



# MAIL HOOK

SAN DIEGO DIVISION, PSR-NMRA

JANUARY 2004

## The Year of the Monkey

*By Ben Sevier, Superintendent, San Diego Division*

A new year has come, the Year of the Monkey. If you are born in the Year of the Monkey, you are very intelligent, well-liked by everyone, and will have success in any field you choose! And it looks like it will be an exiting one in our hobby (even ignoring the fact that it is an election year, leap year, etc.), with more new products rolling out to the stores, choices to be made for the NMRA, and more people learning about the hobby. I'm constantly amazed at the number of people I meet who are interested in, or are actually participating in, this wonderful hobby of ours!

As Dave Balsler mentions in his report on the Division Mini-Meet layout tours, many of our San Diego members (and their friends) have had the honor of visiting some really nice layouts this past year. We've seen large and small layouts, some finished, some not, but all very fascinating and lots of fun. And the people you meet! I think that this hobby attracts the most interesting people, of all types and backgrounds, all with the common interest of TRAINS - big and small. And watching the fascination of kids with trains puts the lie to

the comment that "kids today don't care about trains" - they do, if you give them a chance!

Besides the great layout tours planned for this year, we have a number of other great events coming up. In February the Division's Winter Meet will be the place to be, especially if you are interested in learning how to "do" scenery, look at great models, or just talking trains. A "hands on" scenery clinic is planned, where you get the chance to learn about making trees, roads, "dirt" and other things necessary to make our miniature worlds come alive - and you get to take it home afterwards! There will also be a model contest - bring something you built, painted or designed - enter it, and get feedback from experts (guys just like you) on how to make it better. There will also be a "favorite model" contest, with a prize for the winner. So, don't be shy - show off!

In May is the annual Division Swap Meet and Spring Meet. The swap meet is a place where you can bring those items you don't need (do you really need a DD-35 to go with those beautiful 4-8-2's?), and sell or swap for something that strikes your fancy. The meet will be at the Poway Community Center, with plenty of free parking. Tables will be 50 cents for non-members, there will be a 50 cent door fee for non-members, and kids under 12 free. I've also heard rumors of a bake sale as well - what could be better, fresh cookies, trains, and people who share your interests - make sure it's on your calendar, and bring your friends - it can be an inexpensive way for someone to get into the hobby.

The remainder of the year is still in the planning stages. Each past summer the Division has held a picnic in Rohr park with the Chula Vista Live Steamers, but this year we'll be doing something else - watch these pages. And November is National Model Railroad Month, a

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## LAYOUT MEETS & TOURS

By David Balser, Layout Tour Chairman

January kicked off a great year for layout tours as host Don Fowler invited us to his home to see his great N-Scale railroad. Everything ran perfectly until Dick Roberts showed up and caused a derail of a smooth running diesel consist. It was later found out Dick was carrying a large magnet in his pocket that caused the problem! Also Bob Moore kept his hands in his pockets the entire time to avoid knocking over another structure like he did on the last layout tour! Both of these stories, although somewhat true, point out what a fun time we are having at our tours. We had about 25 guys show up at Dons house and he had his railroad in perfect



Chuck Baker's N Scale Layout

shape and provided tasty food and snacks for the entire gang. If you were not there you missed a good time.

Coming up in February, March, and April will be visiting a Model Railroad in a basement in Del Mar, visiting the "King of Scales" in the Cajon Zone, and taking a "Road Trip" to Orange County to see four great layouts.

February 21 we will be visiting the "DeBoise Western of Art and Lou Dominy. Pronounced "Da Boys" the DeBoise Western is named after father & son, the "Dominy boys. It is 95% scenicked, and uses 300 feet of track in an 18 x 18 basement, and also features a mountainous setting with an impressive gorge crossed by three high bridges. The Dominy boys like to run long consists and because of a constant 1% grade it requires plenty of power to pull trains up the mountains and passes. Art is also an expert on Railroad Dining car China and cutlery

and has written a best selling book on the subject.

March 13 we will be visiting the "King of Scales", O-Scale, at the home of Nelson Rath.



Mike Komosinski's N Scale Layout

Fellow NMRA member John Sigurdson, MMR, designed a special room just for the railroad and it will be good to see real big trains run again. Nelson's empire is housed in a 38 x 16 foot building. Although he has not designated a name for his railroad, he depicts a western setting and runs just about everything in the west: UP, SP, WP, and more. This is no broken down branch line. Nelson runs the big stuff! He operates huge Hudsons, Challengers, Turbines, and even the Grand Daddy of them all- the UP Big Boys! In O-Scale you can imagine the pulling power and the awesome sound of the long consists of hoppers or reefers thundering down the track.

April 17 will be a "Road Trip"! Through the help of former PSR President, Bob Chapparo we will be crossing the border and visiting his Citrus Belt Railway and then moving on to visit three



Dick Trotter's "Coyote Pass & Northern"



*Continued from page 2*

more great model railroads he has lined up for us. We will be meeting for breakfast at "MIMI'S" DINER at the El Camino Real exit off Highway 78 in Oceanside at 0800 AM. Directions to get to Bob's house will be sent to you via the normal postcard or you can get them that morning at MIMI'S, or if all else fails call Bob at (949) 770-5158. Directions to the other three railroads will be at Bob's house the morning of the tour.

Directions for all the tours will come to you via the normal post card Ben sends out. If you do not get yours by Saturday morning then call me at home at (760) 436-6139.

Upcoming tours for the balance of 2004 will include visits to the Model Railroads of Dick Roberts, Steve Harris, John Sigurdson, Rodger Gredvig, Ross Black, and a special day at the Museum where you can run your best trains on the biggest Model Railroad in the West.

A last thought - within one week of visiting a layout please call the host and let them know how many people in your group will be attending. I say group because you are encouraged to invite non NMRA members to introduce them to our activities. By calling ahead, the host can be better prepared!

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### MONTHLY LAYOUT MEET LOCATIONS

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Our February 21st tour is in beautiful Del Mar. Directions to Art Dominy's house: take I-5 to Del Mar Heights Road, head west towards the ocean. Turn right at Camino Del Mar, and head north through the village of Del Mar. Past the village, turn right on Sea View, follow Sea View and take the first left fork, then the first right then another left the right onto Balboa Avenue. His house is at 2060.

The March tour, on the 13th, is at the house of Nelson Rath in El Cajon. Directions: take I-8 to Main Street exit in El Cajon, go west on West Main Street. Turn left on Travelodge Drive, then right on La Vista, then right on Blackthorn. Nelson's house is at 657 Blackthorn. The layout is in a separate building.

The April tour is a road trip to Orange County

on April 17th (St. Patrick's Day). There will be a "gathering" at Mimi's Diner right off Route 78 in Oceanside at 8:00am. Order breakfast (you're on your own) and prepare for a fun day!



Don Fowler's N Scale SP Santee Sub-Division

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### SAN DIEGO MODEL RAILROAD MUSEUM NEWS

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The San Diego Model Railroad Museum was fully accredited by the American Association of Museums (AAM) December 5, 2003 in Washington DC.

2004 should be a great year for the Tehachapi exhibit here. The Tehachapi Mezzanine railing was completed on December 23, 2003. The next step is to get the city to complete the sign off on the final inspection. After that the club will proceed with construction of the new decking that will hold the Tehachapi Loop and Woodford scene. This scene will be 80' long and 25' wide. The club intends to get the Loop trackage into operation by December 3, 2004, Balboa Park December Nights (formerly Christmas on the Prado). Modelers will find the complete HO Tehachapi track plan in a special foldout issue in the January '04 Model Railroader magazine.

Other museum news includes: The San Diego 3-Railers Club has almost completed its 3-rail O gauge layout inside the museum's Toy Train Gallery. Complete means track, scenery and control systems. Special exhibit lighting will be installed by Case Lighting Resources early in '04.

The Lego Train Layout created Southern California Lego Train Club will be operating at the museum until January 31, '04.

## Director's Report

By Rodger Gredvig, MMR

Not much has transpired with the Board of Directors since my last communication in the Mailhook. The survey I alluded to last time has been inserted in the latest Dispatch and you are encouraged to submit your vote before the deadline. You may recall the issue is whether to require NMRA membership to be able to register for a Regional Convention or whether some surcharge designated by each hosting Division would be acceptable. This is your chance to be vocal and influential in policy decisions. Please return your survey ASAP.

Nominations for a regional Trustee to represent us at the National level are being requested. Please submit names to either me or the Superintendent, Ben Sevier [phone and e-mail numbers are on the staff page of this newsletter]. Please remember to register for the upcoming 2004 PSR convention: "Rails to the Verdugos 2004", September 15-19, 2004, sponsored by the Los Angeles Division of the PSR. Information and forms are available online at <http://www.getnet.com/~dickg/nmra/psr/psr.html>

The National Convention is located in Seattle this year, PSX 2004. Registration forms are also online (NMRA.org) and details are included in the NMRA Bulletin.

Some members have been making inquiries about the new Long Range Planning document. An excellent explanation in Q&A form is located at the national homepage in the left column, side frame, at the same site.

*The Year of the Monkey - Continued from Page 1*

chance for us to help encourage and educate people about the hobby. Several ideas are being passed around, including a public train show - if you have any suggestions for an event or activity,


or would like to help, please send it in.

A number of members have asked about getting a name badge to wear at events, one that shows their participation in the Division. Gary Robinson, Membership chairman, has been working on such a project, and will have samples to show at the Winter Meet. The badge will be black with gold lettering, and will have the Division Logo, your first name in large letters, and your last name in smaller ones. The cost will be \$5.00. Sign-up sheets will be at the Meet (if you've already signed up, you don't need to again).

One of the problems with a volunteer organization is finding people with time to help get things done. The Division has been lucky over the years in having members step up and donate their time and efforts, some for many years. One of those is John Sigurdson, MMR, who has run the model contests at Meets and Conventions, and assisted many modelers in learning how to improve their skills and the quality of their models. John is stepping down from this position after the Spring Meet. If you are interested in filling the position of Contest Chair, contact John, Rodger or myself. The position of Meet Chair is also open. This position is responsible for the logistics of the quarterly Division Meets, and needs an organized person to make sure everything gets done on time. If you are interested, please give me a call.

A position that is now filled is the new one of Club Liason, with Jack Byers volunteering to work with the various clubs to coordinate activities and encourage membership in the NMRA at the club level.

As you can see, this new year has lots of things happening, and needs you to help make it all happen. Volunteer to help, open your layout to a tour, attend Meets and events, or just encourage a friend to join - all of these will help make it a fun year! Looking forward to seeing you!



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**SAN DIEGO DIVISION PSR-NMRA**

# **Winter Meet**

**Saturday, February 14th - 11:00 AM**

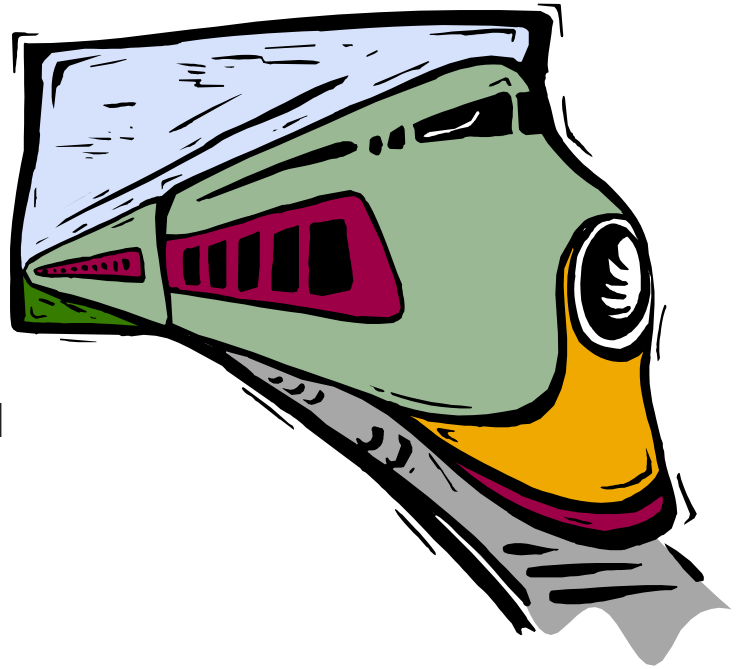
**Peace Lutheran Church, 6749 Tait Street, San Diego**

**HANDS ON SCENERY  
CLINICS!**

**DOOR PRIZES!**

**MODEL CONTEST - EARN  
POINTS**

**FAVORITE MODEL  
CONTEST!**



**HAVE MORE FUN -  
BRING A FRIEND**

Directions: Take SR-163 to Genesee Avenue, and head west. Turn left on Linda Vista Road, and go south on Linda Vista to Tait Street. Turn right - the church is a block down the street on the left. Parking is on the street.

Alternate: Take I-8 to Morena Boulevard, to north, and bear right onto Linda Vista Road. Follow Linda Vista up the hill to Tait Street and turn left.

## ***P O T L U C K D I N N E R***

**REMEMBER TO BRING FOOD TO SHARE - THE DISHES NEEDED ARE:**

**MAIN DISH, SALADS, APPETIZERS & SNACKS, AND DESSERTS**

*Bring your own serving utensils - drinks, plates & eating utensils supplied*

## February 2004

## San Diego Division - Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> <i>Lincoln's Birthday</i>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Division Winter Meet - Peace Lutheran Church 12:00 Noon
<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> <i>President's Day</i>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> Mini-Meet Layout Tour - Art Dominy - Del Mar - 12:00 Noon
<b>22</b> <i>Washington's Birthday</i>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b>						

## March 2004

	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> Mini-Meet Layout Tour - Nelson Rath - El Cajon - 12:00 Noon
<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> <i>St. Patrick's Day</i>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>			

## April 2004

				<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> <i>Passover</i>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> <i>Good Friday</i>	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b> <i>Easter</i>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> Orange County Layout Tour - 8:00am at Mimi's in Oceanside
<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	





**Details make the difference - Dick Trotter's "Coyote Pass & Northern" HO Layout**

### Submissions

If you are interested in submitting articles, event information or other information of interest to members of the Division, please follow these guidelines:

1. Preferred method is by email to the editor, with the submission attached as a text document. Also accepted are: text document on floppy disk, printout from laser or ink jet printer, or typed using new ribbon.

2. Keep in mind that submissions may be edited for length or formatting, or not used at the discretion of the editor.

3. Submission deadlines for 2004: April 9, 2004; July 9, 2004; October 9, 2004; January 15, 2005

4. If you wish submission materials returned (i.e., photos), please send a stamped, self addressed envelope.

### **PAYMASTER'S REPORT**

*by Don Fowler*

Following is the status of the San Diego Division's treasury as of 12/31/2003:

<b>ACCOUNTS:</b>	<b>OPERATING</b>	<b>MONEY MKT</b>
PRIOR BALANCE	120.31	13,492.50
INTEREST:	0.00	21.81
REVENUE:	0.00	0.00
TRANSFER (MM/OPS):	400.00	(400.00)
<u>EXPENDITURES:</u>	<u>(491.09)</u>	<u>0.00</u>
CURRENT BALANCE:	29.22	13,114.31

### **2003 EXPENDITURE BREAKDOWN:**

CERTIFICATE FRAMES:	12.26
FACILITY USE:	90.00
POSTAGE:	1,126.50
PRINTING:	1,118.21
<u>REFRESHMENTS:</u>	<u>204.07</u>
TOTAL:	2,551.04

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## SCHEDULE OF PSR-NMRA EVENTS

### February 2004

Feb 14 - Sat 12:00 noon - **S.D. Division Winter Meet & Contest** - Peace Lutheran Church, Linda Vista.

Feb 21 - Sat 12:00 noon - Monthly Layout Meet - "DeBoise Western RR" - Del Mar

### March 2004

Mar 13 - Sat 12:00 noon - Monthly Layout Meet - Nelson Rath - El Cajon

Mar 13 -14 - **Los Angeles Division Model Train Show.** Descanso Gardens, 1418 Descanso Dr., La Cañada Flintridge, CA 9 - 4 PM Garden fees: Adults \$5, students and seniors \$3, kids (5-12) \$1, under 5 free. Info: Mary Barstow (310) 377-9762

Mar 27 - Sat - 6pm. **Los Angeles Division 50th Anniversary Celebration.** Los Angeles Fire Museum. Info: Mary Barstow (310) 377-9762

### April 2004

Apr 17 - Sat 12:00 noon - Monthly Layout Meet - Orange County Tour - 4 layouts

### May 2004

May 8 - Sat 10:00am - **S.D. Division Swap Meet** - Poway Community Center. Tables 50¢. Admission: Adults 50¢, children under 12 free. Free parking.

May 8 - Sat 12:00am - **S.D. Division Spring Meet** Poway Community Center

May 22 - Sat 12:00 noon - Monthly Layout Meet - TBA

### June 2004

Jun 12 - Sat 12:00 noon - Monthly Layout Meet - TBA

Jun 12 - **Inland Empire Layout Tour** sponsored by the Cajon Division, PSR. For more information, visit [www.cajondiv.org](http://www.cajondiv.org)

### July 2004

July 4 thru 11 - **Puget Sound Express - NMRA National Convention** Seattle, WA. Information and Registration: Dave Kreidler, (425) 831-5131, [rrnut@msn.com](mailto:rrnut@msn.com) General Information: [www.nmra2004.org](http://www.nmra2004.org)

Jul 10 - Sat 12:00 noon - Monthly Layout Meet - TBA

Jul 17 - **Cajon Division, PSR, Combination Meet and Swap Meeting** Riverside. Details TBA

### August 2004

Aug 14 - **S.D. Division Summer Event** - Details TBA

Aug 21 - Sat 12:00 noon - Monthly Layout meet - TBA

### September 2004

Sep 11 - Sat 12:00 noon - Monthly Layout Meet - TBA

Sep 15 thru 19 - **Rails to the Verdugos - PSR Convention** - Glendale Hilton, Glendale, CA. For more information, contact Dave Cox at [david23star@1stnetusa.com](mailto:david23star@1stnetusa.com)

### October 2004

Oct 16 - Sat 12:00 noon - Monthly Layout meet - TBA

### November 2004

Nov 6 - **S.D. Division Fall Event** - Details TBA

Nov 13-14 - Cajon Division, PSR 3rd Annual Model Railroad Celebration, Barstow, California. A full weekend of model railroading fun. Details TBA

Nov 20 - Sat 12:00 noon - Monthly Layout meet - TBA

### December 2004

Dec 18 - Sat 12:00 noon - Monthly Layout meet - TBA

## OTHER EVENTS OF INTEREST

### February 2004

Feb. 1, 3-8, 10-15, 17-22, 24-29 - **San Diego Model Railroad Museum** Special Events: Sunday, Feb. 15, 11:00a - 3:00p, Presidents' Family Day.

### March 2004

March, 2-7, 9-14, 16-21, 23-28, 30-31 - **San Diego Model Railroad Museum** Special Events: Sunday, March 21, 11a - 3p, Circus Day Family Day.

### April 2004

April 1-4, 6-11, 13-18, 20-25, 27-30 - **San Diego Model Railroad Museum** Special Events: Sunday, April 18, 11:00a - 4p, Rails Across Time Historical Reenactment.

April 24-25 - **Orange Empire Railway Museum** Rail Fest 2004. 2201 South "A" St. Perris CA 17 miles south of Riverside on I-215. (909) 943-3020, [www.oerm.org](http://www.oerm.org). Admission is \$14 for adults/juniors, \$10 for ages 5-11, under 5 free.

### May 2004

May 1 - **San Diego Model Railroad Museum** Spring Swap Meet. 7 - 11 AM SDMRRM, Pete Munoz (619) 293-0162

### December 2004

Dec 4-5 - **GATS, San Diego, CA.** 11 AM - 5 PM. \$7.00. Del Mar Fair, 2260 Jimmy Durante Blvd. North See [www.GATS.com](http://www.GATS.com) for discount and details. (630) 834-0652



## Membership Application

### Pacific Southwest Region - National Model Railroad Association

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Scale \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

New  Renewal  PSR # \_\_\_\_\_ NMRA # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

<u>Class of Membership</u>	<u>NMRA</u>	<u>PSR*</u>	<u>Both</u>
Regular	\$45.00 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$7.00 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$52.00 <input type="checkbox"/>
Youth (under 20)	\$30.00 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$2.00 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$32.00 <input type="checkbox"/>
Affiliate (no bulletin or local publications)	\$23.00 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$4.00 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$27.00 <input type="checkbox"/>
Family	\$ 9.00 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$1.00 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$10.00 <input type="checkbox"/>

\* You **MUST** be a member of the NMRA to be a PSR member

For information on NMRA activities, contact the San Diego Division membership Chairman:

Ben Sevier, (858) 538-9863

Please send this application and your check or money order made payable to "Pacific Southwest Region, NMRA". Mail to: PSR-NMRA Membership, Gary Robinson, 13928 Barrymore St., San Diego, CA 92129

*Cut along this line, and mail to the above adress with your payment*

### Online - Web Sites of Interest

Train Net: [www.trainnet.org](http://www.trainnet.org)

NMRA: [www.nmra.org](http://www.nmra.org)

PSR: [www.getnet.net/~dickg/nmra/psr/psr.html](http://www.getnet.net/~dickg/nmra/psr/psr.html)

Rails to the Verdigos Convention: <http://www.getnet.com/~dickg/nmra/psr/2004conv.html>

San Diego Division: [www.getnet.net/~dickg/nmra/sdiego/sdiego.html](http://www.getnet.net/~dickg/nmra/sdiego/sdiego.html)



### **SAN DIEGO DIVISION STAFF**

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Member Aid:	<b>Bob Schimmel MMR #193</b>	858 273-8511	
Layout Tours:	<b>Dave Balsler</b>	760 436-6139	dbalsler@adelphia.net
Meets:	(open)		
Membership:	<b>Gary Robinson</b>	858-538-5256	grobbedobbie@yahoo.com
Nominations:	<b>Chuck Hart</b>	858 748-6816	pce@cox.net
Clinics:	<b>Bob Moore</b>		bobmoore24@earthlink.net
Club Liason:	<b>Jack Byers</b>	760-839-2785	mgb1108@aol.com



# MAIL HOOK

## LOOK INSIDE FOR THE LATEST NEWS!

- Layout Meet Schedule
  - Winter Meet - February 14th!
  - The Year of the Monkey!
  - Interesting Articles!

Look Inside!



## MAIL HOOK

c/o Ben Sevier, Editor  
12793 War Horse Street  
San Diego, CA 92129

A quarterly publication of the **San Diego Division**  
of the **Pacific Southwest Region**  
of the **National Model Railroad Association**

