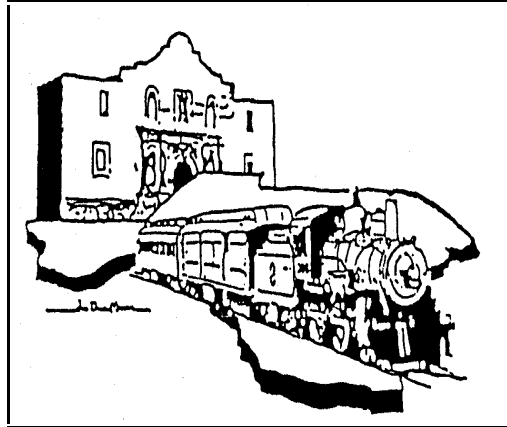
Is here at last.

All the planning, blood, sweat and tears are almost over. Gary Maitland has done more than an outstanding job as the General Chair for this convention. Not to slight any of the hard work done by any of the other committee members, but in the middle of planning, Gary made a move out of state and still ran things at a distance. If there were such a thing as SAMRA member of the year – Gary Maitland should have that honor.

Not without problems, our premier speaker/clinician, Mic Greenburg suffered a heart attack and open heart surgery. Our prayers are with Mic and his family for a speedy recovery. In light of this, three members of the club stepped up to fill this void. Those members are Doyle Bond, Al Boos, and John Lowrance. These three men will fill the clinic time slots that Mic would have occupied. A big thank you to Doyle, Al, and John.

It would be great if every SAMRA member was registered to attend the convention. If not, please consider helping out at the museum for the open house times. You can contact Paul Lawler (218-4872), or Harold Scott (822-7283) for more information.

Michael Dickmann



San Antonio Model Railroad Association, Inc

Maintenance Crew # 3
Workdays
June 10 & 24

Monday Morning Breakfast Group

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

Board of Directors
Tuesday, June 6
7:30 pm at Museum

General Membership Meeting
Friday, June 9
7:00 pm at Museum

Lone Star Region
"Tracks to the Alamo"
June 1-4, 2006
Doubletree Hotel

**Layout Management
Committee**
Monday, June 5
6:30 pm at Museum

Yaak from Kaak



A massive clean up has been going on so that SAMRA will be ready for the LSR Convention. Al Boos, Vernon Luza, Scott Priegel, and Allan Tindel have taken truckloads of lumber, etc. for disposal.

On Wednesday, May 17, 2006, track and electricity were completed and a train was run from the front to the back of the building for the first time.

Raffle news: Thanks to Mr. Doyle Bond for making the bleachers for the Circus layout for the January 2007 Jamboree, and the picnic tables for the layout for the Summer Show 2006, and thanks to John Lowrance for painting the back board for the Summer Show layout - really made a big difference, and Mary Dodson is very pleased with the results.

Thanks also to Al Boos for re-tooling the switches on the Club layout that were not friendly.

Welcome to our new members - Thomas Bingham and Gerhard Stuebben.

Facts:

1878 - San Antonio Street Railway Co. begins operation between Alamo Plaza and San Pedro Springs. Cars were pulled along the tracks by mules and horses.

1890 - San Antonio Edison Co. begins first electric streetcar operation, called the Hot Wells Line. San Antonio Street Railway Co. replaces its mule drawn cars with electric streetcars.

1933 - San Antonio abandoned its electric street railway system and replaced it with buses.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

I want to apologize to all of the members for my missing so many issues of the Splitswitch. It is a bully pulpit which the incumbent should use to make his ideas, hopes and desires for the organization known to everyone. Of course I have an excuse but excuses don't change facts so I won't bore you all with it.

One thought that has come to me frequently in dealing with internal disagreement in this organization and others is that we seldom consider the large areas of agreement. Instead we concentrate on the areas of disagreement. As a result we are always criticizing each other for some detail that is very important to us but may not mean as much to others.

Think a little bit about the big areas of agreement. First we all have a major interest in railroads. Sounds silly to even mention it because it is so fundamental - but lots of organizations and businesses go astray because they forget what their primary purpose is - "what brung them to the dance." Then we can probably also agree on a lot of other things. We certainly agree that modeling is a good way to express that interest and also that we should build one that represents roads around the San Antonio area in a specific time period. That and other areas of agreement are important enough to each of us to shell out a fair chunk of cash each year to be a part of this activity. And it goes on and on. Look at what has been created - we own our own land and building, we have a very complex layout well on its way to completion, and we are solvent and current on all our bills with a fairly healthy financial reserve. It certainly took a tremendous amount of effort, cooperation, agreement and compromise to get all that accomplished. And all this

was done with a membership that now stands at about 85 members. Just think about how hard it is for two people to get along in a marriage and this had to be done with a membership that ranged from 50 to 85 people. Yes, there have been some pretty sticky disagreements and unpleasant situations but we are still moving forward. Wow - that is an achievement that we can all agree is outstanding!

There will always be differences in opinions and that is good but let's separate opinions from personalities and remember that this is supposed to be about having fun. Let's not get too hung up on whether signals have two or three colors, whether our shows are one or two days, and on and on and realize we are all going to have to compromise a lot and instead lets concentrate our efforts on building a layout, putting on successful shows and hosting an outstanding conference and so on. Just realize that these things only get done because of the things that we can agree on (even if it may be a bit reluctantly).

New Directors at Large

Sharon Meinz
Harold Scott

Donations:

Gerald Lien	Railroad simulator 2006
Gerald Lien	3 boxes for car storage
John Forist	Printer
Mike Dickmann	3 4-roll tissue and 1/2 gal. Soft Soap



'CANS'

Remember to bring your empty aluminum cans to SAMRA for recycling. The money made form 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!

UP #844 Visits San Antonio

On Friday afternoon, May 12, 2006, the UP #844 Northern (4-8-4) steam locomotive pulled into San Antonio for a static display that lasted through the next week. What an awesome site to see and visit. Of course they brought along their own gift shop for all us train enthusiasts. I couldn't help buying patches and pins for Barbara my two grandsons' and myself.



There is another part to this story you may not know. In 2003 our very own Marvin Tieken had the privilege to travel to Cheyenne, WY and work on the 844.

(See UP 844 pg. 4)

TEAM #3

HAROLD SCOTT 822-7283

Robert Barker	661-0031
Doyle Bond	494-6663
Chuch Booth	674-5123
Denny Booth	830-438-3505
Waylen (Tom) Crawford	651-5886
Mike & Barb Dickmann	656-3319
Sean Embry	679-9338
Harold Fleischer	497-2532
Carl Marnatti	805-8895
Walt McGinnis	824-9467
Orphie Neathery	349-0549
Josh & Scott Priegel	673-9287
Troy & Carol Robin	830-624-2651
Dan Wolfer	945-2614
David Zoch	696-2064

Please note that the Saturday clean-up days for this month have changed due to the LSR convention. Please come help on the days designated.

If you are unable to help clean, consider making a donation for the grass cutting.

JUNE 2006

SAMRA

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
				LSR Tracks to the Alamo	LSR	Workday 8A-12P LSR
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
LSR	MMBG Work Night 6:30-9P LSR 6:30 PM	BOD 7:30 pm @ Museum	Workday 9A-2P "Krispy Kreme"		General Meeting 7:00p @ Museum	Workday 8A-12P Maint. Crew #3
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
	MMBG Work Night 6:30-9P		Workday 9A-2P Flag Day			Workday 8A-12P
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Father's Day	MMBG Work Night 6:30-9P		Workday 9A-2P Summer Begins			Workday 8A-12P Maint. Crew #3
25	26	27	28	29	30	
	MMBG Work Night 6:30-9P		Workday 9A-2P			

"Tracks to the Alamo"

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

LMC – Layout Management Committee Meeting

MGWT – Module Group Work Time



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Denny Booth	8
Dawn Sprangler	14
Jane Fleischer	15
Barbara Dickmann	18
Linda Dawson	18
Chris Owen	25
Rachel Steves	30



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Jim & Susan Dart	4
Thad & Judie Taubert	7
Harold & Judy Bryant	8
Eric & Marissa Mena	10
Bob & Chris Owen	11



UP 844 (continued from pg. 2)

"It was all volunteer work Marvin says, but they did lodge and feed us while we were there." Marvin worked on re-bushing the bearings and reworking the steam chest. While there, Marvin said he also worked on the UP # 3985 Challenger (4-6-6-4) He said it does most of its excursion runs in the Western US.



Marvin is employed at Trans Texas located on Hackberry off I-35 south. Trans Texas has the only working turn table in this area. They also have a contract with Union Pacific for maintenance on the Rock Train locomotives. Some other interesting information that I did not know; India and China still operates and builds steam locomotives. I like Marvin's explanation of operating a steam locomotive "you are sitting behind a controlled explosion, the fire box."

On Saturday morning, May 20th at 0800, the UP #844 pulled out of San Antonio on a northbound journey. Because of a road trip to the Galveston train show with a few other members of the SAMRA, I was not there in person to see it leave. Thanks to my wonderful wife, she got up and stationed herself (along with about nineteen other people), just past the Walzem road crossing and captured the departure on film for me. Watching it was almost as good as being there. I also look forward to sharing this short video with my grandson Ayden when he is old enough to understand. He is two, and when I took him to see the 844, all he could say was train, train, train.

Michael Dickmann

CLINIC

A big thanks to Mark Schroeder for presenting the May clinic. It was about direct traffic control and the possibilities of incorporating it into our layouts.

June's clinic will be Scott Priegel. It will be on weathering rolling stock with airbrushes and acrylic paints. We will also have on display items that Scott has previously weathered.

John DePoe has agreed to do a clinic in July. It will be on installing constant lighting in cabooses and passenger cars using electric components, i.e., diodes, capacitors and resistors.

I have nothing lined up past July. I would like suggestions for ideas. You do not have to be the presenter. Just give me a topic and I will find someone to present it. Of course, anyone is welcome to hold a clinic if they have a subject of interest. Thanks.

Paul Lawler (218-4872)

FUN RUNS DURING THE LSR CONVENTION

During the LSR Convention the weekend of June 2-4, 2006, the Modular Group will be running the layout at the clubhouse. We welcome any members to give us a hand.

If you have some free time and want to join us, give me a call for the schedule of the runs.

Thanks.

Paul Lawler (218-4872)



New Members:

Thomas (Tom) Bingham

Joined April 2006

Scale - HO

Layout - No

Years in Hobby - 5

Wife - Leah

Gerhard Stuebben

Joined May 2006

Scale - O

Layout - 15' X 27'

Years in Hobby - 40

Special interest - Photography

New York Central RR

Wife - Christi

SAMRA



MEMBERS



AT WORK



SAMRA General Membership Meeting 05/12/2006

President Barteau called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

The minutes from the previous meeting were approved.

The Treasurer's Report was read and approved.

New member Gerhard Steubben was announced.



C. Robin noted that the home layout tours will begin after the Summer Train Show and that the list of volunteers is in the Split Switch.

P. Lawler provided a status of the Summer Show. Planning is proceeding on schedule and will be accelerated once the LSR convention is over.

D. Bond provided a summary of the preparations for the LSR convention. Volunteers are needed to assist in support during the convention. A. Boos discussed the availability of hotel accommodations, the reduced rate for a six month membership that would allow participation in the convention, and transportation for the cement plant tour. SAMRA will receive 50 percent of the net from the convention.

A special cleanup of the clubhouse floors will be conducted starting at 9:00 a.m. on the Saturday before the convention. In addition, a general cleanup will be conducted between now and the convention. All members are invited to assist in these efforts.

P. Lawler and P. Steves discussed arrangements to support club layout operations and visitors during the convention.

C. Booth conducted the election for two BOD at-large members. S. Mainz and H. Scott were re-elected to the BOD.

P. Steves announced the local visitation of UP #844 for member viewing. The engine will be in town until May 20 at 8:00 a.m. Slide shows were available in the meeting room for viewing.

J. Lowrance provided a summary of the club layout status. Substantial progress has been made, and the layout will be used for display and operating sessions during the LSR convention.

M. Dickmann received the T-shirt order and made them available for distribution.

P. Lawler explained that recent changes to adjustable rate mortgages will not affect or jeopardize the SAMRA mortgages, which are based on the prime rate. There is no reason to make changes to the club mortgages at this time.

J. Forist announced that the SAMRA website has had approximately 5000 hits.

After the meeting, a clinic on direct traffic control and an operating session were held.

President Barteau adjourned the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

Pat Mackin - Secretary



Wednesday, June 14th



Sunday, June 18th

The Splitswitch

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



Home of the San Antonio and Northern Railroad

COMING EVENTS

Lone Star Region 2006 – Tracks to the Alamo

Thu, 6/1/2006 - Sun, 6/4/2006 * 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

DoubleTree Hotel

37 Northeast Loop 410

San Antonio, Lone Star, TX 78216

Irving Heritage Festival

Sat, 6/10/2006 * Admission - Free

Irving Heritage Park * 217 S Main St

Irving, North Texas, TX 75017

Contact Info

Irving Heritage Festival 8 214-432-5590

Website <http://www.irvingheritagefestival.com>

Family Day * Railroad and Heritage Museum

Sat, 6/17/2006 * 10am-4 pm

315 West Avenue B * Temple, TX 76501

Admission Fees - \$2.00 per person

Contact Info: 254-298-5172

Website <http://www.rrhm.org>

Texas Hill Country Railfair & Festival

Sat, 6/24/2006 * 9am-5pm - Sun, 6/25/2006 * 10am-4pm

Burnet Community Center

401 E. Jackson St. * Burnet, TX

Contact Info: 512-477-8468

Website <http://austinsteamtrain.org/>