



MAIL HOOK

SAN DIEGO DIVISION, PSR-NMRA

2ND QUARTER, 2011

SUPERINTENDENTS REPORT

By Don Fowler

The rains have finally stopped and the smell of spring is in the air. Time for all things new including some fun model railroading projects. Dust off and finish that half finished project that you've been procrastinating on or move on to that next development on your layout. I need to get out to my garden railroad and pull some weeds so that I can run some trains. Come to think of it, I've got about ten N scale projects to work on indoors as well. I guess I'm not going to get bored anytime soon. That's one of the great things about our hobby.

Have you introduced someone to our Association lately? For \$9.95, you can sponsor a friend for six months on an NMRA Railpass. Most who get involved through this program renew with a full membership. What a great way to introduce someone to our organization and enhance their enjoyment of model railroading.

Due to a family emergency, I wasn't able to attend our Winter Meet on February 19th at the Antique Steam Engine & Tractor Museum in Vista. I heard that it went very well and that everyone had a good time.

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SPRING MEET PREVIEW

SPRING MEET TRIES OUT A NEW FORMAT!

The Spring Meet is just around the corner, and we're going to try something new this time. We'll meet in the morning, and provide a box lunch for those who RSVP, then play on the host layout in the afternoon. You MUST respond to the meet chairman if you want lunch.

We'll be at the North County Model Railroad Society (NCMRS), 1820 Oceanside Blvd, Oceanside (above Boney's Market), and box lunches will be provided by the Market for a nominal charge. The meeting will start at 9:00 am with coffee and donuts, while we conduct a Show and Tell and some Division business. Then we'll start clinics at 9:30, 10:30, and 11:15, followed by the box lunch at noon. From 1:00 to 3:00 you'll be able to run your equipment (after it's been checked out) on the NCMRS layout.

The charge for the box lunch will be \$6, and you will have a choice of turkey, ham or beef deli sandwich, with chips, a cookie, and a soft drink. You must respond to David Balsler, Meet Chairman, by Thursday, May 12, at ON30man@gmail.com, with your menu choice, to get a lunch. If you don't RSVP, you'll have to go downstairs and make your own lunch arrangements at Boney's deli counter.

For the Show and Tell, Please bring any model, rolling stock, locomotives, new tools, or any other project you are working on to share with the group. We all have something to share and other members will enjoy talking about your project. There will be no judging. We'll have clinics on "Simple Model Railroad Photography," "Three

Continued on Page 2

SPRING MEET PREVIEW (cont'd)

Step Freight Car Weathering," and a retrospective of layouts on tour at the PSR Convention. (Contact the Meet Chairman if you have something you'd like to present. He may not need it this time, but we have quarterly meets and he'll find you a place.)

You can bring locomotives and rolling stock to operate on the NCMRS DCC layout, once they check out and certify your equipment. If you have an NCE throttle, please bring that with you as well.

This year's Spring Meet is also the annual meeting and election. However, no candidates have yet stepped forward to run for the positions of Superintendent or Chief Clerk/Paymaster. If you have an interest, or would like to suggest a candidate, please contact Superintendent Fowler before the meeting.

Winter Meet Review

We had a great time at the Winter Meet! The swap meet was less well-attended than we had hoped, but the change in week, the weather, and the other railroading events going on in Southern California all worked against us. We did have a great turnout for the afternoon meeting and clinics, though.

Joe D'Elia (at right) gave us some interesting tips on how to use some Protopower West/A-Line (<http://ppw-aline.com/>) products to improve the details of our layouts, and Duncan McRee introduced us to Tam Valley Products' (<http://www.tamvalleydepot.com>) Frog Juicer, for powering turnout frogs. We had a fun time at Short Track, and they continue to make amazing progress on their



Gary Robinson photo



Gary Robinson photo

permanent layout. The mainline is now complete from Sparks, NV to Roseville, CA. They are installing sidings, showsheds, and scenery, as well as building the town of Colfax. What a treat to watch the changes as they complete each new section.

The Ntrak (modular) layout is always interesting, and progress is being made on integrating the two layouts. The Red Line (outside main) can be switched to operate on either DC or DCC power. This allows operations to simulate interchange between trains from the DPE and the Ntrak industries. At right, Don Hicke admires the Del Mar Fair module on the Ntrak layout. This module is complete with operating rides, crowds, and a beach!

If you missed the meet, they're open every Saturday morning from 9am until 1pm. the business meeting is the first Thursday of each month, they hold operating sessions the second Thursday (open to all), the Engineering Committee meets the third Thursday, and new member orientation occurs on the fourth Thursday. Any fifth Thursday is a work night. Drop by and see what's going on..

Superintendent's Report from Page 1

I did attend the layout tour at Pat Archer's home on March 12th in Escondido. It is the largest collection of Lionel equipment that I have ever seen in person. On top of that, Pat has three floors of operating layouts with accessories. We really appreciated Pat allowing us to visit and admire his layouts and collection. Very impressive!

The San Diego Model Railroad Museum hosted its annual symposium on March 26th. There were several very interesting presentations on local railroad preservation efforts and their respective progress. A lot of really great work is being done on this front within San Diego County and in adjoining counties. The SDMRRM also continues to develop their facility and exhibits, representing model railroading well to the public.

On April 9th, we visited we visited Ron Cousineau's garden railway in Carlsbad. Ron has been very creative and innovative in his development his layout and landscaping. We had a great turnout and really appreciate Ron's hospitality.

Our next Division Meet will be on May 14 at the North County Model Railroad Society. There will be a luncheon, clinics, contest judging and a tour of the Club's layout. Dave Balser has volunteered to serve as our Division Meet Chair so if you would like to volunteer to give a clinic or help out in some other way, please let him know. Join us for a great time and bring a friend.

Don't forget to make your reservations for the 2011 NMRA National Convention in Sacramento in July and our next PSR Convention in September at Flagstaff. Conventions are a great time to renew old acquaintances and make some new friends while enhancing our skills in the world's greatest hobby.

Come and join us for a great time and get the most out of model railroading!

Don

Don Ham Receives Motive Power Certificate

Don Ham, Layout Tour Chair for the Division, has received another certificate on his quest for the Master Model Railroader (MMR) designation. He was presented with his Motive Power Certificate during the April layout tour at the home of Roy "Pat" Archer, by

Achievement Chair Paul Schmitt (L), and Superintendent Don Fowler (R). Ham is working on two more certificates to complete his MMR. Readers will have seen and read about his scratch-built sugarbeet loader in a previous edition of *The Mail Hook*.



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.

Bob Schaffer

Ron Cousineau, N scale, G scale, Short Track Railroad

Tim Foor

Mike Forys

Alex Sibbald, S scale, San Diego S Gaugers

Raulf Polichar, S scale, San Diego S Gaugers

Sharon Polichar, S scale, San Diego S Gaugers

Roland Martinez, S scale, San Diego S Gaugers

Allen Keil, S scale, San Diego S Gaugers

Robert Graves, S scale, San Diego S Gaugers

Josh Baakko is one of the newest members of the Division. He is an avid HO scale modeler, focusing on the BNSF & Union Pacific running through Cajon Pass. He has not yet been able to plan out a working layout modeling Cajon Pass due to being an apartment dweller. He plans to construct the layout once he buys a house. His chosen era is the contemporary period, with a focus on what existed in the last 5 years. He picked this era because he likes the concept of the Utah Belt.

Josh grew up in Upper Michigan, in a region aptly named the "Copper Country," and it's because of this that he collects photos, railroadiana and models that are from this region. He's always on the lookout for photos of Mineral Range Railroad and Copper Range Railroad equipment.

Josh runs several websites in his spare time. Model Railroad Tips (<http://www.modelrailroadtips.com>) is his main focus at present. He has authored articles for Joe Fugate's on-line magazine *Model Railroad Hobbyist* (MRH) (<http://www.mrhmag.com>), and visits several shows in support of MRH. In conjunction with Model Railroad Tips, he's built up a collection of books, magazines & photos. All are available for research with a prior appointment. The library database can be found on Model Railroad Tips, by clicking the "Library" tab. (See Josh's article on his research library, below. Ed.)

To meet Josh, simply make it to the yearly Western Prototype Modelers meet in San Bernardino CA.

My Home Library

Research at hand, 24/7

By Josh Baakko
(josh@blockchoice.com)

Several years ago I happened across a listing on Craigslist for model railroad magazines. After a little negotiation, I managed to secure hundreds of issues of *Model Railroader* & *Railroad Model Craftsman* ranging in age from 1960 to 2006. I already had several issues of both from my youth, ranging from 1997 to 2001, this allowed me to compile an even greater collection.

Since then, I've purchased collections, and single issues, from swap meets, eBay auctions, the San Diego Model Railroad Museum's library, and various people I've met through Craigslist postings. In the past 4 years, I've nearly completed my collection from 1960 onward of both *Model Railroader* and *Railroad Model Craftsman*.

Now comes the fun of completing collections of the NMRA's various publications, historical and modeling societies, and other major modeling magazines. I have various issues from *Model Railroading*, *RailModel Journal*, *Prototype Modeler*, *The Warbonnet*, etc.

My collection also contains numerous books. Of these I like to note the book titled "*The American Railroad Freightcar*", which I was fortunate enough to win in the Chinese auction at the PSR convention held in San Diego in September of 2010.

Owning this resource betters my authoring of articles for my own website, and for Joe Fugate's e-magazine, *Model Railroad Hobbyist*¹, in addition to other various articles planned for NMRA publications or other print magazines. My library also provides for 24/7 research, should the need arise, for my own modeling endeavors. As I build my research library, I welcome anyone who needs information to contact me and we can set-up a

“research session” in my apartment in the Mira Mesa community of San Diego. A semi-current digital library catalog is online, hosted on my server, here: <http://library.modelrailroadtips.com/opac/index.php>

The website has little in the way of search tips, however, there are numerous ways to check out the catalog. The easiest, though most labor intensive, would be to leave the search block blank, and click the search button. This brings up the entire contents of the catalog.

The other option would be to search keywords. Say you’re looking for anything on the Santa Fe, simply type “Santa Fe” and click search. All key wording is accomplished by me, and both ATSF & Santa Fe should work.

Now, I must say, cataloging the entire collection is time consuming. To catalog a single issue of a magazine, I keyword the article titles, and enter all the authors. This can take nearly an hour per issue. I’m working on it day by day, but I hope to get some more done before this article is published.

Please, feel free to write me an email if you’re looking for a certain article, or book, or info on some prototype. I’ll do my best to help you find it, and if I have it you’re more than welcome to come visit. There’s a phone number at the top of the library page, or you can email me at josh@blockchoice.com.

I sincerely hope I can aid your future modeling endeavors!

Josh

California On30 Modular Group, the Narrow Minded Group

By Dain Leese



The California South Coast Modular group is one of four relatively new On30 group operating in California. On30 means the models are O scale (1:48 running on 32mm gauge track). The ‘n’ signifies Narrow gauge and the 30 means 30 inches, or 2.5 feet. This means the full size train runs on 2 foot, 6 inch gauge track. A famous example of this is Puffing Billy in Victoria, which is a 2.5 foot gauge railway. It just so happens that 16.5mm gauge (HO) track is an almost exact match for 30 inches in 1:48 scale. So what we have is O scale trains running on HO track and for it to look correct, we use Peco On30 track with O scale ties.

For anyone looking to hook up with an On30 group, California has four groups covering most of California. All four groups share the same interface standard that is also being used by a number of groups in other states. The California Central Coast group was the first and they got their start in March 2005. They are based in the San Jose/Bay area. Next to get going was the Central Valley Modular group in the Fresno/Hanford area. The third group to get going was the California South Coast On30 Modular group. This group covers the Grapevine area south into Los Angeles, Orange and San Diego areas. Last but not least is the California Northern & Cascade Modular RR Group in the Redding area of northern California.

The California Modular groups were setup as free form modules, but with connectivity the key to the standard. This includes physical and electrical with operations as the key. The time period we model is set from the late 1800’s to the 1930’s. Never done and always changing, the On30 Model Railroad groups’ mission is to bring the joy of narrow gauge trains to kids of all ages at train shows in California.

All groups use train shows and Fun runs to meet up and run trains. At this time only the California Central Coast group has monthly meetings. All groups are open and welcome anyone; there are no fees or dues. We all share a hook up standard each module must use, but we have no rules other than having fun. We are looking for a few good men,and women, and young people..... and in no set order!

Because of our hook up standard we share with other groups, we are able to meet up at shows with the other groups. Our first multi group hook up was at the Worlds greatest hobby show in February 2010, in Long Beach. This year we plan to have 4 plus groups hook up for the first time in Sacramento California at the National Train Show. Most of groups display at GTE shows, The Big Train Show and National-type show in California.

A bit more history for each group can be found in the current 2011 On30 Annual or by visiting Yahoo groups and looking us up. See you at the show, the train show.

LAYOUT TOURS

March Layout Tour



In March we were fortunate to be able to visit Roy "Pat" Archer (L, with Tom Northrop. This is the top floor section, under construction in background and at right.)! Pat has one of the most incredible collections of Lionel Trains in the U.S. He houses this collection in a 6000 sq. ft. three story "room addition" to his home in Escondido. Track runs between floors, through helices, and along shelves on walls connecting the four layouts. He has both diesel and steam locomotives, some dating back to the 1930's, with freight and passenger trains of every description. If Lionel made it, Pat has it on

one of his four layouts. The walls of his home, and shelves under the layout, display locomotives and rolling stock in addition to the myriad of equipment operating on the layout. Some features of the layout include an operating carnival, a three-ring circus, and an operating hot air balloon. This home layout is larger than many museum



All photos this page Rodger Gredvig

layouts! April Layout Tour

Ron Cousineau's G scale garden railway is centered in his back yard on a 20'x40' raised bed. It has a western theme, complete with a mine, a lumber mill, an old west town, and an Indian village. In addition, Ron has a separate layout at the side of his house to run his 2-6-6-2T, which is too big for the turns on his main layout. The main layout has approximately 400 feet of track with a staging yard under the raised foundation of the house. What is interesting about this layout is the innovative use of everyday materials to build scenery and structures. For instance, Ron has scratch-built the gantry crane for his lumber mill yard. He



also found a bird house for about \$6, and has used several of them to create buildings on his layout. Ron also made his own stage coach, that runs in a circle around his western town. Ron has demonstrated that you don't need a fat wallet to build a very presentable and interesting



layout. This layout was well worth seeing.



All photos this page Gary Robinson

Photo captions: Top L - The local passes through town by the corrals. Top R - Overview of the main layout. Bottom L - the mine run turn and the Indian village. Bottom R - the lumber mill, featuring the scratch-built-gantry crane.

June 11th Layout Tour

Dick Trotter - Coyote Pass & Northern (HO)

The Coyote Pass & Northern, housed in its own space that has expanded over time, is the result of many years of work by Dick and his crew. Built for operation, with a number of highly detailed "destinations" that can keep train crews occupied for hours with interesting switching problems, the CP&N is one railroad you won't want to miss. Of special note is the complete repainting of the backdrops by Glenn Shimada. The combination of fine modeling, outstanding detail, and well-designed operation track plan, managed by Rail Ops, is a free-lanced railroad you'll enjoy visiting.

Layout Tours *from Page 7*

July 16th Layout Tour

Duncan McRee - Tam Valley Railroad (HO)

Note that the date of this tour has been delayed a week to avoid conflict with the NMRA National convention in Sacramento. The Tam Valley RR is a proto-freelanced model railroad based on the Southern Pacific. It is a shelf-style layout running through three bedrooms as a point-to-point layout about 80 feet long. The Tam Valley RR starts as harbor scene in Sausalito, California, runs up the Sierra Mountains, along the Truckee River, through the Nevada desert, and terminates at Ogden, Utah. The layout features beautiful scenery including hand-painted backdrops, numerous streams and rivers, and a number of Bob Mitchell's "Perfect Pines." There are also a large number of craftsman structure kits on the layout. A new multilevel Donner Summit layout is under construction that features the interchange between the Southern Pacific and the HOn3 Nevada County Narrow Gauge Railroad.

September 10th Layout Tour

David Balsler - Onion Valley Railroad (On30)

The Onion Valley Railroad is a reincarnation of David's former HO scale railroad that appeared in Model Railroader. The railroad has been in transition to the new scale since the article appeared, and is now ready to be displayed for our enjoyment. Featuring several engines constructed or super-detailed by Bob Schimmel, MMR, this railroad is all about operation. There are also some scenic gems, like the sky and clouds painted on the reverse of the valance that you can see from the opposite side of the aisle. David's "Jazz and Pie" operating group includes some of the best modelers in the area. I'm anxious to see this railroad, because if it's anything like the HO scale version, it will be a gem!

October 8th Layout Tour

Poway Station Modular (HO)

In October we will visit Poway Station, in Templar's Hall, Old Poway Park, Poway. A portion of their HO layout will be on display as part of Old Poway Park's annual Train Song Festival. Poway Station has been working on upgrading their modules from a simple loop for running trains, to an operational layout, combining standard modules with Free-Mo modules in the process. The Free-Mo modules have been lowered to match the standard height of the main layout, but otherwise conform to the Free-Mo standard.

As well as the layout, there will be two stages of entertainment, train vendors (for the kids), crafts, and food. The Poway Midland Railroad will be offering rides behind their 1907 Baldwin steam locomotive.

The layout will be open from 10am until 7pm, with the NMRA Division portion taking place from noon to 3, as usual. At 7pm Old Poway Park will be showing a train movie under the stars. A great time for the family, and it's all free (except the food and train rides!).

* * *

Pacific Southwest Region Annual Convention

The 2011 PSR Convention is being hosted by the Arizona Division of the Pacific Southwest Region, NMRA (<http://www.azdiv-nmra.org/>). The Convention begins on Wednesday, September 21st, and ends Sunday, September 25th, 2011. Events include clinics, layout tours, prototype tours, Train rides, auction and banquet. September is one of the best months to visit Flagstaff with weather typically clear and perfectly warm-but-not-hot. Average highs are in the mid 70s and evening lows in the 40s and 50s.

There will be clinics, operating sessions (home and club layouts), and prototype tours. Additionally there will be layout tours (2 modeled in 1.5" scale!), the PSR Contest Room, Railette events, and many other activities to keep you interested, informed and entertained. Saturday is the Model Railroad Swap Meet sponsored by the Arizona Division, PSR, NMRA. See the registration form on the next page.



Reg # _____

Rails to Rims Flagstaff 2011

Pacific Southwest Region, NMRA®
2011 Convention September 21 – 25, 2011
Presented by the Arizona Division
Radisson Woodlands Hotel, Flagstaff, Arizona

NMRA # _____ Registration Date _____

Name(s)* (1) _____
(2) _____

**As you want it to appear on your badge*

Address _____

City, State, Zip Code _____

Phone (Pri) _____ Phone (Sec) _____

Email _____ *(Preferred communication method)*

Region/Home Division _____

Primary Scale _____

Registration Type	Qty	Each	Total
Adult Rail (NMRA Member) Reg Only @ \$60.00 (1/1/2011 – 3/31/2011)			
Adult Rail (NMRA Member) Reg & Banquet @ \$90.00 (1/1/2011 – 3/31/2011)			
Non-Rail, Spouse, or Adult Family Member, with NMRA member, Reg Only @ \$60.00 (1/1/2011 – 3/31/2011)			
Non-Rail, Spouse, or Adult Family Member, with NMRA member, Reg & Banquet @ \$90.00 (1/1/2011 – 3/31/2011)			
Adult Rail (NMRA Member) Reg Only @ \$70.00 (4/1/2011 – 5/31/2011)			
Adult Rail (NMRA Member) Reg & Banquet @ \$100.00 (4/1/2011 – 5/30/2011)			
Non-Rail, Spouse, or Adult Family Member, with NMRA member, Reg Only @ \$70.00 (4/1/2011 – 5/31/2011)			
Non-Rail, Spouse, or Adult Family Member, with NMRA member, Reg & Banquet @ \$100.00 (4/1/2011 – 5/31/2011)			
Additional fee for non-NMRA member @\$10.00			

Would you be interested in helping out while at the convention? _____ Yes _____ No, thanks

Would you be willing to give a clinic? Topic: _____ _____ Yes _____ No, thanks

Operating session interest? _____ Yes _____ No, thanks

Make checks payable to: Arizona Division (c/o Larry Gibbs; 1400 E Appalachian; Flagstaff, AZ 86004)

Convention Hotel: Radisson Woodlands (Reservation information coming on PSR Website)

Registrar's Use Only: Cash \$ _____ Check \$ _____ # _____ Date: ____/____/____

Registration # _____ Posted: ____/____/____

Cancellation policy: Full refund, less \$5.00 fee per registrant, when requested in writing (or email) before September 1, 2011

SCHEDULE OF PSR-NMRA EVENTS

Assembled from various sources. Events may have been submitted by sponsors. Send corrections, additions, and future events to the editor at mailhook@sandiegodivision.org. Events should be of interest to San Diego Division members. Division-sponsored events are listed in **bold** typeface.

2011

Division events are normally scheduled for the second Saturday of each month, except for those dates noted due to layout owners' or venues' schedules.

May

14 San Diego Division Spring Meet and Annual Business Meeting w/Elections, North County Model Railroad Society, Oceanside, CA 9am - 3:00pm. **RSVP for box lunch, \$6.00 fee.**

June

11 San Diego Division Layout Tour, Dick Trotter, Coyote Pass & Northern, Lakeside.

July

3-9 X2011, NMRA National Convention, Sacramento, CA.

16 San Diego Division Layout Tour, Duncan McRee, HO scale SP, Clairemont. **Note date change!** Division quarterly planning meeting to precede tour, location TBA.

August

13 San Diego Division Summer Meet, TBA

September

10 San Diego Division Layout Tour, David Balsler, Onion Valley On30, Encinitas.

21-25 Rails to the Rim, Pacific Southwest Region Convention, Radisson Woodlands Hotel, Flagstaff, AZ

October

8 San Diego Division Layout Tour, Poway Station modular HO layout, Old Poway Park, 14134 Midland Road, Poway, CA. Train Song Festival 10 - 4, Free admission to layout, train song singers, kids crafts; steam train rides and food for purchase.

November

12 San Diego Division Fall Meet, San Diego Model Railroad Museum,

December

10 San Diego Division Holiday Event, TBA

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

OTHER EVENTS OF INTEREST

2011

April

30 Springrail Train and Swap Meet, LA Div/PSR/NMRA. First Christian Church, 220 S. 5th Street, Alhambra, 9a - 5pm, \$5 admission. Dinner, auction, and raffle later, \$20. Sellers contact Mike Allee, rmallee@me.com or 626-446-3946 to reserve space.

30 Southern Pacific Historical & Technical Society Mini-Meet 2011, SAN Bernardino Depot, 8:30-3:00, \$25/

30 - May 1 Belmont Shore Model Railroad Club Open House and Swap Meet. Bldg 824, Angels Fate Park, San Pedro. 10-4. Free. More info at <http://www.belmontshorerr.com/index.html>

May

7-8 Desert Tortoise DAys, featuring the High Desert Modular Model Railroad Club. California City Community Center, 10400 Heather Ave.m California City, Ca. 93505, Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4, Free. More info at <http://tortoisedays.com/> or www.hdmmrc.com

14-15, 17, 21-22 Pasadena Model Railroad Club Spring Open House. Sat 1-5, 7-10, Sn 1-5, Tue 7:30-10. Adults \$3, Children 7 and over \$1. 5458 Alhambra Ave. Los Angeles. More info at <http://www.pmrrc.org/#OPENHOUSE>

21-22 The Big Train Show, Ontario Convention Center, 2000 E. Convention Center Way, Ontario, CA. Tours May 19-20. Public Show admission, \$9 in advance, or \$12 at the door. You can register at <http://www.bigtrainshow.com/registration/>

June

18-19, 25-26 Spring Tractor Show, Antique Gas & Steam Engine Museum, 2040 N Santa Fe, Vista, CA. Antique tractors, trucks, parade. Short Track Railroad (N scale) open house. 9 am - 4:30 pm all days. Admission. Get more info at the page <http://www.agsem.com/tractor-show.php>

May 2011

San Diego Division - Events

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

June 2011

			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11 SD Division Layout Tour
12	13	14 Flag Day	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

July 2011

					1	2
3	4 Fourth of July 76th Annual National	5 Model Railroad Association	6	7 Annual Convention, Sacramento, CA	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16 SD Division Layout Tour
17	18	19	20	21	22	23 Poway Station, San Rafael Church
24 Poway Station 31	25	26	27	28	29	30

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 Railroad is busy as usual. We hosted the PSR Winter Meet in February. The meet was well attended. STRR had trains operating on both the N Trak modules and the Donner Pass Exhibit. Many attendees had not seen our progress in the last year. Visitors wanted to discuss our electrical, building construction, and scenery techniques.

One of the first impressions that visitors have is of our scenery. Our club goal is to have a museum quality layout. To achieve that goal we need to do exceptional work. We have a group within the club called "The Greenies". Don Ham is our Scenery Foreman. Our "Chief Greenie" is Ray

Inbody. Ray has been concentrating on placing ground cover and trees. Where and what to place is determined by actual photos of the area we are modeling. We have been very selective in our choice of trees. Most commercial trees are not of the quality we want on the DPE. We have designed techniques to create our own trees. Come and visit us and see how we're doing.

Our next major event is our Spring Tractor Show. It will be held the last two weekends in June (6/18-19, 25-26) on the museum grounds. All details are on our museum web site www.agsem.com.

The club has adopted a new logo, shown here. It will look great on our new forest green shirts, not to mention our new tan ball caps!

If We're Not Having Fun, We're Doing Something Wrong.

By: Pete Steinmetz



The San Diego S Gaugers have a busy summer ahead! We've committed to participate in the National Train Show at the NMRA Convention in Sacramento in early July, then again with Poway Station on the 23rd and 24th at San Rafael Church in Rancho Bernardo. We're working on upgrading modules in preparation.

We've asked all our club members to join the NMRA, and are awaiting notification of numbers for the last few. At that point we will be a 100% Club!

We are also working on a possible home where we can erect our modules on a semi-permanent basis. It's still being negotiated, but we'll let you all know when and if it's a done deal.

Work sessions will begin on April 9th, 2011, and continue throughout the Spring. Prospective members are welcome to attend. E-mail sdsgaugers@yahoo.com for more information.



The name of The San Diego Model Railroad Club has been changed to The San Diego Model Railroad Association because of the change to a 501(C)(3) organization. The web address has also been changed to WWW.SDMRRA.ORG. Please note this change if you are saving web addresses. We are still one of the principle exhibitors in the San Diego Model Railroad Museum in Balboa Park.

Within the past year we have added new walls and windows around both of our layouts. On our HO layout, a new engine terminal and engine house has been added. The engine house is based on a historical picture of the San Diego and Arizona Eastern railway. Also, some new paper building mockups have been added to the downtown area that represent San Diego buildings in the late 1940 to 1950 time frames. These paper mockups will be replaced as our modelers build the permanent buildings. Several other buildings, including a ship, have been added to the layout to represent various industries.

The members on the O-scale layout have been busy adding signal lights and block detection on all the tracks. A lot of new motive power and rolling stock have been added for the enjoyment of the members and

public. A new saw mill and pond have been added to the layout. Many of the buildings have now been outfitted with interior lights.

Both layouts can be operated on DC or DCC. The crew chief that day determines which system will be used. If you have an interest in hearing more about our Association or about joining us please drop by on Friday nights (use back door) or flag down one of our operators during the day. We are open and operating Tuesday thru Sunday.

Ron Goudy
Rongoudy@aol.com



The California South Coast On30 Modular group ended 2010 and December with two Great Train Expo shows. The 2009 GTE show in Del Mar was our very first show and this year's show kicked off year number two. 26 modules made it to the show and formed our biggest layout to date. It was a good show and no rain until we were on our way home. We were not as lucky with the second December GTE show in Pomona. It rained every day and seemed to rain more when unloading and loading up the cars. Our first show for 2011 was the January Anaheim GTE show and the show had real good attendance.

Come up, come down and see us at our next 3 shows. The Big Train Show in May, at the Ontario Convention Center will be our next show. For anyone traveling up to NTS show in July, four plus On30 groups will form the biggest On30 module layout to date in California. Our second show in July will be the GTE show in Pomona. If you let us know you are coming, we do welcome help, with people running their On30 engines at the shows.

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

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!

California South Coast On30 Modular Group Yahoo site <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/CSCModOn30/>

Dain Leese
dleese@pacbell.net

Poway Station has just completed a very successful test run of our new Free-Mo style modules with our standard layout. The new modules are not strictly Free-Mo, as we use our standard layout height of 40" rather than the Free-Mo height of 50". However, by changing out the legs, the modules can be used in a Free-Mo set up instead. Members are now putting finishing touches on their modules in preparation for our big display at San Rafael Catholic Church in Rancho Bernardo in July. We're also working on our N scale modules, which will not only be included in our show at San Rafael, they will also be on display on July 4 from 10am until 4pm, for the Old Fashioned Fourth of July celebration in Old Poway Park.



We'll be joined at San Rafael by the San Diego S Gaugers (SDSG) and the Zo-Cal Z-Bend Modular group. The show will be Saturday and Sunday, July 23 and 24, 9-7 Saturday, and 8-3 Sunday. We're going to have a lot of fun! We hope you can join us.

Membership in our club is always open. You can contact us through our web page, www.PowayStation.org, for meeting details.

Gary Robinson
president@PowayStation.org



The San Diego Module Railroad Museum continues to register kids for our summer camp programs. Sessions are starting to fill up, though, so you should contact us right away for the spots that are left.

We have a swap meet coming up on May 14, 7am - 11am, in the Pacific Beach Room. Sellers should arrive early to set up.

Thomas the Tank Engine Family Day will be Saturday, May 21. Special events for the kids, be sure to

stop in.

All the regular exhibits are open, and the Museum is free on the first Tuesday of each month. The gift shop is open daily, and Father's Day is coming.. Stop by and see us.

* * *

The San Diego Garden Railway Society

The San Diego Garden Railway Society (SDGRS) is twenty three years old. Started by a group of people who wanted a way to share information about garden railroading, the group has flourished over the years. They currently hold monthly meetings, which consist primarily of visits to members' homes to see their railroad, and some light business. The SDGRS is now trying to work with the San Diego Division to share layout visits. Their next layout tour will be a good one, with four different layouts open, including Roger and Faith Carlson in southern Riverside County, which is really a gem! Unfortunately, it's on the same day as the NMRA Spring Meet. The next one will be June 26, at the home of Dick and Julie Dale. The July meeting has a location, but no date yet. NMRA members are welcome to attend these meetings, but the SGRS asks that anyone who intends to participate please RSVP, so the host knows how many people to expect. For more information about the SDGRS and their monthly meetings, check out their web page, www.sdgrs.com/.



Member Aid

Our Member Aid Chairman, Bob Schimmel, MMR, is lonely. He thinks no one loves him anymore. Is that true? Or is it simply that A) you don't know we have a Member Aid Committee, B) you don't know whom to contact, C) you don't know what Member Aid does, or D) all of the above? Well, let's clear this up for you. The Division does have a Member Aid Chair, and his function is to serve as a clearinghouse for solving members' model railroad problems, or putting members in touch with other members with like interests. He may or may not be able to answer your question, but he can arrange to locate someone who can within our Division. Anything to do with model railroading is fair game. Do you want to know how to wire a decoder? How to scratch-build a 4-8-2? Maybe you just want to detail an F-unit for your favorite railroad, but don't know where to find the necessary parts. Bob won't do these things for you, but he'll help you figure out how to do it yourself, or how to find someone to help you. You can find Bob's contact information in the San Diego Division Staff section.

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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.

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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...

This month not only do we introduce a new member, but he also gives us an article about his reference library. He's happy to share this resource with those who need it. See the article by Josh Baakko.

We also introduce a (relatively) new On30 modular group. The California South Coast Modular is one of several On30 modular groups in California. Maybe you're seen them at WGH or GTE. The article by Dain Leese, club president, will tell you a little more about them. We hope to have them as regular contributors to the Club Car.

We are attempting to improve relations with the San Diego Garden Railway Society. To begin with, we'll be exchanging layout tour information. Check out their web page at www.SDGRS.org for more information on their schedule. It is important that you let them know if you plan to attend one of their meetings. I think this will be a very productive partnership.

It will be interesting to see how the Spring Meet goes. We're trying something different, to see how the membership likes it. We haven't yet decided whether to change to the new format permanently. We'll try it a few more times before we make that decision. Please don't be bashful about telling us your opinion. We want to do whatever most of the membership wants to do, so we get the maximum participation possible at our events. We all have more fun that way. And, don't forget to bring something for Shaw & Tell!

Finally, a plug for the two conventions coming up. The National in Sacramento is a good chance to attend a national conference close (relatively speaking) to home. And the PSR convention in Flagstaff, AZ, will be another interesting experiment, in that it will be hosted by a club rather than a Division. Come check it out!

Gary

Model Railroad Clubs in San Diego

San Diego Model Railroad Museum

Balboa Park, San Diego

Info: www.sdmodelrailroadm.com

La Mesa Model Railroad Club (HO)

Info: LaMesaClub@att.net

San Diego 3-Railers (O)

Info: (858) 538-0930

San Diego Model Railroad Club (HO & O)

Info: www.sdmrrc.org

San Diego Society of N Scale (N)

Info: www.sdsons.org

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

North County Model Railroad Society (HO)

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

Poway Station All Scale Modular Club

Info: www.powystation.org

Short Track Railroad Club (N)

Antique Gas & Steam Engine Museum, Vista

Info: www.shorttrackrr.org

San Diego Garden Railway Society

Info: www.sdgrs.com

ZoCal Group (Z)

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

San Diego S-Gaugers

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

Online - Web Sites of Interest

NMRA: www.nmra.org

PSR: www.psrnmra.org

NMRA National Convention <http://www.x2011west.org/>

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

Arizona Division: www.azdiv-nmra.org

Cajon Division: www.cajondiv.org

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

San Diego Model Railroad Museum: www.sdmodelrailroadm.com

San Diego Rail: www.sandiegorail.com



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