

MAIL HOOK

SAN DIEGO DIVISION, PSR-NMRA

2ND QUARTER, 2008

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

By Don Fowler

Spring is definitely here and summer is just around the corner. The good news is that there will be plenty of railroading activities to keep us busy here in the San Diego Division.

Our Division Winter Meet was held on February 9 at the Antique Gas & Steam Engine Museum in Vista, home to the Short Track Railroad Club. This event included a swap meet, pot luck, clinics, and a tour of the progress on this club's railroad. There was a good turnout and everyone had a great time. Our thanks to the Club for hosting our meet.

I joined PSR President Ben Sevier and eight other SD Division members in Temecula on March 28-30 for Cajon Division's Spring Meet. This first time event was a huge success with more than eighty in attendance. Festivities started on Friday evening with registration check-in and a Bingo tournament. Saturday's activities included clinics, our mid-year PSR Region Board meeting, and layout tours. That evening, we all enjoyed dinner and a Chinese Auction at Pat & Oscar's. On Sunday, the group went to the Orange Empire Railway Museum to see the sights and run a locomotive. Special thanks to Superintendent

See "Director's Report" on Page 3

Spring Meet Preview

The San Diego Division Spring meet is coming up on **Saturday, May 10, 2008**. This year the meet will be at Peace Lutheran Church, 6749 Tait Street, San Diego, CA, 92111. We will assemble for the traditional pot luck lunch about 11:30. Bring a dish to share, including whatever serving utensils you will need. The Division will provide drinks and paper goods. We'll eat, and have a short business meeting, followed by a clinic by Joe D'Elia, owner of Proto Power West/A-Line. We'll also have a Show & Tell, and finish up with a special Clinic by reservation, to start you on the road to the Master Modeler - Civil Engineering certificate.

D'Elia, a practiced clinician and member of the Prototype Modelers and 1/87 Vehicle Modelers Associations, (and the Thursday Night Jazz & Pie Society) will be displaying some new products, and sharing tips and techniques for installing and using them. Check out some of the products on his web page, <http://ppw-aline.com/>.

Members will be invited to show a favorite model or recent acquisition and describe it to the others in attendance. Models can be judged or not, at your preference. Please remember that judging entails some constructive criticism of your model, in an effort to help you improve your techniques. But judging is not mandatory, you can just bring a model to share.

Finally, Rodger Gredvig, MMR #238, will lead the Civil Engineering certificate clinic. Participants will learn about the requirements for the certificate, build a track component, and receive tips on how to complete the required paperwork. You can learn more about this clinic in Rodger's article on page 4 of this issue. Participation in this portion of the program is by reservation only, and requires a fee of \$5, to cover materials that will be provided. Participants should bring a pencil-type soldering iron and a track cutter, if they have them. Contact Rodger for reservations or more information (see page 2 for Rodger's contact information). Hope to see you there!

In This Issue

Director's Report	1
Spring Meet Preview	1
Superintendent's Report	3
Achievement Program News	4
AP Clinic Offering	4
The First Transcontinental Railroad	5
American Flyer Exhibit	5
Events Wall Calendar	6
Events & Schedules	7
Club Car	8

SAN DIEGO DIVISION STAFF

Director:	Don Fowler	619-258-3529	donald.fowler@sdsheriff.org
Superintendent:	Ben Sevier	858 538-9863	bwsevier@sbcglobal.net
Chief Clerk/Paymaster:	Don Fowler	619 258-3529	donald.fowler@sdsheriff.org
Achievement Program:	Ed Hatch	858 274-2283	
Clinics:	Don Fowler	619-258-3529	donald.fowler@sdsheriff.org
Club Liason:	Jack Eiermann	858-547-4410	jceiermann@msn.com
Contests:	Rodger Gredvig MMR #238	858 571-7118	pgredvig@nethere.net
Layout Tours:	(vacant)		
<u>Mail Hook</u> Editor:	Gary Robinson	760-839-5877	grobbiedobbie@yahoo.com
Meets:	Jim Campbell	619-741-1906	warbonet@cox.net
Member Aid:	Bob Schimmel MMR #193	858 273-8511	
Membership:	Gary Robinson	760 839-5877	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 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 15, April 15, July 15, and October 15.

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

From the Editor...

The first quarter has been a busy one. The visit with the North County Model Railroad Society in January let us see the progress they've made, and we understand since our visit they've received approval for an expansion. Way to go, guys!

February saw the swap meet at the Antique Gas & Steam Engine Museum, and a visit to Short Track Railroad. Short Track has also made great progress since our last visit. Trains are running on part of the Donner Pass Exhibit, on the main line through Colfax. Scenery is under way, and this will be something when it's complete!

In March we joined the Cajon Division for a fun weekend meet in Temecula. Lots of fun activities, including Bingo, clinics, driving a train (yes, a real locomotive!), and the Cajon Division's famous Chinese Auction were enjoyed by those attending.

In April we visited the Yosemite Sugar Pine Railroad, and were treated to a great little railroad by the Superintendent, Ron Tindall. Ron has packed an unbelievable amount of detail into a relatively small space, and manages to keep a crew of four busy during operating nights. Look for more great things from this talented modeler in the coming months.

And the fun continues into the second quarter! We've got the Spring Meet coming up, and we're trying something new immediately following. See the AP Clinic article in this issue.

In June we still need a volunteer to host a home layout tour. We have a couple of possibilities in the works, so watch your (e-)mail box for details.

Then in July the NMRA National Convention will be held up the road in Anaheim. Lots of great

See "From the Editor" on Page 4

Director's Report from Page 1

Mitchell, Director Heimberger and the other Cajon Division members who worked hard to make this a success. If this event is offered next year, you won't want to miss it.

During the Board Meeting, one of the major items of discussion was about e-mailing newsletters instead of paying printing and postage costs for hard copies. As a result of a lengthy discussion, a formal recommendation will be made to the Board at their next meeting that will address issues that were raised. The bottom line is that every member will receive their copy in the manner they prefer. If we can save costs in the process, so much the better. I'll keep you informed on this as the details are ironed out. Give me a call if you have specific questions.

On April 12th, Ron Tindall invited us to visit his fine HO railroad. Attendance was excellent and we enjoyed running trains, goodies and great fellowship. We were all very impressed with Ron's modeling and especially his attention to detail. Very cool!

Fullerton Railroad Days will be held on May 3rd & 4th. There will be lots of displays & exhibits to see and enjoy. We are discussing going up as a group on Amtrak for the day. If you're interested in joining us, give Ben or me a call for details. The more the merrier!

Our Spring Meet will be held on May 10th at Reverend Rodger Gredvig's Peace Lutheran Church. There will be a pot luck luncheon, business meeting, door prizes and two clinics. The first will be about handy tips, tools & techniques to make your model railroading life a lot easier. The second "hands on" clinic will teach how to hand lay track and assist those members who are working toward their "Civil" AP award.

Have you steam fans heard that Santa Fe's #3751 is coming to San Diego on Sunday June 1st? For details, visit <http://www.goldenstaterails.com/>.

Cajon Division's Superintendent Bob Mitchell (Perfect Pines) has graciously agreed to host an open house in June (date not yet set). Bob owns "Perfect Pines" and has provided many great clinics on tree making and scenery. We'll get more info out on this once the details are worked out.

Special thanks to Frank Tepedino for accepting the Region Bylaws & Manual of Operations chair position. We are still in need of a Division layout/activities chair person. If you're interested, I'd enjoy discussing the job with you.

The National Convention will be here before we know it and they still need volunteers to assist.

If you'd be willing to donate some time, please contact Dave Arendes (arendesd@epcinternational.com or 714-546-4484) as soon as possible. Contact Duane Buck (buckgnry@msn.com or 928-284-2015) if you'd like to assist him with contest judging.

I hope to see you soon at these activities,

Don

Superintendent's Report

By Ben Sevier

Boy, lot's of trains so far this year! Let's see, I went to the "Worlds Greatest Hobby" Show in Del Mar, and saw a lot of our members there having a good time. Lots of neat model "stuff" and working layouts. Then, we had our Swap Meet and Winter Meet up at the Antique Gas & Steam Engine Museum as guests of the Short Track club. The swap meet was pretty good, and seeing the progress on the club layout since our last visit was great - they're making great strides towards full operations. In March a number of San Diego members headed up to Temecula for Cajon Division's 1st Annual Temecula Meet - I had a great time, and everyone else appeared to as well. I'm looking forward to next year. Then, to cap things off, we had a great turnout for Ron Tindall's layout tour. This is a great railroad, with lot's of neat ideas.

This issue of the 'Mail Hook' will be mailed out to all members of the San Diego Division. There is a questionnaire in the issue that is very important to making sure that communications in the Division get to all members in a format that the Division can afford, and meets each members needs. Please fill it out and send it back as soon as you can.

Now for the REALLY big event of the year - the NMRA National Convention & Train Show, "Anaheim Special 2008", sponsored by the Pacific Southwest Region and the LA Division up in Anaheim. The convention will have many, many interesting things to see and do, and the National Train Show is one of the principal model railroading events nationwide each year - something like 25,000 people attend the show. And, your help is greatly needed! The convention won't work without people to attend to all the details and tasks that need doing, so your assistance as a volunteer is greatly sought. You won't miss the convention - volunteers work as much or little as they wish to - and you'll be part of something that tells the rest of the country how great Southern California is from a modeling and all around

See "Superintendent's Report" on Page 4

Achievement Program News

by Ed Hatch

Our Division layout tour on Saturday, 4/12/08 to see the Yosemite Sugar Pine RR was a very successful find for the AP Program. Ron Tindall was our Superintendent and Host for this museum quality masterpiece. Ron is ready to proceed on the road leading to Master Model Railroader (MMR). Obviously Ron has done his research and invested in some how to do it books on scenery, building construction, lighting, and detailing, just to name a few subjects this talented Superintendent has demonstrated in construction of his layout. He has packed an amazing amount of detail into a layout that is only a little larger than 4x8.

Ron seems to have meet all the necessary qualifications, and I will be pleased to submit his application for the Golden Spike award. This award is the first step in the Achievement Program, but does not count as a certificate towards MMR. A MMR that doesn't have one can't get one. Ron is anxious to proceed, and his next goal should be the "Master Builder Scenery" certificate, the first of seven certificates leading to MMR.

There is more good news for the AP Program this year. Gordon Miller has returned from his at sea rotation, and will be helped by our San Diego Division to find a layout to operate in order to become a Chief Dispatcher. The certificate by the same name is one of the steps leading to MMR. It looks like this year will be a good one for both Contests and the AP Program.

* * *

Superintendent's Report from Page 3

'fun' perspective. If you'd like to help, call Dave Arendes at (714) 546-4484, or email him at arendesd@epcinternational.com and send a copy to Mary Barsow at pvpacific@cox.net to make sure more than one person sees it. You could also fill out and mail in the Volunteer Form included in this issue of the Mail Hook. According to Mary, assistance is needed in the Registration desk, bus loading area, clinic room, tour guides, company store, and auction room. Volunteers work shifts of about 4 hours - there are morning, afternoon, and evening choices. I understand they are really looking for bus tour guides for the layout tours (several down here to San Diego), prototype tours, etc.

Well, looks like I've talked enough. I look

AP Clinic Offering

by Rodger Gredvig

Have you considered working on an AP certificate? Here's your chance to take that first step.

In an effort to encourage NMRA members to improve their modeling skills and to pursue Achievement Program certificates, the Division will be offering hands-on training to facilitate that goal. Learn what is required, the tricks of the trade, and how to fill out the required paperwork.

At the Spring Meet (May 10 -- see details elsewhere in this publication) we will be demonstrating and enabling participants to actually build the required components in partial completion for a certificate in Civil Engineering. One of the requirements is to scratch build 3 pieces of track work (e.g., a turnout, crossover and a crossing).

On May 10 you will be given the opportunity to build your own turnout (perhaps even a crossover) right on the spot. The necessary tools and materials to construct turnouts will be provided. Volunteers will guide you through the process. Participants must register by calling or e-mailing Rodger Gredvig (pcredvig@nethere.net or 858 571-7118) prior to the Meet. The minimal cost of \$5 per person will cover the materials to be provided. Participants should bring a pencil-type soldering iron, needle files, and a track cutter if they have them. Some tools will be provided, but bringing your own will make the process go faster.

We look forward to seeing and working with you at the Spring Meet. If sufficient interest is shown, we plan to hold more of these AP clinics in the future.

* * *

forward to seeing you at the upcoming events, and may you have a wonderful 2008.

Ben Sevier

From the Editor... from Page 2

clinics, tours, the model contest, and the National Train Show. Don't miss it! We're looking for some volunteers to help out at the convention. There's a volunteer form in this issue of *The Mail Hook*, and shifts are only about four hours each. The Division benefits if you volunteer, and so do you. We'd really like to have you.

In August it's the Summer Meet and Picnic, at a location to be determined. Last year we had a great time at Rohr Park, but this year we're looking for

See "From the Editor" on Page 7

The First Transcontinental Railroad

by Dan Conway

This article first appeared in the August 2007 edition of *The Semaphore*, the monthly newsletter of the North County Model Railroad Society, in Oceanside, California. It is reproduced here with permission.

On January 28, 1855, a train completed the first trip across the American Continent, more than 14 years before the driving of the Golden Spike at Promontory Summit, Utah on May 10, 1869.

The first Atlantic to Pacific railroad was not in the US, but in Panama. Built from 1850 to 1855, the Panama Railway was an engineering marvel. It was the most costly railroad per mile built to that time, with 300 bridges or culverts in 48 miles of mainline which crossed some swamps that had to be filled to a depth of 100 feet to create a solid base for roadbed. Until the opening of the Panama Canal in 1914, the Panama Railway carried the heaviest volume of freight per mile of any railroad in the world.

The railroad was built by US businessmen who were very lucky in their timing: just as they were organizing the company to build the line, gold was discovered in California, greatly increasing the demand for a quick and safe route from the Atlantic to the Pacific for freight and passengers. With only 8 miles of track laid, the railroad started hauling passengers from the Atlantic port which is now Colon to the end of the line, charging \$25 for the ride. The railroad charged another \$10 for the privilege of walking the final 40 miles along their right-of-way to the Pacific port of Balboa, near Panama City. It took 4 to 5 days to cover that distance by foot. Demand was so great that by the time the line was finished to the Pacific, one-third of all construction costs had been covered by fares.

The line was sold in 1881 to the French company that made the first attempt to build the Panama Canal. The existence of the railroad was a major factor in the decision to build the Canal. In 1904, the US government bought the railroad, and in 1979 it was sold to the Government of Panama. The line went into decline due to lack of maintenance, and in 1998 a majority interest was purchased by the Kansas City Southern railroad. KCS rebuilt the railroad in 2000-01, using the original right-of-way but installing heavy rail and concrete ties to resist the hot, humid and rainy Panamanian weather.

The re-birth of the railroad, now called the Panama Canal Railroad, is due to the construction of huge container ships, vessels too big to fit through the locks on the Panama Canal, which lift or lower

ships 85 feet to make the continental crossing. The super container ships are forced to unload their cargos at one end of the canal, and the Panama Canal Railroad hauls the containers to the other end, where they are loaded on other vessels to complete their journey. Future plans to enlarge the canal may spell the doom of the railroad, but that is probably a decade or two in the future.

The Panama Canal Railroad is an efficient line, but a bit boring for a railfan. Along its modern right-of-way, metal towers over the rails carry wires for communications and signaling equipment. When I first saw the towers over the track every 50 yards, I thought it was an electrified railroad. In fact, the railroad operates with 10 ex-Amtrak F40PHs and 1 GP10. I say the line is boring because with one exception, every train looks the same: 2 locos, and 7 articulated 5-well double-stack bulkhead-type container

Continued on page 8

American Flyer Toy Train Exhibit

May 17 – June 1, 2008

Since the early 1900s, American Flyer toy trains have fascinated all ages of train



enthusiasts and have had a significant presence in the toy train business. The All Gauge Toy Train Association will be in the Museum's Pacific Beach Club room displaying varieties of classic toy trains. These trains were originally run on 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, to make the trains 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 popular locomotives, cars, and accessories from the A.C. Gilbert era.

Opening May 17, 2008, the exhibit will be on display through June 1st at the San Diego Model Railroad Museum. It will include original American Flyer trains, structures, and operating materials. The expansive layout will feature O gauge locomotives and cars from as early as 1907 as well as the American Flyer's famous S Gauge.

* * *

May 2008

San Diego Division - Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3 Multiple Events
4 Multiple Events	5	6	7	8	9	10 Spring Meet
11	12	13	14	15	16	17 Multiple Events
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

June 2008

1 3751 Visits San Diego	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14 SD Div Layout Tour
15	16	17	18	19	20	21 Harvest Fair, AGSEM
22 Harvest Fair, AGSEM	23	24	25	26	27	28 Harvest Fair, AGSEM
29 Harvest Fair, AGSEM	30					

July 2008

		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
National Model Railroad Association Annual Convention and National Train Show, Anaheim, CA						
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

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 grobbiedobbie@yahoo.com or (760) 839-5877. Events should be of interest to San Diego Division members. Division-sponsored events are listed in **bold**.

2008

May

- 10 San Diego Division Spring Meet**, Peace Lutheran Church, 6719 Tait Street, San Diego, CA 92111. Includes MMR clinic.

June

- 14 San Diego Division** Layout tour. TBA

July

- 13 – 19 2008 NMRA Convention and National Train Show**, Anaheim, CA. For additional information, or to register on line, visit the convention web page, which can be found at <http://www.nmra.org/2008/>

August

- 9 San Diego Division Summer Meet** and picnic. TBA

September

- 13** Division Event, TBA

October

- 11** Division Event, TBA

November

- 8 San Diego Division Fall Meet**, details TBA

December

- 6 San Diego Division Holiday Open House**, Don & Kim Fowler's, details TBA.

From the Editor... from Page 4

another venue. Your opinions are welcome, and we'll keep you posted on the decision.

Finally, as I'm sure all of you are experiencing, costs of operating the Division have been increasing. This is forcing us to make some hard decisions about how to best serve our members. We'd like to welcome those of you who have not been Division members prior to the January 1, 2008, changeover. Please complete the survey enclosed, or e-mail me with your preference for receiving our quarterly publication and other notices. We encourage you to become involved in the Division. We're always looking for new ideas and talent, and we have a bunch of folks (guys

2008

May

- 3, 4 Fullerton Railroad Days**, 10th Anniversary Pomona Ave. and Santa Fe St. Fullerton, CA 9AM – 5 PM both days³

- 3, 4 Pasadena Model Railroad Club Open House** 5458 Alhambra Avenue, Los Angeles (323) 222-1718 E-mail: Webmaster@pmrrc.org. Saturday, May 3- 1-5 PM and 7-10 PM Sun, May 4- 1-5 PM

- 3, 4, 17, 18 Roger Clarkson's Two Riverside Layouts Open House**. Schedule. 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm. 1463 Rimroad, Riverside, CA. www.rfrailroad.com

- 17 Swap meet**, San Diego Model Railroad Museum

- 17, 18, 20 California Southern MRC Open House**. Saturday 10 to 8 PM, Sunday Noon to 6PM, Tuesday 7 to 9 PM, 12140 E Firestone Blvd, Norwalk. (562)863-3156 Admission Free

June

- 1 San Diego Steam Special AT&SF #3751** visits San Diego. Information is available at <http://www.goldenstaterails.com/>.

- 21-22, 28-29 Harvest Fair**, Antique Gas & Steam Engine Museum, Short Track Railroad Open House.

July

- 4 Old Fashioned Fourth of July**, Old Poway Park, 14 Midland Road, Poway, CA. 10 AM - 4PM.

August

- 30 Santa Susana RR Historical Soc. Swap Meet and Open House**. 7:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. In the Santa Susana Park Pavilion. 6503 Katherine Rd. Simi Valley CA 3 Admission \$2.00 for adults. Sellers contact Richard Parshall oltwntrn@pasbell.net <http://www.santasusannadepot.org/2006swap.htm>

and gals) who enjoy railroading, and each others' company, and we have some opportunities now. I hope to see you soon at an event. Be sure to introduce yourself!

Gary

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.



There's both good news and bad news from Short Track this month. The bad news affects those of you who have looked forward to running with us on our layout at the

Del Mar Fair. The Fair has not offered us the space this year. We're sorry we won't get to see you all there, we've enjoyed running with you for the past ten years.

The good news is, by not participating in the Fair this year, we'll have more time to spend working on our permanent layout at the Antique Gas & Steam Engine Museum. We hope to have the bridge connecting the permanent layout, the Donner Pass Exhibit (DPE), to the modular layout completed by mid-May. This will allow trains to run over the DPE, onto the modular layout, and back onto the DPE.

That will give us a couple of weeks to work the bugs out before the Museum's big Harvest Fair show held the last two weekends in June, and July 14, when we will be on the National Model Railroad Association Annual Convention Layout Tour.

The Harvest Fair is a lot of fun. Not only will we be running trains, but Poway Station will have their modular HO layout set up, and there are many activities, food, and music. It's your chance to check out old trucks and tractors up close and personal, so you can super detail your models. More information on the Harvest Fair is at <http://www.agsem.com/>.

We're always open to the public on Saturday mornings, free unless there's a Museum special event, and we work on the layout Thursday nights. Drop in and see us!

Dave Cobbe, President

* * *

Poway Station has a busy Spring and Summer planned.

We had a great weekend recently running HO trains in Old Poway Park, where we'll be again with our G scale layout on the Fourth of July.

We're working on our yard modules to correct a reverse



curve problem that has existed for years. We're lucky to have some members with a renewed interest in this scale, which has been dormant for some time.

We'll be setting up our HO layout at the Harvest Fair on June 21-22 and 28-29. We've enjoyed our brief association with this event. We'll be in a new location this year, in what was formerly the kitchen area. We'll be putting the modules together in a new arrangement to accommodate the space available in this building.

We're looking forward to our biggest show of the year August 2 and 3, at the San Rafael Catholic Church parish hall in Rancho Bernardo. The Knights of Columbus will be having their annual Ice Cream Social Saturday, and they'll serve coffee and donuts Sunday. We'll display in several scales at San Rafael again this year.

We've also had a resurgence of interest in N scale railroading. Several of our members are designing new modules, and we hope to be able to share these with you soon.

Membership is open, and we meet every Tuesday night. We're usually in Templar's Hall at Old Poway Park the second and last Tuesday of each month, and we have work parties at a member's home the other weeks. Check out our web page at <http://www.powystation.org/>.

* * *

Transcontinental Railroad

continued from page 5

cars, 35 container units per train, except one exciting occasion (I took photos of the event) when there were 3 locos pulling the 35 container units for some reason.

Trains run about every 45 minutes one way or the other on the single-track line. The only variety is a passenger train which leaves Panama City at 7:15 AM each morning to Colon, returning at 6:15 PM each evening. The passenger train is painted in attractive colors, with one locomotive on each end, 5 coaches and an ex-Southern Pacific dome car dating from 1938. The passenger train operates only on Mondays through Fridays, with occasional special runs on weekends organized by cruise ship operators for their clients. Since I was working every day I was in Panama, I couldn't make the trip over the line, a disappointment, but a good reason for another trip to Panama.

* * *

Model Railroad Clubs in San Diego

San Diego Model Railroad Museum

Balboa Park, San Diego

Info: www.sdmodelrailroadm.com

La Mesa Model Railroad Club (HO)

Info: LaMesaClub@att.net

San Diego 3-Railers (O)

Info: (619) 690-4358

San Diego Model Railroad Club (HO & O)

Info: www.sdmrrc.org

San Diego Society of N Scale (N)

Info: www.sdsons.org

North County Model Railroad Society (HO)

Oceanside

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

Poway Station All Scale Modular Club

Old Poway Park, Poway

Info: www.powaystation.org

Short Track Railroad Club (N)

Antique Gas & Steam Engine Museum, Vista

Info: modeltrains@agsem.com

San Diego Garden Railway Society

Info: 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

NMRA: www.nmra.org

PSR: www/psr-nmra.oorg

NMRA National Convention <http://www.nmra.org/convention/>

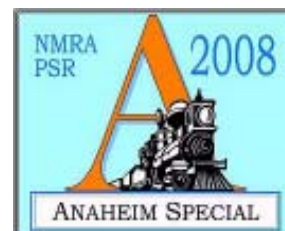
San Diego Division: <http://www.sandiegodivision.org/>

Arizona Division: www.azdiv-nmra.org


Cajon Division: www.cajondiv.org

San Diego Model Railroad Museum: www.sdmodelrailroadm.com

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



619-295-7340



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

S. A. RHODES
WWW.THEWHISTLESTOPSANDIEGO.COM

3834 - 4TH AVE.
SAN DIEGO, CA. 92103

REED'S HOBBY SHOP
• Exclusively Trains •



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

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

**HOBBY
CENTRAL**

www.hobby101.com

858-693-0373

"San Diego's Ultimate Hobby Store"

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



**San Diego
Model Railroad Museum**

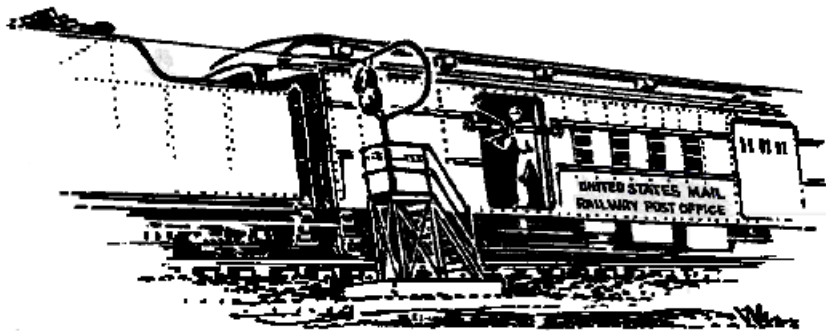
World's Largest Operating Model Railroad
Museum

1649 El Prado, Balboa Park

Open to the Public

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

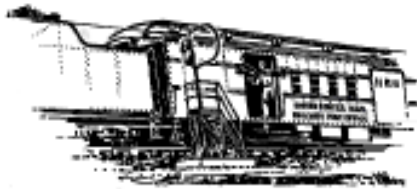
Admission: Adults \$5, Students \$3, Seniors \$4
Military \$2.50, Tuesdays free to all



MAIL HOOK

LOOK INSIDE FOR THE LATEST NEWS!

- Spring Meet Preview
 - The First Transcontinental Railroad
 - AP Clinic Offering
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**