

SPLITSWITCH

Home of the San Antonio & Northern Railroad

A Short Blast From the Headend

What a Great Jamboree! At times there were so many people in the Live Oak Community Center that it was difficult to get through the aisles. Lots of vendors and displays and something we haven't seen for awhile, people were actually spending money. In fact several vendors sold out the first day and went home. For SAMRA the measurement of success is determined by how much profit we made on the show and the profits from this show were the highest on record. So whatever we did this year, we need to repeat for our future shows. Congratulations and a big thank you to Ralph Alexander and Wayne Hammelman for their efforts that made this show such a success. Of course the membership needs to give themselves a pat on the back for all their hard work. Thank you all.

The SAMRA layout continues to grow and mature. Some would say too slowly, but they don't realize that our measured growth really contributes to a well running layout. First the trackwork must be tested to ensure it is working properly before being locked down with ballast. Meanwhile plasterwork and backgrounds have to be created before they can be covered with color and scenic materials. Overseeing all this effort is the Layout Management Committee which meets on the Tuesday before the General Membership meeting. Visitors are always welcome to sit in these meetings and see how the process works and of course layout workers are always in need.

93 Days to LSR 2010 As of 1 March

Have you heard the term "Museum Quality" in reference to our SAMRA layout? I don't believe the term fits our layout, or does it justice. I have seen a number of museum layouts and generally speaking they have very little scenery and very little character. They always have trains racing around an enclosed loop of track of various sizes without any possibility of operations. The SAMRA layout not only contains scenery far superior to any museum layout, but also the ability to perform realistic operations. This makes our layout stand out above so called "Museum Quality" layouts, adding a dimension that gives purpose to towns and industries, and a reason for the railroad to be there in the first place. The Operations group and track planning committee are working to fit a new dimension of passenger train operations into the layout. This may mean some additional sidings in the Ft. Worth yard and minor modifications to the Narrow Pass yard. These two groups are currently working a plan for presentation to the LMC. Look for these changes in the future.

As members you can take advantage of the operational side of the San Antonio and Northern, by coming to one of our operations meets the two Saturdays following the General membership meeting and the last Friday morning of the month. Model Railroading is fun.

Ron Nagel



San Antonio Model Rail Road Association, Inc.



Items of Interest

- Maintenance Crew #2 Workdays March 13 &27
- Monday Morning Breakfast Group 8A Mondays @ Denny's - 281 and Bitters
- Layout Management Committee meeting 7P Mar 8
- BOD meeting 7:30P Mar 9
- General Membership Meeting Friday, 7:30P Mar 12
- LSR Planning Meeting Mar 15, 7P

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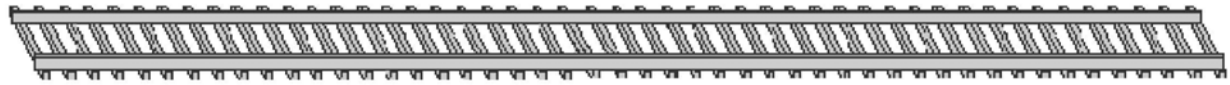
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NEW MEMBER(S)

Yes, we have no new members this month!

Maintenance Team #2

I regret that I was unable to obtain the list of members for Maintenance Team #2 prior to the need to get this copy of the Splitswitch out. I'll fix that before the next issue.

Pat Mackin



CHANGES IN CONTACT INFORMATION

In you change an address, email, phone #, etc., please let us know.

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



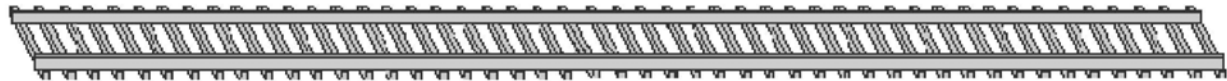
"CANS"



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!





MARCH 2010

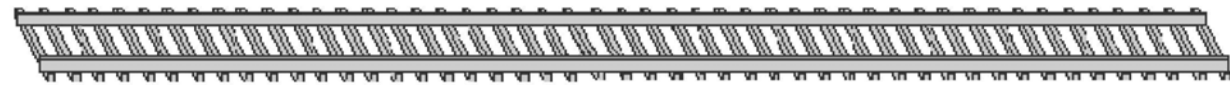
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 MMBG Work Night 6:30 –9:00P	2	3 Workday 9A-2P	4. Fun Run 7P-9P	5	6 Workday 8A-12P
7 Fun Run 1P-4P	8 MMBG Work Night 6:30 –9:00P LMC 7P	9 BOD 7:30P @ Museum	10 Workday 9A-2P	11 Fun Run 7P-9P	12 General Membership Meeting 7:30P	13 Maint. Crew 2 OPS 1-4P Workday 8A-12P
14 Fun Run 1P-4P	15 MMBG Work Night 6:30 –9:00P LSR Planning Mtg 7P	16	17 Workday 9A-2P	18 Fun Run 7P-9P	19	20 Workday 8A-12P OPS 1-4P New Braunfels Jamboree 9A-5P
21 Fun Run 1P-4P New Braunfels Jamboree 10A-4P	22 MMBG Work Night 6:30 –9:00P.	23	24 Workday 9A-2P	25 Fun Run 7P-9P	26 BreakfastOPs 8A at Denny's 9A-Noon Ops Session	27 Maint. Crew 2 Workday 8A-12P
28 Fun Run 1P-4P	29 MMBG Work Night 6:30 –9:00P.	30	31 Workday 9A-2P			

MMBG – Monday Morning Breakfast Group meets 8:00A @ Denny's 281 and Bitters
 LMC - Layout Management Committee

March BIRTHDAYS	
14	Ben Hedges
14	Gary Brown
16	Pat Mackin
22	Donald Bryan
28	John Green
29	Paul Lawler
30	Kathy Lowrance

March ANNIVERSARIES	
1	Ralph and Gloria Alexander
7	Harold and Jane Fleischer
8	Gerald and Barbara Lien
14	William and Dorothy Bonenberger
16	Paul and Rachel Steves
25	John and Theresa Green
31	Carol and Troy Robin





LSR Convention Stuff!

Volunteers are needed to staff the LSR convention, Alamo Rails 2010, June 2 - 6. You must be an NMRA member and are needed to help from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. in such areas as registration, the company store, security, and prototype tours. Please email Lynn Brown at lsrvolunteers@yahoo.com the days and times you would like to help.

Introducing the best deal in model railroading.

Join the NMRA for 6 months for just \$9.95*!

- ◆ Have easy access to one of the world's largest railroad libraries...which includes over 100,000 prototype photos, 6,000 books, and over 50,000 modeling, prototype and historical society magazines
- ◆ Experience the fellowship and fun of getting modeling help and discussing the hobby with other members in your area
- ◆ Receive reduced rates on special insurance for your layout or collection
- ◆ Get admission to local model railroad meetings and events
- ◆ Receive 6 monthly issues of *Scale Rails* magazine
- ◆ Have access to standards information and data sheets
- ◆ Be a part of programs like "Modeling With The Masters," Pike Registry, Estate Counseling, contests, clinics, the Achievement Program and more!

Visit www.nmra.org to see what you're missing!

*Rail Pass offer is for new members and those who have not been NMRA members for two years or more. Individuals can join at Rail Pass rates only once; membership renewal will be at the regular membership rate. Rail Pass members can attend conventions and participate in contests, but cannot vote or hold office and will not receive a New Member Pak.

Sign me up!

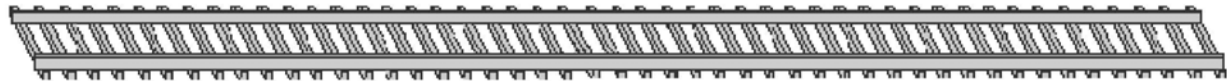
Fill out this form and include your payment.
U.S.: Send \$9.95 (U.S.) to NMRA-Rail Pass Membership, 4121 Cromwell Road, Chattanooga, TN 37421-2119.
Canada: Send \$9.95 (Cdn) to NMRA-Canadian Rail Pass Membership, 69 Schroder Cres., Guelph, ON N1E 7B4, Canada.

Name _____
 Address _____
 City/State/Zip _____
 Phone (____) _____
 Email _____
 Check Credit card
 Credit Card # _____
 Credit Card Exp. _____
 Signature _____



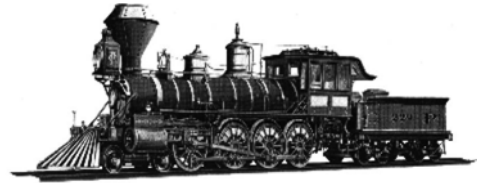
**So much bang.
So few bucks.**





HOME LAYOUT TOUR

No information on any home layout tours
For the month of March



YAAK from KAAK



What a wild time of the year! 2010's Jamboree is behind us and we made a nice profit. Attendance was up at the Show, at our Museum, and at the Home Layouts. We sold over 200 vendor tables and they were all very happy as their sales were up, too. Our Exhibitors were great.

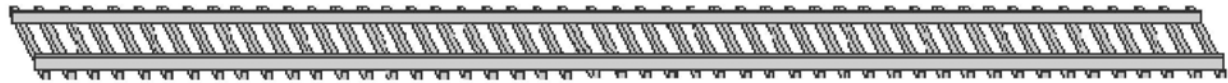
The clinician space was moved to the entrance lobby and it worked out well. Mary Dodson, Annaliese Priegel, Robert Blackman, Paul Dawson, Bill Eubank, John Green, Jr., Pat Mackin, and others worked the area. We had a lot of people come by.

Registration was handled by Gary and Lynn Brown who did a really good job. Allan and Rev. Al Adams, Harold Fleisher, Gordon Lawson, Sharon Mainz, Mark Schroeder, Annaliese Priegel, Pat Mackin and others also worked the Registration Desk. Jack Siegel set up the Company Store and Chuck Booth helped work the sales. Good showing.

Beverly Tindel had a funeral to attend at this time, so I worked with Geraldine Pierce in the Depot. Geraldine does a magnificent job for the SAMRA Depot handling change for the Registration, receiving sales from the Company Store and the Raffle, and also handling the door prizes. Thanks for all your help, Geraldine.

Troy and Carol Robin take care of Security and are available wherever needed. Their services are invaluable.





Minutes From the SAMRA General Membership Meeting 2/12/2010

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.

There were no new members to announce. One guest was introduced who expressed an interest to join.

R. Alexander provided a status from the Jamboree. There was large attendance (about 2700), record profit (about \$10,825), and record raffle sales (about \$2000), with about 210 vendor tables sold. Ralph will analyze the attendance statistics to determine how best to plan for the next show.

J. Lowrance reported on LMC status. John noted that some turnouts are being replaced to try to help solve the decoder failure problems. The purchase and installation of the telephone system is proceeding as a matter of priority, with the intent to complete it before the LSR convention.

P. Steves provided an update on the LSR convention including a brief discussion of some of the clinics and other events. Preparations are on schedule. Additional information can be found on the convention website.

Approximately 70 club Accurail cars have been sold.

President Nagel discussed the fun runs and the importance of respecting the authority of the person in charge and of ensuring that your equipment is properly maintained. The importance of proper throttle setup was also discussed.

S. Mainz is will be hosting the 9 April meeting that will include dinner at Grady's followed by a meeting Mainz' residence.

Lynn Brown reminded members of the availability of books to check out from the SAMRA library.

P. Mackin reported on a successful railroading merit badge clinic on 1/16/2010. He read a note sent by one of the scouts thanking those who participated.

After the meeting there was a clinic on "Setting the Scene" by John Lowrance.

President Nagel adjourned the meeting at 8:05 p.m.

Pat Mackin - Secretary

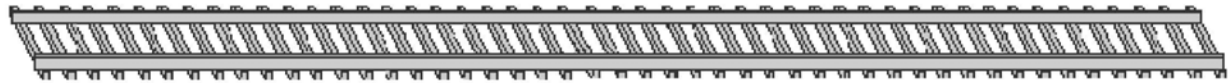
JAMBOREE 2010 is history!

Another Jamboree fades into the history books, and this one may also be one for the record book. We had an extremely successful show with a record turnout of over 2700 attending, and our net profit far exceeded my expectations. We did very well with our beautiful raffle layout setting a new high for ticket sales, and our country store did pretty well also. We sold so many vendor tables that we had to move our clinics into the lobby. We did a little newspaper advertising for this show which may have contributed to our success both directly and indirectly as it might be the cause for a very nice article appearing in the Sunday paper. I'm not sure what specifically the reason for our success was this year, but I am sure that the hard work of everyone that helped with vendor table sales, registration, raffle sales, the country store, security, and with vendor setup and tear down had a lot to do with it. This has been a great team effort and as always I welcome your thoughts of making future shows even better.

GREAT JOB TEAM lets do it again.

Ralph Alexander





March Donations

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| Mary Dodson | \$25.00 for doughnuts for Saturday Jamboree |
| Bill Eubank | Model Railroader Coin Collection Series |
| Jim Tucker | Daylight Engine |
| Paul Steves | Homobed |
| Alan Weihli | 9038 Lilac Hill-Universal City Model trains
That included 5 buildings, bridge supports,
2 boxes of powerlock track, 5-DC transformers
13 locomotives and 20 rolling stock cars. |
| John Green | Various RR cars, 2 engines, 28 box cars,
13 gondolas, 5 reefers, 8 tank cars, 8 hopper
cars, 5 cabooses, English train set, 5 foreign
cars and 4 vehicles. |
| Doyle Bond | 331 books, 2 bookcases 64 Model Railroad
Magazines |
| Allan Tindel | 3 boxes RR memorabilia |
| Park Lawrence | Easel and paints to Sandra Barnes |
| Rev. Al Adams | Toilet tissue (Museum Quality) |

**2010 SPRING GET TOGETHER !!!!!
APRIL SAMRA MEETING
FRIDAY APRIL 09th after 6:00pm**

**Meet at Grady's at 6510 San Pedro starting after
6:00 pm
(corner of San Pedro & Jackson Keller)**

Go through line, order what you want & pay for your order. Then go into the party room to the right as you enter. **I will still have to let the manager know how many will be coming so you need to RSVP (coming or not) to Sharon or Joe Mainz 822-6409**

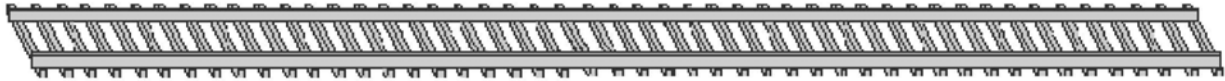
**After eating we will meet at Joe & Sharon Mainz's house, 111 Sharon Dr.,
at 7:30pm**

Meeting, **DESSERTS**, coffee, socializing -- and you get to see Joe's layout too!! Our house is only about 3 blocks from the Grady's.

See map on next page or call for more details or directions

**HOPE TO SEE YOU GRADY'S AND/OR AT OUR HOUSE FOR
MEETING & DESSERT**





SAMRA Clinics

John Lowrance gave an excellent slide show on "Setting the Scene" after the February meeting.

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

Buy your LSR Promo Car!

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

First Class Mail



Coming Events

New Braunfels Railroad Museum Jamboree
New Braunfels Civic Center
375 S. Castell Ave
3/20/2010 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
3/21/2010 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

