

# THE RPO

San Antonio Railroad Heritage Museum

June 7, 2009

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May 9, 2009 was the 2nd National Train Day event sponsored by Amtrak. This event is celebrated across the nation in many major cities. San Antonio Railroad Heritage Museum co-hosted this year's event with Amtrak at Sunset Station.

Participants in the event were Radio Disney, Amtrak, National Parks Department Rails to Trails, Sunset Station, San Antonio Railroad Modelers Association (SAMRA) and San Antonio Railroad Heritage Museum (SARHM).

Booths were set up on the lawn in front of Sunset Station parallel to the steam locomotive Southern Pacific #794. A stage was next to the locomotive's tender for the Radio Disney performers and the East Central School District Mariachi Group.



Photo taken by Michael Bongalis

SARHM had several informational tables set up for the public to view and ask questions. The tables contained displays, pictures, and information about SARHM's projects as well as other railroad excursion group's brochures. A display for the Texas Rail Tourism Alliance (TRTA) was set up for viewing. Many visitors signed the guest book requesting more information about SARHM and it's projects as well as how to become a member.



Visitors signing guest book at SARHM tables - Photo taken by Michael Bongalis

With the help of Dibble's Hobbies, Mr. B.L. Miers and Mrs. Melissa Stout, several raffle prizes were donated to SARHM to raise money towards the restoration of the SP 794. The prizes were 5 Union Pacific route maps, two \$5 gift certificates to Dibble's Hobbies, one \$10 gift certificate to Dibble's Hobbies, one \$20 gift certificate to Dibble's Hobbies, a Thomas the Train Track Master set, two Daylight Reflections Volume 1 books, and a Marklin HO train set.

Amtrak promoted traveling by rail as well as handing out timetables and novelties to visitors and children. The National Parks Department Rails to Trails promoted the program of converting old abandoned railroad right of ways to hiking



National Parks Department Rails to Trails Team - Photo taken by Michael Bongalis

## 2009 National Train Day

by Maria Rodriguez

and biking trails. SAMRA set up a small module promoting model railroading inside the main depot.

Radio Disney provided music and dancers for entertainment. They also held dancing contests for prizes for kids and/or adults who participated. After Radio Disney left, the Mariachi Group from the East Central School District performed festive music for the remainder of the afternoon.



SARHM Member, Bridell Miers, dancing with Radio Disney Dancers - Photo taken by Michael Bongalis

Sunset Station provided a refreshment booth selling nachos, tacos, water, snow cones, and sodas. Also, to help visitors relax and cool down, Sunset Station provided small tables with chairs and canopies for the booths. Sunset Station also provided the stage needed for the Radio Disney performers.

However, with everything going on, the main attraction was the SP 794. SARHM provided cab tours of the SP 794 to the visitors. The cab tours drew long lines of visitors. More than 250 adults and children viewed the cab while listening to the SP 794's history and SARHM's goals for her provided by Mr. B.L. Miers. All visitors leaving the cab had happy children and big smiles eagerly anticipating what's to come of this "Old Girl". The "Old Girl" was sporting her new coat of paint, bright and shiny in the many camera flashes, looking proud and grand.



Mr. B.L. Miers asking a little girl if she would like to see the cab - Photo taken by Michael Bongalis

SARHM would like to thank the members available to help make National Train Day a success this year. Also, SARHM thanks Amtrak and Sunset Station for their added support as this event would not have been as successful without them. And most of all, SARHM thanks all of the visitors. Even though there were many things to view, watch and do, without the visitors, the event would not have happened. Combined, the event was a success and SARHM looks forward to working harder to create something better for next year's National Train Day (Sshh, it's a secret!). Thank you everyone!!!



Line to view the SP 794's cab - Photo taken by Michael Bongalis

## Upcoming Events:

- BOD meeting: 7/12/09 @ 2:00 p.m. located at Sunset Station in the Harrisburg Room.
- General Membership Meeting: 6/20/09 @ ? p.m. located at Sunset Station's Restaurant Aldaco's in the Casa Marisol Room
- SP 794 Work Sessions: 6/14/09 & 6/28/09 @ 12:00 - 5:00 p.m. located at Sunset Station
- Elmendorf City Council Meeting - 6/11/09 @ 7:00 P.M. located at St. Anthony's Hall in Elmendorf, TX

## Congratulations and Best Wishes!

- We at SARHM would like to wish one of our members, Justin Miers, and his new wife, Tessa Miers, congratulations for their joining in holy matrimony and graduating from basic training in the Air Force. We are proud to have you as our members and can only give you best wishes for your happy futures to come. But always remember to be safe and we are always here to support you.





# San Antonio Railroad Heritage Museum



Where History and Rails are Joined Together.

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## SARHM Serves Concessions at Elmendorf's City Council Meeting

By Melissa Stout



Darlene Hicks and Melissa Stout serving concessions to Linda Ortiz, Paul Gonzalez, and Cody Daily - Photo taken by Michael Bongalis

During the Elmendorf City Council Meeting held on 03/12/09, the city council voted to allow the San Antonio Railroad Heritage Museum (SARHM) to sell concessions during the future city council meetings in order to raise money towards building the replica of the original SA&AP depot that once resided in Elmendorf, TX for the Elmendorf Heritage & Railroad Museum (EHRM).

Members of SARHM (Darlene Hicks, Michael Bongalis, Michael and Melissa Stout) setup a table at the 4/9/09 Elmendorf City Council Meeting selling water, coffee and snacks to city council members as well as citizens of Elmendorf. The SARHM members spoke with several of Elmendorf citizens about the plans for EHRM and the depot as well as plans for the Southern Pacific steam locomotive #794. A few individuals spoke to SARHM members about their families and memories of past events and places of Elmendorf as they looked through the available pictures.

SARHM will continue to sell several items and adding to the concession inventory at future Elmendorf City Council Meetings.

The Elmendorf City Council Meetings are held at 7:00 P.M. every second Thursday of the month located at St. Anthony's Catholic Church Hall on Kilowatt Rd., Elmendorf, TX.

## Classic Car Cruise Along the Corridor - Elmendorf, TX

By Melissa Stout

On the beautiful Saturday morning of 5/2/09, the San Antonio Railroad Heritage Museum (SARHM) was at the St. Anthony's Catholic Church enjoying the splendor of the variety of classic cars that came by to make a quick stop. The drivers were taking a small break from their long drive allowing them to stretch their legs, enjoy the breakfast provided by the St. Anthony's Senior Citizens Group, and listen to the music being played, which was customized to the time period of the cars coming by. Among the groups arriving in these glorious vehicles were the Gear Grinders and the Thunderbirds.



Thunderbirds - Photo taken by Michael Stout

As each group went to get some breakfast, many individuals stopped to look at the display board for SARHM showing information about the Elmendorf Heritage & Railroad Museum (EHRM), National Train Day 2009, the steam locomotive Southern Pacific #794, and Sloan Yard. Many came to the table and asked several questions of the attending members, Michael and Melissa Stout. A binder full of pictures was available, showing many historical views of Elmendorf as well as current day Elmendorf, the SP 794, and the steam locomotive San Antonio & Aransas Pass #60.

Mrs. Stout explained how SARHM created EHRM with the plans of building a replica of the original SA&AP depot that originally resided in Elmendorf, TX at its originating location where the history of Elmendorf, TX would be on display. She continued to speak about the restoration work in progress on the SP 794 and SARHM's goals to restore her to full operational status. Mrs. Stout would finish by explaining how SARHM plans to run touristic excursions between San Antonio and Elmendorf with the SP 794 leaving Sunset Station and arriving at the newly built depot in Elmendorf, TX.

The event ended around noon with each group driving on to their next location. Some donations were given to SARHM for the benefit of EHRM building the replica of the original SA&AP depot in Elmendorf, TX. With the donations given and all of the individuals inquiring about SARHM, SP 794, and EHRM, the event was a great success and especially a great pleasure to view each masterpiece driven.



Thunderbirds - Photo taken by Michael Stout

## SARHM's Mission

**The purpose of SARHM is to inform and educate the public about the rich railroad history of San Antonio and the South Texas region, by offering a historical look at the economical and cultural impact that the operations of the railroads had on the past. Further, SARHM will look at how the railroad affects the region today and will continually look forward toward how the railroad will affect the future of our region.**

## SARHM Needs Your Help!

by Maria Rodriguez

How can you help?

**Membership:** By becoming a member, you can help this organization by giving your voluntary services enabling us to work as a team to preserve the railroad heritage of San Antonio and the South Texas area for all generations. This invaluable education will give future generations the history needed to expand their knowledge and understanding of how the railroad impacted our way of life as well how it affects us currently as we move into the future. For a membership application, please visit our website at [www.sarhm.com](http://www.sarhm.com) or feel free to call or write.

**Donations:** If you choose not to become a member, but still want to help, donations are a great way to start. We are accepting both cash donations and railroad related items for donation.

Cash donations will receive a receipt for tax purposes as we are a 501(c)3, Not-For-Profit Organization.

All non cash donations will need an appraisal presented to ensure a proper receipt is issued for tax purposes. If the non cash item is not able to be presented to a member, a photo sent with a description and the appraisal may be mailed or emailed for consideration.

**Information:** Any information you can contribute is also a wonderful way to help. The information can be historical, documentation, photos, equipment, location, or financial opportunities.

**Ideas/Suggestions:** We at SARHM are interested in your ideas and suggestions. Anything is open for discussion including ideas to improve what we are already doing. Please don't hesitate!

No matter which way you decide to help, or how much you decide to help, please know your help is greatly appreciated. Thank you in advance for your support!

## Board of Directors

**Chairman:** B.L. Miers

**President/CEO:** Gary Rodriguez

**Executive Secretary:** B.L. Miers

**Treasurer:** Mike Stout

**Public Relations:** Marla Rodriguez

**Membership Coordinator:** Robert Stout



Southern Pacific #794 located at Sunset Station, San Antonio, TX - photo taken by Melissa Stout

## We're on the Web!

[www.sarhm.com](http://www.sarhm.com)   [www.sp794.org](http://www.sp794.org)  
[www.elmendorfmuseum.org](http://www.elmendorfmuseum.org)  
[www.sapp60.org](http://www.sapp60.org)