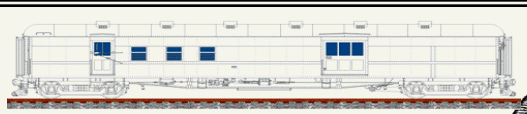


THE RPO



San Antonio Railroad Heritage Museum, Inc.

December 13, 2016

Volume 4, Issue 1

From the Top - It's Back!!!

by Gary Rodriguez

Greetings everyone! It's been a while since we had a RPO newsletter and I as President/CEO decided that the absence of the RPO has been an oversight of ours as an organization. So to rectify this error, I have taken it upon myself to put together a "new" RPO newsletter to get the news of our organization's happenings to all that are interested.

There are so many great things in the pipeline for SARHM that we need to share! December has seen the grand opening of our first physical location in Elmendorf, for our division the Elmendorf Heritage and Railroad Museum. Over the past year, we have been working on acquiring materials for displays for this location as well as another; soon to be announced location.

The SP 794 project is moving forward with a new plan that I think will be better for achieving the goals set forth. As the work progresses under "phases", the fund raising goals will be established to achieve the work of that particular phase. Ultimately, the cost will be the same, but will be broken down into smaller increments allowing for donors to see the funds in action. Phase One is set to kick off in January 2016. Further details are in this issue of our newsletter.

I would like to encourage anyone who is interested in being a part of our future to please join! We are not know as the "fun group" for nothing! We are all about having a great time while doing what we all love. So join us and come be a part of our future!

Gary Rodriguez

President/CEO

Elmendorf Heritage & Railroad Museum

by Gary Rodriguez

Work in Elmendorf is progressing slowly. The interior of the library/museum building has undergone a complete rewiring. The old ceiling was removed, a new sheet rock ceiling has been installed as well as new lights. The interior now looks better than it ever has! Mrs. Darlene Hicks has been the driving force in getting the building ready. Many thanks to her and all the volunteers who have dedicated their timeless hours toiling away getting the building ready.

While the library is working on getting everything squared away. Our members have been working on fixing up the shed where the books have been kept over the past few months. The shed was originally an equipment and materials building for the City of Elmendorf when the City Hall occupied the main building.

The shed was set up with three bays and each bay had two large swinging doors. Bay Ones doors were a complete shambles, so the decision was made to removed the doors and construct a wall that will enclose the bay. The bay instead will be turned into the museums wood working shop. In the coming weeks, the exterior of the shed will be refaced as much of the wood is rotting due to age and the lack of maintenance. The tin roof will also need some attention as there are a couple holes in the back that allow for water to leak into the interior.



Seen above, B.L. Miers poses behind the newly framed wall. This area was once two swinging doors that allowed access for vehicles to be parked inside. This new room will now serve as the wood-working shop for SARHM. - Photo taken by Gary Rodriguez

Upcoming Events:

- **World's Greatest Hobbies Train Show**
February 20th & 21st
Starting at 10am
Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center
200 E Market St
San Antonio, TX 78205
- **Luau to benefit SARHM**
March 13th - See page 3 for more details
- **Rail Fiesta**
April 16th
10am - 4pm
San Antonio Amtrak Station
350 Hoefgen St,
- More events can be found on our website www.sarhm.com by clicking Track-n-Time on the top menu.

Fun Railroad Terms:

- **SHINER** - A brakeman's or switchman's lantern
- **BEANERY** - A railroad eating house
- **QUILLING** - A personalized technique of blowing a steam locomotive whistle
- **BELL RINGER** - A steam locomotive fireman



San Antonio Railroad Heritage Museum

Where History and Rails are Joined Together.

PO Box 794 · Elmendorf, TX 78112 · E-mail: info@sarhm.net · Tel: 210 549-7794

Friends of the SP 794

by Gary Rodriguez

January 2016—PHASE ONE Commences

In an endeavor to get things moving forward on the restoration, I have decided to take a different approach on the restoration. Instead of trying to raise ALL the money at one time for the entire project to be done all at once, the project will now be conducted in phases. Starting in January, Phase One of the project will be kicking off.

Phase One of the project will be the Remediation of the SP 794. Ever since the SP 794 was donated to the City of San Antonio, the asbestos insulation has been under the outer jacketing. As time has progressed, the metal jacketing has begun to deteriorate and now we are faced with 50+ year old, 1/16th inch metal, that has become structurally compromised. The goal of Phase One is the removal of the asbestos by a certified contractor; who will be responsible for the containment and disposal of the material. The jacketing will be removed and sent off to be used as a pattern for new sheets to be rolled.

SARHM has already located a contractor to do the remediation work. The cost of the remediation is \$36,000 and includes the leasing of scaffolding for 30 days to facilitate the removal of all the

exterior piping and appliances that will be in the way of the contractors work. In addition, SARHM will be purchasing tools and equipment that will be used throughout the various phases of the restoration. This includes the cost of purchasing a former military 6x6 5-ton wrecker/crane from GSA and a 40 foot Goose-neck trailer. Other equipment that will also be an impact to the final cost of this phase will be the leasing of a Sponge-Jet Blasting rig and accessories.

The final total cost for Phase One is \$75,000. Once Phase One is completed, we will be in place to start on Phase Two, which will be the Ultra-sounding of the boiler sheeting. This will be a very important part of the project as it will give us an in depth look at the structural integrity of the boiler. With the information gained from this phase, we will know exactly how much work we will be looking at to restore the boiler. More information will be available on Phase Two as the work on Phase One winds down.

GoFundMe account set up for Phase One

As an effort to gain funds to proceed with Phase One of the restoration, SARHM has established a GoFundMe account to collect donations from people all around the world. Using this will give just another method to acquire donated funds to further our projects.

Announcing: RAIL FIESTA 2016!!!!

by Gary Rodriguez

With the changing of Amtrak's National Train Day event to Amtrak Train Days, an opportunity has presented itself to change the event into something greater for the City of San Antonio. Since we are no longer limited to only one weekend a year, SARHM approached Amtrak with the idea of moving the Train Days event to coincide with our City's biggest event, Fiesta. Amtrak Marketing Management is excited by the prospects and has given us a "Thumbs Up" to change in the date. So with the date ironed out, SARHM has also decided that a new name was in order and thus RAIL FIESTA was born! The new event will now fall on the first weekend of Fiesta every year. It is planned to be an event that will continue to grow with each year.

This year, Rail Fiesta will be Saturday, April 16th from 10am to 4pm at Amtrak Depot and how special can it be that our first Rail Fiesta will be held in the year that the Southern Pacific 794 will turn 100 years old! So the goal of this event will be operational restoration of 794 by 2018.

Another advantage to moving the date, is the increased possibility of having more display equipment available to us. We are already working on getting a couple of private cars and even the Amtrak Heritage train for the event. We already have several motorcars committed to coming and are trying for a few more.

As part of moving the event, one of our members suggested that we do more than just change the date, but also "Join Fiesta." So, thanks to a generous donation by a member, SARHM has joined the Fiesta Commission. In addition, it was decided that SARHM should have a Fiesta medals. The Fiesta Medals shown to the right are \$8.00 each and are available online from the Fiesta Store and very soon from our own SARHM.com. So be looking for the new SARHM Fiesta Medals every year.

Board of Directors

Chairman: Sean Embry

President/CEO: Gary Rodriguez

Executive Secretary: Stephen Stukey

Treasurer: Howard Young

Public Relations: Marla Rodriguez



Southern Pacific #794 located at Sunset Station, San Antonio, TX
Photo by Melissa Stout

We're on the Web!

www.sarhm.com

www.sp794.org

www.saap60.org

The RPO newsletter is created and assembled by our Public Relations Director, Ms. Marla Rodriguez and member, Mr. B.L. Miers. Please feel free to contact us with your questions, comments or concerns. Thank you.

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Two Miles of track donated to SARHM

by Gary Rodriguez

After discussions began back in late December of 2015 with Port San Antonio, we are happy to announce the donation of two miles of track to SARHM! This is a major donation to SARHM and a step ahead in future plans for SARHM and our divisions. The track is 75lbs rail and is, for the most part, straight. Plans are underway to remove the track from the site and transport it to our site in Elmendorf, TX where some of the track will be used to construct a display track for equipment we are currently in negotiations to acquire. Some materials, such as the ties, will be removed and sold for use as garden timbers as they are in too bad to reuse. Other pieces like the old spikes will be re-purposed into promotional pieces for SARHM, while the remainder will be sold for scrap to purchase new spikes.



Here is your chance to enjoy some fine food and Great Entertainment while helping SARHM and other charities.

Contact Howard Young at
210-542-6121 to make your
reservations.



Aloha Kitchen presents:
Spring Luau

Sunday March 13th 2016
4:00 PM- 7:00 PM
Mikulski Hall
509 Schertz Pkwy
Schertz, Texas 78154

Win a trip to Hawaii!

- * 4:00 PM Doors Open
- * 4:30 PM Dinner
- * 5:00 PM Showtime
- * 6:30 PM Silent Auction
- * 6:45 PM Fire finale

Mahalo for your support so we can continue with our Community efforts.

- ◊ **Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association**
- ◊ **DJ Express**
Award-winning in San Antonio
- ◊ **Hula Halau Ohana Elikapeka**
- ◊ **Jesse & Lisa**
Aloha with Love
- ◊ **San Antonio Railroad Heritage Museum**

\$25.00 Adult
\$12.50 Keiki (5-12)
0-4 yrs. No Charge
\$150.00 Premium Seating (limited)
Every seat requires a reservation
Cash Bar :
Beer, Wine, Set Ups, BYOB
Call for tickets: (210) 822-9933

 www.alohasanantonio.com

The RPO newsletter is created and assembled by our Public Relations Director, Ms. Marla Rodriguez and member, Mr. B.L. Miers. Please feel free to contact us with your questions, comments or concerns. Thank you.

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Projects In the Backshop

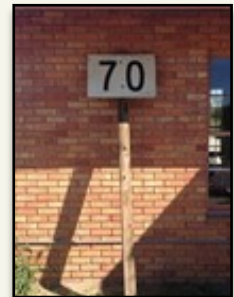
Western Railroad Supply Co. grade crossing bell

Prior to the opening of our location in Elmendorf, our President/CEO, Gary Rodriguez, has been working on several displays for the museum. One of these displays is a Western Railroad Supply Co. (WRRS Co.) grade crossing bell. This bell came to us in decent physical condition, but the paint was flaking off and there was a lot of surface rust. After a little work with sanding and primer, it now has the look of a brand new bell.



Miscellaneous Railroad Signs from the Southern Pacific Displays

Shortly after the fall of the Southern Pacific, the Union Pacific was going through and upgrading all the signage along the Sunset route. An individual had the foresight to gather up a few of these old signs from a scrap bin before they were gone to history and now they are part of our collection.



Amtrak Baggage Cart Restoration

We have started on the restoration of the first of two Amtrak (former SP) baggage carts. There is a little work needed to restore the first cart. For starters, the wooden deck of the cart is in poor condition. We removed a plank from the cart to get the dimensions for replacement lumber. In doing so, we learned that the deck was not normal lumber from your local hardware store. This lumber is true dimensional lumber and the planks are exactly one inch by five and a half inches. This presented us an issue so we turned to the internet for information. That led us to Alamo Hardwood Suppliers located off Fredericksburg Road towards downtown. We visited the store with a sample of the deck plank in our possession. We were fortunate to be acquainted with a very knowledgeable individual, who knew exactly what kind of wood we had just by the smell and appearance of the wood! He informed us that the deck of the cart was Red Oak, which is incidentally the same wood used on old truck beds. This wood is not ideal for outdoor applications and even less favorable for applications where metal is present. It is an acidic wood and will eat away at the metal. If we were going to display this cart indoors, we would be purchasing the Red Oak as it was what the cart was planked with. However, this is not an ideal choice for us as our cart is going to be outdoors most of the time and subject to the elements. Instead, it was suggested that we use the Treated Pine. It is cheaper and will stand up to the elements better than the Red Oak. The purchase of the lumber for the cart will run us about \$75 for the lumber and will completely restore the deck of our cart.

Other things on the cart that need to be addressed are the inner tubes in the tires. They are needing to be replaced as they will no longer hold air. Fortunately the tubes are inexpensive and can be easily installed by a local tire shop. We will be replacing two of the tires with



the extra tires we received with the two baggage carts so that all the tires match. Once the deck and tires are replaced, we will repaint the cart and it will be ready for display. The estimated time for completion will be late February or early March.

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.