



MAIL HOOK

SAN DIEGO DIVISION, PSR-NMRA

APRIL 2004

Director's Report

By Rodger Gredvig, MMR

As you no doubt know by now from the report in the *Dispatch*, the results of the survey regarding the status of nonmembers as convention registrants was overwhelmingly favorable, meaning +90% wanted to provide some way to accommodate them. It was suggested that attendance at a convention as a "visitor" would encourage participants to eventually want to officially join our ranks. With that in mind, the Regional BOD in March decided to adopt a policy that would add a \$10-20 surcharge (in addition to the normal registration fee) for nonmembers, but at the discretion of each Division or host, preferably the cost of an affiliate membership (currently \$17/yr). Coincidentally, the National BOD just adopted a similar policy with some limitation. They now offer for National Conventions, a \$9.95 six month membership, but it can only be used once; thereafter, full membership is required.

So, here are the possible arrangements for non-members that are now acceptable.

1. The host for a PSR convention can add a \$10-20 surcharge to the registration fee for non-members, but as a "non-member" they would not be entitled to vote at any PSR meeting, nor enter contests for judging or prizes. However, they would be able to attend clinics, tours, etc.

2. Or, charge a figure equal to the current Affiliate membership (currently \$17/yr) which entitles the "member" to all the privileges of a member for a year because he is a member. (the only difference between a \$37 membership and a \$17 one is a subscription to the *Scale Rails/Bulletin* magazine).

3. Or, charge \$9.95 for the one-time membership

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Superintendent's Report

By Ben Sevier

Boy, so far it's been a great year for the Division! The layout tours have been well attended, very interesting, and well worth the time and effort. (Let's hear it for Dave Balsler and all the effort he's put into this program!!) The Winter Meet was lots of fun, with everyone getting a chance to mess up Rodger's church hall with scenery "stuff" (thanks, Rodger), and discovering that scenery is actually pretty easy. I'm expecting to see some "well scenicked" layouts by this time next year. There's more to come (see Dave's article on the next page), and I'm looking forward to the remainder of the year.

The big event this quarter is the Annual Swapmeet and Division Meeting. The original plan was to have it in the same location as we did last year, but due to unforeseen circumstances this didn't work out. So, thanks to some quick work by Gary Robinson, we will be gathering at the Tierra Bonita Elementary School in Poway on Saturday, May 8th. This is the weekend following the swap meet down at the Model Railroad Museum, so if you picked something up there you wish you hadn't (just couldn't pass up that really great deal on something you didn't need, could you?), or have leftovers to sell, come by Poway and do some 'trading. Oh, let your model railroading friends know about it, as well - or even that neighbor who

is "thinking" about starting in the hobby. Last year, a guy came in and got everything he needed to get started at a really great price! After the swap meet we'll get together for a "pot luck" lunch, clinics, door prizes and other model related events at

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LAYOUT MEETS & TOURS

By David Balser, Layout Tour Chairman

First, as you read this we have attended four mini-meets so far this year, and I want to thank Don Fowler, Art and Lou Dominy, Nelson Rath, plus Bob Chapparo and his friends, Mike Kressen, Bill Flynn, and Jim Lancaster of the Cajon Division in Orange County for letting us visit their homes and see the railroads they have built. In another section of the "Mail Hook" the balance of the mini-meets are listed for 2004. Please make an effort to visit these folks and see what they have accomplished. They enjoy showing off their efforts as much as you do visiting. I believe the essence of Model Railroading is layout construction, and as the new message at the top of Model Railroader magazine states, "Dream it. Plan it. Build it."

2005 will be an interesting year for mini-meets. As tour director for the past two years I



Nelson Rath - O Scale

find myself calling the same people over and over. My welcome is wearing a little thin with some. Here is the challenge! Pick out a month in 2005, and call me and tell me you will be one of the NEW layouts on the schedule! You will be amazed how motivated you become knowing you are COMMITTED to have visitors. Your layout does not have to be 100% complete, most are not. Visitors like to see benchwork, wiring, trackwork, and scenery under construction and maybe you will pick up some tips from others. Don't be shy, take the layout challenge! You know who you are, but I won't mention names. (BS BM CH MP GR SS).

The May 22nd Mini-Meet will be hosted by two members, Rodger Gredvig, MMR and Randy

Schissler, both in the Linda Vista area. Rodger is the builder of the "Lode Stone & Iron Railroad", a 12' x 12' garage layout depicting an imaginary bridge route between the Santa Fe and the



DeBoise Western - Art Dominy

D&RGW from Grand Junction to the lower Colorado River basin. It features desert to mountain scenery with lots of bridges (34 - count them!) The layout has been seen in over a dozen issues of "N Scale Magazine" and "Model Railroader". Rodger likes to tinker with animation, and has included an operating "horsehead" oil pump, only 3/4" high, moving mine skip, operating saw mill, and rotating windmill, along with some signal, lighting and sound effects. The layout is fully scenicked.

Randy Schisslers "Santa Fe and Arizona Northern", in HO scale, is one of the best small model railroads I have ever seen. This is an exceptional layout with many interesting features. Situated in a corner of the living room of a condo, it has a full backdrop and appears much larger. Randy has incorporated



Bill Flynn - HO



Bob Chapparo - Citrus Belt Railway

several mini scenes. Your attention is drawn to animated action, little vignettes, and subtle weathering that makes the scenes come to life. All of it is accentuated with the powerful sound of diesel hum and throb. Randy constructed one of Soundtraxx sound units, the SDX-1, and it fills the room and draws you into the action. It is a must see and hear layout.

The June 12th Mini-Meet will be a "ROAD TRIP" up north as the Cajon Division invites us to join them on their layout tour (details on page 7). Featured layouts will be Tom Frank's newly constructed On3 Rio Grande, Roger Clarkson's massive outdoor garden railroad and spectacular indoor HO scale railroad, and Bob Russel will have his award winning N scale "Orange Belt Lines" on display. Bob Chapparo, tour organizer, has 7 layouts lined up so far and is adding more as we

go to press. Don't forget the hobby shops while you are on the tour!

The July 10th Mini-Meet will be hosted by none other than John Sigurdson, MMR. John has done more for our Division and Region than most and has helped many of us with his years of experience in the hobby. John's "Dakota & North Western" is an "experience" you don't want to miss. He has one of the best operating N scale railroads anywhere. In the same room he is also building an O-Scale railroad with On3 and On30 branchlines. If the weather is good he may have his outdoor O-Scale railroad running. His shop is worth the trip and you can spend hours picking up tricks of the

trade about building things - it quickly becomes obvious why he is a Master Model Railroader. I



Mike Kresen - HO

could write paragraphs about John and his railroads, but I will only say "don't miss the opportunity to visit with one of the real model railroaders".

Directions to the Mini-Meets will be mailed to you a week in advance by postcard. Also, remember you are strongly encouraged to bring non-NMRA members to the Mini-Meets to expose them to the hobby. P.S. If you know of a member who is stuck to his recliner drafting the 234th version of his "GIGANTIC ATLANTIC TO PACIFIC R.R.", pry him out and bring him along!



Jim Landcaster - HO

which is good for all National or Regional functions for six months. But can only be used once, thereafter, they would need to utilize options 1 or 2 above.

Hopefully this will not cause any more confusion or inconsistencies in policy.

On a exciting note, plans for the *Rails to Verdugo* PSR Convention in Glendale are being finalized, with the venue divided between the Hilton Hotel and the Methodist church across the street. Contact information is included elsewhere in this newsletter, and full details will be in the upcoming issue of the PSR *Dispatch*.



Superintendent's Report - continued from page 1

the Spring Meet. Guests are welcome, and I look forward to seeing you there!

While Dave has set up a great list of layouts for the monthly Mini-meets, there are other events in the planning stages. In the past, the Division has had a summer picnic with the Live Steamers down in Chula Vista, but it's time for something new. Details will be provided in the next "Mail Hook", but mark your calendars for Saturday, August 14th and plan on a good time.

In a more serious vein, I'd like you to take note of the current volunteer positions available in the Division (page 7). It takes more than a couple (or three or four) people to organize and put on these events, and your assistance would be welcomed. Needed at this time is some one to help out with publicity, and another person to act as club liaison. These jobs don't take a lot of time, but would be of great help in keeping the Division active and exciting.

As mentioned in several places in this issue, the PSR 2004 Convention is being held in Glendale, CA in September. If you haven't been to a NMRA® Convention before, you're missing a great time. Some Division members are participating by putting on a clinic, others are just going to enjoy the events and camaraderie - you are invited to come along, meet some great people, and learn more about this great hobby called Model Railroading.

Part of the Convention is a Model Contest, an event which is part of the "Achievement Program", which is a way to be recognized for your expertise in various parts of the hobby. We have several Master Model Railroaders in the Division, and more working to earn the designation. Think you could

never be "that good"? Well, through the efforts of our outgoing Model Contest chairman, John Sigurdson, our Achievement Program chairman, Ed Hatch, and others, a number of people just like you (yes, you!) have discovered that they, too, can learn the skills necessary - in fact, having been in the hobby for many years, they already have them, and have gotten a good start on earning "Certificates of Achievement" of their own. If you are interested, contact Ed, John, or Rodger and get started today.

Ah, almost forgot! The Division now has it's own Internet Domain - SanDiegoDivision.org. A member web site is under development, with a place to put pictures, events, tales (tall or otherwise) and in general provide an on-line place for the members to "gather". Once the site is up and running there will be an announcement. By the way, I send out emails on Division news to those who have provided me with their email address. If you have one, and would like to keep informed and up to date, send your address to: sddiv@sbcglobal.net.

Well, that's about it for this time around. I'd like to express my appreciation to all those who have volunteered their time to make the Division what it is today, and also the members of the Poway Station All-Scale Modular Club for their efforts the past few years on making the Swap Meet a reality.

See you in Poway on the 8th!

LAYOUT TOUR

INLAND EMPIRE AREA

Home Layouts In Several Scales

SATURDAY- JUNE 12, 2004

10:00 am To 5:00 pm

Departure Point:

1002 Aspen Street, Corona, CA

(Departure Point Closes At 1:00)

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INFO: BOB CHAPARRO

949-770-5158

psrpom239@cox.net

Cajon Division: <http://www.cajondiv.org/>

SAN DIEGO DIVISION PSR-NMRA

Swapmeet & Annual Meeting

Saturday, May 8th

Swapmeet - 10:00am (Setup at 9:00am)

Annual Division Meeting - 12:30pm

Tierra Bonita Elementary School, 14678 Tierra Bonita Road, Poway

SELL & TRADE

CLINICS!

DOOR PRIZES!

**FAVORITE MODEL
CONTEST!**



**HAVE MORE FUN -
BRING A FRIEND**

Directions:

Take I-15 to Ted Williams Parkway (S-56). Take the Eastbound exit onto Ted Williams Parkway, and go East until the intersection with Twin Peaks Road. Turn right onto Twin Peaks Road, follow Twin Peaks for about 2.2 miles to Tierra Bonita Road. Turn left on Tierra Bonita Road, and go uphill to Tierra Bonita Elementary School (second school). There will be signs to the Multi-Purpose Room.

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

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

MAIN DISH, SALADS, APPETIZERS & SNACKS, AND DESSERTS

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

May 2004

San Diego Division - Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2	3	4	5	6	7	8 Division Swapmeet & Spring Meet 10am 'til 3pm
9 <i>Mother's Day</i>	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22 Layout Tours - Rodger Gredvig, Randy Schissler - Noon
23	24	25	26	27	28	29 SDRRM - Railroad Art Exhibit - thru Monday
30	31 <i>Memorial Day</i>					

June 2004

		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12 Layout Tour - Orange County Cajon Division Tour 10am
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20 <i>Father's Day</i>	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

July 2004

				1	2	3
4 <i>Independence Day</i>	5	6	7	8	9	10 Layout Tour - John Sigurdson - Escondido Noon
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

SAN DIEGO DIVISION STAFF

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Club Liason:	(vacant)		
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Convention Chair:	Chuck Hart		
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Membership:	Gary Robinson	858-538-5256	grobbiedobbie@yahoo.com
Nominations:	Chuck Hart	858 748-6816	pce@cox.net
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 free 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: \$4/year for NMRA® members outside of the San Diego Division, \$8/year for non-NMRA® members.

Submissions: Contributions of article 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 for 2004: April 9, 2004; July 9, 2004; October 9, 2004; January 15, 2005

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

PAYMASTER'S REPORT

by Don Fowler

Following is the status of the San Diego Division's Treasury as of 03/31/04;

<u>ACCOUNTS:</u>	<u>OPERATING</u>	<u>MONEY MARKET</u>
Prior Balance:	\$29.22	\$13,114.31
Interest:	0.00	39.29
Revenue:	0.00	0.00
Transfer (MM/OPS):	800.00	(800.00)
<u>Expenditures:</u>	<u>(675.54)</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Current Balance:	\$153.68	\$12,353.60

MONTHLY LAYOUT MEET LOCATIONS

Saturday, May 22nd

Lode Stone & Iron RR (N) - Rodger Gredvig
6548 Alcalá Knolls Drive, San Diego 92111
(858) 571-7118

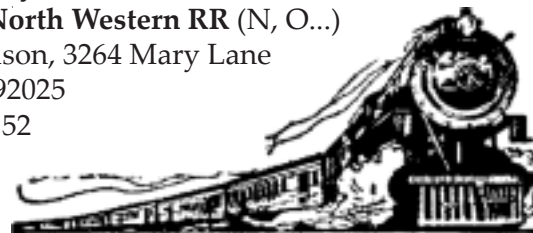
Santa Fe & Arizona Northern RR (HO)
Randy Schissler, 1118 Fresno Street #3
San Diego 92110
(858) 294-9234

Saturday, June 12th

Cajon Division Layout Tour

Saturday, July 10th

Dakota & North Western RR (N, O...)
John Sigurdson, 3264 Mary Lane
Escondido 92025
(760) 747-1152



SCHEDULE OF PSR-NMRA EVENTS

May 2004

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

May 8 - Sat 12:00am - **S.D. Division Spring Meet** Tierra Bonita Elementary, Poway

May 22 - Sat 12:00 noon - Monthly Layout Meet - Rodger Gredvig, MMR, "Lodestone & Iron", and Randy Schissler, "Santa Fe & Arizona Northern" - San Diego

June 2004

Jun 12 - **Inland Empire Layout Tour** sponsored by the Cajon Division, PSR and the San Diego Division, PSR. For more information, visit www.cajondiv.org

July 2004

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

Jul 10 - Sat 12:00 noon - Monthly Layout Meet - John Sigurdson, MMR - "Dakota & North Western". Escondido.

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

August 2004

Aug 7 - Sat 12:00 noon - Monthly Layout meet - San Diego Model Railroad Museum, Balboa Park - Bring your trains and run!

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

September 2004

Sep 11 - Sat 12:00 noon - Monthly Layout Meet - Dick Roberts, "Nevada County RR". El Cajon.

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

October 2004

Oct 16 - Sat 12:00 noon - Monthly Layout meet - Dave Balsler, "Onion Valley Mining and Lumber Company". Encinitas.

November 2004

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

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

Nov 20 - Sat 12:00 noon - Monthly Layout meet - Ross Black, "Beaver Creek Railway".

December 2004

Dec 11 - Sat 12:00 noon - Monthly Layout meet - Steve Harris, "Rio Grande Southern". Valley Center.

OTHER EVENTS OF INTEREST

May 2004

May 16 - 9:00am to 5:00pm - **21st Annual Allied Trains Auction**, Arcadia, CA . (310) 313-9353 for information.

May 27 thru 31 - Thu & Fri - 1:00pm to 10:pm, Sat thru Mon - 11:00am to 10:00pm. **National Orange Show Festival - Model Train Exhibit**. San Bernadino, CA
www.nationalorangeshow.com

May 29 thru 31 - 11:00am to 4:00pm - **San Diego Model Railroad Museum** - Great American Locomotives art exhibit. \$5 adults, \$3 students, children under 15 free.

June 2004

June 3 thru 6 - **The Big Train Show**, Queen Mary, Long Beach, CA. www.bigtrainshow.com

December 2004

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

RAIL HISTORY ADVENTURES

CAJON DIVISION, PSR, NMRA®

Boulder City Meet

June 12, 2005 - 8:00 AM

Boulder Dam Hotel (Historic Landmark)

1305 Arizona Street

Boulder City, NV 89005

Discover Rail History! Activities include clinics, show 'n tell, model contest, proto tour at Nevada State Museum, train ride and engine house tour. Pricing - \$3 NMRA member; \$5 non-member includes Free admission to Hoover Dam Museum located within the hotel.

Train Ride - \$3 per person (special discount for Meet attendees)

Info: Jan Wescott Email: wescvegas@cox.net
Phone: (702) 566-0856 or visit website at www.cajondiv.org (Events) for copy of flyer.

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 Modular Railroad Society (HO, N)

San Marcos

Info: (760) 746-4779

Poway Station All Scale Modular Club

Old Poway Park, Poway

Info: www.powystation.com

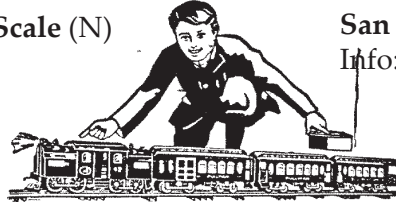
Short Trak'N Railroad Club (N)

North County

Info: flyers@inetworld.net

San Diego Garden Railway Society

Info: www.sdgrs.com



Online - Web Sites of Interest

Train Net: www.trainnet.org

NMRA: www.nmra.org

PSR: www.getnet.net/~dickg/nmra/psr/psr.html

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

San Diego Division: www.getnet.net/~dickg/nmra/sdiego/sdiego.html

Cajon Division: www.cajondiv.org

San Diego Model Railroad Museum: www.sdmodelrailroadm.com



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Saturday - Sunday 11:00 - 5:00

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Military \$2.50, Tuesdays free to all



MAIL HOOK

LOOK INSIDE FOR THE LATEST NEWS!

- Layout Mini-Meet Schedule
 - Spring Swap Meet - May 8th - Poway
 - Annual Meeting - May 8th - Poway
 - Convention News!

Look Inside!



MAIL HOOK

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

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

