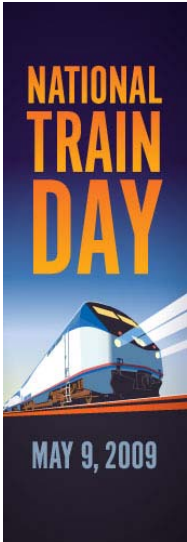


SPLITSWITCH

Volume 67 Issue 5
www.samratx.org
May, 2009



Home of the San Antonio & Northern Railroad



Celebrate at Dallas Union Station and Fort Worth Intermodal Transportation Center
Saturday, May 9 Noon to 4pm

Here is the latest update on participating organizations celebrating National Train Day in our region:

Union Pacific Railroad will be participating in a big way with one of their "Heritage" locomotives and one of their new low-emission Genset locomotives on display at both Dallas and Fort Worth train stations for the public to view.

Wolfgang Puck Catering, the newest arrival at the refurbished Union Station in Dallas, will have an exhibit set up and also will have food and refreshments available to the public at Dallas Union Station.

Radio Disney will be on hand at Dallas Union Station from noon to 2pm.

The DCTA (Denton County Transportation Authority) will have graphics displaying the soon to be running commuter line from Denton into Dallas County.

The Trinity Railway Express will position one of their commuter trains at Dallas Union Station for public viewing and to answer questions about the system.

DART will be participating at Union Station with information on the soon to be open Green Line and future Orange Line light rail additions.

The Fort Worth T will have a table set up at the downtown train station about their upcoming SW2NE commuter service from Southwest Fort Worth to DFW Airport.

The Railroad Museum at Fair Park will bring out several of their vintage passenger cars for the public to see what it was like in the olden days of rail travel.

Amtrak will hold a drawing for free round-trip tickets on the Texas Eagle and Heartland Flyer service. Amtrak plans to have a locomotive and coach at the Fort Worth Transportation Center for the public to view. One of Amtrak's Station Hosts will be available to answer questions on long distance train travel.

BNSF Railway is planning to host a table at both the Fort Worth and Dallas stations. Going Green is big at BNSF.

San Antonio Model Railroad Association, Inc.

Items of Interest:

- Maintenance Crew #1 Workdays Saturday, May 9th & 23rd
- Monday Morning Breakfast Group Meets at 8:00 am every Monday @ Denney's & 281 & Bitters
- Layout Management Committee Monday, May 4th 6:30 pm at the Museum
- Board of Directors Meeting Tuesday, May 5th 7:30 pm at the Museum
- General Membership Meeting Friday, May 8th 7:30 pm at the Museum

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National Train Day Continued

Editor-Frank Houzvicka
Mailing-Jack Morgan

Participation details from the "Rail North Texas" effort at the N Central Texas Council of Governments is pending.

We are formulating plans for a new conference to be held that ties in National Train Day and the announcement from the Obama Administration on developing Intercity Passenger Rail Corridors including two here in Texas.

Our rail advocacy partners are readying plans for volunteers at both stations and planning musical entertainment from noon to 4pm.

An initial media advisory and news release went out this week and will be updated as needed.

We encourage participation from all transit sectors and interested transportation parties in the freight and passenger rail world. E-mail back and let us know about participation and any changes or additions.

Peter LeCody - Coordinator - Texas Rail Advocates

peter@texasrailadvocates.org

(214) 803-7285

Henry Wullf - President, Texas Association of Railroad Passengers

Jo Faires - Amtrak Marketing - Southwest

(871) 771-9335

Check NationalTrainDay.com and www.texasrailadvocates.org often for updates on this year's activities, promotions and entertainment events.

Maintenance Team # 1

SCOTT PRIEGEL 688-9458

Anneliese Alexander 688-9458

Jim Atterbury 656-4258

R.C. Burris 490-7796

Bill Carpenter 684-6418

Buzz Durio 492-3687

Bill Eubank 651-9521

John Green 658-5623

John Green, Jr 830-620

-0415

Frank Houzvicka 403-0358

Paul Lawler 647-4306

Pat & Joe Mackin 342-4829

Joe & Sharon Mainz 822-6409

Jesse Marroquin 313-3724

Josh Priegel 688-9458

John Sanders 677-0977

Charles Spangler 830-228-

4694



Paul Steves 494-6350

Robert Taylor 655-3501

**CHECK YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION
ROSTER ATTACHED**

**Please review the attached club roster and let Ernie
Kaak know if we have something incorrect.**

If you don't tell us, we don't know!

 **"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!

MAY, 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31 Fun Run 1p-4p					1	2 Workday 8A-12P
3 Fun Run 1p-4p	MMBG 4 Work Night 6:30P-9P LMC 6:30 PM	5 BOD 7:30 PM @ Museum	6 Workday 9A-2P	7 Fun Run 7p-9p	8 General Membership Meeting 7:30 p.m.	9 Workday 8A-12P Maint. Crew #1 Ops Session 1P-4P
10 Fun Run 1p-4p	MMBG 11 Work Night 6:30P-9P	12	13 Workday 9A-2P	14 Fun Run 7p-9p	15	16 Workday 8A-12P Operating Session
17 Fun Run 1p-4p	MMBG 18 Work Night 6:30P-9P	19	20 Workday 9A-2P	21 Fun Run 7p-9p	22	23 Workday 8A-12P Maint. Crew #1 BSA Merit Badge 10am-1pm
24 Fun Run 1p-4p	MMBG 25 Work Night 6:30P-9P	26	27 Workday 9A-2P	28 Fun Run 7p-9p	29 Breakfast Ops Dennys at 8:00 AM SAMRA at 9:00 AM	30

MMBG – Monday Morning Breakfast Group meets 8:00 @ Denny's 281 & Bitters
LMC – Layout Management Committee Meeting
Fun Run—at SAMRA every Thursday evening and Sunday afternoon, come join the fun
Operating Session—at SAMRA
HLOT – Home Layout Tour (This information will change on a monthly basis.
 Please consult the write-up in the Splitswitch for the Home, Days, and Times open.)

● **Raffle at April meeting:**
 ● Won by - Carol Robin
 ● Prize— HO truck
 ● Donations: \$30

May BIRTHDAYS

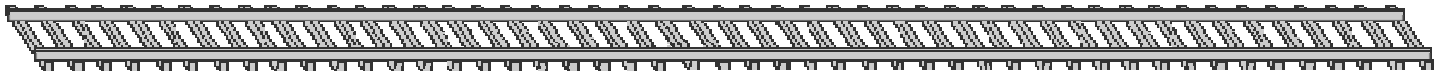
- 07 Anneliese Alexander
Virginia Boos
- 08 Belinda Luza
- 09 Susan Eubank
- 10 John Cloyd
- 12 Candis Cloyd
- 14 Judith Taubert
Louis Hammelman
- 17 Jim Ladd
- 18 Alice Morgan
- 19 Wayne Hammelman
- 20 Bill Gray
Butch Holiner
- 24 Neda Neathery
- 28 Al Boos III

Schedule of Events

- 5/04—LMC
- 5/05—BOD
- 5/08—General Membership Meeting
- 5/29—Breakfast Op Session
- Scheduled “Fun Runs”
- Scheduled “Operating Session”
- 6/3-7—LSR Convention 2009 in Irving, TX

May ANNIVERSARIES

- 05 Dick & Shirley Schaefer
- 07 Jim & Virginia Atterberry
- 21 William & Barbara Watkins
- 29 Shelley & Bill Hedges
John & Judith Talley



A Short Blast From The Headend



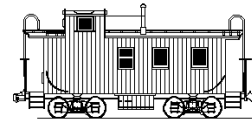
Along with this edition of the Splitswitch you will find a current roster of the SAMRA membership. In the past this was something we provided annually, but somehow had let slide for several years. There was some concern about the list somehow being used for personal gain, but I trust that won't be the case and it will only be used as a means to stay in touch with other SAMRA members.

On another subject: being as we are human, there will always be instances where we disagree over things that are going on in the club. Do we need written guidelines to address behavior or operation on the layout? Some folks seem to think so and have recommended we address such items as equipment readiness, sound volume, derailments and disruptive behavior. I believe this is a subject for the membership to address and if you want written rules posted on the wall, it's up to you. After all it's your club. That said, during times that the club is open for Fun Runs or Operating Sessions, the members who host those sessions on a regular basis are in charge of the building and operation of the layout. If they are giving their time to open and close the SAMRA museum and manage the sessions they should be deciding on the general environment, including AC, lighting, etc. Just remember to have fun.



HOME LAYOUT TOUR

This months Home Layout Tour was supposed to be at the home of Mr. Green, but no information was received at time of publication. Go to the meeting to get details!



New Members

Nell Forist

Photo not available at time of publication.





NMRA / LSR SIDING



NMRA Regions – What they are, what they do

The NMRA has 17 geographic regions throughout the world. Two are overseas: the Australasian and the British Regions. The largest NMRA region is the Australasian: the distance from Sidney to Perth, Australia, for example, is greater than the distance from Miami to Los Angeles. The smallest is the SunShine Region: part of Florida. Some, such as the Niagara Frontier and Pacific Northwest Regions, have divisions in both the United States and Canada. Some regions have large numbers of (active) members concentrated in a relatively compact area, while others (such as Australasian, Rocky Mountain, and LSR) have clusters of members in urban centers separated by considerable distances. There is no common pattern that characterizes “a typical NMRA Region”.

But trying to characterize “what they do” is even more difficult. They are as diverse among their activities as their size, locations, and demographics. They vary in the number of divisions from a handful to as many as 20. Some have elaborate organizational hierarchies, while others are rather casual. And the same applies to the divisions in each.

While there’s no such thing as a “typical” region, there are some aspects that you can expect in most of them. All have a region President, elected by the members of the region. (There is no more separate “region membership”; you are a member of the region in which you reside). Most regions charge a small region fee to cover newsletter and expenses (the LSR does not). Each region has a board of directors; in some regions the board members are all elected separately, while in others (like the LSR) the division directors / superintendents serve double-duty as board members. Region officers are the president, vice president (usually), secretary, and treasurer (sometimes combined as secretary-treasurer), and often the past president.

Most regions will have the following chairs or committee heads appointed by the president or the board of directors. The chairs plan and carry out their programs throughout the region:

- Membership – promotes recruiting new NMRA members and retention of current ones.
 - Members Aid (sometimes) – assists members with administrative or hobby problems.
 - Newsletter – publishes periodic newsletter (print/mail and/or web/e-mail distributed).
 - Website – creates/ maintains the region (and sometimes divisions’) website (all regions).
 - Convention – responsible for the annual region convention arrangements
 - AP Chair – administers the regions Achievement Program.
 - Contest Chair – makes arrangements for judging the contest at the annual convention.
 - Education Chair (sometimes) – devises and organizes the education programs.
 - Youth Programs (sometimes) – seeks to involve more young people in model railroading.
 - Merit Badge Program (sometimes) – sponsors Boy Scout Railroading Merit Badge clinics.
- And there may be many others, depending on the region’s programs and priorities.

Each of the above chairs/committee heads may have multiple region volunteers serving on their committee. Region committee members are often from multiple divisions. This is a lot of manpower focused on running a region, and all of them are unpaid volunteers.

Well, that’s about my 500-word limit. Next time, a look at one of the more successful regions in the NMRA. Meantime, if you get the urge, call or write.

Remember: “A siding is not a spur.” Happy railroading!

Fred Bock, MMR
Director, Division 6, LSR



Destination: the “Trinity River Interchange” – LSR Convention 2009

by: Fred Bock, MMR, Director, Division 6, LSR

By now almost everyone in SAMRA knows they will be hosting the NMRA Lone Star Region Convention, “Alamo Rails 2010”, next June, with Paul Steves as Convention Chairman.

I was talking with Jerry Hoverson, MMR last week. Jerry’s the General Chairman of the LSR 2009 “Trinity River Interchange” convention, Paul Steve’s counterpart for this year. Jerry has members from Dallas, Fort Worth, and (even) Kansas City (where everything’s up to date) working on the 2009 convention. He asked me to encourage folks to attend this year’s convention (as I’m sure we hope they will attend ours a year from now). I told him that, with the overloaded slate of activities planned, folks should need little encouragement. So, some FAQs and answers:

When/where’s the convention? The Lone Star Region NMRA Convention will be held June 3-7, 2009, at the Sheraton Grand Hotel in Irving, Texas for Wednesday, June 3rd to Sunday, June 7th, 2009. A room rate of \$98/night has been negotiated. The Sheraton is conveniently located near DFW Airport. When you call for reservation, mention you are attending the convention.

Registration Fee: \$78. Includes all non-fee clinics, model contest, silent auction, home layout tour admission, Saturday night banquet, Sunday breakfast and business meeting. It also includes a FREE train ride on the Grapevine Railroad (a 1:1 museum line). Among other “goodies”, there will be a 71/2” Live Steam train on display (I wanna see how they managed THAT!).

Can non-NMRA members attend? Yes, with NMRA 6-month “Rail Pass” membership for \$9.95.

Banquet speaker: “Colonel” Hal Carstens, retired editor, *Railroad Model Craftsman* magazine.

How about clinics? There will be 37 presenters for a total of 90 hours of clinics, to include:

- 5 presenters from the Mid-Continent Region, including the current national AP Chair Paul Richardson and past AP chair Pat Harriman, both MMRs..
- Brett Gallant, owner of Sierra West Models
- Fran & Miles Hale, MMR of Woodland Scenics video fame (former SAMRA members)
- Presidents of the Texas State Railroad and the Museum of American Railroads
- (I suspect you’ll see SAMRA members John Lowrance & Al Boos (MMRs), and Tom Crosthwait there as presenters as well).

Extra fare clinics? Two. Registrants will be told what tools to bring with them to the conention.

- Tortoise and Diode Matrix Clinics, cost \$5 for parts. Limit: 25 attendees.
- Walthers 3-in-1 kit Clinic, cost \$5 for parts. Limit: 25 attendees.

And layout tours? Forty-six (46) different home and club layouts in the Dallas and Ft. Worth areas. Scales range from “Z” to “G”. There will be “super tour” bus tours to Dallas and to Ft. Worth layouts; each tour will be offered twice so you can catch them both; \$20 per tour.

Prototype tours?

- BNSF Network Operations Center
- McKinney Avenue Transit Authority Shops
- Trinity River Express Maintenance Shops

Operating sessions? There are 95 slots available for 17 sessions on 14 layouts. Operating sessions are on Wednesday and Friday nights. Refundable deposit \$10 each.

Where can I get registration forms and more information? At the convention website (at <http://www.trinityriverinterchange.com>).

REGISTRATION: (either on convention website or by printed registration form)

Chris Atkins, Registrar, telephone: (214) 222-1285
1633 Parkside Trail, Lewisville, TX 75077

Looks like a great convention. See you all there! **Fred**





SAMRA General Membership Meeting, April 10th, 2009

President Nagel called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

The minutes from the previous meeting were approved.



The Treasurer's Report was read and approved. The small loan was paid off since the last meeting.

New member Nell Forest was announced.

R. Alexander provided a status of the summer show preparations. The vendor mail out will be made this month. Negotiations are underway with hotels to provide a vendor discount.

P. Steves updated preparations for the 2010 LSR convention. The potential hotel selection is down to two, and contract arrangements are being made to protect the LSR in the event of hotel default.

R. Alexander has established a website to support the convention planning.

P. Mackin stated that the next railroading merit badge clinic will be held on May 23 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The late start is to allow time for scout troops participating from Corpus Christi and Austin to arrive.

C. Booth discussed preparations for the SAMRA elections which will take place at the May general membership meeting. Chuck welcomed any additional candidates to add their names to the ballot.

C. Robin announced that their layout is available for tour the rest of April. A volunteer was requested for May.

An opportunity for obtaining donations for SAMRA from www.igive through websites such as eBay and Amazon was discussed. A handout on how to participate in this program was made available to those who are interested.

President Nagel adjourned the meeting at 8:10 p.m.

Pat Mackin - Secretary



YAAK from KAAK

Welcome to our new member -Nell Nations Forist. Nell is the mother of the late John Forist, a long time member of SAMRA who is still greatly missed. Welcome aboard, Nell.

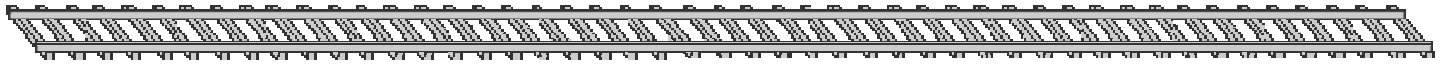
Last week we had a record amount of aluminum cans turned in. My van was loaded from top to bottom and front to back--- over 100 lbs. The money made from recycling cans goes into the general fund to help pay for the needs of the Museum.

The "Silver Creek Railroad", a 4' x 6' layout, is being donated by the San Antonio Model Railroad Association, Inc. to the KLRN Summer Auction in June. It is now complete and Gary and Lynn Brown, Scott Priegel, Annaliese Alexander, and Charlie and Sandy Barnes helped create this HO scale layout. The people at KLRN will be out to take pictures next Wednesday, April 29,2009 for the TV presentation.

Mary Dodson is currently working on a 4' x 4' layout with a Fourth of July theme and the work is progressing nicely.

Thanks to Frank Houzvicka for storing the kids layout and 2 other 4'x4' layouts at SANTRAK.





Home of the San Antonio & Northern Railroad

SAMRA Clinics

The clinic for May 8th will be by Al Boos. They didn't tell me what he is going to do, but it will be great!

Future Clinics

June 12th clinic—Orphie Neathery—Homemade Computer Decals.

Wayne needs your input on what clinics to offer and people to run the clinic!

Have an idea for a future clinic? See Wayne Hammelman!

The Splitswitch
San Antonio Model Railroad Association, Inc.
7702 Narrow Pass St.
Live Oak, TX 78233 - 2947
www.samratx.org

FIRST CLASS MAIL



The Lone Star Region NMRA Convention will be held June 3-7, 2009, at the Sheraton Grand Hotel in Irving, TX.

