



ALL ABOARD

Volume 2 Issue

July, 2009



**San Antonio
N-Trak
Association**

www.santrak.org

Welcome to the second edition of SANTRAK's periodic periodical. I don't have too much to say because it is too HOT! Since I have now mentioned the temperature I would now like to discuss using the tiled room in the office area as a work room. We currently have the sodas and refrigerator in there. It is getting pretty hot in the layout room and warehouse which impacts how much time one is willing to spend working on the raffle layout or anything else. If we can be conscientious about turning off the AC so that we don't run up the electric bill I propose using the room as a work area for at least the raffle layout. We MUST KEEP IT NEAT so that Prologis can bring prospective clients into the area. If we can't do that, or if the AC electrical charges get to high then it is back out into the warehouse we must go.

We have made Ray Bennet the raffle layout honcho. This does not mean that he is the only one that gets to work on it. He will need everyone's help to get it done so that we can raise funds to pay the rent. Please get with Ray and offer your talents. He has a schedule and a plan!

We need to make sure that all the modules of our traveling group are ready to go. Following the meeting next month those modules will be taken down and put back in the trailer for the next 5 months. The Austin club should be coming down in the next couple of weeks to put their modules in their trailer as well.

I don't plan to be at the clubhouse on the July 4th weekend. If you want to get in you need to arrange it with one of the 'key' members. They are the Board members plus Fred Bock, Ray Bennet, and Ralph Alexander.

July is going to be a hectic month. Between holidays, module take down, the SAMRA Summer Show, and any vacations, we will have plenty to do. So don't be a stranger!

SANTRAK Board

Frank Houzvicka
Superintendent

Bill Carpenter
Paymaster

Jim Cottrell
Dispatcher

Harry Jackson
East Side Yardmaster

Robert Williams
West Side Yardmaster

You can contact them via
the website.



July, 2009

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

August, 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30						1 Workday 10A-12P FUN RUN? 12-4 PM
2	3	4	5 Workday 12-4P	6	7	8 Workday 10A-2P MONTHLY Meeting 2:00 p.m.
9	10	11	12 Workday 12-4P	13	14 SHOW SETUP	15 New Braunfels Show
16	17	18	19 Workday 12-4P	20	21	22 Workday 10A-4P
23	24	25	26 Workday 12-4P	27	28	29 Workday 10A-4P

Raffle Layout

Work has started on our next Raffle Layout! Thanks to Kevin Bergeman the project was jump-started by the donation of a completed base, legs, foam top, and track with turnouts. Ray Bennet added additional turnouts which permitted the modification of the track plan. Ralph Alexander was able to get SAMRA to donate a number of N scale items. The layout is a very interesting configuration with the potential for a bridge, tunnel, yard, and double loop. The Layout group is soliciting the following items so that track work and rolling stock can be completed:

- 1 Atlas Controller
- 2 Atlas Selectors
- 2 Atlas Switch Controllers
- 11 Ground Throws

A list of scenery items needed will come soon.



If you want to help work on the layout at the clubhouse, let Ray know.

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, June 13th, 2009

1. **Meeting called to order** 2:05pm by Pres. Frank Housvicka
2. **Minutes** of previous meeting: approved
3. **Treasurer's Report** and Financial Matters
 - a. We are solvent
 - b. No Electric Bills yet.
 - c. Rent paid thru June 09
 - e. Should be in good shape for rest of year.
 - f. Received \$150 from San Antonio Academy as donation for Frank Houzvicka & Fred Bock's appearance with an N-scale German Train demonstration.



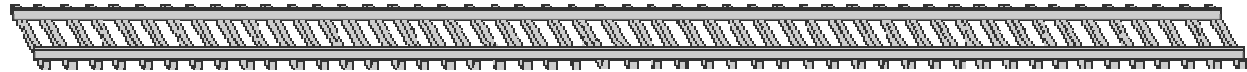
OLD BUSINESS:

4. **Shows & Raffle Layout Ticket Sales:** Ray Bennet named Raffle layout honcho
 - a. SAMRA Summer Show – NO raffle sales allowed
 - b. New Braunfels Summer Show (15 Aug) – YES raffle sales OK
 - c. Temple Show – NO raffle sales allowed
 - d. AMRE Show (October) – YES raffle sales OK
 - e. "Layout Only Show" (11 Nov?) – no firm information
 - f. SAMRA Jamboree (January 10) – NO raffle sales allowed
5. **SAMRA Summer Show** (24-26 July) details:
 - a. Pack up trailer – after July business meeting
 - b. Setup at Crossroads Mall: after 2pm Friday 24 July.
 - c. Setup time: 2-9pm Friday July 24.
 - d. Austin N-Trak group will pack up their trailer "in July"
 - e. Layout: modules from SANTRAK, New Braunfels, NW Xing, Austin, and possibly Russell Straw.
6. **Operations 101 course** – no date set yet
7. **DCC Receiver Upgrades** – Jim Ladd is point man on this
 - a. EPROM cost -- \$21
 - b. Chip cost -- \$40
 - c. Tax, Shipping, Handling – est. cost about \$14
 - d. Total Cost: about \$75.
 - e. After discussion, we agreed to have our receiver upgraded to Group II (for throttle ID #s 9-16). Motion to do so approved.
8. It was noted that **wireless throttles** cost \$159 each to purchase; no quantity discount. There is a discount for quantity tethered throttles, but it was agreed those didn't suit our operating styles.

NEW BUSINESS:

9. Kevin inquired about the **Noch Static Grass Applicator**. Purchase price around \$250. There was a clinic at SAMRA in March about how to build your own for \$30. Frank will look into having a hands-on clinic at SANTRAK (possibly July) for those who would like to build their own.
10. **2X4 Modules:** Frank asked if anyone else wanted to purchase pre-made 2'X4' modules @ \$55 ea, with "legs kits" available from Frank for \$50. 2'X6' may also be available. Contact Frank via e-mail if you are interested.
11. **Raffle layout:** Ray Bennett volunteered to head the construction effort. He provided a schedule of what he would be done by when. Kevin noted that seeing the raffle layout worked on might be a draw at the New Braunfels Summer Show.





12. **“Boxes of Stuff”**: there are several boxes along the wall or in the storage racks. Some are buildings for Jerry Alderson’s module. Frank asked if people would go thru the boxes to determine (a) what goes on Jerry’s module, (b) what should go in the trailer, (c) what could be used for the raffle layout, and (d) “the rest”.

13. **Trailer**: is everything ready to go in the trailer? Tires, wires, and pliers? Will be checked next week.

14. **Modules inspection**: Frank asked module owners to check their modules to make sure all is in good repair for the upcoming shows. Frank will install the found buildings on Jerry Alderson’s layout. Frank will also put a supply of Post-It gummed notes by the throttles on the layout. If anyone finds a problem with a module, please make a note and “Post-it” on the module.

15. **By-laws and operating procedures**: some of these are out of date or inapplicable. Need review and proposed modifications. Jim Ladd, Bob Williams, Bill Carpenter, Frank Houzvicka, and Fred Bock volunteered to look them over. Starting point is the copy on the website. The “bylaws working group” will meet Wednesdays starting about 12:30pm. Issues to be addresses include (a) purposes of the organization (expanded to include T-track), membership requirements (impact of T-trak), and modules “abandoned”, “needing repair”, handling by non-owners, etc.

16. **Clinics**: if there are clinics that people want, Frank will try to see we get them. Bill Carpenter offered to do a clinic on CADrail. Ideas? Contact Frank.

17. The **Temple Train Show** contacted SAMRA to ask if they wanted to arrange for a group to ride Amtrak to the Temple Show from San Antonio. Cost: \$35 round trip, one day. Frank will try to get more information on this project.

<< Frank had to leave at this point to take care of family business. Meeting continued under standards of appropriate department.>>

18. **Public & Private Fun Runs**:

a. we only discussed “Public Fun Runs”, i.e. fun-runs open to the public. None members would be allowed to set-up and run their N-scale trains on the SANTRAK N-trak or T-trak module layouts.

b. Bob Williams, with Kevin, agreed to chair this project.

c. After discussion, voted to have public fun runs the first Saturday of each month from noon to 4pm. It was noted that any fixed schedule would run into some conflict, but this seemed to be the least disruptive.

d. Publicity: local hobby shops, other clubs, NMRA LSR Marker Lamp, SANTRAK website. Publicity will stress “check the website for the latest directions to the clubhouse”, as sites can change.

e. The public can bring either DC or DCC equipment.

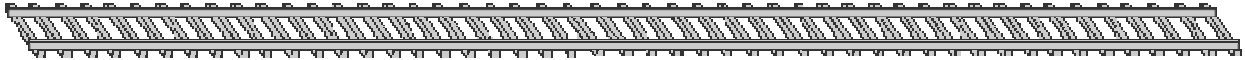
19. Do we want to try to take over the **“Balcones Heights Summer Show”** starting in 2011 if SAMRA drops sponsorship? Much discussion; generally agreed that more information is needed. Ralph Alexander will look into it further.

20: **MEETING ADJORNED** at 3:15pm

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Fred Bock
Secretary pro temp





**Connecticut Convention Center
July 5-11, 2009
Hartford, Connecticut**



7th Balcones Heights Family Train Show

**July 25th-26th, 2009
Crossroads Mall
Southwest Corner of IH 10 & Loop 410
San Antonio, TX**

New Braunfels Train Show
New Braunfels Civic Center
August 15th, 2009
Sat Only: 10-5

27th Annual Temple Model Train Show
Frank Mayborn Convention Center
Temple, TX
September 19th and 20th, 2009
Sat: 10-5. Sun: 11-5

