

ALL ABOARD

Volume 2 Issue 5

November, 2009



**San Antonio
N-Trak
Association**

www.santrak.org

I have been delaying sending this issue of 'All Aboard' in hopes of getting something definite from Hobbytown. Unfortunately, we still do not have a final answer on whether we can move into their back room. However, there is news! Construction at their new location nears completion. Hobbytown plans to close their Alamo Highway store on Sunday and Monday, October 25th and 26th, in order to move items they plan to send to the new store into the back room and get the front room ready to reopen on Tuesday the 27th. They will then start moving items to the new store later in the week. Hopefully we will get an answer by the end of the month.

At the last meeting the membership approved the changes to the bylaws in a unanimous vote by those members attending. The revised bylaws will take place immediately. We plan to post the revision on the web site as soon as Ralph recovers from the wedding of his daughter. I want to thank all those who participated in the revision process.

Also at the last meeting we discussed the unfortunate fact that we are expending funds faster than we are taking them in, despite the increase in membership, higher than expected revenue from train shows, and almost a \$1000 from raffle sales. This problem could become acute if we are not successful in making the move to Hobbytown. Prologis had agreed to postpone their rent increase that was to have gone into effect in July until the first of 2010. Unfortunately, we are costing them money as they get charged an overhead rate based on square footage under lease. Rather than doubling the rent to \$400 a month as originally requested, they have settled on a \$300 a month charge. This will offset their overhead costs for the 40,500 square foot warehouse we currently occupy. This new rental rate will go into effect in January 2010 unless the move to Hobbytown takes place by the end of January.

Bill Carpenter and I have looked at the finances under a variety of scenarios. The conclusion is that we either need to win the lottery or raise the dues. Assuming we get to move to Hobbytown, which is not certain, raising the dues to \$75 per year will let us come close to breaking even. This also assumes that our negotiations with Hobbytown results in our only paying for electricity used and no additional rent. We will have to pay \$125 per month to store the trailer and items not going into

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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November, 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4 Workday 12-4Pm	5	6 SHOW SETUP	7 NB Layout Show
8 NB Layout Show	9	10	11 Workday 12-4P	12	13	14 Workday 10A-4P MONTHLY Meeting 2:00 p.m.
15	16	17	18 Workday 12-4P	19	20	21 Workday 10A-4P
22	23	24	25 Workday 12-4P	26	27	28 Workday 12-4PM NO CLINIC this month
29	30					

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 No CLINIC this month
27	28	29	30 Workday 12-4PM	31		

Raffle Layout



The latest raffle layout continues to make progress. Even in it's partially completed state we have made \$350 with two more events to go. The next opportunity for raffle ticket sales will be at the New Braunfels Layout Only Show in November.

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, October 10th, 2009

The meeting was brought to order at 1400, 10OCT09 by Frank Houzvicka, Superintendent. Regular (voting) Members present were: Frank Houzvicka, Charlotte Boord, Ray Bennett, Jim Cottrell, Ralph Alexander, Fred Bock, Larry Donsbach, Bob Messier, Robert Williams, Bill Carpenter, Gary Griffin, Susan Griffin, and Jim Ladd. Associate Members Kevin Bergeman and Fred Bock were also present.

A Quorum consisting of more than the required fifty-one percent (51%) of voting members-in-good-standing was present.

The Old Minutes were read. Charlotte Boord moved for acceptance and Robert Williams seconded the motion and the Old Minutes were accepted.

The Financial Report was read. We are still solvent but continue to loose ground. Jim Cottrell moved for acceptance and Larry Donsbach seconded the motion and the Financial Report was accepted.

Old Business

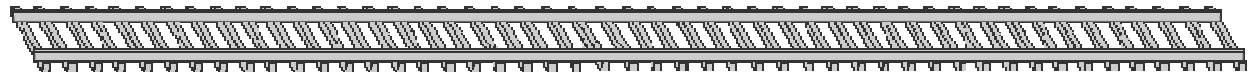
- The changes to the By-Laws was moved for acceptance by Jim Cottrell and seconded by Larry Donsbach. The motion passed and the new changes were accepted unanimously. They become effective immediately. As a result, Kevin Bergeman is now a Regular Member.
- The AMRE Show was good. We received \$200.00 from raffle sales. The Raffle Layout has raised \$350.00 to date. Way to go to the layout workers!!
- New Braunfels Layout Extravaganza is a go for November 7th and 8th. We will be taking an "L" shaped NTRAK layout and the T-Trak layout.
- The raffle layout will be going to the Texas Transportation Museum during the month of DEC09. Volunteers will be needed to work the raffle. The drawing will be Dec 19th.
- Frank Houzvicka will be going to the Oklahoma City Train Show, 03-06 DEC09. He will be taking three modules and Larry Donsbach, Charlotte Boord, Jim Cottrell and Robert Williams are tentatively going to attend also.
- The Clinic will be held this month on 24OCT09. It has yet to be determined where it will be held. Frank will send out an e-mail no later than 22OCT09. The topic will be CelluClay Scenicing by Robert Williams.

New Business

- Frank gave a "State of the Club" speech. Discussing on how the club is doing and in which direction. He discussed all the possibilities of staying at our present location with Prologis verses moving to Hobbytown. There are still no guarantees that Hobbytown will let us occupy their back room.
- There was discussion about raising the annual dues to \$100.00 due to our current funding shortfall and the possible consequences. This is precipitated by a forthcoming increase in rent by Prologis for our current facility. Robert Williams suggested that we only raise the dues to \$75.00 and see what happens. Charlotte Boord suggested that we collect the \$100.00 in two (2) increments. The first during the first six months and the second during the last six months of the year. Changes in dues will be deferred until the Hobbytown move is finalized—one way or the other. No dues for 2010 will be accepted until the issue is resolved.
- It was discussed and agreed that all future Raffle Layouts will be sceniced during the train show to increase interest in purchasing tickets and increasing the general knowledge of the "how to" portion of scenicing.

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- Jim Cottrell discussed the purchase of Module Labels at the cost of \$3.00 each and if ordered in bulk (greater than 20) \$2.00 each. He will need the orders by this coming weekend (17OCT09) so that he can give the manufacturer time to complete the order BEFORE the New Braunfels Layout Extravaganza.
- We had two (2) visitors with us today. Bob Fowlks and Charlie Ibaugh.
- Happy Birthday to Fred Back and Gary Griffin!!

The meeting was adjourned at 1500.

Jim Cottrell

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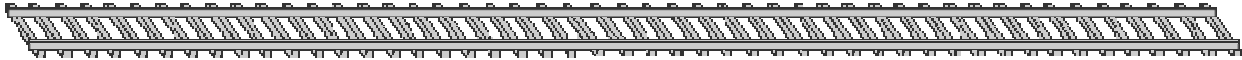
the space at Hobbytown. It also assumes we can maintain a membership of at least 30. A recommendation was made to go to a dues rate of \$100 per year, payable in 6 month increments. This would allow the club to potentially build up some resources for when we have to move out of Hobbytown when their lease expires in September of 2011. It was decided that we would wait and see what happens with Hobbytown before we change the dues. If that move falls through and Prologis raises the rent we will have bigger problems as even \$100 per member per year will not cover expenses. Buy more lottery tickets!!

On a positive note, the bylaw change has allowed TTRAK module builders to become Regular Members without having to build an NTRAK module. The first of these is Kevin Bergeman.

Frank Houzvicka
Superintendent

Photos from the AMRE Show





Coming Events

New Braunfels Modular Layout Show
NB Convention Center

Nov 7th and 8th, 2009
Sat: 8-5, Sun: 9-4

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

