

SPLITSWITCH

Volume 67 Issue 10

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October, 2009



Home of the San Antonio & Northern Railroad

A Short Blast From The Headend



If you weren't among the SAMRA group that took the train to the Temple Train show on Saturday, Sept 19th, you missed a great day trip. About a dozen of us boarded the Amtrak "Texas Eagle" in San Marcus, departing the station at 8:32 AM and meeting up with those who had boarded earlier in San Antonio. Originally planned as a SAMRA trip, it was opened up to other interested rail fans, and eventually expanded to 50. So our group consisted of those from Austin, New Braunfels and a couple that drove over from Katy, Texas to catch the train in San Antonio. By 11:30 we were at the Temple train show, one of the area's largest. We were back on board the southbound train by 5:30. Our thanks to the Temple club who arranged to shuttle us from the station to the convention center and back. A special thank you to Harold Bryant who arranged the whole trip, tirelessly coordinating with Amtrak and the Temple club for our transportation needs. Well done, Harold!

The **Christmas Party** has been set for 6:30PM, Saturday, 12 December at Checkers Restaurant, 13835 Nacogdoches Rd, San Antonio. General membership meeting and dessert will follow at the Museum. Checkers is an award winning, reasonably priced restaurant located by the HEB on Nacogdoches at O'Conner Rd. The fare is very similar to that of the 410 Diner and averages in the 7 to 10 dollar range. We will publish a menu with a future edition of the Splitswitch.

DCC Revisited. Number one in the Easy DCC manual, under Maximizing System Performance, recommends that only Advanced consists be used and notes that "Large numbers of Standard (also called Brute Force or Universal) Consists will drastically slow system performance." This is not an issue unique to the system we use, as NCE limits Old Style or Universal consists to two, while MRC only allows one. Under the old style or Universal method, each consist locomotive is entered and stored into the memory of the base station. Easy DCC allows up to 50 consists to be stored in this manner. The more consists in storage, the less memory for processing active locomotive commands. When a command is sent to the consist, each locomotive in the consist receives its own signal. To lessen this burden on our system we need to periodically dump all of the information stored in memory and start over. When this is done all consists on the Easy DCC system will go away. We will try to do a memory dump at the beginning of each month. If you want to consist your locomotives use either the Advanced method, or use a common number for all locomotives addresses in the consist. And remember Model Railroading is fun.

Ron Nagel

San Antonio Model Railroad Association, Inc.

Items of Interest:

- Maintenance Crew #3 Work-day Saturday, Sep 10th & 24th.
- Monday Morning Breakfast Group Meets at 8:00 am every Monday @ Denney's & 281 & Bitters
- Layout Management Committee will meet at 7:00 Oct 5th.
- Board of Directors Meeting will meet at 7:30 Oct 6th.
- General Membership Meeting WILL be held Friday, October 9th at 7:30 pm in the Museum
- LSR Planning meeting will be announced at the general meeting.

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Donations for August, 2009.

- Jim Connor Car kits, car parts, shells, glasses.
- Doyle Bond Assorted automobiles in HO scale, and buses in N scale.
- Paul Dawson Cookies, Horses, Cows, Don key, Guys pushing a car, Chain gang scene, Out House in back of General Store, Guard Rails on Road
- Jim Connor Trucks, wheels, engine bodies, small tool kit, Miscellaneous parts, modeling clay, plastic kit
- Flash Blackman "New" Paasche F airbrush.

Editor-Frank Houzvicka
Mailing-Jack Morgan
Photos: Frank Houzvicka & Flash Blackman

Maintenance Team # 3




- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------|
| RALPH ALEXANDER | 656-9178 |
| ALLEN ADAMS | 599-3906 |
| FLASH BLACKMAN | 828-7245 |
| DOYLE BOND | 599-3334 |
| CHUCK BOOTH | 674-5123 |
| SHELLA & COLTON BRITT | |
| JOHN & CANDIS CLOYD | 767-1237 |
| SEAN EMBRY | 679-9338 |
| HAROLD FLEISCHER | 497-2532 |
| BILL FORNSHELL | 495-6692 |
| W. KENNEDY GAUGER | 573-1294 |
| JUSTIN HODGE | 659-1844 |
| PARK LAWRENCE | 821-5325 |
| LARRY MARTIN | 656-2931 |
| BRIAN NEATHERY | 490-9085 |
| ORPHIE NEATHERY | 349-0549 |
| | 830-624-2651 |
| TROY & CAROL ROBIN | |
| SAMUEL SHRUM | 658-7566 |
| | 830-226-7045 |
| DAVID THRONDSOON | |
| BILL & WILLIAM WATKINS | 408-2238 |
| DAN WOLFER | 945-2614 |
| DAVID ZOCH | 696-2064 |

NEW MEMBER(S)

Tom Flores

Spouse: -
 Years in Hobby: 20
 Layout: Yes, 17'x12'
 Scale: HO



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!



San Antonio and Northern Promotion Car for the 2010 LSR

The San Antonio and Northern Railroad has a new limited run PS-1 40 foot box car promoting the 2010 Lone Star Region NMRA convention in San Antonio. This limited run, HO gauge, custom club car is being made by Accurail for SAMRA and it's members to use in promoting the LSR convention we are sponsoring. Each side of the car is slightly different (see the art-work proof). One side has the convention herald and the other side has the convention banner with the dates and location. The car number is 2010 (the convention year), however matching decals are available to change this number for those who want to operate more than one car.



As a benefit to SAMRA members, you can order this car at a reduced price between now and November 13th (this is the Friday night meeting in November). Pricing for the convention promotion car is as follows:

- SAMRA members who order and pay between now and Nov 13th --- \$16.00 each
 - Convention participants who order and pay between now and the early cut off date for the convention -- \$18.00 each
 - After the early convention registration cut off date and at the convention -- \$20.00 each
- The above pricing is for cars picked up at The Bob Clark Rail Heritage Museum or the LSR Convention. Those who want the car shipped to them, please add \$8.00 each for shipping and handling.

Remember, this is a limited run project and we are assured of at least 190 cars. Therefore the first 190 orders are assured of getting a car and those beyond this number will be out of luck. You can send your checks (made out to SAMRA) to me or give them to Ernie Kaak at the museum.

Wayne Hammelman
737 River Chase Way
New Braunfels, TX 78132
830.964.3659 (home)
414.460.5924 (Mobil)





YAAK from KAAK

Orders are now being taken for the San Antonio & Northern Promotion Car for the 2010 LSR Convention. As a benefit to SAMRA members you can order this car at a reduced rate between now and November 13, 2009. Pricing for the Convention Car is as follows;

*SAMRA members who order and pay between now and November 13th-\$16.00

*Convention participants who order and pay between now and the early cut off date for the convention -- \$18.00

*After the early convention registration cut off date and at the convention --\$20.00

The above pricing is for cars picked up at the Bob Clarke Rail Heritage Museum or the LSR Convention. Those who want the car shipped to them, please add \$8.00 each for shipping and handling.

Remember, this is a limited run from Accurail for SAMRA.

Crossroads Mall has been sold and the area where we held the Balcones Heights Summer Show will be remodeled for other buildings.

We are in the process of having the Live Oak Civic Center for our Summer Show. The dates will be July 31-August 1, 2010. More information will be forthcoming in the next issue.

In Memoriam

We were greatly saddened to learn that **Dr. Carl Marnetti** had passed away this month. He will be buried in Pittsburgh, Pa. Dr. Carl, and his wife, Pat, were active members of SAMRA for many years and he worked on 2 N Scale layouts for our Raffles. He has not been able to participate in SAMRA for several years due to some very serious health problems. Our prayers and our support go out to Pat and his family. She has been most generous in her support of SAMRA in listing that in lieu of flowers, that donations be made to the San Antonio Model Railroad Association, Inc.

From the Lounge Car

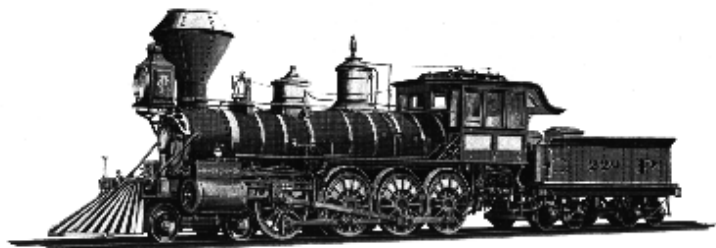
Nearly 600 books have been catalogued and are ready to be checked out. Come browse all the new selections. Titles range from ABC's of Building Model Railroad Cars to Zephyr. View books by such favorite authors as Abdill, Ball, Beebe, Farrington, Garrett and Hollingsworth but look for new authors too. Except for the "How to" books which have their own shelf, books are arranged alphabetically by author. There are three handy indexes sorted by author, subject and title to help you find the perfect read.

If you would like to check out a book, simply remove the catalogue card from the book. Print your name and date on the card. File it under the author's last name in the Library Card Index File. When you return the book, pull the card from the file, place in the book pocket and shelve the book under the author's last name or on the "How to" shelf.

Just a reminder: if you have books at home which have not been catalogued, please place them on top of the wood book cases so that we may do so.

Magazines may no longer be checked out; however, we might have the magazine you want in our duplicates. We would be happy to help you find it. At \$.50 the duplicates are a bargain.

Lynn Brown



HOME LAYOUT TOUR

No information on any home layout tours for the Month of September.

CHANGES IN CONTACT INFORMATION

If you change an address, e-mail, phone #, etc., please let us know.

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

SAMRA General Membership Meeting, August 14th, 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.

New member Tom Flores was introduced.

Al Boos provided a status of preparations for the LSR convention. Substantial planning for convention events continued, including an evening meal at the Texas Transportation Museum along with possible train and speeder rides. The other TTM exhibits will also be open.

P. Mackin announced that the next BSA railroading merit badge clinic will be held on October 31, 2009 from 9:00 a.m. to noon.

R. Alexander discussed the status of planning for the Jamboree. The vendor mail out will occur soon, and the WGH mailing list will be used for notifying potential additional attendees, if possible. Ralph also noted that new owners of Crossroads Mall may no longer be willing to rent out the space where the summer show has been held. Therefore, another venue for the summer show will be explored.

John Green discussed his experience looking into SAMRA support for hospice patients. Substantial requirements exist for participating in this program, and John has not looked into it further.

R. Nagel reminded the membership that GC Laser will provide a 25 percent discount for SAMRA members. P. Dawson reported that he has been able to obtain the discount as well as a quick response to his order. Members were encouraged to visit the website and explore the items available.

Thirty-nine people have now signed up for the Temple train trip.

W. Hammelman led a discussion of the commemorative LSR convention SAMRA promotional boxcar that will be prepared by Accurail. SAMRA Inc. has spent approximately \$2400 to purchase 200 cars from Accurail. The terms are that through November 13, 2009, SAMRA members can purchase the car for \$16. Subsequent purchases would be for \$18 for SMARA members or if done along with an LSR pre-convention early registration. All subsequent sales will be for \$20.

The SAMRA website is being renewed for three years for \$250.20.

The SAMRA Christmas party will be held on Friday, December 11. R. Nagel will examine the facilities at Checkers as a possible location for the party dinner.

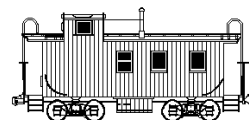
Members were requested to pitch in on the maintenance crews to get the museum spruced up.

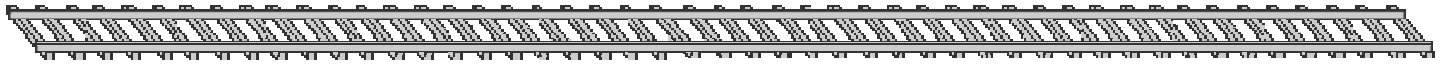
Lynne Brown stated that the SAMRA library books have all been catalogued, and urged members to check out the books using the simple procedures that have been established. The books are filed alphabetically by author. Lynne also called attention to the duplicate books that are being sold.

After the meeting Al Boos conducted a "viewers choice" clinic for which the topic was water towers.

President Nagel adjourned the meeting at 7:55 p.m.

Pat Mackin - Secretary





Home of the San Antonio & Northern Railroad

SAMRA Clinics

The September clinic was conducted by Al Boos. Al provided a slide show on images of a variety of water towers found around cities and industries. He included slides on how to model several of the different types of structures.

Maybe next time we will get the clinic on Rocks by John Lowrance and Orphie Neathery.

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

FIRST CLASS MAIL



21st Annual AMRE Train Show
And Swap Meet
Live Oak Civic Center
October 3rd and 4th, 2009
Sat: 9-5, Sun 10-4

Lockheed Martin Recreation Association
2009 Annual Railroad Show
3400 Bryant Irvin Road
Fort Worth, TX
October 10th and 11th, 2009
Sat: 10-5, Sun: 11-4

