

# MAIL HOOK

SAN DIEGO DIVISION, PSR-NMRA

1ST QUARTER, 2013

## SUPERINTENDENTS REPORT

By Don Fowler

Happy New Year!

Well, 2012 and the holiday season are nothing but a memory. Now we look forward to 2013 to see what it will bring us; professionally, personally, and for model railroading. While we still struggle to attract young people to our hobby, the industry and its technology continue to grow, expand and develop. The quality and variety of what is now available is better than it's ever been. That means that we have a high quality hobby but we need to improve our recruiting tactics to ensure that it will endure into the future. Please make it your mission this year to help grow our membership and introduce others to the great hobby of model railroading.

The San Diego Division's Fall Meet was held at the San Diego Model Railroad Museum on November 10th. We had a great turnout and enjoyed some great clinics, lunch, show & tell, a hobo auction and a visit to the Museum layouts. I don't think anyone went home empty handed.

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## WINTER MEET PREVIEW

The San Diego Division Winter Meet and Swap Meet will be held February 16<sup>th</sup> at the Clairemont Christian Fellowship, 4570 Mt. Herbert Avenue (block west of Genesee, between Clairemont Mesa Blvd and Balboa Avenue), San Diego. Doors will open for sellers at 7:30, and for buyers at 8:30. The swap meet ends at 11:30, and sellers must be packed by noon. Admission for buyers is \$2 for NMRA members, \$3 for non-members. Half a banquet table for sellers is \$3. Donuts and coffee will be available for purchase.

Lunch will begin at noon, and Subway box lunches are available for \$6 each, with a choice of turkey, ham, roast beef, or Italian meats. Contact Bruce Deck [meets@sandiegodivision.org](mailto:meets@sandiegodivision.org) to order your sandwich choice **BY THURSDAY, 2/14**.

After lunch we'll have a show & tell, a favorite model contest, AP judging for anyone who wants it, and two clinics. One clinic will discuss building turnouts from scratch without a Fastracks jig, while the second will discuss modeling in 1:20.3 Finescale (garden) scale. We'll close the meet with a drawing for door prizes. You won't want to miss this!

## FALL MEET WRAP-UP

The San Diego Division Fall meet was held at the San Diego Model Railroad Museum again this year. The meet consisted of clinics, lunch, and a hobo auction.



The first clinic, by Bruce Deck, was on the

*Continued on Page 2*

## *Superintendent's Report* from Page 1

We enjoyed a great Division Holiday Party on December 8<sup>th</sup> at our home. We had all of the usual fun; trains, dinner, games and gift exchange, plus a few new surprises. If you forgot or couldn't make it, mark your calendar now for next year's party on Saturday, December 14, 2013 so you don't miss out.

On January 12<sup>th</sup>, we visited Steve Harris' HOn3 Rio Grande Southern in Valley Center. His layout is located in a 32' office trailer and is built on two levels. This beautiful railroad has been featured numerous times in *Model Railroader* and *Narrow Gauge Gazette* magazines. Thanks for sharing with us, Steve.

Believe it or not, it's getting to be time to start planning for the 2014 PSR Convention to be hosted right here in San Diego. Our first committee meeting will be held on Sunday, April 14<sup>th</sup> at Ben Sevier's home at 3 pm if you'd like to join us. Don't worry, we'll find a job that's just right for you! As the convention gets closer, we'll be providing updates, asking for volunteers and soliciting clinicians. I'd really like to see all of us in the Division take ownership of this special event and help to make it a really big success.

I hope to see you at San Diego Division's Winter Meet on February 16<sup>th</sup> at the Clairemont Christian Fellowship Church. We're planning on a lot of model railroading fun with a swap meet, lunch, clinics, show & tell and model judging. Bring things to sell and money to buy more. Come on, you know how it works.

As you can see, we're off to a great start for a really good model railroading year. There will be lots to see and do in the San Diego Division. All we need is YOU!

All Aboard!

Don

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## **Fall Meet Wrap-Up** (cont'd from Pg 1)



subject of changing over your layout from DC to DCC. Bruce's clinic was timely, in that many of us are going through the same process, have recently gone through it, or will shortly attempt it. Bruce identified some of the pitfalls we could expect, and suggested solutions.

The second clinic, by Ben Sevier standing in for Rodger Gredivig (who was called away at the last moment), was on the subject of operating your layout. Ben spoke about using the JMRI Dispatcher program to operate your layout in a prototypical manner. JMRI has many features to help you run your DCC layout, and the Dispatcher feature that Ben described is one of the best. If you're running DCC, but you're not using JMRI, you're making your life a lot more difficult.

A box lunch was followed by the presentation of Don Ham's final Achievement Program (AP) Certificate, making him a Master Model Railroader (MMR). Paul Schmitt, the Division AP chair and a good friend of Don's, had a special surprise for Don after the presentation. See the photo, left.

The afternoon concluded with all of you who donated things for fun activity for everyone who at the Cajon Division Temecula you at the Winter Meet in



the ever-popular hobo auction. Thanks to the auction. This is a very successful and attends. There will also be a hobo auction Meet in March, for you aficionados. See February!

## 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.*

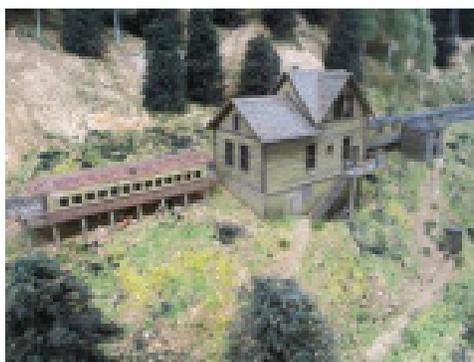
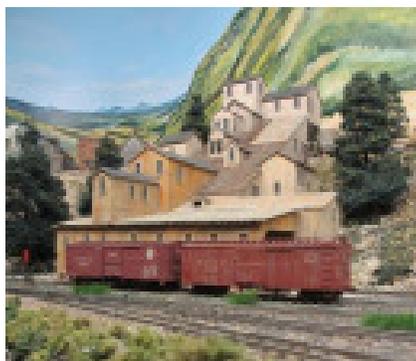
George Andrews, Pacific Beach  
David Lancaster, Clairemont  
Terry Murphy, El Cajon  
Joseph Niezgoda, Santee

Please introduce yourselves to these new members at our next event, and make them feel welcome.

## LAYOUT TOURS

### January

We started the new year with a great visit to the Rio Grand Southern of Steve Harris, in Valley Center. If you didn't make it, you missed a great layout. Steve's railroad is in an office trailer beside his home. The trailer contains his workshop, on one end, and his bi-level layout in the rest. Trains move between



levels via an elevator, about which Steve recently published an article. The layout is in a walk-in U-shape, and contains prototypically accurate scenes. Steve scratch-built most of the buildings on the layout, including

signs and awnings on commercial buildings in Durango. There is still an unfinished section of the layout, so Steve has plenty of fun ahead of

him. We'll be sure to check back on his progress from time to time.

### March

Next up, Frank Tepedino has an HO layout designed for big trains. He loves to see long strings of cars pulling through wide curves and long straights. Built in a special 25x25 foot room above his garage, the layout wiring is DC block control, and the time frame is 1930 to 1950. This allows running of a lot of heavy steam, with some diesels. Many lines are represented, including UP, SP, ATSF, and Pennsy. Hundreds of pieces of rolling stock are weathered, along with the many fine structures. Recently Frank added an upper deck with four mainlines. Frank has a quiz he gives to visitors to help them identify the many detailed scenes on his layout.

### April

Clement Roberts' garden railway is a 8ft X 14ft oval with a two track yard. The mainline oval is operator controlled and the inner oval is automated. There are towns at either end of the layout that are separated by a 'mountain'. The trains run on track power. All of the locomotives are LGB steam. The rolling stock is LGB and Aristocraft. Three trains run at a time with a 'visitor' train waiting in the yard ready to run.

### June

Jack Byers' West End of the B&O was in the early stages of construction the last time we visited. Now the DCC system has been installed, so we can see some trains run. The West End is housed in its own building, and you'll be interested to see how Jack has planned his railroad. This HO scale railroad is turning out to be quite something. You won't want to miss it!

## **Pacific Southwest Region Convention**

### **San Bernardino, September 25-29, 2013**

The Pacific Southwest Region Convention will be held in San Bernardino, California, September 25-29, 2013. The convention hotel will be the Hilton, with a rate of just \$89.95 per night, plus tax. Located along the 10 freeway, it's just a short drive from the San Bernardino Depot and Museum. Room reservations are now being accepted.

The convention features more than 50 different clinics, by some of the top pros from 5 different states. Joe Warren, of Showcase Miniatures, is scheduled to host Modeling with the Manufacturer. Clinics begin Wednesday evening, and continue through Friday afternoon.

Layout tours will run Thursday afternoon and all day Friday. There will be an operating session Wednesday afternoon and Thursday afternoon on a superb layout that has never been opened before!

HO and Z scale modular layouts will be running Wednesday night through Saturday afternoon at the hotel. Friday night is the famous Hobo (formerly Chinese) Auction, where you can find many treasures in the more than 200 items that will be available. The Roundhouse Gang and the Railroad Prototype Modelers will co-sponsor a Saturday morning swap meet, if you still haven't gotten what you wanted.

There will be prototype tours to the Union Pacific hump yard, the Victorville CEMEX plant, and the Columbia Park Live Steamers, with a BBQ. Columbia Park has operating models of both a Big Boy and a Challenger! In addition, the banquet, contest, and prototype tours you've come to expect will be available. Don't forget the annual membership meeting Sunday morning. All this for the low, low registration rate of \$65, which INCLUDES the banquet! How can you go wrong? Sign up today, at <http://www.psrconvention.org/sb13/index.html>. Contact Bob Mitchell at [CajonDivision@coastinet.com](mailto:CajonDivision@coastinet.com) if you need more information.



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### **Cajon Division Temecula Meet, March 22-23, 2013**

The Cajon Division will hold their famous Temecula Meet for the sixth year on March 22 and 23, 2013. It will again be at the Mary Phillips Senior Center in Old Town, off Sixth Street. Registration is \$30 per person over 12, and includes lunch. Friday night will be Bingo for Trains, for those of you who may arrive early. Clinics start Saturday morning at 8:30, with a total of nine sessions before lunch.

Saturday afternoon will be the Pacific Southwest Region mid-year board meeting, which all members may attend. Otherwise you're on your own until dinner. You may like to visit the layouts that will be open, join an operating session, drive up to the Orange Empire Railway Museum, shop for antiques in Old Town, or visit one of the many fine wineries in the Temecula area. Whatever you decide, be sure to be back at Pat & Oscar's Restaurant by the Pond by 5:00pm when ticket sales for the Chinese Auction begin. Dinner will be served at 6:30, and the auction will be held from 7:30 until it's over, about 9:00pm. This meet is open to members from all divisions, and is always a lot of fun. Bob Mitchell will be happy to take your registration or give you more information at [CajonDivision@coastinet.com](mailto:CajonDivision@coastinet.com).

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### **Railroad Prototype Modelers Meet, April 13, 2013**

The Railroad Prototype Modelers will hold their western meet on April 13, 2013, at the San Bernardino Santa Fe Depot, from 7:30am to 5:00pm. Things kick off with an outdoor (covered) swap meet, and space is free, but bring your own tables. Set up for the swap meet starts at 7:30, selling begins at 8:30.

Registration and raffle ticket sales begin at 8:30 as well. Doors open and model display begins at 9:00, and clinics begin at 11:00, 1:00, 2:30, and 3:30. So-Cal Free-mo will have a layout set up, and there will be manufacturers' displays. There is free parking, or the location is accessible via Metrolink. Museum admission is free, but please leave a donation. The address is 1170 W Third St, San Bernardino. More information can be obtained from Joe D'Elia, PO Box 2701, Carlsbad, CA 92018, or see the web page at <http://railroadprototypemodelers.com/sbdmeet.htm>.

## February 2013

## San Diego Division - Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					<b>1</b>	<b>2 Multiple Events</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> WGH, Del Mar
<b>10</b> WGH, Del Mar	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Short Track Ops Session, AGSEM	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> SD Div Fall Meet
<b>17</b>	<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> Short Track Clinic, AGSEM		

## March 2013

					<b>1</b>	<b>2 Multiple Events</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9 Multiple Events</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Short Track Ops Session, AGSEM	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> Cajon Temecula	<b>23</b> Division Meet
<b>24</b> / <b>31</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Short Track Clinic, AGSEM	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>

## April 2013

	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Short Track Clinic, AGSEM
<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Short Track Ops Session, AGSEM	<b>12</b>	<b>13 Multiple Events</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> LA Division Spring Rail
<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Short Track Clinic, AGSEM	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> Train Song Festival, Poway Park
<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>				

## 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](mailto: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.

### 2013

#### February

- 16 San Diego Division Winter Meet and Swap Meet.** Clairemont Christian Church, 2304 Mt. Herbert Ave, San Diego, CA 92117. Swap meet 8:30 - 11:30 (8:00 for vendors), adm \$2 members, \$3 non-members, tables \$5. Box lunch (RSVP) \$6. Lunch and clinics noon - 3:00. Contact Bruce Deck, [meets@sandiegodivision.org](mailto:meets@sandiegodivision.org)

#### March

- 9 San Diego Division Layout Tour.** Frank Tepedino, HO scale, Tierra Santa, CA. Contact Don Ham, [layouts@sandiegodivision.org](mailto:layouts@sandiegodivision.org)

#### April

- 13 San Diego Division Layout Tour.** Clement Roberts, garden scale. Contact Don Ham, [layouts@sandiegodivision.org](mailto:layouts@sandiegodivision.org)

#### May

- 11 San Diego Division Spring Meet.** Short Track Railroad, Antique Gas & Steam Engine Museum, 2040 N. Santa Fe, Vista, CA. Contact Bruce Deck, [meets@sandiegodivision.org](mailto:meets@sandiegodivision.org)

#### June

- 8 San Diego Division Layout Tour.** Jack Byers, HO scale, Escondido. Contact Don Ham, [layouts@sandiegodivision.org](mailto:layouts@sandiegodivision.org)

#### July

- 13 San Diego Division Layout Tour.** TBA Contact Don Ham, [layouts@sandiegodivision.org](mailto:layouts@sandiegodivision.org)
- 14-20 Peachtree Express National Model Railroad Association National Convention,** Atlanta, GA, including National Train Show, 19-20. More info at <http://www.nmra2013.org/>

#### August

- 10 San Diego Division Summer Meet** Templar's Hall, Old Poway Park. Details TBA. [meets@sandiegodivision.org](mailto:meets@sandiegodivision.org)

### 2013

#### February

- 2** Short Track Railroad Public Clinic, 9:30am. Short Track Section House, Antique Gas & Steam Engine Museum, 2040 North Santa Fe Ave, Vista, CA. <http://www.shorttrackrr.org>
- 2** Swap Meet, San Diego Model Railroad Museum. More info at [www.sdmrm.org](http://www.sdmrm.org)
- 9-10** World's Greatest Hobby On Tour, Del Mar Fairgrounds. 10am - 6pm Saturday, 10am - 5pm Sunday. Admission. [www.wghshow.com](http://www.wghshow.com)
- 28** Short Track Railroad Public Clinic, 7pm. Section House, Antique Gas & Steam Engine Museum, 2040 North Santa Fe Ave, Vista, CA. <http://www.shorttrackrr.org>

#### March

- 2** Swap Meet, Orange Empire Railway Museum. Southern California's largest outdoor railroadians meet 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Admission applies. See <http://www.oerm.org/upcoming-events>
- 22-23** Cajon Division Temecula Meet. Bingo for Trains, clinics, lunch, PSR Board meeting, layout tours, dinner, and hobo auction. More info: [cajondivision@coastinet.com](mailto:cajondivision@coastinet.com)

#### April

- 13** Western Prototype Modelers Meet, Santa Fe Depot, San Bernardino, CA. 8:30am - 5pm. Swap meet, clinics, So-Cal Free-Mo and manufacturers' displays. Donation requested. <http://railroadprototypemodelers.com/sbdmeet.htm>
- 20** Spring Rail, LA Division Meet. Swap Meet 7am - 10am, clinics 8am - 4pm. Full registration NMRA members \$20, non-members \$25, including 6 month NMRA membership. Swap meet only \$5. First Christian Church, 220 S. 5th St., Alhambra, CA 91801. Contact: Mike Allee, [RMALLEE@me.com](mailto:RMALLEE@me.com)
- 27** Train Song Festival, Old Poway Park, Poway, CA. Free event featuring singers of train songs, railroad-related family activities, modular layout displays. For more info, see <http://www.poway.org/Index.aspx?page=110>

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

# 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.*



Short Track has had a good Fall and Winter. Now we are heading into Spring.

Member Don Ham earned his MMR, number 491. Congratulate Don when you see him. He worked very hard and deserves a lot of credit.

We had elections at our January Business Meeting. Ken Allen is the new superintendent, Paul Schmitt, MMR, is our assistant Superintendent, Tim Woodard is the Paymaster, Jerry Schamahorn is the

Crew Clerk, and Don Ham, MMR is the Construction superintendent.

Our series of successful clinics continues on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday at 7:00PM and the first Saturday at 10:AM. Schedules are on the Short Track web site at [www.shorttrackrr.org](http://www.shorttrackrr.org).

We will host the PSR San Diego Spring meet on Saturday May 11. Details to follow. Clinics will be Paul Schmitt, MMR, doing "Ballasting Track" and Bill Ewing and Pete Steinmetz on "Building Lighting and Soldering Magnet Wire to Surface Mount LED's" The Surface Mount LED's will be used to light the building. We hope to be projecting the soldering and detail on a big screen so everyone can see the construction methods.



*(Above: GP-9s on Cape Horn Pete Steinmetz Photo)*

Short Track is also planning an open house and swap meet in May or early June. Dates have not been finalized. They will be announced on the Short Track Web Site and the PSR San Diego Yahoo Group.

Pete Steinmetz

The San Diego S Gauge Model Train Club has been busy this last quarter. Our modular layout was transported to the Del Mar Fairgrounds for the Great Train Expo in early December. We avoided the raindrops and conducted a successful exhibit at the show. There was a substantial turnout that kept us busy all weekend. Our modular display is back at our Liberty Station Clubhouse where it is open to the public on Wednesdays and Sundays from noon until 3pm.

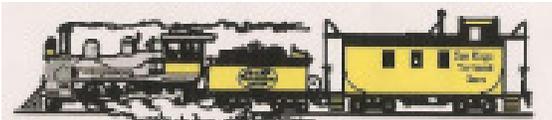
The Club's next outing will occur at The World's Greatest Hobby Train Show on February 9 and 10. We will be demonstrating our modular layout as well as manning the National Association of S Gaugers booth. While we are gone our clubhouse will still be featuring our window layout. We have added several buildings to the window display and the counter connected to the outside window activation button has registered over 7600 hits since May 20<sup>th</sup> when we connected the counter.



Alex Sibbald

Cont'd...

## Club Car (cont'd)



San Diego Model Railroad Assoc.

Several scenes on the SD&AE HO layout are progressing. A new Harbor Dr. bridge for vehicles has been added spanning several main line and trolley tracks. The SEELEY and El CENTRO areas have had new plaster, roads, and desert flora added. The DCC system has been upgraded so members can more easily encode the CV's in their locomotives. The layout

will still run Analog (DC) or DCC. The Crew Chief for the day determines which system will be used. Most members are now converting to DCC. The gap between the new layout walls and the original bench work have been filled in and is being made ready for scenery..

The O-scale layout (2-rail) is still undergoing a change in the wiring to increase the size of the buss and feed wires. Several new buildings have been added to the city street scenes along with new LED lighting. This layout will also run either Analog (DC) or DCC as determined by the Crew Chief.

Come down on Friday nights (use Museum backdoor) for more information or contact me. We can always use help in all aspects of model railroading.

Ron Goudy  
[Rongoudy@aol.com](mailto:Rongoudy@aol.com)



We showed at the Costa Mesa GTE, September 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>. Good to see it back, as it had been about 3 years since the show was at the OC Fair Grounds. We had a 24 x 24 layout area space assigned, and we used all of it. Greg's new mine module and Josef's switch back module were on display for the first time. Greg's module has an upper only Porter size loop and the lower level main with a tunnel. Josef's module hooks up to his corner module and short trains or engines can switch back down to the main from the upper level or trains can travel the main on the bottom.

The last show of 2012 was the GTE Del Mar show, some rain, but dry inside. We ended up with a 24' x 40' area for the layout. We used a new way of setting up our thin loop and wye. The change to one of the corner modules allowed us to use the loop and our staging yard in the same area. This was the first show with the guy's new balloon setup. The new setup has the splicer module, two balloon half's and new end modules to pick from. The second module is a new 4' x 5' rolling module, from floor to about 5 feet high and it will include a steel bridge and lots of rock scenery. At this show we had the 3' x 5' round end module with a winter scene.

Starting out January 2013, the GTE Anaheim show at the Convention Center is our first show for 2013. Following the Anaheim show, we head back to Del Mar for the National World's Greatest Hobby show in February. Then it's off to The Big Train Show.

As we are a narrow minded group, we plan to attend the National Narrow Gauge Convention in Late August 2013. The 33rd National Narrow Gauge Convention is coming to Pasadena in 2013 on August 28 – 31 at the Hilton Hotel in Pasadena. For more info go to <http://www.33rdnngc.com/>.

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 still free to join and there are no dues. So, 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 been going through some changes since our last report. Whether they're good remains to be seen. We hope they're good! The biggest thing the public will notice is the shape of the HO scale layouts we'll be showing. We're trying to simplify our set up methods, and this means setting up fewer modules. Steve Studer, our new president, has constructed two return loop modules that allow us to move away from the traditional recto-linear set up towards a more free form layout. The loops allow us to use our legacy modules, but some of the constraints to which we were subject have been removed. Steve has also created a module that allows Free-Mo modules to interface with our legacy modules (if the Free-Mo modules can be set to the correct height). This allows some members who are more interested in single track railroading to create more prototypical modules. We're still in the early stages of developing this idea, but we're excited about the possibilities. We'll be setting up the new design at the World's Greatest Hobby On Tour show in Del Mar, February 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>. Come check us out!



We completed a successful showing of our N scale layout at Old Poway Park's Christmas in the Park on December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2012. Richard Martin, Adrian Barnard, and assorted others, did a great job of building a yard and improving the scenery. There's still work to be done, but we've made a lot of progress thanks to those guys.

We still have room for more folks who want to have fun building and learning about model railroading, and learning the history and operation of the real thing. If you're interested, stop by at the WGH show in Del Mar, or on April 27<sup>th</sup> at Old Poway Park for the Train Song Festival, and talk with one of the current members. We'd love to meet you!

Gary Robinson

\* \* \*



The museum library has an extensive reference collection of books, magazines and photographs related to both prototype and model railroading. It also has a sizable collection of railroad timetables and railroad promotional brochures dating from 1893. Collection areas focus on San Diego and Southern California, but the library also has books and magazines on railroads throughout the country. The collection is fully described in its web-based online catalog.

To view our online catalog, visit our web page (below), select the Library button, then select the View On-Line Catalog button. We are a reference library and the materials do not circulate. However, staff volunteers will assist you in finding materials and if you can't come in, they will do some research for you as time permits. For this research, there might be a slight charge for scanning or copying documents. The library also has an extensive collection of railroad videos which are available for checkout to museum members. We offer reference service on site as well as through email to : [library@sdmrm.org](mailto:library@sdmrm.org)

The Richard Steinheimer photo exhibit has been extended through 2013. Mr. Steinheimer was considered by many to be the "Ansel Adams" of Railroad Photography. On March 16<sup>th</sup> we will be hosting our Science Family Day from 11am to 3pm.

Spend Spring Break learning the hobby of Model Railroading, and operate model trains, while learning about American railroads. This event will run April 1<sup>st</sup> through April 5<sup>th</sup>. Half day and full day sessions are available. Registration forms are available on our web page at <http://www.sdmrm.org/>.

Mark your calendars for these future dates. The museum will be hosting it's Spring swap meet Saturday, May 11<sup>th</sup> from 7 am to 11 am. On May 18<sup>th</sup> we will be hosting Thomas Family Day from 11am to 3pm.

\* \* \*

More...

## Club Car (cont'd)

# North County Model Railroad Society



The club has been very active during the last quarter with scenery construction especially in our Elliston yard area. We continue to add small details to the entire layout which our visitors find interesting.

Several months ago we started conducting clinics once a month for members and visitors. Our last

clinic which was well attended was on decaling. Check our website for future dates.

We took our demonstration modular railroad to the Del Mar Train Show in December. Since this railroad is set up just for kids we are always popular with the young engineers. By the time you read this we will also have attended the World's Greatest Hobby Train Show in Feb with our demonstration railroad.

We continue to conduct formal operation sessions once a month, generally on the second Sunday of the month. Visitors and guest operators are invited.

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. We have a demonstration layout for kids so if you plan to visit, bring along your young engineers. Visit our website at [www.ncmrs.org](http://www.ncmrs.org)

Dick Miller

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## **National Narrow Gauge Convention Comes to Pasadena**

The National Narrow Gauge Convention will be held in Pasadena, CA, this year. The dates are August 28-31, 2013. This is a great opportunity to see some unbelievable modeling, and meet the modelers who created the models. Registration is still only \$95, but goes up to \$110 after June 1, so get your registration in now! Spouse's registration is complimentary.

In addition to the modeling, there will be prototype tours, layout tours, clinics, and events of general interest. There is also a full list on the web page, <http://www.33rdnngc.com>, of vendors who will be in attendance.

The convention hotel is the Pasadena Hilton, with a convention rate of \$159.00 per night, plus tax. The alternate hotel is the Pasadena Sheraton, with a rate of \$149.00 per night, plus tax. This hotel is about a block from the convention hotel. There are other accommodations a little farther away.

They're still filling the clinic schedule, but the tour schedule is up on the web page. If you'd like to give a clinic, they'd love to hear from you at [clinics@33rdnngc.com](mailto:clinics@33rdnngc.com). Judging from the quality of the modeling, the clinics are sure to be top notch.

If you, like me, have been hearing for years about how great the National Narrow Gauge Convention is, this is your chance to see for yourself. Pasadena isn't that far, maybe even just go for a day to check it out. You'll be able to see the model contest, that I'm told always has a lot of fantastic models. Judging from the work you see in the Narrow Gauge & Shortline Gazette, I can easily believe it.



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### 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...

We have an exciting Spring coming up, beginning with the San Diego Division Winter Meet this Saturday. Then there's the Orange Empire Railway Museum swap meet March 2, the Cajon Division Temecula Meet March 23, the Railroad Prototype Modelers Meet April 13, the LA Division Spring Rail April 20, and the San Diego Division Spring Meet May 11. Interspersed among all these meets are San Diego Division layout tours and other railroad events. It's almost too much fun!

One thing that puts a little damper on my fun is the impending end of my term as Division Director. Elections will be held this spring, and the new Director will take office at the annual meeting at the PSR Convention in September. I've enjoyed working with the PSR board, and getting to know the folks from the other divisions. I'll stay involved by taking a committee chair position to keep my hand in. I encourage anyone who wants to expand their contacts in the model railroading world to consider serving as Director. Also, if you're interested in the Achievement Program, serving qualifies you for the Association Official certificate. Let me know if you want more information.

Several of our local model railroad clubs have started to open their clinics to non-members. This is a way for them to identify potential new members, but it's also a way for all of us to learn more, and improve our skills. I hope you're taking advantage of this opportunity.

I'm always looking for articles to publish. If you have a technique you use that is unique, or if you take a rail trip you enjoyed, why not write it up to share with other model railroaders? I can help you get started, just drop me a note.

Gary

## Model Railroad Clubs in San Diego

### San Diego Model Railroad Museum

Balboa Park, San Diego

Info: [www.sdmodelrailroadm.com](http://www.sdmodelrailroadm.com)

### La Mesa Model Railroad Club (HO)

Info: [LaMesaClub@att.net](mailto:LaMesaClub@att.net)

### San Diego 3-Railers (O)

Info: (858) 538-0930

### San Diego Model Railroad Club (HO & O)

Info: [www.sdmrrc.org](http://www.sdmrrc.org)

### San Diego Society of N Scale (N)

Info: [www.sdsons.org](http://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](http://www.ncmrs.org)

### Poway Station All Scale Modular Club

Info: [www.powystation.org](http://www.powystation.org)

### San Diego Free-Mo (HO)

<http://sdfreemo.org/>

### San Diego Garden Railway Society

Info: [www.sdgrs.com](http://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](http://www.shorttrackrr.org)

### ZoCal Group (Z)

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

## Online - Web Sites of Interest

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

PSR: [www.psrnmra.org](http://www.psrnmra.org)

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

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

Arizona Division: [www.azdiv-nmra.org](http://www.azdiv-nmra.org)

Cajon Division: [www.cajondiv.org](http://www.cajondiv.org)

Los Angeles Division: [www.ladiv-nmra.org/](http://www.ladiv-nmra.org/)

San Diego Model Railroad Museum: [www.sdmodelrailroadm.com](http://www.sdmodelrailroadm.com)

San Diego Rail: [www.sandiegorail.com](http://www.sandiegorail.com)



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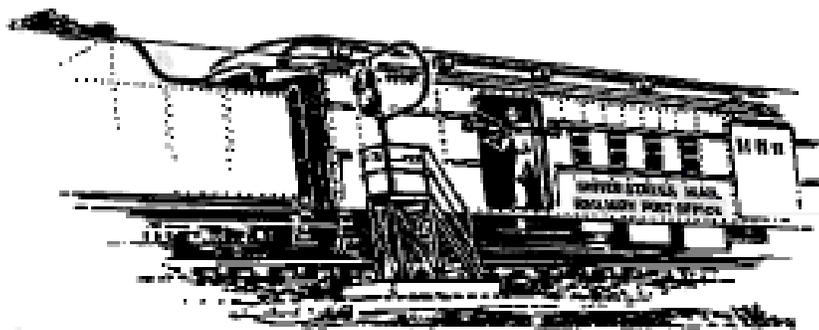
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# MAIL HOOK

## LOOK INSIDE FOR THE LATEST NEWS!

- Fall Meet Wrap-Up
    - Layout Tours
      - Meets, Meets, Meets!
- Look Inside!



## MAIL HOOK

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