

MAIL HOOK

SAN DIEGO DIVISION, PSR-NMRA

1ST QUARTER 2006

Director's Report

By Don Fowler

"Man who sleep on railroad tracks wake up with split personality!"

Greetings and Happy New Year! I hope that you enjoyed a great holiday season and found some quality time for model railroading. Have you thought about setting some model railroading goals for the new year? We must all succumb to life's demands but when I develop a written plan with goals and objectives, I enjoy pretty good success. It could be as simple as a prioritized "to do" list pinned on your bulletin board. I thought that I'd share a few of mine with you to give you some ideas:

- Represent the needs and interests of our Division at the Region level.
- Attend and participate in all local NMRA activities.
- Give my best effort to support our upcoming convention.
- Introduce more people to model railroading and encourage them to join our Division.
- Mentor others in model railroading when given the opportunity.
- Prepare and submit documentation for two MMR certificates.
- Operate my N scale layout at least once a week.

- Add more detail to my N scale layout.
- Complete my G scale backyard layout so that it runs well and looks presentable.

I've gone out on a limb here by publishing my list because you can all hold me accountable at the end of the year for what I don't accomplish. I know that I can count on my friends to support, encourage, and push me to accomplish my goals. Now how about you? If you're having trouble picking something, we still need a lot of help for our upcoming convention.

We had a great fourth quarter here in San Diego. We visited three incredible home layouts and had a very successful Fall Meet complete with pot luck, clinics, and Chinese Auction. Don't miss out on the fellowship and fun at our next meet and bring a friend!

Superintendent's Report

By Ben Sevier

Just a brief update on the 2006 Convention - more details will be in the PSR Dispatch this quarter. Everything is coming along well, with more activities, clinics and layouts being confirmed almost daily. So far, we have prototype tours, activities down at the Model Railroad Museum, a large number of interesting clinics, more layouts than anyone could possibly visit (if you would like have your layout on the tour, give Dave Balsler a call), and the train show, not to mention the Railette activities, a Chinese Auction, and much, much else. If you haven't signed up yet (there's a form in this issue, and one on the Division web site), do so quickly - the price goes up the end of March.

We will soon be at the point of needing volunteers to help with all the various tasks of actually putting the convention on - ticket takers, assistants of various types, that sort of thing. Start thinking about what you would like to do to help

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Layout Meets & Tours

By David Balsler, Layout Tour Chairman

February: we will visit the "Gopher Canyon Line", the outdoor railroad of Steve Sidensticker in San Diego. Just because this layout is outside don't dismiss it as being a toy train set running in the grass. This is a "scale" model railroad with precise trackwork, detailed rolling stock, and locomotives even the rivet counters will appreciate. Steve has regular operating sessions, which is unique for a railroad of this type (they also give you some appreciation for the jobs of real railroaders - following a "G" scale train can give you a workout). Some new trackwork has just been installed, and seeing the freight trains run without hesitation through long turnouts is pretty neat. Bring your hat!

March: I'm looking for either a tour volunteer, or a good road trip for March.

April: this will be the first viewing of a railroad we have not seen before. John Constans lives in Cardiff and is modeling the Westside Lumber Co. in Sn3. The railroad is in the development stage but a Shay or a Climax will be hauling a load of logs from the camp to the mill. John is hand laying all his track and uses PFM units to let you hear the geared locomotives strain up the grades. Projects under construction will let you see the railroad before it is complete and enjoy John's craftsmanship.

I would like to fill out the balance of the year before the convention in September with layouts we have not visited before, so if you are ready to take the "Tour Challenge" let me know and you can be on the schedule.

NOTE: Layout tours start at noon, so for you early birds please don't show up at breakfast time (you know who you are) because the host will be drinking coffee and cleaning track and trying to find that short in his wiring!



Going over to the Dark Side - Don's new "G" scale layout

A Special Invitation

From Steve Harris, Burton Maxwell, Dick Roberts & Joel Shank

Please join us the weekend of March 24-26 for the first San Diego and Imperial Counties Narrow Gauge Mini Meet to mingle with other Narrow Gaugers and to see and operate our layouts.

Open layouts will include:

- Joel Shank's Sn3 RGS. Built in it's own dedicated 33'X32' building, Joel's finished layout is considered to be one of the best RGS layouts in the country. Dozens of beautifully weathered scratch-built structures, fantastic scenery, and PFM sound. It was featured in a cover article in the October 2001 RMC.

- Dick Roberts Nevada County Narrow Gauge (using HO standard gauge equipment). Dick is building a true mushroom design layout with an automatic elevator. The layout is 21'X24'. Dick wrote an article on his layout and it's elevator for the January 2001 issue of Model Railroad Planning and has also published several RMC articles on sound chips he uses on his layout. Dick and his crew operate his layout using RailOp dispatching software. The layout is equipped with Digitrax DCC and Soundtraxx. The layout is about 80% complete. A Friday night operating session is planned.

- Pastor Burton Maxwell's H0n3 West Side Lumber Co. Hundreds of trees, beautiful scenery, scatch built locos, logging trucks and structures; and an operating overhead (literally) cable tram and other animated logging operations. The layout is 17'X37' and is about 90% complete. Burton's layout is not yet well known, but a must-see.

- Steve Harris' Hon3 RGS. A two level layout with a helix and a semi-mushroom peninsula built in an office trailer. The upper level is 95% complete with mostly scratch- built structures. The layout is equipped with Easy DCC Soundtraxx and CT sound decoders. Steve's layout was featured on the cover of the November 2004 MR. He has also written several articles for the Gazette, including the Jan/Feb issue of this year.

In addition, we have made arrangements with the San Diego Model Railroad Club for attendees to operate the narrow gauge branch of their line. The SDMRC is one of the several layouts in the

Membership

Gary Robinson, Chairman

As you should know by now, the NMRA has changed the rules and rates for membership. Here is a short summary of how these changes affect us.

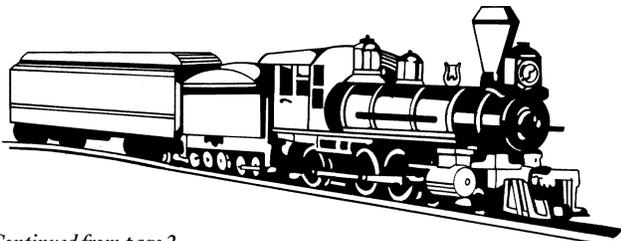
The NMRA no longer issues Life memberships. Those who have them will continue to hold them, but no new Life memberships will be issued.

The Regular NMRA membership rate for one year remains as it was, \$45. The Regular membership includes a subscription to Scale Rails, the national publication. The NMRA Affiliate membership, which does not include publications (Scale Rails, etc.), is now \$33, up from \$23, and the national subscription fee (to receive Scale Rails) is \$12, giving the \$45 total fee.

The PSR MEMBERSHIP, which was formerly \$7 per year, is now included in that rate. However, under the new rules, the PSR and other regions may charge a SUBSCRIPTION FEE for those members who wish to receive Region publications. This fee will cover the cost of preparation and distribution of the various Region newsletters and other announcements. This fee is currently \$8 per year for the PSR to receive the "PSR Dispatch".

These new rates went into effect December 1, 2005. A revised membership application form is included in this issue of The Mailhook. Please contact me if you have specific questions about your membership.

Gary Robinson
grobbiedobbie@yahoo.com
760.839.5877



Continued from page 2

famous San Diego Model Railroad Museum.

To register, just send us an e-mail to slh@Valleycenterintemet.com saying you're coming and we'll get back to you with the plans. No registration fee, but we're going to be putting on a dinner Saturday night and we need to know how many are coming.

Hope to see you on the 24th!
Joel, Dick, Burton & Steve

Awards

Ed Hatch, Chairman

Things have been very busy in the Golden Spike and AP Certificate awards area. In May I assisted Frank Tepedino make up a booklet with photographs for submitting an application for his first merit award on his HO "PRR Commissary Car, #492108". The award is a step toward the Master Builder - Cars AP certificate. The booklet contained a revised filling in of the Judge's Score Sheet, under Construction, Detail, Conformity, Finish and Lettering, and Scratchbuilding. If you are interested in learning how to fill in the "Judge's Score Sheet for NMRA Model Contests, you can refer to Duane Buck's "Contest Corner" article in the 2nd Quarter issue of the "PSR Dispatch". Within a few weeks of submitting his application, Frank received his Merit Award.

On August 20th, 2005 the monthly layout tour was held at Don Ham's "Casmalia Junction" layout, the first time this layout has been on the tour. It was a surprise to me to see a layout ready for the Golden Spike award on our first visit. I took the required photographs, filled in the application, and mailed it, along with a copy of Don's NMRA membership card. He received the award a few weeks later.

In October I got a nice surprise when Dick Roberts (whose layout has been visited a number of times by the Division) called me to start the awards process. I submitted his application for the Golden Spike Award, followed shortly by his applications for the Author, Master Builder Scenery, Model Railroad Engineer - Electrical and Model Railroad Engineer - Civil certificates. He should receive all of them this year at the PSR Convention in October.

Our Division is doing well in the Awards and Certificates qualifications, and we have four (4) Master Model Railroaders in the Division: Rodger Gredvig (218), Bob Schimmel (193), Paul Schmitt (342) and John Sigurdson (236). With the current activity, there should be a couple more within the next couple of years. But, there should be more! The AP and MMR programs are designed to take you into areas of the hobby that you may not have explored yet, with the goal of making you a better modeler. And you probably have already mastered a number of the skills necessary! So, think about getting busy and get involved in the program - San Diego should have more MMR's than any other part of the country - don't you think?



San Diego Model Railroad Museum

Permanent Exhibits: The San Diego County Relief Map – this exhibit features a computerized interactive display and depicts the terrain of San Diego and Imperial Valley as well as the traditional rail lines and stations.

Toy Train Gallery “Rail Town” Exhibit – The Toy Train Gallery comes to life with animated buildings featuring a fire station, car wash, and an exact replica

of the Lionel factory in Lindenwold, NJ. Also on display are Lionel collectibles dating back to 1915 and original prints of Lionel artwork.

Coming Events

American Flyer Exhibit March 4-19, 2006 during museum hours

Sun - April 23, Old West Days, 11:00am - 4:00 pm

Sat - May 6th, 7:00am – 11:00am, Model Railroad Swap Meet

Sun - June 11th, Circus Family Day, 11:00am - 2:00pm

MONTHLY LAYOUT MEET LOCATIONS

Steve Seidensticker (February) - 2223 Commonwealth Ave, San Diego (619) 283-2849.

Steve and Jan live in the very south end of North Park. To get there take 805 north or south to University avenue. Then go SOUTH (sharp left) on Boundary (parallels 805 on the west side) about 1.5 miles. Turn RIGHT on Commonwealth. 2223 is on the left side about half a block before the street dead ends.

Clinicians Needed!

We are currently compiling a resource list of members who are willing to provide training on various aspects of model railroading to be provided at meets, shows and conventions. General topics may include bench work, track, electronics, scenery, operations, engines & rolling stock, maintenance, history, or any other related topics.

There are many talented modelers within our Division who have developed or refined many techniques and skills. In order to expand

John Constans (April) - 2004 Via Tiempo, Cardiff (760) 942-4250

John lives in Cardiff, to the East of the I-5. Take the BIRMINGHAM DR exit- EXIT 40. Turn RIGHT onto BIRMINGHAM DR. (0.47 miles) Turn RIGHT onto LAKE DR. (0.50 miles) Turn LEFT onto WALES DR. (0.19 miles) Turn LEFT onto VIA TIEMPO. (0.07 miles) End at 2004 Via Tiempo Cardiff, CA.

our membership and support each other, these skills need to be shared.

If you would like to contribute your talents to help support our hobby, please contact Clinic Chair Don Fowler for further information. We welcome experienced clinicians and newcomers as well. Assistance is available for developing presentations if desired. The more you invest in our Division, the more you'll get out of model railroading.

Online - Web Sites of Interest

Train Net: www.trainnet.org

Rail Pictures: <http://www.railpictures.net/>

NMRA: www.nmra.org

PSR: <http://www.psr-nmra.org/>

Back to the Future in 2006 Convention: www.getnet.com/~dickg/nmra/psr/2006conv.html

San Diego Division: www.getnet.net/~dickg/nmra/sdiego/sdiego.html (PSR) or

www.sandiegodivision.org (Division)

Cajon Division: www.cajondiv.org

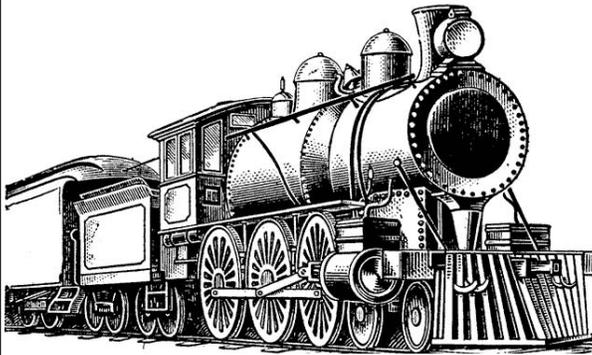
San Diego Model Railroad Museum: www.sdmodelrailroadm.com

San Diego Rail Sites: www.sandiegorail.com/index.html

Carrizo Gorge Railway: <http://www.carrizogorgerailway.com/>

The Overland Trail: www.overlandtrail.com

SAN DIEGO DIVISION PSR-NMRA



Annual Model Railroad Swap Meet

Saturday, May 13th, 2006

Doors Open - 9:00am (Setup at 8:00am) - Close at 11:30am

**Hilltop Recreation Center
Oviedo Road, San Diego, CA**

**BUY
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ALL SCALES

**Model Railroading Public Invited!
Event is free to members of the
National Model Railroad Association.**

**All Others - Adults \$1.00
Children 12 & under - Free
Seller Tables - 2.00 per half table**

Division Spring Meet Follows

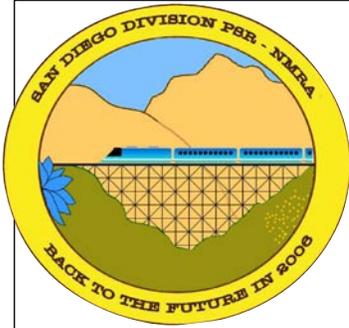


**HAVE MORE FUN -
BRING A FRIEND**

Directions

From Interstate 15, take the Ted Williams Parkway/Freeway exit and continue on the 56 West Freeway (Ted Williams). Exit at Black Mountain Road. Turn right and proceed to Oviedo Street, then turn right. Go to the top of the hill and look for the center on the right.

From Interstate 5 or Interstate 805, take State Route 56 East. Exit at Black Mountain Road (about 6 miles). Turn right and proceed to Oviedo Street, then turn right. Go to the top of the hill and look for the center on the right.



BACK TO THE FUTURE IN 2006

Pacific Southwest Region, NMRA® 2006 Convention

OCTOBER 11 - 15, 2006

Presented by the San Diego Division, PSR, NMRA®
 Ramada Inn and Conference Center, San Diego, California

Name(s)*(1) _____ (2) _____

Address _____

City _____ State & ZIP _____

Phone _____ E-Mail** _____

NMRA #: _____ PSR #: _____ Registration Date: _____

Region & Home Division _____ Primary Scale _____

*As you want it to appear on your badge **E-Mail is the preferred communication method

| <u>TYPE</u> | <u>QTY</u> | <u>EACH</u> | <u>TOTAL</u> |
|---|------------|-------------|--------------|
| NMRA Adult Rail (NMRA Member) before 4/1/06.....# _____ | @ | \$50.00 | _____ |
| NMRA Adult Rail (NMRA Member) after 3/31/06.....# _____ | @ | \$65.00 | _____ |
| NMRA Adult Rail (NMRA Member) after 8/19/06.....# _____ | @ | \$75.00 | _____ |
| Non-Rail, Spouse, or Adult Family Member, when accompanied by NMRA member# _____ | @ | \$40.00 | _____ |
| Youth (10-17, with paid adult)# _____ | @ | \$15.00 | _____ |
| Single Day – Indicate Day [] Thur [] Fri [] Sat.....# _____ | @ | \$30.00 | _____ |
| Non-NMRA member surcharge# _____ | @ | \$10.00 | _____ |
| Extra Fare from reverse (when posted) | | | _____ |
| Total | | \$ | _____ |

Would you be interested in helping out while at the convention? _____ Yes _____ No, thanks

Would you willing to give a clinic? _____ Yes Topic: _____ No, thanks

Operating session interest? _____ Yes _____ No, thanks

Make checks payable to:

San Diego Division

Send registration form and payment to: Gary Robinson, PSR 2006 Registrar

2319 Conway Drive

Escondido, CA 92026

Registrar's contact information: Email: grobbedobbie@yahoo.com Phone (760) 839-5877

Convention Hotel: Ramada Inn & Conference Center, 5550 Kearny Mesa Road, San Diego, CA 92111

Reservations: (800) 447-2637 - http://www.ramada.com/Ramada/control/advanced_search - Room Rate \$89.00

Registrar's Use Only: Cash \$ _____ Check \$ _____ # _____ Date: ____/____/____

Registration # _____ Posted: ____/____/____

Cancellation policy:

Full refund, less \$5.00 fee per registrant, when requested in writing (or email) before September 1, 2006

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| Publicity: | (vacant) | | |

Mail Hook

The "Mail Hook" is the official publication of the San Diego Division, Pacific Southwest Region, National Model Railroad Association (NMRA®), and is published quarterly in San Diego, California. The "Mail Hook" is available to all members of the NMRA® who live in San Diego and Imperial Counties.

Responsibility: Except for official reports, all opinions expressed are those of the authors, and do not necessarily represent those of the San Diego Division or its parent organizations.

Subscriptions: The "Mail Hook" is available by subscription at the following rates: \$6/year for NMRA® members, \$10/year for non-NMRA® members, and is mailed first class.

Delivery: The "Mail Hook" is available in hard copy (paper) format through subscription and at San Diego Division events. Normal distribution is through email delivery or on the Division and PSR websites.

Submissions: Contributions of articles or photos on any railroad or model railroading topic of interest to the membership are welcome. There is no compensation, but published articles can be credited to the NMRA® Author Achievement Certificate. 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: Apr 16, 2006, Jul 16, 2006, Oct 15, 2006, Jan 15th, 2007.

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

Continued from page 1

- this is a Division effort, and we need your help. And, you will have fun doing it! The convention committee is now meeting every other week at Peace Lutheran Church (where we often have Division Meets) beginning at 6:00pm - feel free to attend. The next meeting will be on March 12th - come see what is going on, and join in on the fun.

In other news, there are a number of things "happening" in our area. The Winter Meet was a great success, hosted by the Short Track RR at the Antique Gas and Steam Engine Museum. There were some excellent clinics, lot's of food, and we go to see the new Short Track clubhouse - very impressive. My thanks to them for their hard work and support.

The annual Division Swap Meet will be at the Spring Meet in May - there's a flyer in this issue - feel free to print or copy it and post it around.

A group of our top-notch narrow-gaugers is setting up a weekend of narrow-gauge modeling (see their invitation in this issue), and we will continue with the monthly Division events, including layout tours and other activities. If you would like to have your layout on the tour, give Dave Balsler a call. A number of modelers have begun work on their Achievement Program certificates, on their way to the Master Model Railroader certification - if you haven't looked into doing the same, you should. And many of our members are eligible for the "Golden Spike" award, based on the work they have done on their home layout or modules - are you there yet? If so, call Ed Hatch and get recognized for your work.

Well, that's about it for this time. See you around - Ben

SCHEDULE OF PSR-NMRA EVENTS

April 2006

- 8 San Diego Division Layout Tour. John Constans, Cardiff. Directions are available in the 1st Quarter 2006 issue of the "Mail Hook or online at www.sandiegodivision.org

May 2006

- 13 Annual San Diego Division Swap Meet - 9:00am to 11:30am at Hilltop Recreation Center, Oviedo Road, San Diego - Open to the public. Table setup begins at 8:00am. For more information, visit www.sandiegodivision.org or email sddiv@sbcglobal.net
- 13 San Diego Division Spring Meet at Hilltop Recreation Center, San Diego. Meet begins at 12 Noon after the Swap Meet. Clinics, model contest, pot luck lunch, other activieis. Visit www.sandiegodivision.org or email sddiv@sbcglobal.net for more information.
- 10 San Diego Division Layout Tour. TBA More info and directions available in the Mail Hook online at www.sandiegodivision.org

July 2006

- 2 to9 NMRA Convention. Philadelphia, PA <http://www.nmra.org/2006/> The Mid-Eastern Region hosts Independence Junction
- 15 San Diego Division Layout Tour. TBA More info and directions available in the Mail Hook online at www.sandiegodivision.org

August 2006

- 12 San Diego Division Summer Meet & Picnic. Visit www.sandiegodivision.org for more information.

October 2006

- 11 to 15 Back to the Future in 2006 PSR Convention - Al Bhar Shrine & Ramada Inn, San Diego, CA. Visit www.sandiegodivision.org for more information, or the PSR website online at www.trainnet.org.

November 2006

- 4 San Diego Division Fall Meet at the San Diego Model Railroad Museum. Visit www.sandiegodivision.org or email sddiv@sbcglobal.net for more information.

Other Events of Interest

February 2006

- 25 Great Western & Atlantic Trainshow. 11am -5 pm. Pomona, CA \$8.00 www.gats.com

March 2006

- 4 OERM Spring Railroadiana Swap Meet. 9 AM - 2 PM Orange Empire Railway Museum 2201 S. "A" Street, Perris, CA Admission: \$5; (included with all-day pass for trolley and train rides, \$10 adults, \$9 ages 5-11) Details at: www.oerm.org web site
- 18 Great Western & Atlantic Trainshow. 11am -5 pm. Costa Mesa, CA. \$8.00 www.gats.com

May 2006

- 6 San Diego Model Railroad Museum - Balboa Park, San Diego - Swap Meet 7am to 11am.
- 6, 7 Fullerton Railroad Days. 9 - 5. Fullerton Train Station, 124 E. Santa Fe Avenue. (714) 278-0648 www.scrf.org/rrdays

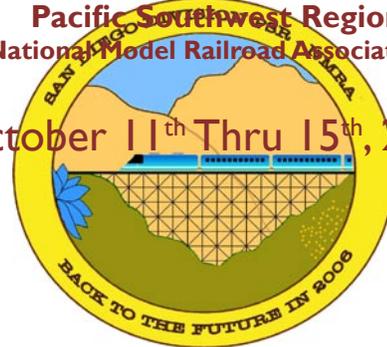
September 2006

- 30 Great Western & Atlantic Trainshow. 11am -5 pm. Costa Mesa, CA. \$8.00 www.gats.com

BACK TO THE FUTURE IN 2006

Annual Model Railroad Convention
Pacific Southwest Region
National Model Railroad Association

October 11th Thru 15th, 2006



Ramada Inn & Convention Center
&
Al Bahr Shrine
San Diego, CA

Model Railroad Clubs in San Diego

San Diego Model Railroad Museum

Balboa Park, San Diego

Info: www.sdmodelrailroadm.com

La Mesa Model Railroad Club (HO)

Info: LaMesaClub@att.net

San Diego 3-Railers (O)

Info: (619) 690-4358

San Diego Model Railroad Club (HO & O)

Info: www.sdmrrc.org

San Diego Society of N Scale (N)

Info: www.sdsons.org

North County Model Railroad Society (HO, N)

1820 Oceanside Blvd, Oceanside

Info: 760-772-7366

Poway Station Model Railroad Club

Old Poway Park, Poway

Info: www.powaystation.org

Short Track RR at the Antique Gas & Steam Engine Museum

2040 N. Santa Fe

Vista, CA 92083

760-941-1791

Info: Modeltrains@agsem.com

If you would like your club listed, or have news of interest, contact the Club Liason, San Diego Division

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San Diego Model Railroad Museum

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1649 El Prado, Balboa Park

Open to the Public

Tuesday through Friday 11:00 - 4:00

Saturday - Sunday 11:00 - 5:00

Admission: Adults \$5, Students \$3, Seniors \$4

Military \$2.50, Tuesdays free to all

NMRA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION - PSR

Please accept my application for membership renewal or new membership in the NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION, which includes the PACIFIC SOUTHWEST REGION and my local PSR Division.

New Renewal NMRA # PSR #

| | | | |
|---------|------------|-------|--|
| Name | | | |
| Address | | | |
| City | State | Zip | |
| Phone | Birth Date | Scale | |
| Email | Occupation | | |

| <i>NMRA Membership Type - circle your choice of options</i> | 1 Year | 2 Years | Total |
|--|---------|----------|-------|
| Member - All rights and benefits - does not include NMRA <i>Scale Rails</i> | \$33.00 | \$66.00 | |
| NMRA Scale Rails subscription - Must be an NMRA member to subscribe | \$12.00 | \$24.00 | |
| PSR Dispatch subscription - Must be NMRA member to subscribe | \$8.00 | \$16.00 | |
| Family - Spouse or minor child of above member in good standing. No NMRA Scale Rails or voting rights. Provide family members name and date of birth here: Name _____ DOB: _____ | \$9.00 | \$28.00 | |
| Student - any person 18 yrs and under or student between the ages of 19 - 25 yrs possessing valid student ID. All rights and benefits and NMRA Scale Rails | \$22.00 | \$44.00 | |
| Sustaining - Mandatory for group memberships (Clubs, Associations, Businesses). All rights and benefits and NMRA <i>Scale Rails</i> | \$90.00 | \$180.00 | |
| TOTAL DUES AND SUBSCRIPTIONS PAYMENT ENCLOSED (Make checks payable to NMRA) | | | |

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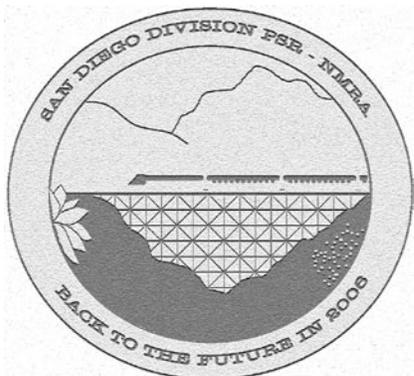
Month Year

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