

ALL ABOARD

Volume 2 Issue 6

December, 2009



**San Antonio
N-Trak
Association**

www.santrak.org

Well, by now most of you have heard the news. The proposed move to Hobby Town on the Austin Highway is no longer an option. Last Thursday the management of Terrell Plaza released Hobby Town from their lease. Clark was told that demolition of the shopping center was now expected to begin as early as the first quarter of 2010. The last day that Hobby Town will be open at this location is Monday, November 30th. They plan to pack their remaining stock up on Tuesday and be completely out by Wednesday.

Many of you have also heard that ProLogis asked us to move out of the half of the warehouse that our modules had occupied in anticipation of a long term rental of that space. I want to thank all the folks that helped get everything moved so quickly. It paid surprising dividends.

So, where does that leave SANTRAK? Actually it leaves us right where we are - at least for the time being. I said that the prompt move out of the warehouse paid dividends, and I meant it. After returning from my trip I first spoke with Clark at Hobby Town to get the details of their release from the Terrell Plaza lease. I then went to a meeting with ProLogis to see what could be done about next year. As you may recall, they were intending to raise our rent to \$300 per month to cover the admin costs on our large space. Well, now the space is not as large and in recognition of our prompt action they have agreed to keep the rent at \$200 for 2010. They further agreed to keep our arrangement in place with only a minor modification. They can no longer *'promise'* to move us to another space. Instead, they will *'do their best'* to do so. The problem is that ProLogis has only 12 properties that are vacant and only 3 of them have drive in capability for the trailer. The rest are all dock height.

I know that there was some discussion of joining the SAMRA modular group at Crossroads but the requirement to man it on weekends is not very appealing to most of us. It is still an option that can be discussed at the December meeting.

And now the bad news! Even with the agreement to keep the rent at \$200, SANTRAK is operating in the **RED** at our current dues rate. We discussed raising the dues at the October meeting, but deferred any action until we knew what was going to happen with Hobby Town. Now we know. Right now it looks

SANTRAK Board

Frank Houzvicka
Superintendent

Bill Carpenter
Paymaster

Jim Cottrell
Stationmaster

Harry Jackson
East Side Yardmaster

Robert Williams
West Side Yardmaster

You can contact them via
the website.

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December, 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Workday 12-4PM	3 OKC Train Show	4 OKC Train Show	5 Workday 10A-4P OKC Train Show
6 OKC Train Show	7	8	9 Workday 12-4PM	10	11	12 Workday 10A-4P MONTHLY Meeting 2:00 p.m.
13	14	15	16 Workday 12-4PM	17	18	19 Workday 10A-4P
20	21	22	23 Workday 12-4PM	24	25	26 <i>No CLINIC this month</i>
27	28	29	30 Workday 12-4PM	31		

January, 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31 SAMRA SHOW					1	2 Workday 10A-4P
3	4	5	6 Workday 12-4PM	7	8	9 Workday 10A-4P MONTHLY Meeting 2:00 p.m.
10	11	12	13 Workday 12-4PM	14	15	16 Workday 10A-4P
17	18	19	20 Workday 12-4PM	21	22	23 <i>CLINIC</i>
24	25	26	27 Workday 12-4PM	28	29 SHOW SETUP	30 SAMRA SHOW



Scenes from the 4th International N Scale Convention held in Stuttgart Germany November 12th through 15th, 2009

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!



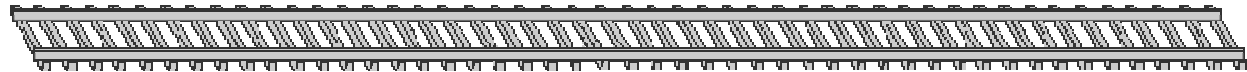
"CANS"



Remember to bring your empty aluminum cans to SAN-TRAK 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!





SANTRAK General Membership Meeting, November 14th, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 2:06pm by Treasurer Bill Carpenter.

Members present were: Bill Carpenter, Jim Ladd, Charlotte Boord, Ray Bennett, Kevin Bergeman, Robert Williams, Gary Griffin, Susan Griffin, and Fred Bock.

A big thank you was given to Kevin Bergeman, Jim Cottrell, Ray Bennett and Robert Williams for their work on the raffle layout. We sold another \$122 worth of tickets at the New Braunfels Layout Show. And guests got to see how we scenic the layout with celluclay and Woodland Scenics ground foam as Robert Williams worked on the layout both days of the show.

The big news from the show is that the SANTRAK N-TRAK layout took first place in the layout popular vote and brought home the \$300 first place prize. The T-TRAK layout got 4th place and received a \$50 donation. Everyone give Jim Cottrell a big thank you and pat on the back for his work on the N-TRAK modules for this show next time you see him. And the name tags look great and really added to the appearance of the modules.

The club is still solvent, at least for the time being.

Charlotte discussed the TTM setup and Fred Bock pointed out that no one from SANTRAK has coordinated with TTM for us to bring the raffle layout or any layout for that matter. We will need to contact TTM asap to see if we can set up there this year or not. We do know that the structure we set up T-TRAK in has bend destroyed and the Lionel Layout has expanded. They also have one or two more cars there than they had last year so space is getting tight.

Bill Carpenter passed along the story of Frank's train show experience in Germany and how a group of NTRAKers recognized the SANTRAK logo on Franks' shirt and how they like the web site; thanks Ralph Alexander; Frank: you can embellish on this topic.

Jim Ladd started a discussion about the module upgrade to Powerpole connectors and heavier gauge wire. The connector shells are .29c and the metal inserts are .14c for a single end cost of .43c. Six of these are required for the Red-Yellow-Blue line upgrade for a cost of $6 \times .43 = \$2.58$ and one additional set for the mountain division line at .86c for a MNT. DIV module cost of \$3.44. The white line is not upgraded to Powerpole connectors in the N-TRAK standards. The train crew and Jim Ladd will get together to determine the quantity and cost of purchasing enough for all of the club modules. The group present thought that the club could purchase the connectors and sell them for at least a dollar a pair. The wire also would need to be replaced with a #12 or #14 wire and that cost and availability still needs to be investigated.

The next show is the SAMRA show on January 30th and 31st. The SAMRA summer show will be at the Live Oak facility in 2010 instead of at Crossroads Mall. The mall has changed ownership again and the convention space will be repurposed in 2010.

Gary Griffin read a statement expressing his point of view concerning the availability of modules for SANTRAK's use and presented a copy to the Train crew. Bill Carpenter told him that the Train crew would look into it.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:57.

Bill Carpenter, SANTRAK Treasurer



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like we will be short some \$500 for next year, and that doesn't include the costs of constructing some much needed racks for when we have to move again, or the construction of any 'specialty' modules that might be needed to get us back up and running.

It has been proposed that we increase the dues to \$100 per year, with the option to pay in six month increments. This would permit the club to build a reserve that might well be needed if and when ProLogis can not longer find us a home.

Setting the 2010 dues rate will be a major topic for the December 12th meeting, so please plan to be there!!

By the way, my trip to Germany was GREAT!! I took 1204 photos and am now trying to edit them into some reasonable order. As Bill already mentioned, I wore a shirt with the SANTRAK logo (a blue one - not mar-burgundy) to the International N scale convention in Stuttgart. Three people from different clubs in Germany came up to me after seeing it and said that they have been on our web site and enjoyed looking at the module photos. Way to go Ralph!

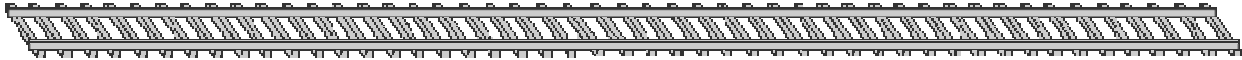
The convention was held in an exhibition hall a bit larger than the one we were in for the WGH show last February. The N scale setup plus train stores and manufacturers took up about half the hall with the remainder being other hobby items like RC cars, boats, and planes. This section was called Modell Bau Sud. The N scale convention had modular clubs from Germany, England, Finland, Italy, France, and Holland. Half followed N Trak standards, and the rest were FREMO or their own rules. One of the big German club layouts was all US stuff.

I also visited 5 train museums, and 4 commercial layouts. The largest was the Hamburg Miniatur Wunderland which is overwhelming. My favorite, as far as depicting a real scene rather than lots of gimmicks, was in the Schwarzwald (Black Forest). Here the focus was on duplicating actual locations. It was in a facility about the size of SAMRA's building and was very well done. The rest of the trip was focused on taking pictures of the Rhein Valley scenes that I hope to model in my home layout.

See you at the next meeting!
Frank Houzvicka



The suspended railway in Wuppertal.



Coming Events

Oklahoma City Train Show &
15th Annual Southern Plains
N Scale Convention
Oklahoma State Fairgrounds
Transportation Bldg.
Thursday, Dec 3rd through
Sunday, Dec 6th, 2009

North Texas Council of
Railroad Clubs
Dallas Area Train Show

Plano Centre
2000 East Spring Creek Pkwy

Saturday, Jan 16th, 10-5
Sunday, Jan 17th, 10-4

Admission \$7

