

MAIL HOOK

SAN DIEGO DIVISION, PSR-NMRA

1ST QUARTER, 2012

SUPERINTENDENTS REPORT

By Don Fowler

Happy New Year! I hope that Santa brought you all the model railroad goodies that you wished for. 2011 seemed to blast through town like a freight train with a highball signal. Here's hoping that 2012 brings you good health, happiness and prosperity. I'm looking forward to all of our San Diego Division activities and the opportunity to share in the fellowship of our great hobby.

The Fall Meet was held November 12th at the San Diego Model Railroad Museum and was one of the best attended Division events of the year. More than fifty members got together to enjoy clinics, food, show & tell, contest judging, museum tour, and Hobo Auction. Thanks to all who helped make that event a great success.

Kim and I enjoyed hosting our Division's Annual Holiday Party on December 10th at our home. We ran trains, had a great dinner, and played holiday games that culminated with the exciting gift exchange. There were a few surprises and a lot of laughs along the way. Special thanks to the ladies for their wonderful desserts and cookies.

Continued on Page 2

WINTER MEET PREVIEW

The San Diego Division annual Winter Meet will be held Saturday, February 11th from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM, at the Short Track Model Railroad Club Section House. Short Track is located on the grounds of the Antique Gas & Steam Engine Museum, at 2040 N. Santa Fe Ave., in Vista. The Meet will include lunch, clinics, contest judging, show & tell, and members of the Short Track club will be giving us an inside look at the building and operation of the N Scale Donner Pass layout. You'll be amazed at the progress they've made since we last visited.

Jimmy Simmons, owner of Monster Modelworks, will present a clinic using Weathering Powders to color and highlight any and all materials in the model building process. If you've not been to one of Jimmy's clinics, you're in for a real treat! Following the clinic, Jimmy will answer any questions about the products his company sells including custom laser work and a nifty tool to make nail holes.

Our second clinic will be presented by Paul Schmitt, MMR, on NMRA achievement program. This is the program that awards the designation of Master Model Railroader (MMR). We have five MMRs in the Division, and a number of others who are on their way. A lot of folks, yours truly included, have procrastinated for years on starting the program for numerous reasons and most of us use the excuse of "the paperwork is too difficult". Paul will explain the easier way to earn merit awards by demystifying the paperwork and showing us how not to make things too complicated. Please bring any models you would like to be judged for A.P. Merit Awards. Judges will be available to answer any questions you may have about the Master Model Railroader achievement program.

Pete Steinmetz, our Yahoo! Group moderator, will give a short presentation and answer questions on the new PSRSanDiego Yahoo! Group. This group is for all members of the San Diego Division and a few select

Continued on Page 2

In This Issue

Superintendent's Report	1
Winter Meet Preview	1
Fall Meet Wrap Up	2
Welcome New Members	3
Layout Tours	4
NMRA News	5
Events Wall Calendar	6
Events & Schedules	7
Photo Clinic	10
Club Car	11
Rumor Cnetral: AMTRAK over Tehachapi	13
2012 PSR Convention	14
Local Model Railroading Clinics	14
From the Editor	15

Superintendent's Report from Page 1

We kicked off the new year with a visit to Don Ham's HO scale Central Coast Railroad in Escondido on January 14th. This freelance layout depicts the Santa Maria Valley on California's central coast in the 1950's. Don has done a great job with flawless track work and outstanding scenery with many of the structures being scratch built or significantly kit bashed.

Our Division Winter Meet will be held at the Short Track Club located at the Vista Antique Gas & Steam Engine Museum on February 11th. I understand that the Club has made substantial progress on their railroad and you won't want to miss this opportunity see it and operate on it. We will also enjoy clinics, show & tell, contest judging, food and great fellowship.

Cajon Division's annual Temecula Meet will be held on the weekend of March 30-31, starting off with Railroad Bingo on Friday evening. On Saturday, there will be clinics, tours and dinner with a Hobo Auction following. This event is a lot of fun so mark it on the calendar so you don't forget.

So as you can see, we're off to a running start at 2012. Do your best to join us and bring a friend.
Don

* * *

Winter Meet Preview from Page 1

friends. We want to get everyone used to using this group to communicate among Division members, as it allows us to send out mass e-mail notifications while still conforming to the NMRA Privacy Policy. It also provides for a storage location for back issues of the Mail Hook, photos of events, and other documentation relevant to Division operations. However, there are a few tricks you should learn to maximize your experience with this new communication tool, and you need a Yahoo! ID to take full advantage.

If you have a model, photos, locomotive, a new idea, or any model railroad project you are working on, please bring it to the meet for Show & Tell and spend two minutes sharing your ideas with the group. We all are interested in learning new things.

Subway sandwiches, chips, and a drink will be available for \$5.00 but you must e-mail David Balser at ON30MAN@GMAIL.COM by February 9th or call 760-436-6139 and choose Ham, Turkey, or Beef as your sandwich selection. Please bring a dessert to share with the group like cookies, brownies, candy, or anything tasty.

Our meets are primarily for members, but you are welcome to bring a guest to share in the fun. See you on Saturday the 11th.

David Balser
Meet Director

* * *

FALL MEET WRAP UP

We had a great time at the Fall Meet last November. We enjoyed the hospitality of the San Diego Model Railroad Museum (SDMRM), as well as good fellowship, good food, and a good Hobo auction. We started earlier this year to get a better chance at finding a parking space, and this seemed to work out well.

We opened with coffee and donuts, then got into the clinics. Duncan McRee gave us a presentation on Decoder Pro. This is a "shareware" product from JMRI (Java Model Railroad Interface). Decoder Pro allows users to change the configuration variables (or CVs) on DCC decoder-equipped locomotives. This is by far the easiest method of doing this. You can also manage operations on your railroad. JMRI has additional modules (Panel Pro, Logix) that may be useful as well.

Dick Roberts next regaled us on the construction of the Kidder Mansion on his Nevada County Railroad. The mansion was home to the superintendent of the Nevada County Narrow Gauge Railroad, and a signature structure on the prototype. Dick told us not only how he built the model, but how he researched the original building and designed it to fit the space (only part of the mansion is modeled), as well as how he created some of the outstanding details on the model.

We broke for lunch, and everyone must have enjoyed the pizza, since there was hardly any left. Thanks to Dave Balser for setting that up.

Cont'd...

Finally was the event everyone was awaiting. Thanks also to Don and Kim Fowler for organizing the Hobo auction, and to all those who donated items.

The next meet is the Winter Meet, on February 11, at Short Track Railroad. Look for a preview elsewhere in this newsletter.

* * *

Welcome New Members

New members keep our organization vital by bringing new ideas and enthusiasm to our group. Each month, we list the new members since the last issue, and run a short background on those who are willing. This may help both the new members and existing members identify those in the group with similar interests. To submit background, contact me or Ray Inbody, Membership Chair. Ed.

Richard and Linda Albrecht HO Poway Station
Nicholas Brown
Terry Roberts HO Poway Station
Michael Wolf

Al Burke

About 20 years ago I tried N scale. It turned out to be too small for me! Every time I got near an HO layout I knocked something off the rails! Then I visited Max Schwanda's O scale layout and I was hooked. I became a regular member of Max's Friday night operating crew.

Originally from Niagara Falls, NY, I lived about 100 yards from the New York Central line between Niagara Falls and Suspension Bridge. The Lehigh Valley had trackage rights on the NYC from Niagara Junction to Suspension Bridge. The Erie yard was three blocks to the East. The C&O laid over in the Erie yard and Canadian National inter-changed cars with NYC, LV and Erie. The CN still had steam engines. The LV had the contract to supply coal to CN. When my Uncle Bob first became a fireman he sometimes worked as a hostler and had to fill the tenders. So he had to learn how to run and fire steamers and diesels. My grandfather was a conductor on the LV and worked the "Buffalo Pick Up" 5 or 6 days a week. Every time the Pick Up went by the engineer would give a little toot and everyone would run out and wave. When the cabooses went by Grand Pa would toot the little air whistle on the cabooses. Eventually my uncle became the youngest engineer on the "Lehigh" and sometime it was a family affair. Also, the electric railway Niagara Junction interchanged with the LV and NYC and switched a lot of the plants on Eastern and South sides of town.

I now live in the Paradise Hill area of San Diego. My other interests include my family, and shooting.

I model the Lehigh Valley, naturally. I have bench work and track laid down. I have gotten into kits in a big way, lately. I recently completed my first styrene kit (covered hopper) and am finishing up my first "wooden" kit. It is an old Westbrook flat car. It became a wooden kit because I didn't like the paper deck that came with the kit so I cut planks and decked it with individual boards.

I enjoy being a member of the NMRA, meeting other model railroaders, and seeing their layouts.

Alex Sibbald

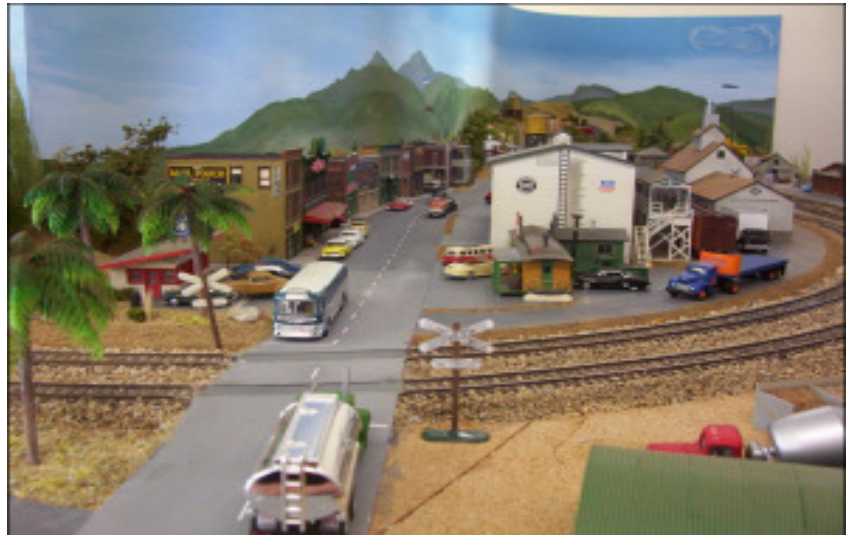
I have been involved with trains since 1950 when I received my S Gauge American Flyer Set which included a smoking 312AC Pacific with lit passenger cars and a mail car which actually picked up the mail bag on the fly. I was hooked. Every year I built up my railroad empire at my family home in New Jersey until my teenage years. After a stint in the USAF, I moved to San Diego with my family. In the 80's my son and I tried HO but there was no magic. It wasn't until my folks sent me two large boxes of my childhood trains in 2000 did the magic appear again. The grandkids were thrilled, grandpa had trains! To accommodate them, I built an 8 X 10 layout on two connected levels allowing for the operation of 4 trains at a time, each one controlled by a drawer containing an 8b transformer, switch controllers and accessory buttons. The lower level displays operating accessories from the 50's, located at the front of the layout for ease of operation, and the upper level depicts a small town along RT 66 in the 50's. Building and then modifying structure kits by installing lighting and interior details is what I really enjoy. I was thrilled to have a photo of my layout featured on the cover of the June 2007 NASG Dispatch Magazine. In 2008 several of us got together and formed a club named San Diego S Gauge to promote 1/64th railroading and to have fun. For more information about our club, check out our website and videos at: <http://sites.google.com/site/sdsgaugers/Home>

* * *

LAYOUT TOURS

January

In January we visited the Central Coast (HO) railroad of Don Ham. Don's layout is DCC, and is about 60% scened. Taking up one bay of a two-car garage, the layout consists of two peninsulas against the wall, with access on both sides of each peninsula, forming a rough U shape. Both sides of one leg, most of the base, and some of the other leg have basic scenery contours applied, with painted backdrops, rock castings, roads, trees, and other scenic features. Work on scenes, including buildings and roads, is on-going for the base, and one peninsula. The other peninsula is basically complete. Trains ran flawlessly during our visit. Industries represented on the Central Coast Railroad include citrus packing, oil production, and sugar beet processing. Don scratch-built his sugar beet loader from pictures and an article in an old railroad magazine.



Scale sugar beets are represented by anise seeds. A former Navy pilot, Don has included several painted airplanes on his backdrops, a nice touch. Don is currently pursuing his MMR, with several certificates already in hand. If you missed this layout, you missed a great one!

March

In March we will visit the San Diego S Gaugers in their new clubhouse in Suite 106 in the 2445 Truxton building, Liberty Station. In the early days of model railroading, S-scale was called "S-gauge," and they decided to honor tradition in naming their club. In their first year, they grew membership and built a 9- by 17-foot two-track S-MOD layout. SDSG's layout was first exhibited at the GTE in Del Mar in December 2008, where it was well received by the public and members of the model railroading community alike.



Scenically, the layout packs a lot into a small area. Corner modules have generous curves in the 44-inch radius range. On two of the corners, the two-track main burrows under the local mountain range providing scenic interest. A prospering cattle ranch graces the third corner, and an orange grove can be found on the fourth. Five 4-foot straight modules host a rail yard with sidings serving an icehouse and icing dock, passenger station, and freight station. Four

straight modules house a siding with operating trackside action accessories from the A.C. Gilbert era (1946 through 1960s). Two more feature a trestle over fish creek and girder bridges over the creek that flows out of twin lakes. Additional straight modules are under construction and are slated for completion in the summer of 2012.

More...

April

April will take us on a visit to Jim O'Connell's Pinnacle Creek Mining & Timber Company HO scale railroad in Santee. The Pinnacle Creek Mining & Timber Co. is set in SE Alaska, up a fjord which is accessible by sea. It is a small subsidiary of a larger mining company. While most locos (a 3-truck Shay, a 3-truck Heisler and a 2-truck Climax) are fairly new, most of the rest of the layout shows signs of getting less attention. The date of the layout is October 1, 1931, the Great Depression is taking place, and small mining sites like the PCM&T have, for the most part, to rely on themselves and not the parent company.

The layout is built on open L-girder benchwork that has already housed Z and N Scale layouts. This is my first HO endeavor. The PCM&T is an operations type of layout in that the locos do not go round and round. It is always back and forth and there are only two sidings for operations. Basically, the layout is very much scenery based, that is Jim's specialty, but moving different combinations of ore cars gives plenty of operating fun for him.

The layout is three levels with a 6.7 degree grade to be negotiated. Rockwork is fairly unique in that he used stucco, then carved the 'rock' before it dried. There are two mines; a wharf, upon which sits an engine house; and an ore tibble. These are all scratch-built. There is a mining camp with mostly scratch-built buildings. There are approximately 175 caspia trees, also made by Jim. The PCM&T is not a large road, but we think you will enjoy the quality of the work and appreciate what can be done in a bedroom-sized layout.

Jim's primary interest is scenery. He's only been modeling since 2005 and has had layouts published in five railroad magazines. Continental Modeler has photos of his N Scale layout in their hands. He has built layouts in Z Scale and these layouts reside in Germany, Mexico City, Japan, Singapore, Iowa, two in Virginia, Florida, and Oregon. So come to Santee and see the PCM&T. Some of you may know his old N layout, the Cascade Mining & Timber Co. It was in a layout tour February, 2010.

If you have small locos of your own, bring them to run or photograph if you want. The layout is DCC.

* * *

NMRA NEWS

Here's the latest from Gerry Leone, MMR, NMRA Communications Director.

It's a new year and a new InfoNet News eblast!

- The Kalmbach Library's immensely popular "[The Postwar Freight Car Fleet](#)" book has sold out.
- The [Grand Rails 2012 Convention still has some space left for modular layouts](#) at the National Train Show so if someone in your Division or Region wants to show the world what they've done, go to www.gr2012.org and click on the "Contact us" page. Have them tell the committee what they've done and the committee will get things rolling.
- More Grand Rails 2012 news: The convention has some [great things planned for non-rails](#). There's a cooking demo that will make attendees think they're watching a stand-up comedian do a cooking show and great entertainment at the luncheon in one of the most beautiful ballrooms in the country. There's also a ride on a dune schooner to see the 1100 acre Saugatuck Dunes! Have non-rails go to www.gr2012.org for all the details.

And some of last month's important news bears repeating:

- This year [registration for Grand Rails 2012 will be handled in a new way](#). Instead of the large registration package inserted into *NMRA Magazine*, the full package can be downloaded from www.gr2012.org. Those who prefer a printed piece can send their request, along with their name and address to: GR 2012 Registrar, 4165 Costa NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49525. There will also be a registration form and ad appearing in an upcoming issue of *NMRA Magazine*.
- [NMRA elections](#). The official ballot was prepared by the National Nominating Committee according to the procedures laid out in the Regulations and the Executive Handbook (available at www.nmra.org). It will appear as an insert in the center of the February issue of *NMRA*



Continued on Page 10

February 2012

San Diego Division - Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9 Short Track Ops Session, AGSEM	10	11 Multiple Events
12 Cal Express Railroadiana	13	14	15	16	17 Coachella Valley Open House	18 Multiple Events
19	20	21	22	23 Short Track Clinic, AGSEM	24 Coachella Valley Open House	25 Multiple Events
26	27	28 Poway Station Clinic, Old Poway Park	29			

March 2012

				1	2	3 Multiple Events
4	5	6	7	8 Short Track Ops Session, AGSEM	9	10 SD Division Layout Tour
11 Golden Empire Show	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22 Short Track Clinic, AGSEM	23	24 Santa Susana Swap Meet
25	26	27 Poway Station Clinic, Old Poway Park	28	29	30 Cajon Division Temecula Meet (PSR Mid Year (Sat))	31

April 2012

1	2	3	4	5	6	7 Short Track Basic MR Clinic
8	9	10	11	12 Short Track Ops Session, AGSEM	13	14 SD Division Layout Tour
15	16	17	18	19	20	21 Los Angeles Div Spring Rail
22 San Bernardino Railroad Days	23	24 Poway Station Clinic, Old Poway Park	25	26 Short Track Clinic, AGSEM	27	28 Train Song Festival, Poway Park
29	30					

SCHEDULE OF PSR-NMRA EVENTS

OTHER EVENTS OF INTEREST

From various sources. Events may have been submitted by sponsors. Send corrections, additions, and future events to the editor at mailhook@sandiegodivision.org. Events should be of interest to San Diego Division members. List not all-inclusive. Division-sponsored events are listed in **bold** typeface.

2012

February

- 11 San Diego Division Winter Meet**, Antique Gas & Steam Engine Museum, Vista, CA. Short Track Railroad clubhouse, 11:30-3:00. Contact D. Balsler meets@sandiegodivision.org

March

- 10 San Diego Division Layout Tour**, San Diego S Gaugers, Suite 106, 2445 Truxton Road, San Diego. Contact layouts@sandiegodivision.org
- 31 PSR Mid-Year Board Meeting**, Temecula, CA. 1pm. Location TBA

April

- 14 San Diego Division Layout Tour**, Jim O'Connell, Santee. HO scale Pinnacle Creek Mining & Timber Company. Contact layouts@sandiegodivision.org

May

- 12 San Diego Division Spring Meet and Swap Meet**, Clairemont Christian Fellowship United Methodist Church, 4570 Mt. Herbert Ave, San Diego, 92117. NMRA members and all children 12 and under free, others \$2, 1/2 table \$5. Coffee & donuts available. Contact D. Balsler meets@sandiegodivision.org

June

- 9 San Diego Division Layout Tour**, TBA. Contact Don Ham layouts@sandiegodivision.org

July

- 14 San Diego Division Layout Tour**, TBA. Contact Don Ham layouts@sandiegodivision.org
- 29-Aug 4 Grand Rails 2012**. NMRA National Convention, Grand Rapids, MI. More info at: <http://www.gr2012.org/>

August

- 11 San Diego Division Summer Meet** TBA

September

- 8 San Diego Division Layout Tour**, TBA. Contact Don Ham layouts@sandiegodivision.org

See the San Diego Division web page calendar for Other Events of Interest for other dates. Ed.

2012

January

- 26 Short Track Railroad Clinic: Airbrushing**. 7pm, Short Track Section House, Antique Gas & Steam Engine Museum, Vista. <http://www.shorttrackrr.org/>
- 29 Photography Clinic**, North San Diego County locations. Limited enrollment. Contact Pete Steinmetz, peter.steinmetz@att.net

February

- 9 Short Track Railroad Operations**, open to all: 7pm, Short Track Section House, Antique Gas & Steam Engine Museum, 2040 N. Santa Fe Ave, Vista. <http://www.shorttrackrr.org/>
- 11 Swap Meet**, San Diego Model Railroad Museum. 7am - 11am. \$2/\$5 Sellers supply tables.
- 12 The California Express Railroadiana & Transportation Show**. Buena Park, CA 9am- 3pm UFCW Hall, 8550 Stanton Ave. (Corner of Stanton Ave and Crescent Ave.) Buena Park, CA Regular Admission \$8. Info: <http://www.californiaexpress.net/index.html> Contact: Renee Orton 626-281-7500 reneeorton@hotmail.com or Paul Orton lampandlanternhead@hotmail.com
- 17 - 26 Coachella Valley Model Railroad Open House** at Riverside County Fair. Riverside County Fairgrounds, 82-503 Highway 111, Indio CA 92201. 10 am - 2 pm. www.cvmrr.com Contact Jim Hundley at jim@cvmrr.com
- 18 Santa Fe Railway Historical & Modeling Society Mini Meet**. Amtrak/Santa Fe station in San Bernardino. SFRH&MS third Mini-Meet at the Depot, 1170 W. Third Street, San Bernardino, hosted by the SB History & Railroad Museum. Clinics include: Cajon at War, Western Stove, the San Bernardino Chemical Warfare/Bomb Loading Plant and the Rialto Ammunition Back-Up Storage Point, by Stuart Forsyth. Making Ready to Run Cars Ready to Run, by Richard Hendrickson. Restoring Transition Era Passenger Cars. by Kenny Rhoads. Those Were The Good Old Days, by Bob Drenk. Free access to Vendors. Registration for clinic participation is \$25.

Cont'd...

OTHER EVENTS OF INTEREST

cont'd from page 7

Registration: Gene Rutledge atsfgene@aol.com 559-732-2560 1034 E. Atkins Ave., Visalia, CA 93292.

Vendor tables: Charlie Schultz ctschultz@aol.com 909-596-5870

- 23 Short Track Railroad Clinic: TBA (Jimmy Simmons). 7pm, Short Track Section House, Antique Gas & Steam Engine Museum, Vista. <http://www.shorttrackrr.org/>
- 25 Model Railroads Of Southern California Layout Tour #29. High Desert Area. Bob Chaparro
chiefbobb@verizon.net
- 25 Roundhouse Gang Swap Meet. 0730 to noon. New location St Adelaide Catholic Church, 27457 Baseline St., Highland, CA (1 block W of 210 on Baseline St). Gary Wintergerst, 909-794-3153
gwinterg@verizon.net
- 28 Poway Station Video Clinic, Open to all. Porter House, Old Poway Park, 14134 Midland Road, Poway, CA. 7pm - 9pm. Info: president@powaystation.org

March

- 3 Orange Empire Railroad Museum (OERM) Railroadiana Meet. 0900 to 1400. Admission \$7 for adults, \$5 for children 5-11, or included with an all-day pass for trolley and train rides \$12 adults, children \$8. OERM members have free admission. Orange Empire Railway Museum 2201 S. "A" Street Perris, CA 92570
Information: 951-943-3020 or 951-657-2605 <http://www.oerm.org>
- 3 Short Track Railroad Basic Model Railroading Clinic, Short Track Section House, Antique Gas & Steam Engine Museum, Vista, CA. 9:30 - 12:30 (first of multiple parts), Contact Gary Robinson
grobbedobbie@yahoo.com
- 8 Short Track Railroad Operations, open to all: 7pm, Short Track Section House, Antique Gas & Steam Engine Museum, 2040 N. Santa Fe Ave, Vista. <http://www.shorttrackrr.org/>
- 10-11 Golden Empire Historical & Modeling Society's Annual Model Train Show Sat: 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM; Sun: 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM. Adults \$7, Kids under 13 are free. Parking \$3. Over 100 dealer tables and several operating layouts of different scales, including live steam. Kern County Fairgrounds, 1142 South 'P' Street, Bakersfield, CA 93307. Information: Doug Wagner, (661) 331-6695 or carldw@aol.com ; GEHAMS Web Site: <http://www.gehams.net/>
- 22 Short Track Railroad Clinic: TBA. 7pm, Short Track Section House, Antique Gas & Steam Engine Museum, Vista. <http://www.shorttrackrr.org/>
- 24 Santa Susana RR Historical Society Swap Meet. 0700 to 1000. in the Santa Susana Park Pavilion, 6503 Katherine Rd., Simi Valley. Admission \$2.00 for adults, children under 12 free. For table and space information please visit our website: <http://www.santasusannadepot.org/swapmeet.htm> or call Dave Putnam (661) 753-6006.
- 29 Poway Station Clinic (TBA), Open to all. Porter House, Old Poway Park, 14134 Midland Road, Poway, CA. 7pm - 9pm. Info: president@powaystation.org
- 30-31 Cajon Division Temecula Meet. Railroad Bingo on Friday evening. On Saturday, there will be clinics, tours and dinner with a Hobo Auction

April

- 12 Short Track Railroad Operations, open to all: 7pm, Short Track Section House, Antique Gas & Steam Engine Museum, 2040 N. Santa Fe Ave, Vista. <http://www.shorttrackrr.org/>
- 21 NMRA Los Angeles Spring Rail Event. 0900 to 1700. First Christian Church, 220 South 5th Street, Alhambra, CA.
- 21, 22 San Bernardino Railroad Days at the Historic Santa Fe Depot, 1170 West 3rd Street, San Bernardino. Operating model trains, railroad exhibits, swap tables, railroad information booths, food vendors, live music, re-enactments and a lot of train watching. Additional information: 909-888-3634 or the website: <http://www.sbrailroaddays.com/>

Cont'd...

OTHER EVENTS OF INTEREST

cont'd from page 7

- 24 Poway Station Clinic (TBA), Open to all. Porter House, Old Poway Park, 14134 Midland Road, Poway, CA. 7pm - 9pm. Info: president@powaystation.org
- 26 Short Track Railroad Clinic: TBA. 7pm, Short Track Section House, Antique Gas & Steam Engine Museum, 2040 N. Santa Fe Ave, Vista. <http://www.shorttrackrr.org/>
- 28 Train Song Festival, Old Poway Park. Steam train, layouts, train crafts, singers of train songs, food. 10am - 4pm. 14134 Midland Road, Poway, CA. Info: <http://www.poway.org/Index.aspx?page=110>
- 28 Model Railroads Of Southern California Layout Tour #30. Primarily South Orange County. Bob Chaparro chiefbobb@verizon.net

May

- 5, 6 Railroad Days in Fullerton 2012. 0900 to 1700. Fullerton Train Station. 120 E Santa Fe. Southern California Railway Plaza Association. <http://www.scrpa.net/index.html> or 714-278-0648.
- 10 Short Track Railroad Operations, open to all: 7pm, Short Track Section House, Antique Gas & Steam Engine Museum, 2040 N. Santa Fe Ave, Vista. <http://www.shorttrackrr.org/>
- 12 Model Railroads Of Southern California Layout Tour #31. Primarily West Orange County. Bob Chaparro chiefbobb@verizon.net
- 19 Model Railroads Of Southern California Layout Tour #32. Primarily West Orange County. Bob Chaparro chiefbobb@verizon.net
- 19 Santa Susana RR Historical Society Swap Meet. 0700 to 1000, in the Santa Susana Park Pavilion, 6503 Katherine Rd., Simi Valley. Admission \$2.00 for adults, children under 12 free. For table and space information please visit our website: <http://www.santasusannadepot.org/swapmeet.htm> or call Dave Putnam (661) 753-6006.
- 19, 20 Joint Open Houses: Belmont Shore Model RR Club (N) and Angels Gate Hi-Railers (O). 10 am to 4 pm. Swap Meet Saturday only, 8 am to Noon. All events free. 3601 S. Gaffey Street, San Pedro. For information, contact Bill Costley, 310-831-1140. <http://www.oerm.org>
- 24 Short Track Railroad Clinic: TBA. 7pm, Short Track Section House, Antique Gas & Steam Engine Museum, 2040 N. Santa Fe Ave, Vista. <http://www.shorttrackrr.org/>
- 29 Poway Station Clinic (TBA), Open to all. Porter House, Old Poway Park, 14134 Midland Road, Poway, CA. 7pm - 9pm. Info: president@powaystation.org

June

- 2, 3 The Big Train Show. Ontario Convention Center
- 14 Short Track Railroad Operations, open to all: 7pm, Short Track Section House, Antique Gas & Steam Engine Museum, 2040 N. Santa Fe Ave, Vista. <http://www.shorttrackrr.org/>
- 26 Poway Station Clinic (TBA), Open to all. Porter House, Old Poway Park, 14134 Midland Road, Poway, CA. 7pm - 9pm. Info: president@powaystation.org
- 28 Short Track Railroad Clinic: TBA. 7pm, Short Track Section House, Antique Gas & Steam Engine Museum, 2040 N. Santa Fe Ave, Vista. <http://www.shorttrackrr.org/>

July

- 12 Short Track Railroad Operations, open to all: 7pm, Short Track Section House, Antique Gas & Steam Engine Museum, 2040 N. Santa Fe Ave, Vista. <http://www.shorttrackrr.org/>
- 24 Poway Station Clinic (TBA), Open to all. Porter House, Old Poway Park, 14134 Midland Road, Poway, CA. 7pm - 9pm. Info: president@powaystation.org
- 26 Short Track Railroad Clinic: TBA. 7pm, Short Track Section House, Antique Gas & Steam Engine Museum, 2040 N. Santa Fe Ave, Vista. <http://www.shorttrackrr.org/>
- 28 Roundhouse Gang Swap Meet. 0730 to noon. New location St Adelaide Catholic Church, 27457 Baseline St., Highland, CA (1 block W of 210 on Baseline St). Gary Wintergerst, 909-794-3153 gwinterg@verizon.net

NMRA News from Page 5

Magazine, which will be mailed to all voting members. Ballots must be returned to NMRA headquarters, "Attention Ballot Committee," and must be postmarked by April 10, 2012 and received by April 15, 2012.

Here are the job titles and candidates as they appear on the ballot:

- o President:
Charles W. Getz, IV, HLM
- o Vice President- Administration:
Howard Goodwin
Clark Kooning, MMR
Dave Thornton
- o Vice President - Special Projects:
Bill Kaufman
James "Lump" Lupfer
- o At-Large North American Director
Mike Brestel
Miles Hale, MMR
- o Eastern District Director
John Roberts, MMR, HLM
- o Pacific District Director
Mike Bartlett
Kelly Loyd
Rob Peterson

* * *

Prototype Photo Clinic Available

Sunday January 29, Pete Steinmetz, the Best in Show photography winner at the X2011 West NMRA National Convention, will be doing a photo clinic along the tracks between Oceanside and Del Mar. Starting time will be around 8:00AM and should go until around 2:00PM. Pete will discuss the many aspects involved in order to get good shots, safety around the tracks, and other related topics. Students don't need any fancy camera gear. This is not about who has the most or best gear. This will be about how to get the best shot with what you have.

Three different locations are planned. Transportation is the responsibility of students. We will meet at location 1. We will make lunch arrangements or students can bring their own.

The itinerary will be supplied the week of the event. It will be supplied directly to the registered students and not published.

There is no charge for this outing, but it will be limited to a maximum of 20 students.

Notification will be made to the San Diego Sheriff Coaster Enforcement Division, and the Coaster dispatcher so they can notify the train crews. We will not be trespassing on railroad property, so this is a courtesy notice

To register, send Pete your name, E-mail address, and cell phone number. If you register and then find out you can't attend, let Pete know so someone else can take the spot. Send registration to peter.steinmetz@att.net.



Award-winning photo

* * *

CLUB CAR

This feature will run every issue that I receive input from the clubs. Use this space to keep us up to date on your current activities. Submit announcements to the editor at any time for the next edition.



As usual, Short Track Railroad has been busy this Fall.

We hold clinics on model railroad subjects the fourth Thursday of every month, and these clinics have been opened to the public. The next clinic will be "Airbrushing" given by noted modeler, Don Ham. The date is Thursday, January 26, 7:00PM at our Section House located at 2040 North Santa Fe Avenue in Vista. Some of the topics Don will cover will be: different types of airbrushes and how they operate, compressors and other air sources, types of paints and what works best for model railroads, and, time permitting, stripping and preparing a model for painting. The next following clinic will be on Thursday February 23, featuring noted modeler Jimmy Simmons. Jimmy always does great clinics.

Our Fall Tractor Show was a lot of fun and a big success. Many visitors were pleased to see the progress on our layout.

Short track attended the Great Train Expo held at the Del Mar Fairgrounds on December 3 and 4. Instead of our usual small layout, we decided to build a module over the two day show. We built various stages and showed the public how it was done. Members also gave clinics on tree making, wiring, track laying, and ballasting. We were very pleased with the turnout and response to our clinics.

We look forward to hosting the NMRA Winter Meet on Saturday February 11.

Pete Steinmetz

* * *

The San Diego S Gauge Club set up our modular layout at the Great Train Expo at the Del Mar Fairgrounds again this year. Our interactive, kid-friendly layout was a big hit with kids of all ages. The club constructed a new window display at our clubhouse that can be activated anytime by pressing a switch located outside our Liberty Station Clubhouse window. The display currently features a Christmas Train and will change with the seasons. The club is looking forward to hosting the NMRA Pacific Southwest Region



San Diego Division layout tour this coming March 10th. There are many great eateries located nearby that serve lunch.

Alex Sibbald

* * *

Cont'd...

Club Car (cont'd)

North County Model Railroad Society

The club has been very active during the last quarter. We recently completed the electrical work on the new expansion area of our club layout and were operational in early November. There is no scenery at this point but we are running trains. This layout

addition adds approximately 75 feet to our main line and includes a large classification yard and a passenger terminal.

In early December our club was part of a Christmas home tour hosted by "The Friends of the Oceanside Library". The event was a tour of five Oceanside homes and our Railroad Club which were all decorated for the season. It was a great event with 190 visitors during the day. Some members acted as docents for the event while other members ran their biggest and best motive power and rolling stock.

We added two new members during the past quarter. Harold Helland and Keith Purvis both joined our club in late November. We welcome both of them.

Again this December we took our 8 ft by 16 ft modular demonstration layout to the Train Show at Del Mar. This layout which has a four track main line is set up specifically for young engineers. As usual we were a big hit with the kids.

We are located upstairs over Earthgrown Market (formally Boney's) in Oceanside. We are open for visitors Thursday afternoon from 3:00 to 7:00pm and Sat from 9:30 to 4:00pm. Visit our website at www.ncmrs.org

Dick Miller

* * *

We had plans on going to the Bakersfield show and joining two other On30 groups, but during the last week before the show, the show was more or less canceled. A few vendors and small layouts were moved to the home show buildings.

Our Early December GTE shows at Del Mar and in Pomona went well. We ended up with 29 modules for the Del Mar Show, the largest number of Modules from CSC only, so far. By the time you read this, our next show was the GTE 2012 Show January – Anaheim. We are adding a few more modules to change the way the layout is setup, hope you had time to stop by and see the new setup and talk trains.

We plan to attend the Railfest 2012 May - 19-20 2012, Big Train show June 6/2/2012 – 6/3/2012 and GTE Show Pomona July 7/14/12 - 7/15/12. We have hopes of being at the Train Song Festival April 28, 2012, but will have to see if the Layout tour the same weekend will cause a conflict. The Train Song Festival sounds like a great place to take the kids to at Old Poway Park.

If in the area during any of the shows, stop by and see us and say hi and come run your On30 DCC trains with us.

The group is free to join and there are no dues. Want to join in and build a module, our standards are posted on the Yahoo site. You just have to follow the hook up standard and get the module checked out before the first show. See you at the show, the train show.

We are One Narrow minded group and We are looking for a few good men,and women, and young people..... and in no set order!

Join us on our Yahoo site!

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/CSCModOn30/>

Dain Leese

* * *



Cont'd...

Club Car (cont'd)



Poway Station has three new members since our last report. Richard and Linda Albrecht, and Terry Roberts joined us in November. We're thrilled to have them.

These new members have given rise to the necessity of holding more educational clinics. The first one was held January 17. Future clinics will be held the last Tuesday of each month beginning in February, and we invite all model railroaders to attend. Clinics will be held in the Porter House in Old Poway Park, 14124 Midland Road,

Poway, beginning at 7pm. The next clinic will be a video entitled "Building a Wood Structure Kit from Start to Finish," with commentary. We eat at the Hamburger Factory at 6pm, and you are welcome to join us there as well.

We had a successful event at Christmas in Old Poway Park on December 10 with our N scale layout. We continue to make progress on this layout, but not as fast as we had hoped. We held an opportunity drawing for a train set, just in time for under the tree at Christmas.

Our next public exhibit will be in conjunction with the Train Song Festival at Old Poway Park (find more info about Train Song Festival at <http://www.poway.org/Index.aspx?page=110>) on April 28. We will set up part of our HO scale layout, and trains will be running Sunday after the event as well. We hope to be joined by the California South Coast On30 folks, as well as the Zo-Cal group for this exhibit.

Membership is open at Poway Station. Drop in at a meeting, visit us at an exhibition, or e-mail president@powaystation.org. We have a public web page at www.powaystation.org as well.

Gary Robinson

* * *

The San Diego Model Railroad Museum has a couple of events coming up. First will be our swap meet, on February 11, 7am-11am. Find bargains and enjoy talking "shop" with other model railroaders. Proceeds from the swap meet go to help support the museum's collections department. Enter at the Museum Employee entrance. Admission for buyers is \$2 and the Seller Fee is \$5 (sellers must bring their own table.) Coffee and donuts will be available for purchase at this event.



The San Diego 3-Railers Kids' Club is on February 25, then the Science Expo Family Day will be on March 17. These events are always fun for the family.

On March 23 we open the Richard Steinheimer Railroad Photography Exhibit. You won't want to miss this! Check the Museum web page at <http://www.sdmrm.org/> for more information and current admission prices.

* * *

AMTRAK Over Tehachapi? Rumor Central!

One of our members has mentioned that the northbound Coast Starlight schedule for February 1 through February 8, 2012, shows a re-route with no stops between Los Angeles and Oakland. This has given rise to speculation that the route will be over the Tehachapi Pass. (*I was unable to confirm this, but that doesn't mean it isn't true. It may just mean I didn't dig far enough. Ed.*) Several local railroad fans have already made reservations for the northbound trip on February 3. Everyone is apparently making their own arrangements for the return separately. If you've ever wanted to ride over the pass, this may be your opportunity. Good luck!

* * *

“Ventura Flyer 2012” Pacific Southwest Regional Convention

By Carl Heimberger

Planning is well underway for the 2012 PSR/NMRA Convention to be held in Oxnard, California, September 6th to 9th, 2012. As the convention Chair I would like to highlight some of the Convention activities with the hope you will attend.

The Ventura Flyer will feature over 60 hours of clinics that will range from basic how to get started in the hobby including how to build bench work, designing your track plan and installing track work, wiring, buildings, scenery, tuning up locomotives and rolling stock for flawless performance, and programming DCC. We will also have clinics tailored to hold the interest of the most experienced modelers as well. Here is a sample of clinics; Joe Villaryo - A three part clinic on how to install DCC sound in any locomotive; Orange County Module Railroader Club will present their DCC Camp where you can bring your locomotive and club members will show you with hands on how to program address, speed settings, sound and lighting; Todd Scott will do 3-D backdrops, and a series of clinics still in the planning stage, presented by Jimmy Simons and Scotty Mason, that will captivate you for most of the convention. And not to leave out the Railettes, a full schedule of clinics and special luncheon will be available for them to enjoy.

A convention is not just about clinics however, and we have already lined up some spectacular layouts to tour; Mike Murphy's 26' X 30' transition era railroad featuring Santa Fe Southern Pacific/Union Pacific operations; Santa Susana Model Railroad Club representing Southern Pacific's Coast Line in mid 1950's; South Coast Museum, housed in a 1901 Southern Pacific Depot, with steam/early diesel era Southern Pacific; and no visit to Ventura – Santa Barbra would be complete without visiting Gary Siegel's HO L&N were it is 1971 and 1st and 2nd generation diesels rule.

We will also have a full series of social events including the Wednesday welcome reception, Friday night Hobo Auction, and the Saturday AM will bring a swap meet followed in the evening with the Awards Banquet.

A Convention is only as good as the Convention Facility and the Courtyard by Marriott Oxnard is a class act. The hotel room rate is \$109.00 + local taxes and fees, and includes free parking and breakfast for two per room.

The Los Angeles Division looks forward to seeing you at the “2012 Ventura Flyer”. For additional information visit the NMRA/Pacific Southwest Region Convention web site or contact:

Carl Heimberger - cjheimberger@gmail.com

Mike Allee – rmallee@me.com

* * *

Model Railroad Clinics Newly Available Locally

A couple of local clubs have opened up their clinics to anyone who wants to attend, not just club members. Both Poway Station and Short Track Railroad have a clinic program aimed at improving the skills of their members, and both have graciously opened attendance to any interested party. Poway Station's clinics will be held in the Porter House in Old Poway Park, 14134 Midland Road, Poway, CA, the last Tuesday of each month at 7pm. Short Track clinics will be held in their section house at the Antique Gas & Steam Engine Museum, 2040 N. Santa Fe Ave, Vista, CA, on the fourth Thursday of each month at 7pm. Short Track's next offering will be a presentation on airbrushing by Don Ham, January 26. Poway Station offers a video presentation entitled “Building a Wooden Structure Kit from Start to Finish.” Both groups meet for dinner prior to the clinic. For more information, contact;

Poway Station - president@powystation.org

Short Track - modeltrains@agsem.com

SAN DIEGO DIVISION STAFF

Director:	Gary Robinson	760-839-5877	director@sandiegodivision.org
Superintendent:	Don Fowler	619-258-3529	superintendent@sandiegodivision.org
Chief Clerk/Paymaster:	Ben Sevier	858-538-9863	paymaster@sandiegodivision.org
Achievement Program:	Paul Schmitt, MMR #342	760-744-6424	ap@sandiegodivision.org
Clinics:	Dave Balsler	760-436-6139	clinics@sandiegodivision.org
Club Liason:	Jack Eiermann		clubs@sandiegodivision.org
Contests:	Rodger Gredvig MMR #218	858-571-7118	contest@sandiegodivision.org
Layout Tours:	Don Ham	760-747-7727	layouts@sandiegodivision.org
<u>Mail Hook</u> Editor:	Gary Robinson	760-839-5877	mailhook@sandiegodivision.org
Meets:	Dave Balsler	760-436-6139	meets@sandiegodivision.org
Member Aid:	(vacant)		
Membership:	Ray Inbody	858-274-2778	membership@sandiegodivision.org
Yahoo Group Moderator	Pete Steinmetz		psrsandiego-owner@yahoogroups.com
Publicity:	Jack Eiermann		publicity@sandiegodivision.org

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 in hard copy (paper) 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 paid subscription and at San Diego Division events. Normal distribution is through email delivery or on the Division and PSR websites.

Submissions: Contributions of articles 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 diskette, 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 publication: January 2, April 1, July 1, and October 1.
4. If you wish submission materials returned (i.e., photos), please include a stamped, self-addressed envelope with your submission.

From the Editor...

A new year brings a lot of resolutions. Most of mine have already been broken. But if you've made resolutions regarding your modeling, I hope you can stick to them. We've started to see a few people who are bringing show & tell items to our meets, but we'd like to see more. We still have a few people who are chasing their MMR, but everyone is building something, whether or not you want it judged.

If you're not confident in your skills, you're in luck! Two local clubs have opened their clinics to all comers. See the article on page 14. What a way to improve your skills, and enjoy some great camaraderie at the same time.

Along educational lines, the Division is working on putting together a Basic Model Railroading course. This course would be aimed at beginners, but some sections may be applicable to more experienced modelers as well. We're in the process of developing the course content, defining the offering structure, and identifying the appropriate venue. We also will be looking for some volunteers to help with the presentation. If you're interesting in any aspect of this, please contact me at Mailhook@SanDiegoDivision.org.

If you had an opportunity to chase UP 8444 last month, I'd love to have a brief article and a couple of pictures. You can send them along to the address above. As far as that goes, I'm always interested in articles for publication. If you need help writing up an idea that you have, or taking pictures, let me know. Not only does this go a long way towards sharing your knowledge with other modelers, it also qualifies you for points towards the Author MMR certificate.

Finally, our membership has been fairly steady for quite some time. Let's all get out there and get a friend involved. I know there are many more than 180 model railroaders in San Diego and Imperial counties!

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: (858) 538-0930

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)

*If you would like your club listed, contact
the Club Liason, San Diego Division*

Oceanside. Info: (760) 722-7366 www.ncmrs.org

Poway Station All Scale Modular Club

Info: www.powystation.org

San Diego Free-Mo (HO)

<http://sdfreemo.org/>

San Diego Garden Railway Society

Info: www.sdgrs.com

San Diego S-Gaugers

Info: <http://sites.google.com/site/sdsgaugers/Home>

Short Track Railroad Club (N)

Antique Gas & Steam Engine Museum, Vista

Info: www.shorttrackrr.org

ZoCal Group (Z)

Info: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ZoCal>

Online - Web Sites of Interest

NMRA: www.nmra.org

PSR: www.psrnmra.org

NMRA National Convention <http://www.gr2012.org/>

San Diego Division: <http://www.sandiegodivision.org/>

Arizona Division: www.azdiv-nmra.org

Cajon Division: www.cajondiv.org

Los Angeles Division: www.ladiv-nmra.org/

San Diego Model Railroad Museum: www.sdmodelrailroadm.com

San Diego Rail: www.sandiegorail.com





619-295-7340

The Whistle Stop
"YOUR MODEL RAILROAD SHOP"
N - HO

S. A. RHODES 3034 - 4TH AVE.
WWW.THEWHISTLESTOPSANDIEGO.COM SAN DIEGO, CA. 92103

REED'S HOBBY SHOP
• Exclusively Trains •



Steve Bovee, Owner
www.reeds-hobbies.com
E-mail: reeds@abac.com

8039 La Mesa Blvd. La Mesa, CA 91941
(619) 464-1672 Fax (619) 464-6087

www.hobby101.com

**HOBBY
CENTRAL**

858-693-0373

"San Diego's Ultimate Hobby Store"

9705 Carroll Centre Road, Suite 103 • San Diego, CA 92126
Email: hobbycentral@hotmail.com



**San Diego
Model Railroad Museum**

World's Largest Operating Model Railroad
Museum

1649 El Prado, Balboa Park

Open to the Public

Tuesday through Friday 11:00 - 4:00
Saturday - Sunday 11:00 - 5:00

Admission: Adults \$8, Students \$3, Seniors \$6
Military \$4, under 15 free; first Tuesdays free to all