



# MAIL HOOK

SAN DIEGO DIVISION, PSR-NMRA

JULY 2004

## Director's Report

By Rodger Gredvig, MMR

Not much activity has taken place on the Regional level other than preparation for the "Rails to Verdugo" convention in September by the LA Division. However, there was some action worth noting on the National level. I attended the NMRA® PSX2004 in Seattle and these are the Election results:

- President: John Roberts
- Vice President: Mike Brestel
- All standards passed
- Regulations passed

The Regulation changes passed with over 80% of the vote. Turnout was over 15% of the membership, three times our normal response and outstanding for this type of organization, according to Dave Liesse, NMRA® secretary.

The regulations, which replace the amended 1935 constitution and bylaws, will be implemented over the next 18 months. They are part of the NMRA®'s Long-Range Plan, which is intended to make the organization more responsive and relevant in the new century. "This is an exciting advance for the NMRA®. The members have told us they want an organization that is dynamic and responsive to their hobby. These regulations will help us to accomplish that goal," NMRA® President John Roberts said. "The NMRA® is dedicated to growing and improving

the hobby. The new regulations affirm the association unity as one body representing all aspects of our great hobby."

Also, here are some new appointments:

- Membership Promotion – Clark Kooning
- MAP – Dave Berman
- "Scale Rails" Publisher – Larry DeYoung
- Development – Allen Pollock
- Industry Liaison – Allen Pollock
- RAC Organizing Committee – Bob Gangwish (chair), Bob Beaty, Jim Packer
- Nominating Committee – Eric DerVinis

I was privileged to take the Boy Scout modules along to the convention and it turned out that they were the only operating models at the convention hotel (other than the contest room), which means they received lots of attention. Thirty five scouts also earned their Railroading Merit Badge during the convention. The train show also featured "Youth in Model Railroading" organization displaying their N-trak modules. The future of the hobby rests not in regulations, but with interest and participation by the next generation.

On a sadder note, I've learned that Karl Busch passed away on May 21, 2004 at the age of 96. Karl was very active in model railroading and the NMRA® in the formative years of the association, serving as president of the Pacific Coast Region, and involved in the creation of the Pacific Southwest Region (PSR). He was the founder of the HOBOS, an informal association of those who go to National Conventions. In his working career Karl was a commercial model maker, and renowned for his miniatures. Many of us remember (and still have) the miniature landscapes that Karl would pass out at Division events.



See you in Glendale in September! Rodger

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## Layout Meets & Tours

By David Balser, Layout Tour Chairman

We've had a busy few months with tours to several excellent local layouts, plus a road trip to Riverside County at the invitation of the Cajon Division. It's always great to sniff out all the interesting animated scenes on Rodger Gredvig's pike, and seeing Randy Schissler's "little" layout



Now that is a garden railroad! - Rodger Clarkson

reminds you that a railroad doesn't have to fill a garage to be fun - and well done! The layouts up north were fun (Rodger Clarkson's "garden" layout redefines what a garden is!), and several hobby shop visits were snuck in as well. And of course it's always fun to see what new things John Sigurdson has been up to lately (lots of 'O' scale, actually).

The August Layout Tour will be a visit to the San Diego Model Railroad Museum on Saturday, August 7th. The San Diego Model Railroad Club and the San Diego Society of N-Scale have agreed to host the members of the San Diego Division of the NMRA® to run our trains on their layouts on August 7th. The San Diego Club has both an HO layout and an O-Scale layout so if any members have any O-Scale equipment in their inventory now is the time to dust it off and get it running. The "SONS" layout will give all you

armchair N-Scale modelers a chance to get all that stuff out of the box and get it running. The President of the San Diego Club, Tom Ilas and the President of "SONS", Jim Bence have both asked any visitors to abide by the following rules. Make sure any equipment you bring has been checked according to NMRA® standards. Most importantly wheel gauge. Out of the box N-Scale locomotives will not run on their fine scale track so get your gauge out and make sure the wheels on all your stuff is up to snuff. Check all your couplers and clean all your wheels. The Museum is having a special event that day honoring the famous "Harvey Girls" and if possible the clubs would like to run Santa Fe equipment, especially passenger trains. So if you have it, bring it, otherwise bring your best stuff. For those of you that will be running trains the clubs would like you to show up between 9:00 A.M. and 10:00 A.M. to set up your trains and get familiar with the operating systems. Enter through the back door. For those who just want to come inside the layout and visit you can show up at any time. Most folks don't know this but the San Diego Club has a HO<sub>N3</sub> layout also so if you have any skinny stuff bring it along. This should be a fun day and hope to see you there.

The September layout will be that of Dick Roberts in El Cajon. What is very unique about this railroad is that it uses all three dimensions of the garage; length, width, and height using the "mushroom" concept of layout design. Every square foot of space has been utilized. This is one of the best designed layouts you will ever see. If that is not enough, Dick has built an "elevator" in

lieu of a helix to deliver the train from one level to another. Dick has modeled a Nevada narrow gauge line as it might have been in the future by making it standard gauge, so I think you get the best of both worlds - the feeling of a narrow gauge line with the operational quality of standard gauge. Dick has incorporated many sound modules that bring the scene to life



Details & Animation from a Master - Rodger Gredvig MMR

and adds another dimension of realism. Dick is a veteran modeler and is always willing to share his



Smaller can mean better! - Randy Schissler

ideas and experience with anyone who asks for his help. Make sure to ask him to show you his "barbed wire" machine!

In October we are once again the guests of "The Thursday Night Jazz and Pie Society", a five year project by five model railroaders who meet every Thursday night to work on The Onion Valley Mining and Lumber Company, an HO free-lance shortline running steam in 1935 from Lone Pine in the Owens Valley west into the Onion Valley of the Sierra foothills. Built in a finished two car garage, the Onion Valley is the outcome of good planning, excellent room preparation, careful lighting, a beautiful professional backdrop, first rate scenery and excellent structures. In addition it has incorporated many innovative ideas such as a sliding transfer table for staging trains. David and his Thursday Night Jazz and Pie Society crew have very successfully captured the feel of a funky depression era shoreline. Don't miss this opportunity to see one of the best layouts in Southern California! If mountain scenery and



Under Construction - John Sigurdson MMR

geared locomotives is your cup of tea, then be there for some shortline operations and a piece of pie.

By the way, it's time for someone else to take over putting tours together - I've exhausted all the leads I've gotten. If you would like to help finding new (and old) layouts for us to visit and learn from, let me or Ben know. Thanks!

### Snapshots from the Tours

During the past months we saw a lotta layouts, and could have seen more, way more than can be shown in an issue. On these pages are just a very few scenes from some of the railroads that were on view.

On page 2 is the "garden railroad" of Rodger Clarkson in Riverside - although garden doesn't begin to describe what there is to see there. Really amazing. Below that is a shot from Rodger



Framed! Sam Dale running trains - John Sigurdson MMR

Gredvig's "N" scale layout, full of interesting detail, lots of trains, and intriguing animation scenes.

At the top of this page is a shot of Randy Schissler's layout - small, but with lots of detail, sound and operation. Makes you wonder if smaller really isn't better! The other two shots were taken at John Sigurdson's place. One shows the "N" scale layout being watched over by Sam Dale - this layout has been sold (to Ken Allen), and will be moved out this summer. The reason for selling is John's interest in "O", "On30" and "On3" - larger scale means he needs more room to grow! The shot two the left shows how to use a "mock up" of a structure to work out a scene, and allow operation at the same time - great idea!

See you on the next tour! Ben

## Superintendent's Report

By Ben Sevier

Summer is here, which in San Diego means even more outside activities drawing us away from work on our layouts. So rather than try and draw you inside during August, we're having our annual picnic, which this year is in a new location - Old Town Poway Park. This is a beautiful little park, ringed by the tracks of the Poway Midland Railroad, which runs a small steam engine and a trolley around the park on the weekends. There is also an engine house (which we have arranged to be available for a tour) and several historical buildings that are quite interesting. This event should be a lot of fun - looking forward to seeing everyone.

The big event in September is the Pacific Southwest Region's annual convention, which is being hosted by the Los Angeles Division in

## Let's Talk Trains

The Internet Talk Show "Let's Talk Trains" ([www.letstalktrains.us](http://www.letstalktrains.us)) has just announced a newly redesigned website. The new site is more comprehensive and easy to use. The navigation bar on the top of the page makes getting from one place to another as easy as point-n-click.

This newly redesigned website is helping Lets Talk Trains celebrate its second anniversary. The show started in July of 2002 and has done more than 600 MilePost's in the show. Each milepost is one segment of the show.

The second anniversary show will originate from Laguna Niguel, CA where the 25th annual Moon Amtrak ([www.moonamtrak.org](http://www.moonamtrak.org)) event will be taking place. (Click on Future Shows) C.J. and Richard will be broadcasting live from the event on Saturday, July 10th, from 10am to noon, Pacific Time.

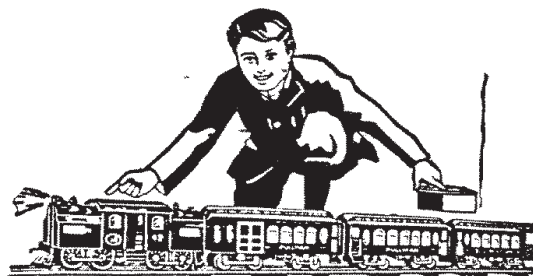
While your at the new site, feel free to sign up for the Free Subscription which will get you information on upcoming shows and new things that will be made available through Lets Talk Trains.

Lets Talk Trains is an Internet streamed talk show which is live every Saturday from 10am to noon Pacific Time. After the show it is archived and available 24/7 via the Show List link. Guests visit the show as well as callers and regular visitors. Join in the excitement of talking trains via the Internet! All Aboard!

Glendale. If you haven't been to a Region convention, you should seriously consider going, if only for a day. There will be numerous clinics (in fact, the San Diego Division is putting on a scenery clinic, based on the one we did at the Winter Meet), layout and prototype tours, a train show, and lots of people who really understand what model railroading is all about. I'm going, and would like to see a large San Diego showing. See you there!

Speaking of Region conventions, the San Diego Division is responsible for hosting the convention in 2006. Yes, this is two years away, but there is a lot of planning involved to pull one of these off. If you are interested in helping out in any way, let me (or any of the other Division volunteer staff) know. It's a lot of fun, and very rewarding. I'll be talking more about this in future issues.

And, speaking of volunteers (hey, where'd everyone go?), there are a couple of positions that could use someone to chip in and help. If you look at the Division Staff listing on page 7, you will notice a new position - Publicity Chairman. The idea behind this is to increase visibility of the San Diego Division in the general model railroading community, promote our events, and, hopefully, get more people involved. If you have some experience in this area, and would like to help, let me know. Two other positions will be coming vacant, and need someone to step up and help. Dave Balsler (as he mentioned in his report) is stepping down as the Layout Tour chairman. Dave has done a fantastic job setting up the monthly layout tours for the past several years. These activities have drawn a number of people into participation in the Division, and are a lot of fun. The other position coming vacant is Contest Chair. John Sigurdson, MMR, has held this position for years, and done a wonderful job. According to him, it's not a lot of work but is very rewarding. If you would like to know more about what is entailed, give John a call. This position is a very important part of encouraging good modeling, and needs your help!



SAN DIEGO DIVISION PSR-NMRA  
**Annual Picnic Social**

OLD TOWN POWAY PARK, POWAY, CALIFORNIA

Saturday, August 14th

11:00 am until 2:00 pm

Tour the Poway Midland  
Railway Facilities

Ride Behind Steam

Enjoy The Park

HAVE MORE FUN -  
BRING A FRIEND



Directions:

Take I-15 to Poway Road Exit, take Poway Road east. Continue on Poway Road about 4 miles to Midland Road. Turn LEFT on Midland Road, go NORTH to Old Town Poway Park (just under a mile). Parking is on the street, or in the lot across the street. The picnic area is in the center of the park, inside the tracks. See you there!

**PICNIC COOKOUT**

BRING FOOD TO GRILL - FOOD TO SHARE (IF YOU WISH)

*Bring your own cooking utensils - drinks, plates & eating utensils supplied*

## August 2004

## 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>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> Mini-meet - San Diego Model Railroad Museum
<b>8</b> SDRRM - Harvey Girls Symposium - Sun & Mon	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> SD Divison Annual Picnic - Old Town Park - Poway
<b>15</b> SDRRM - Tehachapi Pass Operating Session	<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>
<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>				

## September 2004

			<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> <i>Labor Day</i>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Layout Tour - Dick Roberts - El Cajon - 12 noon
<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>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>		

## October 2004

					<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>
<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> Layout Tour - Dave Balsler - Encinitas Noon
<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24 / 31</b> <i>Halloween</i>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>

## SAN DIEGO DIVISION STAFF

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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 free to all members of the NMRA® who live in San Diego and Imperial Counties.

**Responsibility:** Except for official reports, all opinions expressed are those of the authors, and do not necessarily represent those of the San Diego Division or its parent organizations.

**Subscriptions:** The "Mail Hook" is available by subscription at the following rates: \$4/year for NMRA® members outside of the San Diego Division, \$8/year for non-NMRA® members.

**Submissions:** Contributions of article on any railroad or model railroading topic of interest to the membership are welcome. There is no compensation, but published articles can be credited to the NMRA® Author Achievement Certificate. If you are interested in submitting articles, event information or other information of interest to members of the Division, please follow these guidelines:

1. Preferred method is by email to the editor, with the submission attached as a text document. Also accepted are: text document on floppy disk, printout from laser or ink jet printer, or typed using new ribbon.

2. Keep in mind that submissions may be edited for length or formatting, or not used at the discretion of the editor.

3. Submission deadlines for 2004: October 9, 2004. For 2005: January 15, 2005, April 16, 2005.

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

### **PAYMASTER'S REPORT**

*by Don Fowler*

Following is the status of the San Diego Division's treasury as of 06/30/04:

#### **ACCOUNTS: OPERATING MONEY MKT**

PRIOR BALANCE:	153.68	12,353.60
INTEREST:	0.00	21.60
REVENUE:	0.00	0.00
TRANSFER (MM/OPS):	700.00	(700.00)
<u>EXPENDITURES:</u>	<u>714.07</u>	<u>0.00</u>
CURRENT BALANCE:	139.61	11,675.20

### **MONTHLY LAYOUT MEET LOCATIONS**

Saturday, September 11 - Dick Roberts, "Nevada County RR". Take Hiway 8 (from the east or west) to Greenfield offramp in El Cajon, turn south on Greenfield Drive, go about 1.5 miles to Madison (second traffic light after Greenfield), turn left on Madison, go about 1/4 mile up the hill to Camelot Parkway. The layout is at 760 Camelot Parkway

Saturday, October 16th - Dave Balsler, "Onion Valley Mining and Lumber Company". in Encinitas. To get ther, take I-5 to Encinitas Boulevard, go East on Encinitas Blvd about 3.3 miles to Village Park Way. Turn left on Village Park and to .3 miles to Mountain Vista Drive, turn right and go to Country Wood Lane, then left to Country Wood Way. Parking is on Country Wood Lane.



## **SCHEDULE OF PSR-NMRA EVENTS**

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### **August 2004**

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

Aug 14 - **S.D. Division Summer Event** - Picnic in Old Poway Park - 11:00am to 2:00pm. Trains running, tour of enginehouse, beautiful setting.

### **September 2004**

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

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

### **October 2004**

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

### **November 2004**

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

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

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

### **December 2004**

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

## **OTHER EVENTS OF INTEREST**

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### **August 2004**

Aug 15 - Sunday 11am to 5pm - San Diego Model Railroad Museum - **Tehachapi Pass Timetable and Train Order Operating Session**. La Mesa Model Railroad Club Exhibit.

### **September 2004**

Sep 10 to 26 Los Angeles County Fair. See Citrus Empire O scale layout under the grandstands. Fairplex Garden Railroad G-gauge

### **October 2004**

Oct 2 - 3 Los Angeles Model Railroad Society Swap Meet and Open House. Swap meet, Sat 7 - noon. Open house Sat 9 - 5 Sun 10 - 4. 14005 S. Crenshaw Blvd., Hawthorne, CA 90250. 310 675 -3361. Leland Roe 310 679 4745.

Oct 16- San Diego Model Railroad Museum Fall Swap Meet. 7 - 11 AM SDMRRM, Pete Munoz (619) 293-0162

Oct 16, 17& 23, 24 - Harvest Fair, Antique Gas & Steam Engine Museum. New home of ShortTrackN. 9 to 4:30 \$7.00 per person. 2040 N. Santa Fe Ave., Vista CA 92083. Wear hats and good shoes. Food is available. [www.agsem.com](http://www.agsem.com) (760) 941-1791

### **December 2004**

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



May Swapmeet - Photo by John Sigurdson MMR

### **May Swapmeet Report**

The May swapmeet started off on a "mixed up" note due to our losing the "published" venue, resulting in a last minute scramble to find a new location. However, a number of people found us and showed up to sell, and others showed up to look, and buy.

In all, it was fun, and a worthy continuation to the tradition of a spring "oldfashioned" swap meet. We've locked in the facility for next year - and looking forward to seeing you there!

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## 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 Modular Railroad Society (HO, N)

San Marcos

Info: (760) 746-4779

### Poway Station All Scale Modular Club

Old Poway Park, Poway

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

### Short Trak'N 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)

Rails to the Verdigos Convention: [www.getnet.com/~dickg/nmra/psr/2004conv.html](http://www.getnet.com/~dickg/nmra/psr/2004conv.html)

San Diego Division: [www.getnet.net/~dickg/nmra/sdiego/sdiego.html](http://www.getnet.net/~dickg/nmra/sdiego/sdiego.html)

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)



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Model Railroad Museum**

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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!

- Layout Mini-Meet Schedule
  - Annual Summer Picnic / Social
  - Convention News!

Look Inside!



## MAIL HOOK

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



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