

SPLITSWITCH

Volume 68 Issue 2
www.samratx.org

February, 2010



Home of the San Antonio & Northern Railroad

A Short Blast From The Headend

I trust everyone in SAMRA will take advantage of their membership to attend the Jamboree on 30 and 31 January. Free entry is one of the perks membership brings along with access to our growing library and of course, the layout. Along with those perks come some responsibility, so hopefully you can contribute some time on those days to help out with Jamboree chores. See Ralph Alexander for jobs that need filling. This is our main moneymaker for the year and it's what keeps SAMRA going. When you attend the Jamboree, please wear your SAMRA colors, hat, vest, shirt, etc.



Speaking of membership, it's time to pay the annual dues again. Those who haven't paid by March 1st will be dropped from the rolls. Besides the regular dues at \$72 per year, there is now a sustaining membership at \$108. At the last General Membership meeting the members voted to establish a Building Fund as a place to put the additional money brought in by the sustaining memberships. Some of the newer members may not realize that SAMRA only has half a building. The original design allows for a mirror of the present building be built at some future date. Hopefully establishing the Building Fund will speed up that future expansion.

On 16 January another group of Boy Scouts visited our Museum to earn merit badges by learning about trains and railroading. This is an important event because it fulfills a part of the SAMRA charter concerning education and community service. Thanks again Pat Mackin, for bringing this project together.

Between the Fun Runs and the Operating Sessions we are always testing the capabilities of the SAMRA layout. Some days it seems like nothing wants to run right, but we have had a lot of trains running during the scheduled operating sessions, which leads me to believe all the problems are not to be blamed on the layout. Most of the issues seem to be happening during the Fun Runs when there is a lot of personal equipment in use. When using personal equipment please make sure that the cars are weighted properly and wheels are in gauge. If you are having problems with a particular locomotive or piece of rolling stock, remove it until you can check and fix it. It's not fair to the other members, who have come to run their trains, to have their operation constantly stopped because of your problems. Remember model railroading is fun.

Ron Nagel

San Antonio Model Railroad Association, Inc.

Items of Interest:

- Maintenance Crew #1 Work-day Saturday, Feb 12th & 27th.
- Monday Morning Breakfast Group Meets at 8:00 am every Monday @ Denney's & 281 & Bitters
- Layout Management Committee will meet at 7:00 Feb 8th.
- Board of Directors Meeting will meet at 7:30 Feb 9th.
- General Membership Meeting Friday, February 12th at 7:30 pm in the Museum.
- LSR Planning meeting will be Tuesday, Feb ??th at 7:00 in the Museum.

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122 DAYS TO LSR 2010

AS OF 1 FEBRUARY

NEW MEMBER(S)

Gary Maitland

Spouse: Brenda
Years in Hobby: 20+
Layout: No
Scale: HO, ON30

Philip Knight-Sheen

Spouse:
Years in Hobby: 20+
Layout: No
Scale: HO

Rev. Al Adams

Spouse: Al
Years in Hobby:
Layout: Yes
Scale: G in backyard



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

Maintenance Team # 1

SCOTT PRIEGEL	688-9458
ANNELIESE PRIEGEL	688-9458
JIM ATTERBURY	656-4258
R.C. BURRIS	490-7796
BILL CARPENTER	684-6418
TOM CASTANOS	924-8439
RANDY COCHRAN	599-3664
BUZZ DURIO	492-3687
BILL EUBANK	651-9521
JOHN GREEN	658-5623
JOHN GREEN, JR.	830-620-0415
FRANK HOUZVICKA	403-0358
MARTY KANE	673-6040
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
JACK SIEGEL	
CHARLES SPANGLER	830-228-4694
PAUL STEVES	494-6350
ROBERT TAYLOR	655-3501

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!

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!

New SPLITSWITCH Editor Needed

Looking for something to do for SAMRA?

Know how to spell or how to make spell check work?

Know how to use Microsoft Publisher?

Then SAMRA needs you!!

Contact Frank Houzvicka at fhouzvicka@satx.rr.com

February, 2010

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Work Night 6:30P-9P	2	3 Workday 9A-2P	4 Fun Run 7p-9p	5	6 Workday 8A-12P
7 Fun Run 1-4 PM	8 MMBG Work Night 6:30P-9P LMC 7:00 PM	9 BOD 7:30 PM @ Museum	10 Workday 9A-2P	11 Fun Run 7p-9p	12 General Member- ship Meeting.	13 Maint. Crew #1 Ops Session 1-4P
14 Fun Run 1-4 PM	15 MMBG Work Night 6:30P-9P	16	17 Workday 9A-2P	18 Fun Run 7p-9p	19	20 Workday 8A-12P Operating Session 10P-2P
21 Fun Run 1-4 PM	22 MMBG Work Night 6:30P-9P	23	24 Workday 9A-2P	25 Fun Run 7p-9p	26 Breakfast Ops 8am at Denny's 9=12 Ops session	27 Workday 8A-12P Maint. Crew #1
28 Fun Run 1-4 PM						

MMBG – Monday Morning Breakfast Group meets 8:00 @ Denny's 281 & Bitters
 LMC – Layout Management Committee Meeting
Fun Run—at SAMRA every Sunday afternoon and Thursday evening, 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 January meeting:**
- Won by - Mark Schroder
- Prize— GT car and loader
- Donations: \$24

February BIRTHDAYS

- 05 Pat Crosthwait
- 11 Lee Cook
- 15 Charles Barnes
- 20 Jim Tucker
- 21 Priscilla Lowrance
- 24 Paula Lawler
- Peggy Carrico
- 25 Bill Hedges
- 28 Nancy Keith

Schedule of Events

- **02/08—LMC Meeting**
- **02/09—BOD Meeting**
- **02/12—General Member-
ship Meeting**
- **02/?? - LSR Planning
Group Meeting**

February ANNIVERSARIES

- 03 Ron & Brenda Nagel
- 16 Jim & Pat Conner
- 23 John & Candis Cloyd
- 26 Charlie & Dawn Spangler



LSR Staff Shirts

Staff Polo Short Sleeve shirts are being ordered for the LSR Staff workers. The short sleeve shirts, with collar, are light blue and have the LSR Alamo Rails Logo over the pocket side and the word Staff on the opposite side. There will be separate women's shirts which will not have the pocket so women's orders will be filled with a "women's" appropriate size shirt. The basic cost is \$20 with 2x costing \$21 and 3x costing \$23. Sizes available are S, M, L, XL, 2X, 3X. If you are working the convention and have not ordered, email your order to me at: katydon@satx.rr.com. We would like to have the order placed by mid February so don't delay, order today.

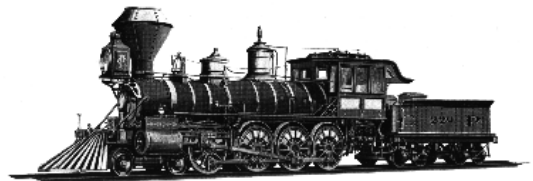
Don Scott

Contributions for December 2009

Gary Brown	1 BLMA #4310 Electrical Box 1 BLMA #4311 Electrical Box 1 DVD Tehachapi 1 Bachman "Thomas the Tank Engine"
Al Adams	2 HO People Interior for building 2 Touch 'n tone-color Sandstone
Al Boos	Shep-Poxy Kadee Merry Christmas Gift Steam trains 2010 Kadee Calendar Kadee Diagram Car – 40' PSE Box Car Accurail 12 Box Cars
Paul Dawson & Damien Steward	Batteries
Charlie & Sandra Barnes	Matchbox bus
John Talley	Circus Book
Don Scott	Case computer paper 24 Railroad Craftsman Magazines 2 HO Switches 1 Computer chair with rollers
Jack Siegel	Light bulbs 2 pk 4 pk Box standard staples
Scott Priegel	Items for Raffle layout 2 incline sets 2 cans insulation foam 1 can primer rust spray paint 1 can flat black spray paint 1 scenic back drop 1 24ct pine trees 1 set of 2 RR Grade Crossing 1 paper mache
Damien Steward	Box of standard staples 2 pkg Duracell AAA Batteries

HOME LAYOUT TOUR

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





YAAK from KAAK

Just a reminder—dues are now due for the year 2010---\$72.00 for members and I would appreciate getting them as soon as possible.

At this writing, it is now only 10 days until our Annual Jamboree – and things have been busy! Tomorrow, Wednesday, Sandy Barnes and Sharon Mainz are going to strip and wax the Conference room floor. Tom Crostwait is painting the fascia board around parts of the layout. It is looking good! Jack Siegel and John Talley are still working on installing switch machines. Jack Siegel is also getting merchandise ready for our Company Store sale. Scott Priegel and Gary Brown's Raffle layout is ready- Mary Dodson's is also ready. This year we are taking two Raffle layouts ---the winner on Sunday can choose which one he wants.

Our "Sustaining Member" program has seven participants- Ron Nagel, Ralph Alexander, Scott Priegel, Sam Shrum, Skip Surre, Al Boos, Wayne and Lois Hammelman, and Orphie Neathery—thanks – it's a beginning for our Building Fund program.

DUES ARE DUE!
Happy Railroading

Modular Special Interest Group Thanks SAMRA Membership

The Modular SIG thanks all those who volunteered to help man the modular layout at Quarry Mall over the holidays. The Quarry Mall management had asked that the layout be open for visitors every day during this period, rather than just during the weekends. The SAMRA membership was extremely responsive to the request to support this effort. As a result of this membership participation, the Modular SIG was able to make a \$130 addition to the SAMRA funds from the contributions collected from visitors to the modular layout during this period.

The Modular SIG is always looking for new members. One benefit of this SIG is that it provides a place for beginner model railroaders to learn and practice basic modeling skills. Additionally, Quarry Mall recently agreed to move a counter that was an obstacle to the modular layout expansion, so there is plenty of "right of way" available for anyone who would like to get involved. If you are interested in joining this group, simply contact any of its members.

Thanks again to all of you who helped during the holidays.

Pat Mackin



German Rail Oddities Seen on my recent trip to Germany



SAMRA General Membership Meeting, January 9th, 2010

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. Payment of dues continued during the last month.

New members Al Adams, Gary Maitland, and Philip Knight-Sheen were announced.

R. Alexander summarized preparations for the Jamboree. Table sales are proceeding well, with 189 sold to date. Ralph asked for additional member assistance at the Jamboree. There will be newspaper advertising Sunday, Wednesday, and Friday before the Jamboree.

A. Boos provided a brief discussion of LMC progress. Work is proceeding according to plan, and investigation of suitable telephone system continues.

P. Steves reported on preparations for the LSR convention. Details are available on the LSR website.

P. Mackin thanked the membership for their support for the Modular SIG at Quarry Mall over the holidays. The Modular SIG provided \$130 to SAMRA as the museum's share of the money collected during this period.

The next railroading merit badge clinic will be held on 1/16/2010 from 9:00 a.m. until noon.

W. Hammelman reported that about one third of the Accurail cars have been sold. A complimentary car has also been provided to Model Railroader magazine.

R. Nagel noted that he is still working on purchasing a large screen TV for the meeting room.

The general membership approved a recommendation from the BOD to establish a building fund, the purpose of which is to improve or enlarge our current building, comprised initially of the extra money from sustaining membership dues.

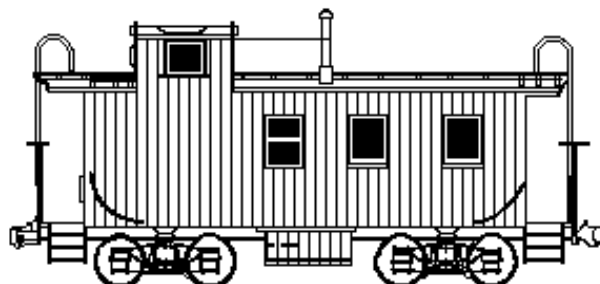
S. Mainz and S. Barnes have volunteered to wax and buff the meeting room floor prior to the Jamboree.

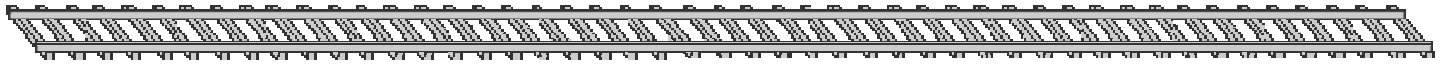
J. Talley announced that J. Ladd will conduct training on panel construction.

T. Flores recommended that SAMRA consider converting to a Digitrax DCC system. President Nagel referred the question to the LMC.

President Nagel adjourned the meeting at 8:20 p.m.

Pat Mackin - Secretary





Home of the San Antonio & Northern Railroad

SAMRA Clinics

Al Boos gave an excellent slide show presentation on logging skids after the January meeting.

If you have any ideas for a clinic or would like to present one please contact Wayne Hammelman.

The LSR Promo cars are in and they look great!
Get your's soon!

The Splitswitch
San Antonio Model Railroad Association, Inc.
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FIRST CLASS MAIL



Coming Events

Greater Houston Train Show
Stafford Center
10505 Cash Road

Saturday, Feb. 20th
10:00 to 5:00
One day only

