

# MAIL HOOK

SAN DIEGO DIVISION, PSR-NMRA

2ND QUARTER, 2007

## DIRECTOR'S REPORT

By Don Fowler

*"That light at the end of the tunnel just may be an oncoming train!"*

On March 24<sup>th</sup>, Division Superintendent/ PSR Region President Ben Sevier and I attended the mid-year Board of Directors Meeting at the Sheraton Tucson Hotel & Suites, the site of our upcoming Regional Convention. I think that you will be very pleased with the facility and the room rate. Based on the progress report provided by the Convention Committee, we're in for a great time and you definitely won't want to miss out on the festivities.

The Convention Committee mailed to all PSR members a copy of Arizona Division's "Spur Line," that describes some of the activities that will be offered. It looks like they've arranged some great prototype tours and clinics that will include "Modeling with the Masters". There will be a Chinese auction, an awards banquet, Railette activities and some great layout tours. If you'd like to help or get more information, contact info is provided in the "Spur Line".

Good progress is also being made on the National Convention that will be held in Anaheim July 22-28, 2008. If you've never attended a National Convention, please take advantage of this one being

*See "Director's Report" on Page 2*

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## THEFT!

### Model Trains Stolen from Walter Anderson Nursery

*Reprinted with permission from the San Diego Garden Railway News, issue #232, April 2007*

Between the hours of 5:40 P.M. on March 2nd, 2007 and 8:15 A.M. on March 3rd, 2007, suspect(s) unknown entered the grounds of Walter Andersen Nursery in Poway, California and either destroyed or stole several thousand dollars worth of track, large scale rolling stock and plants. The crimes are being investigated by the Poway office of the San Diego County Sheriff's Department.

The suspect(s) entered the grounds by cutting the chain link fence at the southwestern corner of the property and then proceeded to the garden railroad layout area where they vandalized several feet of track, buildings, and bridges. Apparently, the suspect(s) were interrupted at some point because they left a trash barrel filled with buildings and track and switches stacked at both the point of exit and at various locations on the layout. However, losses to both the thefts and vandalism are extensive and the losses are in the thousands of dollars.

Please pay attention to anyone who is trying to sell used track or rolling stock. The track and switches are either LGB or Aristocraft code 332 brass. The stolen rolling stock consists of some dozen boxcars, Aristocraft Santa Fe dome liner streamline passenger cars, and three Aristocraft track cleaning cabooses (one yellow, one gray, one red). Also, three(3)Aristocraft log cars are missing.

Unique items lost are as follows: one(1) boxcar specially lettered for Walter Andersen Nursery,

*See "Theft!" on Page 4*

### *Director's Report from Page 1*

held in our own backyard (Region). To get an idea, take a Regional Convention and multiply the fun factor by ten. They're planning a monster of a convention for us so let's all take advantage of this convenient opportunity. They will need a lot of volunteers to make it all run smoothly so join me in representing the San Diego Division.

The Board accepted our 2006 Final Convention Report and commended all who helped to make it a success. One other item that we discussed at length was the current state of our membership and strategies to attract new members. Ideas included programs for youth, better networking with local clubs, and philanthropic endeavors to benefit our local communities.

One opportunity might be to build a small layout during a convention as a "hands on" clinic and then donate it to a local children's hospital or youth club. I recently attended a "Rotary International" meeting where they discussed membership strategies that included advertising their quarterly meets in newspapers and expecting each member to bring a guest. Their meetings are similar to ours in that they host a meal and have guest speakers. Their primary mission is to serve their local communities through philanthropic efforts and fund raising.

My friends in one of our local Masonic Lodges are using the tactic of involving their entire families and friends in their organization by hosting parties and other fun activities that are not Lodge specific, but have general appeal to everyone. They are also involved in many philanthropic efforts to benefit the less fortunate in their community. Many organizations are struggling to bolster their dwindling memberships and although we are competing with them for members, perhaps we should study and experiment with what works for them.

To that end, I challenge each of you to not only attend and support our next quarterly meet but also bring a new friend, neighbor, co-worker, or family member along with you. How about a membership drive that offers a free Division sponsored six month membership to our new prospects and a prize at the end of the year for the member who recruits and signs up the most new people?

I can't do this without you so what do you say? Is the future of our hobby worth a bit of your time and effort? If you think that we need to change our

## **ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM**

*by Ed Hatch, AP Chairman*

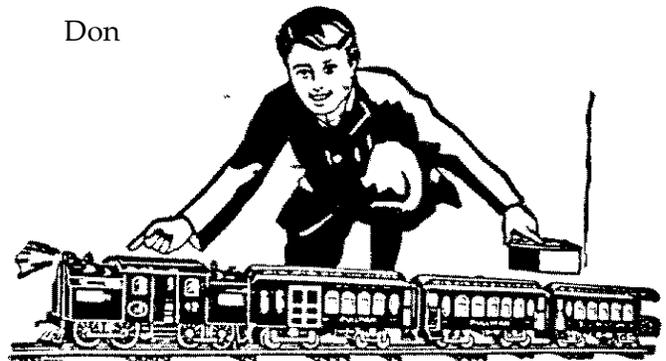
We are pleased to announce that Mel Foster has received his Golden Spike Award. Mel recently moved to town from Tracy, California, a little over a year ago. He had a much larger railroad in Tracy, but the Northern Walika & Espee now occupies a 9' x 10' room in his house in Rancho Bernardo. It's an around-the-walls design with a peninsula, and offers plenty of operation in a small space. NCE DCC allows multiple operators, although operator space is at a premium. (Hey, he had to fit more railroad!) The scenery and buildings complement the trains very nicely. He's used a couple of John Allen's scenery tricks (such as mirrors) to excellent effect. Mel is a member of the Poway Station All Scale Model Railroad, and had recently revitalized several of the club's logging modules. Mel's award will be presented at the Spring Meet in May. He is always happy to show a visitor "around the property." \*\*\*\*\*

### *Club Car from Page 8*

roundhouse and the Intermodal facility. This area is fast becoming a focal point and goes a long way toward showing what can be done with detailed scenery in N Scale. We are always pleased to host visitors, so if you would like to see what we are doing and what can be done in N Scale don't hesitate to come and see us. If you would like to test or see your equipment operating on broad curves (24" min. rad) and long straights, well . . . come on down. We are there every Friday evening and look forward to seeing you. BTW, we always have room for new members and particularly need individuals with scenery building skills. \*\*\*\*\*

activities, strategies, or have other ideas, please share your thoughts with us. I have pledged my support to our organization and I know that with your help, we can do great things. Can I count on you?

Don



## CLUB CAR

*This is a new feature that we hope to run every month, where clubs can keep us up to date on their current activities.*



### AMERICAN FLYER TOY TRAIN EXHIBIT OPENS MAY 19, 2007 AT THE SAN DIEGO MODEL RAILROAD MUSEUM IN BALBOA PARK

For over a century American Flyer toy trains have been fascinating all ages of train enthusiasts. The San Diego American Flyer Association, a division of the All Gauge Toy Train Association, will be utilizing the Museum's Pacific Beach Club room to display numerous varieties of classic toy trains. The exhibit will feature original American Flyer trains from the late 1940's and 50's, an era where the trains became even more realistic with engine smoke and sound. The exhibition opens May 19 and will be on view through June 3 at the San Diego Model Railroad Museum.

American Flyer trains have had a significant presence in the toy train business since the beginning of the 1900's. These toy trains were originally run on a larger O gauge track, but in 1946 A.C. Gilbert introduced a two rail track system as well as steam engines with smoke and sound in order to make the trains appear more realistic.

Today, the Lionel Model Train Company manufactures the American Flyer trains. Throughout the years Lionel has improved the classic model by creating a new line of locomotives as well as using state of the art rail sounds. However, while they have generated more updated trains, Lionel also reproduces many of the A.C. Gilbert era popular locomotives, cars, and accessories.

The expansive layout will feature both classic O gauge locomotives and cars as well as more current models.

The San Diego Model Railroad Museum is open Tuesday-Friday 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM and 11:00 AM - 5:00 PM on Saturday and Sunday. Children under 15 years old are free, adult admission is \$6. \*\*\*

## Antique Gas & Steam Engine Museum



Vista, California

**BE AN ENGINEER!**

You crack the throttle on the lead unit and the five GE Dash 8-40Bs start to rev. You let the air off and notch the throttle up one more. The slack starts to come out of the unit coal train stretching a half (scale) mile or more behind you. You notch the throttle up again and the whole train starts to move, out onto the main line, past the drive-in, coming up to the lumber mill around the big bend...

This could be you, in a few short months. The Short Track Railroad crew needs your help to run their layout at the San Diego County Fair at Del Mar, June 8 through July 4. This is big time model railroading. Long trains on a great layout! Good camaraderie. Free admission to the fair. Free parking. Shifts are about 5 hours, starting at 9:30 in the morning. There are three shifts every day, ending at 10:15 during the week and 11:15 Friday and Saturday. The fair is closed some Mondays and Tuesdays. You can spend the rest of the day before or after your shift enjoying the other attractions at the fair. Is there a better deal in town? I don't think so.

Here's what you need to do to become part of this great deal. Contact Pete Steinmetz or Chuck Hart to sign up. Their contact information appears below. They can answer any other questions you may have. You can work out a shift with them that fits your schedule, then show up for the fun. Check the web site below to see what shifts are available. Sign up early to get the best time! Oh yeah, and don't forget to HAVE FUN!

Chuck Hart [pce@cox.net](mailto:pce@cox.net) 858-748-6816

Pete Steinmetz [peter.steinmetz@att.net](mailto:peter.steinmetz@att.net) 760-672-4720

Schedule <http://members.cox.net/pce/stnrr/schedule/DMFsched.htm> \*\*\*

*More "Club Car" news on Page 8*

# Superintendent's Report

By Ben Sevier

As usual, the Poway Station club put on a great show to the public, and a number of Division members showed up to run their trains or just show their enthusiasm (depends on how you viewed the comments...). The club was setup in Templar Hall at Poway Old Town park, and had a continual stream of the public through to watch the trains run. I got to run some of my stuff that's been sitting waiting for me to get time to get my layout going – had a great time, despite comments about my prototype.

The annual Membership Meeting and Spring Meet is coming up in May. We're taking advantage of an invitation from the San Diego Electric Railway Association, and holding the meet down at the SDER Depot in National City. If you haven't seen this very active museum, you're in for a treat. Very interesting building, lots of artifacts from the SDER, photos, a great gift shop, and a running Lionel layout. As part of the meet, we'll be taking a tour of the building and the cars that they are working on. There will also be a clinic, elections for Superintendent and Clerk/Paymaster, a "favorite" model contest, pot luck lunch, and lots of talk about trains and models. The favorite model contest is just that – bring your favorite model. We'll have a vote on the favorite of the group, and the winner gets a prize. And of course, we'll have some great door prizes to draw for – if you don't come, you don't get a chance! The Museum is requesting a \$5 donation from each person to help host such events as ours.

I'm always looking for suggestions on events for the Division that you, the member, would find interesting. We've scaled back on layout tours this year, to give everyone a breather, but I'm sure there are lots of other things that people would be interested in. If you have something to volunteer, or a suggestion for an event or place that would be of interest, by all means let myself or one of the other Division "workers" know.

Last month Don Fowler and I attended the PSR Board of Directors meeting. The first meeting of the year is always held at the venue of the upcoming PSR convention, which this year is Tucson, Arizona. If the hotel and enthusiasm of the convention committee is any indication, everyone who attends is in for a great time. If you haven't signed up yet, go to <http://www.getnet.net/~dickg/nmra/psr/2007conv.html> on the web and get a

glimpse of all that's planned – then, send in your registration – yes, do it now. It'd be great to have a large San Diego contingent there.

Well, that's enough for now. See you at the Meet in National City!

Ben

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## *Theft! from Page 1*

one(1) boxcar lettered with the Sea World logo, and one(1) boxcar lettered for AG Edwards.

If you have any information or are contacted by someone trying to fence these items, contact the Poway office of the S.D. County Sheriff's Office at (858) 513-2800.

Unless these crooks are planning to build a garden railroad, they are going to have to fence the hot property either at a swap meet, hobby shop, or to one of us. It's not a big fraternity we belong to, so hopefully, the stuff will show up and we can bust them.

Armour meats reefer car.....rich red with white letters  
Needham packing reefer car.....light blue with black letters  
Kink packing reefer car....orange with black letters  
Finicks overalls reefer car.....gray with black letters  
Eat More Butter reefer car.....white with black letters  
Maccar truck reefer.....gray with red and black letters  
Del Monte reefer car..... Green with black and yellow letters  
and the Del Monte logo  
Walter Andersen reefer..... LGB car, light blue with dark letters  
A. G. Edwards boxcar.....LGB red with white letters  
Air Tech Filtration.....LGB boxcar, dark blue w/white letters  
LGB European Passenger car2nd class, blue and white  
3 LGB heavyweight Santa Fe passenger cars  
3 Aristocraft log cars  
2 Aristocraft track cleaning cabooses  
1 USA track cleaning caboose  
1 yellow tool box with miscellaneous tools  
5 #16050 LGB switches  
2 #18050 LGB switches

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## SCHEDULE OF PSR-NMRA EVENTS

## OTHER EVENTS OF INTEREST

Assembled from various sources. Events may have been submitted by sponsors. Send corrections, additions, and future events to the editor at [grobbedobbie@yahoo.com](mailto:grobbedobbie@yahoo.com) or (760) 839-5877. Events should be of interest to San Diego Division members. Division-sponsored events are listed in **bold**.

2007

May

- 12 **San Diego Division Spring Meet**, 11:30 AM, San Diego City Electric Railway Museum, National City. Tour, context, door prizes, pot luck. BRING A DISH to share. See attached flyer.

July

- 22 – 28 **2007 NMRA Convention. Detroit, MI**  
[www.nmra.org/2007/](http://www.nmra.org/2007/) The North Central Region presents the Great Lakes Express



August

- 11 **San Diego Division Summer Meet**  
(tentative), TBA

September

- 5 – 9 **2007 PSR Convention, Copper Trails – Silver Rails, Arizona Division.** Tucson AZ.  
[www.trainnet.org/newsletters.html](http://www.trainnet.org/newsletters.html) and on the Arizona Division page on the PSR web site at [www.psr-nmra.org](http://www.psr-nmra.org)

November

- 10 **San Diego Division Fall Meet** (tentative), TBA

2008

July

- 13 – 19 **2008 NMRA Convention, Anaheim, CA**

2007

May

- 2 - 6 **Pacific Coast Region Convention**, Santa Cruz, CA. More information at <http://www.pcrnmra.org/conv2007/index.shtml>
- 5, 6 **Fullerton Railroad Days.** 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Fullerton Train Station, 124 E. Santa Fe Avenue. (714) 278-0648 [www.scrf.org/rrdays](http://www.scrf.org/rrdays).
- 12 **Swap Meet**, 7 AM to 11 AM, San Diego Model Railroad Museum
- 19 **Santa Susana RR Historical Soc. Swap Meet.** 7:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. In the Santa Susana Park Pavilion. Admission \$2.00 for adults. Sellers contact Armando Cota; 805-558-2195 or [mando\\_118@hotmail.com](mailto:mando_118@hotmail.com)
- 24 - 28 **National Orange Show/Orange County Module Railroaders, Inc. Model Train Exhibit** featuring the Inland Empire Module Railroad Group, Orange County "N" Gineers, Kerk Circus, BNSF Operation Lifesaver, and Orange County Module Railroaders. For information call Mike Bentley at (909) 553-9947 or <http://www.trainweb.org/ocmr/>
- 31- **June 3** The Big Train Show, new location at Ontario Convention Center. <http://www.bigtrainshow.com/>
- June
- 3, 5 **Slim Gauge Model Railroad Club Open House.** Sunday 10:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m., Tuesday 6:00 – 10:00p.m. Free. 300 S Raymond Ave., Pasadena, CA 91105. In the basement of the China Factory Mall at Del Mar across the street from the Metro Station. [www.slimgaugeguild.com](http://www.slimgaugeguild.com) Jeff Smith (818) 590-1729
- 8 – **July 4** San Diego County Fair, Del Mar Fairgrounds, 2260 Jimmy Durante Blvd., Del Mar, CA 92014. Short Trak Crew modular N scale layout. Closed some days, see <http://www.sdfair.com/fair/>
- 16 – 17, **23 – 24** Spring Harvest Fair, Antique Gas & Steam Engine Museum, 2040 N. Santa

\* \* \* \* \*

See "Other Events of Interest" on Page 8

# May 2007

# San Diego Division - Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
			Pacific Coast Region Convention, Santa Cruz, CA <a href="http://www.pcrnmra.org/convention2007/index.shtml">http://www.pcrnmra.org/convention2007/index.shtml</a>			/Fullerton Railroad Days
<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
/Fullerton Railroad Days						SDMRRM Swap Meet and SD Divison Spring Meet
<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
						Santa Susana RR Hist Soc Swap Meet
<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>		

# June 2007

					<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
					Del Mar Fair opens	
<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
	Del Mar Fair dark today	Del Mar Fair dark today				AG&SEM, Harvest Fair, Vista
<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
AG&SEM, Harvest Fair, Vista	Del Mar Fair dark today	Del Mar Fair dark today				AG&SEM, Harvest Fair, Vista
<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
AG&SEM, Harvest Fair, Vista	Del Mar Fair dark today					

# July 2007

<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
			Old Fashioned 4th of July, Poway -- Del Mar Fair ends			
<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<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>
2007 NMRA Convention. Detroit, MI	<a href="http://www.nmra.org/2007/">www.nmra.org/2007/</a> thru Saturday.....					
<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>				

## SAN DIEGO DIVISION STAFF

Director:	<b>Don Fowler</b>	619-258-3529	donald.fowler@sdsheriff.org
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Nominations:	<b>Chuck Hart</b>	858 748-6816	pce@cox.net
Publicity:	<b>(vacant)</b>		

### **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: \$6/year for NMRA® members outside of the San Diego Division, \$10/year for non-NMRA® members, and is mailed First Class.

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

**Submissions:** Contributions of articles 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 2007: January 15,

2007; April 15, 2007, July 15, 2007; October 15, 2007.

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

### ***From the Editor...***

Well, my first newsletter may have been less than stellar, but that leaves room for improvement, right? Thanks to all of you who took the time to really read that issue, and point out some of my goofs. Please see Erratta, on page 9, for corrections. Thanks also, to those of you who submitted suggestions. I'll try to incorporate some of your ideas where I can, and I'm always open to new ones.

Please keep your eyes peeled for any of the equipment that was taken from the Walter Anderson Nursery last month. See the article about the theft on the front page. We've all enjoyed that layout over the years, and it's a shame someone decided to destroy it. If you have or acquire any information that you think may be useful in solving the crime, please contact Crimestoppers at **(888) 580-TIPS**.

Congratulations to Mel Foster on his Golden Spike award! This is something most of us could do right now. It gives you a start along the road in the Achievement Program (AP), you might learn something new, and striving for goals makes us all better modelers. We'll have an article on how to prepare for the Golden Spike in the next issue of the Mail Hook. In the meantime, contact Ed Hatch, the AP Chair, with your questions. Ed's contact information appears in the Staff section, above.

We'd like to see more of you involved in the AP, and we'd like to see more models at our quarterly meets. Don't worry if you think your work doesn't

*See "From the Editor" on Page 9*

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## OTHER EVENTS OF INTEREST

*Continued from Page 5*

Fe Ave., Vista, CA 92083. Short Trak Crew layout open. <http://agsem.com/index.html>

27 – 30 National Garden Railway Convention, Las Vegas, NV. <http://www.2007ngrc.com/>

### July

15 – 18 Great Northern Railway Historical Society annual meeting, Minot, ND. <http://www.gnrhs.org/>

22 – 28 **2007 NMRA Convention. Detroit, MI** [www.nmra.org/2007/](http://www.nmra.org/2007/) The North Central Region presents the Great Lakes Express

### August

4, 5 Poway Station All Scale Model Railroad Club Public Show, San Rafael Catholic Church, 17252 Bernardo Center Dr San Diego, CA 92128.

25 Santa Susana RR Historical Soc. Swap Meet. 7:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. In the Santa Susana Park Pavilion. Admission \$2.00 for adults. Sellers contact Armando Cota; 805-558-2195 or [mando\\_118@hotmail.com](mailto:mando_118@hotmail.com)

31 – **Sept 2** Chula Vista Live Steamers, Rohr Park, Chula Vista <http://www.trainweb.org/cvls/main.html>

### September

15 Orange Empire Railway Museum Spring RAILRODIANA Swap Meet. 9am to 2pm. 2201 South "A" St. Perris CA 17 miles south of Riverside on I-215. (909) 943-3020, [www.oerm.org](http://www.oerm.org).

### October

13 Pomona Valley Model Railroad Club Swap Meet and Open House. 8:00 a.m. - Noon, Swap Meet. 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., Open house. New location VFW Parking Lot, MAIN and 1st Ave. A block west of the old location. Lindsay Smith (909) 599-0182 or [windsays@adelphia.net](mailto:windsays@adelphia.net). See [www.pvmrrc.org](http://www.pvmrrc.org).

28 Santa Susana RR Historical Soc. Swap Meet. 7:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. In the Santa Susana Park Pavilion. Admission \$2.00 for adults. Sellers contact Armando Cota; 805-558-2195 or [mando\\_118@hotmail.com](mailto:mando_118@hotmail.com)

### November

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3, 4, 6, 10, 11 Pasadena MRC Fall Show: Our 67th Year.

Saturday, Nov 3, 10 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

Sunday, Nov 4, 11 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Tuesday, Nov 6 7:30 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

5458 Alhambra Ave., Los Angeles CA. (323) 222-1718. Open House Donations: Adults \$3, Children \$1 (under 7 free when accompanied by an adult). Contact Joe Behan [jnbehan@charter.net](mailto:jnbehan@charter.net), <http://www.pmrrc.org>.

7, 10, 11 Highland Pacific Society of Model Railroad Engineers Open House. Wed 7-10 pm, Sat & Sun noon to 5 pm. 854 E. Broadway, San Gabriel, CA 91776 - (626) 285-1031 Free,

Jerry Duncan (626) 444 3317 <http://www.highlandpacificrr.com/events.html>

13, 14 Cajon Division Barstow Annual Train Show (tentative)

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*Club Car from Page 3*

The San Diego Society of N Scale (SDSONS) has been busy improving their layout, the "PACIFIC DESERT LINES" (PDL). It may not appear so to the casual observer as most of the recent



work has involved installing control systems under the bench work.. Not only is there a fully operational normal DC Control system but there is also fully operational computer control system (The Chubb System). This system, as installed, is capable of dealing with up to 6 trains running in either direction at the same time and allows for unattended operations if required. The most recent enhancement was the installation of the NCE DCC system. The entire layout, mains, branches, yards and sidings are operational with the DCC system. At present we are working on obtaining the software to allow us to combine the computer and DCC systems and are expected to be operational within the next month or so. Further down the line will be installation of the hardware that will allow control of the turnouts with the DCC system. Eventually a signal system will be installed and tied into the DCC/computer system. A more obvious improvement to the PDL is the addition of scenery to the "National City Yard;" particularly the areas around the

*continued on page 2*

## **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: (619) 690-4358

### **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)**

Oceanside

Info: (760) 722-7366 [ncmrs@cox.net](mailto:ncmrs@cox.net)

### **Poway Station All Scale Modular Club**

Old Poway Park, Poway

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

### **Short Track Railroad Club (N)**

Antique Gas & Steam Engine Museum, Vista

Info: [flyers@inetworld.net](mailto:flyers@inetworld.net)

### **San Diego Garden Railway Society**

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

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

## **Online - Web Sites of Interest**

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

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

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

Copper Trails and Silver Rails PSR Convention [www.getnet.net/~dickg/nmra/psr/2007conv.html](http://www.getnet.net/~dickg/nmra/psr/2007conv.html)

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

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

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

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

The Overland Trail: [www.overlandtrail.com](http://www.overlandtrail.com)



*From the Editor... from Page 7*

measure up. Remember, many of the awards at the last convention were won by newer modelers. Division meets are the best opportunities to share your work with no pressure, and you might be surprised at how good it is. Why not give it a try?

We also have a number of MMRs in the Division who will be happy to offer advice and assistance if you need it. Just ask one. These guys are the ones who are having the FUN in model railroading.

Another source of fun in model railroading is the camaraderie you get from working with others who share your interest in railroading. We have a couple of open positions. Why not volunteer to help out?

Finally, if you like to run trains, here's your opportunity. Short Track Model Railroad Club needs your help to operate their N scale layout at the Fair. You get admission to the San Diego County Fair at Del Mar, and free parking in the bargain. See the Club Car section and contact Chuck or Pete to sign up. It's easy, and it's FUN. That's what model railroading is all about!

Gary

### **Erratta:**

The first quarter Mail Hook listed incorrect address and contact information for the North County Model Railroad Society. The correct information appears above.

The Schedule of PSR-NMRA Events, showed the National Convention under June, but it should have been listed under July.

Don Fowler's name was misspelled, not once, but three times! Wow, big goof!

The business card shown for Trains Are Good had their old address on Juan Street. They've moved to 3683 Midway Drive, Suite F, San Diego, CA 92110. the phone is 619-294-8372.



### **San Diego Model Railroad Museum**

World's Largest Operating Model Railroad  
Museum

1649 El Prado, Balboa Park

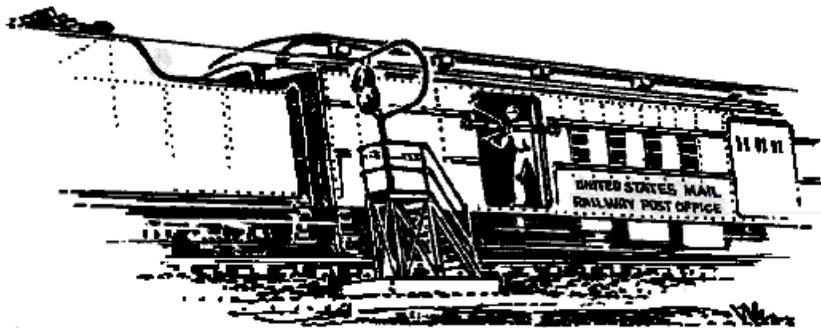
Open to the Public

Tuesday through Friday 11:00 - 4:00

Saturday - Sunday 11:00 - 5:00

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

Military \$2.50, Tuesdays free to all



# MAIL HOOK

## LOOK INSIDE FOR THE LATEST NEWS!

- Spring Meet Information
  - Equipment Theft
  - Club News

Look Inside!



## MAIL HOOK

c/o Gary Robinson, Editor  
2319 Conway Drive  
Escondido, CA 92026



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



# SAN DIEGO DIVISION Spring Meet & Membership Meeting



Saturday, May 12th - 11:30 AM

San Diego Electric Railway Museum ~ <http://www.sdera.org/>  
922 West 23rd St, National City, CA 91950

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CLINIC!

TOUR OF THE SDERR DEPOT AND CARS!

FAVORITE MODEL

CONTEST!

DOOR PRIZES!

INTERESTING

DISCUSSIONS AND



Come join us at the historic National City Depot of the San Diego Electric Railway, now a museum run by the San Diego Electric Railway Association. This is the annual membership meeting, with elections for Superintendent and Clerk/Paymaster, report of the past year, a favorite model contest with prize (bring your favorite model), a tour of the depot and the cars they are restoring, and a clinic - as well as a chance to "talk trains". By the way, the SDERRA has a great gift shop, with items you won't find anywhere else. A \$5 donation to the Museum is requested for our use of the facility.

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Directions: **I-5:** The Depot is located at the corner of Bay Marina Drive and Marina Way in National City. Take Interstate 5 south of downtown San Diego, exit at Bay Marina Drive, turn west and go 2 blocks, across Cleveland Avenue. The Depot will be to your right at the next light - parking in the lot.

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## P O T L U C K L U N C H

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