

MAIL HOOK

SAN DIEGO DIVISION, PSR-NMRA

3RD QUARTER, 2011

SUPERINTENDENTS REPORT

By Don Fowler

In case you hadn't noticed, summer has arrived, along with all of its related activities; vacations, the beach, barbecues, and of course, model railroading. The weather has been great for railfanning adventures and other outdoor railroading projects. Hopefully, you are able to take full advantage of all the opportunities afforded by our Division and the Region.

The Spring Division Meet held on May 14th at the North County Model Railroad Society was a great success. We enjoyed a great turnout by our members and guests and the Society did a terrific job of hosting the event. Their railroad looked and ran great. It just gets better every time I visit. During our business meeting, Ben Sevier was re-elected as Clerk/Paymaster and I was re-elected as Division Superintendent. Ben and I sincerely appreciate your support and friendship as we endeavor to serve the Division. Activities also included three great clinics, lunch and door prizes. Our new Meet format was well received and we hope to continue to draw more attendees.

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SUMMER MEET PREVIEW

The annual Summer Meet and picnic will be held August 13th from 9:00AM to 3:00PM at the home of Ben Sevier in Rancho Penasquitos.

Ben has been working on the railroad all the live long day and it will be fun to see his progress. Chef Don will be wielding the long tongs cooking up hot dogs and hamburgers for all, plus yummy side dishes. This year we are asking attendees to bring a dessert. Cookies, brownies, Crème Brulee, or your favorite goodie.

There will be a few announcements by the brass followed by a "Show and Tell" bull session. We had quite a few folks bring things to show at the last meet in Oceanside and want to continue this activity. Bring a model under construction, a new tool you like, an idea about weathering, some stuff to sell or trade, or your new track plan.

We will also have two interesting clinics. Our host will regale us with the virtues of the Java Model Railroad Interface (JMRI) programs, including Decoder Pro. These programs can really simplify your interaction with all things DCC. You won't want to miss this!

The second clinic will be given by Jimmy Simmons, recently relocated to San Diego from Las Vegas. {See a short Bio on the New Members page. Ed.} Learn how easy it is to scratch build basic structures. We'll discuss basic tools, materials, construction tips, weathering tips, easy casting tips, and building from scale drawings or photos. Once you build your first structure from scratch, most of you will never stop scratchbuilding. Learn everything you need to get started in this facet of the hobby.

Meets are open to all members and we encourage you to bring friends to enjoy the good times. To help us plan the event, please RSVP via e-mail to Dave Balsler at ON30MAN@GMAIL.COM by August 9th.

Dave Balsler
Meet Chairman

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Superintendent's Report from Page 1

On June 11th, we visited Dick Trotter's Coyote Pass & Northern HO model railroad. Dick's railroad has been established for quite awhile but he continues to enhance his great work and regularly hosts operating sessions. He is a truly talented modeler who readily embraces new technology and techniques through his own research and through contributions by his dedicated operating crews.

For this layout tour, we extended an invitation to the San Diego Garden Railroad Society to join us and they provided strong attendance. We will be sending them our activities calendar so that they can continue to join us at future events. They are a great group of folks who love model railroading as much as we do. Please help me provide a warm welcome to them so that they will continue to participate.

Region Convention Advisor Ben Sevier, Director Gary Robinson and I traveled to Flagstaff on June 24th to meet with the 2011 PSR Convention committee to review their progress and provide support/guidance as they move into final preparations for our upcoming annual event to be held September 21-25, 2011. It looks like they have everything in hand for a fun convention. If you haven't made your reservations yet, please do so at your earliest convenience.

I know that many of you attended the National Convention in Sacramento on July 3-9, 2011. We saw most of our Division folks for a dinner while we were there, and had a wonderful evening. This convention was one the best, and some of our folks won awards in the contest room. {See article elsewhere in this issue. Ed.}

On July 16th, we visited Duncan McRee's HO scale Tam Valley Railroad. We haven't visited this railroad in some time, and I'm very excited to see Duncan's new work. It was a great time, I hope you were able to join us.

Our Summer Meet will be held on August 13th at Division Clerk/Paymaster Ben Sevier's home. You won't want to miss seeing Ben's progress on his HO scale Missouri Pacific Railroad and enjoy a free cookout, hosted by the Division. We will also have an auction and clinics at this event, so check out the preview article elsewhere in this issue.

We finish the summer with a layout at Dave Balsler's. I'm anxious to see his layout, now that he's changed the Onion Valley from HO to On30! I'm sure he's done a great job; you won't want to miss it. It'll be a great lead-in to the convention later in the month.

As you can see, we have a lot going on this summer so please take advantage of what we have planned and enjoy the great fellowship of model railroading.

Don

SPRING MEET WRAP UP

We had our Spring Meet at the North County Model Railroad Society in Oceanside. This time we went away from our traditional format, and tried something new. We started in the morning with coffee and donuts, followed by a Show & Tell session, then clinics, and box lunches, instead of our normal noontime start with a pot luck lunch. The afternoon was dedicated to running trains on the NCMRS layout.

Several people brought things to share at the Show & Tell, including an optical sensor that Don Hicke is working on, and George Boggs' inch and a half scale through truss bridge (yes, it's BIG!). We hope to see more of this at future meets.

Clinics were "Tips for Assembling Better Buildings," by Carl Heimberger, LA Division Superintendent, "Battery Operated Model Railroads," by Justin Rasas, a member of the Dead Rail Society, and a Powerpoint layout review by Rodger Gredvig, MMR.

Carl had some interesting tips on ways to improve plastic buildings, particularly the Cornerstone series by Walthers. {Cutting off the window and door flanges before installing them, then using Crystal Clear or a similar product to make the glass panes was my favorite. It really opens up the interior for detailing. Ed} Other facets of his presentation dealt with squaring up edges to be joined, bracing walls, and improving roof appearance. Overall, it was quite an informative clinic.

Justin's talk centered on the reduction in size of batteries that allowed them to fit into HO scale locomotives. This technology has been available in garden railroading for some time, but the batteries were always too large

Continued on Page 3

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.

Steven Blount
David Fast
Ray Hunter
Gary Jarvis
James Patterson
Jimmy Simmons (transferred)

Jimmy Simmons is currently a partner in the 2011 Craftsman Structure Convention and co-host on *The Scotty Mason Show - The Original Model Railroad Podcast*. As owner of Monster Modelworks, Jimmy offers craftsman kits and scratch building services, as well as scenery services for your layout using his award winning techniques. Monster Modelworks offers modelers a line of wood stains, Iwata Airbrushes and his creation: the Monster Nailer, a tool for making scale nail holes. The website is loaded with photos and tips. He recently relocated to the San Diego area. www.monstermodelworks.com

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Spring Meet Wrap Up *from Page 2*

to make battery operation practical for any smaller scale. It was interesting to see Justin's HO scale steam locomotive moving across the table without even any track, let alone electricity! I think this will be a growth area for the hobby.

While lunch was being distributed and eaten, Rodger opened up his collection of Powerpoint shows, and let those in attendance select which ones they wanted to review. Rodger had enlightening comments about most, and we got a chance to see some layouts from different areas of the country. Rodger's favorite thing about attending NMRA conventions is to see as many layouts as he can, and he does a great job of documenting the layouts he visits.

The box lunch seemed to be successful, and we'll try it again at the Fall Meet. Following lunch, members and guests were invited to run their HO scale equipment on the hosts' layout. This entailed a brief check of the equipment to ensure it was up to standards, but some folks stayed for quite a while. It's always fun to visit the NCMRS, and we hope they'll invite us back again, as they progress in the expansion of their layout.

* * *

LAYOUT TOURS

Layout tours at Dick Trotter's Coyote Pass & Northern (CP&N) and Duncan McRee's Tam Valley were well attended. On Dick's CP&N, there seems to be more detail every time we visit. This time I noticed a scene of several railfans camping on an overlook to photograph the trains. Dick and his crew do this a couple of times each year at Tehachapi

See "Layout Tours" on Page 4

Right: This scene on Dick Trotter's Coyote Pass & Northern gives a good idea of the level of detail included on this railroad. The buildings in the background contain lit signs, and some buildings are photographs of models.
Gary Robinson Photo



Layout Tours from Page 3

Pass. Unfortunately, my picture of that scene didn't come out.

At Duncan's Tam Valley Railroad, we got to see his original railroad, as well as preview the narrow gauge layout he's creating in a stand-alone building.

He's just at the stage of finishing up his bench work and track, but he has a couple of backdrops he's working on, and they are impressive. If you follow the photos below, you can see a town being laid



Left This scene on Duncan's narrow gauge layout shows how the town of Colfax will appear on the background. Note the perspective that narrows as the town goes up the hill into the distance.

Right: In this scene you can see how Duncan has painted the forest in the background, and is preparing some trees in the foreground. Duncan does all his own work.

Gary Robinson Photo



Gary Robinson Photo

Left: This is a finished scene. Note that there is NO three dimensional scenery in this shot! Nice work Duncan.

You can also get a look at the Gatorboard Duncan uses. See the lower right corner. The white foam is sandwiched between two layers of wood.

Gary Robinson Photo

out on a hill (left), a forest being painted (below), and a finished backdrop (bottom.) Another thing that was interesting was the material Duncan has chosen for the layout base and sub-roadbed. He's using Gatorboard (Gatorfoam), a one half inch layer of foam sandwiched between two thin layers of wood veneer. This product is very lightweight, very strong, and very easy to cut with just a utility knife. It's also very hard to find in 4' x 8' sheets, and a little pricey {*Especially the shipping! Ed.*}. But you eliminate the dust and mess associated with cutting wood or Homasote™ with a saw, and if you build your railroad in sections, they will be light enough to move, should the need arise.

We've also started to share invitations with members of the San Diego Garden Railroad Society, and we were pleased to see quite a few of their members at these two layout tours. A few NMRA members have been visiting the Garden Railway tours as well, increasing the "cross-pollination," if you will. This seems like it will be good for both groups.

More...

Layout Tours from Page 4

September 10th Layout Tour Noon to 3:00PM

David Balsler - Onion Valley Railroad (On30)

We will be visiting the Onion Valley Mining and Lumber Company railroad of Dave Balsler in Encinitas. The current layout is the third rendition of a small shortline set in the Sierras circa 1934. The first two layouts were HO scale, and were featured in the May 1996 issue of Model Railroading and the June 2006 issue of Model Railroader.

After attending the 2004 Narrow Gauge convention, the narrow gauge bug took over, and the HO layout was torn down and the current On30 railroad was started. The new layout uses the same basic track plan as the HO version, and includes handlaid track and turnouts using FastTracks jigs. The control is CVP-EASY DCC with wireless throttles and Tortoise machines switched by stationary decoders, eliminating any toggles on the fascia.

The benchwork construction utilizes the "Shadow Box" design with a black valance and fascia framing the scene illuminated by hidden lights behind the valance. The black curtains under the fascia complete the floor to ceiling effect highlighting the railroad.

The original shelf style benchwork, backdrop, and mountain scenery have been retained, and although a few trees have been planted, and buildings are under construction, the scenery is far from complete.

The motive power and rolling stock all have a "home built" feel about them and size of the equipment has been kept small to be proportionate to the surroundings. Geared locomotives and 20' freight cars are the norm.

Like most model railroads, much help in design and construction by friends has been greatly appreciated.

All members and friends are invited and an RSVP to Dave would be appreciated. Please e-mail your response to ON30MAN@GMAIL.COM.

October 8th Layout Tour Noon to 3:00PM

To Be Announced

We were disappointed to learn that Poway Station, originally scheduled for this date, had to cancel. The event at which they were to set up their modules for us was canceled by the event organizer, and no substitute venue was available. The Division Board is working on a replacement for this layout, and expects to make an announcement soon. Watch your e-mail!

* * *



NMRA NEWS

NMRA Institutes New Privacy Policy

The National Model Railroad Association (NMRA) has adopted a new privacy policy. An excerpt from that policy, as sent to Region and Division officers, follows:

"Due to changes in the law as well as increased concern over privacy issues and identity theft, it is now NMRA policy that anyone with access to membership information obtained from the national NMRA must agree not to disclose any such information to anyone who is not authorized to have access to the information for official use."

What this means for the average member is that NMRA officials will no longer be able to share other members' contact information with "unauthorized" people without those members' consent. The most obvious manifestation of this policy will be that mass electronic mail messages must now have all addresses in the BCC: field, to avoid disclosing members' e-mail addresses to other members.

There is additional information on this subject in the August 2011 NMRA Magazine, in the *President's Car* column.

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August 2011

San Diego Division - Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6 Fillmore & Western
7 Multiple Events	8	9	10	11	12	13 SD Div Summer Meet
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27 St. Susana Swap Meet
28	29	30	31			

September 2011

				1	2 Multiple Events	3 Events
4 Multiple Events	5 Labor Day	6	7	8	9	10 Multiple Events
11	12	13	14	15	16	17 Multiple Events
18 Railroad Days, Goleta	19	20	21 Pacific Southwest Region Convention, Flagstaff, AZ			24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

October 2011

						1 LAMRS Open House
2 LAMRS Open House	3	4	5	6	7	8 Multiple Events
9	10	11	12	13	14	15 Multiple Events
16 Short Track Open House, AGSEM	17	18	19	20	21	22 Short Track Open House, AGSEM
23 Sht Trk, AGSEM	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

SCHEDULE OF PSR-NMRA EVENTS

OTHER EVENTS OF INTEREST

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. List not all-inclusive. Division-sponsored events are listed in **bold** typeface.

2011

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

August

13 San Diego Division Summer Meet and Picnic, 9:00 - 3:00, Ben Sevier's home. Contact Dave Balser ON30Man@gmail.com

September

10 San Diego Division Layout Tour, David Balser, Onion Valley On30, Encinitas. Contact Dave Balser ON30Man@gmail.com

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

October

8 San Diego Division Layout Tour, To Be Announced. Watch your mail for the flier. Contact layouts@sandiegodivision.org

November

12 San Diego Division Fall Meet, San Diego Model Railroad Museum, 9:00 - 12:00 Contact Dave Balser ON30Man@gmail.com

December

10 San Diego Division Holiday Event, TBA Contact layouts@sandiegodivision.org

2012

January

14 San Diego Division Layout Tour, TBA. Contact layouts@sandiegodivision.org

February

11 San Diego Division Winter Meet and Swap Meet, Antique Gas & Steam Engine Museum, Vista, CA. Swap Meet 7:30 - 11:30, Meet 11:30-3:00. Contact D. Balser ON30Man@gmail.com

March

10 San Diego Division Layout Tour, TBA. Contact layouts@sandiegodivision.org

2011

August

6-7 Steam on the Fillmore & Western Ry between Fillmore and Santa Paula and return. Fillmore & Western 2-8-0 No. 14, from the Duluth & Northeastern Railroad, will pull the regular weekend trains <http://www.fwry.com/DaytimeTrains/WeekendScenic.html>

7 Railroadiana & Transportation Show, 8550 Stanton Ave, Buena Park, CA Admission. Web Page <http://www.californiaexpress.net/showloctime.html> Contact Renee Orton reneeortaon@hotmail.com

13 Circus Family Day, San Diego Model Railroad Museum, Balboa Park, San Diego. 11:00am - 3:00pm. <http://www.sdmodelrailroadm.com/>

27 San Diego S Gaugers Open House, Suite 106, 2455 Truxtun (Liberty Station), San Diego. 4pm-8pm <http://sites.google.com/site/sdsgaugers/>

27 Santa Susana Depot Swap Meet and Open House Santa Susana Railroad Historical Society Swap Meet 7am to 10am. Adults \$2.00, kids free. Depot Open House 10am to 4pm. SP Depot and HO layout are open each Sat and Sun 1pm to 4pm. Santa Susana Railroad Historical Society, 6503 Katherine Rd., Simi Valley, CA. <http://www.santasusannadepot.org/Foundation/Home.htm>, or <http://www.rsrpd.org/park/santasusanadepot/santasusanadepot.html> Vendor table info: events@santasusannadepot.org or call David Putnam (661) 753-6006

September

2-5 Chula Vista Live Steamers Fall Meet, Rohr Park, 4548 Sweetwater Rd, Bonita, CA 9:00 - Whenever. Web Page www.chulavistalivesteamers.com. Contact Dan Williams (760) 815-0978

2-5 San Diego S Gaugers modular set up, San Diego Model Railroad Museum, Balboa Park, San Diego. <http://www.sdmodelrailroadm.com/>

10 Orange Empire Railway Museum Swap Meet Perris, CA, 800am to 200pm. FREE to OERM members. Non-member exhibitors/sellers \$18.00, and non-member helpers \$18.00. General admission for non-members \$7.00, children ages

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

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OTHER EVENTS OF INTEREST

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- 5-11 are \$5.00. Info on membership: <http://www.oerm.org/pages/membership.htm> Orange Empire Railway Museum, 2201 S. "A" St, Perris, CA 92750. Information: 951-943-3020 or 951-657-2605 <http://www.oerm.org/>
- 16-10/2** All Gauge Toy Train Association modular set up at San Diego Model Railroad Museum, Balboa Park, San Diego. <http://www.sdmodelrailroadm.com/>
- 17** Western Railroad Prototype Modelers Meet, Santa Fe Station, 8:00am - 5:00pm, 1170 West Third Street., San Bernardino, CA 92403. Admission. For more info see <http://railroadprototypemodelers.com/> or e-mail Joe D'Elia at ppw-aline@att.net.
- 17-18** Goleta Railroad Days. South Coast Railroad Museum at 300 North Los Carneros Road in Goleta. This festival features steam-train and circus-train rides, model trains, handcar rides, children's story time, operating equipment and a train simulator. Festival website: <http://goletarailroaddays.org/> The Museum also features and very nice operating HO scale model railroad exhibit.

October

- 1-2** Los Angeles Model Railroad Society Open House 10am to 4pm, Hawthorne, CA. Free Admission. LAMRS offers assisted thirty minute train operation for \$10.00. More info call Lloyd Lehrer club president 310-675-3361 or see <http://www.lamrs.org/>
- 6-10** Central Coast Railroad Festival, the largest public railroad event on the Central Coast of California, including San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara Counties. Home page is: <http://ccrrf.com/index.html> Curtis Reinhardt, Director Central Coast Railroad Festival 805-773-4173, 2251 Shell Beach Rd. #6, Pismo Beach CA 93449. Includes Model Railroads of Southern California layout tours and PCR Daylight Division Meet.
- 8** Swap Meet San Diego Model Railroad Museum . Balboa Park, San Diego, CA. 7am - 11am. Admission. <http://www.sdmodelrailroadm.com/>
- 15** Roundhouse Gang Model RR Club Swap Meet 730am to 11am. Janet Goeske Senior Center, Corner of Streeter & Sierra St., 5257 Sierra St., Riverside, CA. \$3.00 donation at door. Spouses and under 18 are free. Vendor tables \$12 when reserved in advance, and \$14 at the door if still available. (The October 2010 show sold out.) For vendor reservations contact Gary Wintergerst 100 S. LaSalle St., Redlands, CA 92374. Call 909-794-3153 or Larry at 951-686-7890
- 15-16, 22-23** Short Track RR Open House at Antique Gas & Steam Engine Museum Fall Tractor Show. AGSEM, 2040 North Santa Fe Ave, Vista, California 92083. 9:00 - 4:30 all days. Admission. For more info, see: <http://www.agsem.com/tractor-show.php>
- 29** Halloween Family Day, San Diego Model Railroad Museum, Balboa Park, San Diego. 11:00am - 3:00pm. <http://www.sdmodelrailroadm.com/>

November

- 2, 5-6** Highland Park Society of Model Railroad Engineers, Inc. open house. 854 E. Broadway, San Gabriel, CA 91776. Call 626.285.1031 or see <http://highlandpacificrr.com/>. See web page for daily hours.
- 5-6, 8, 12-13** Pasadena Model Railroad Club Open House. See daily hours posted on web page: <http://www.pmrrc.org/>. Donation \$3 adults, \$1 children 8 7 and over, under 7 free. Pasadena Model Railroad Club, 5458 Alhambra Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90032. (323) 222-1718
- 5,6, 11-13** Orange Empire Railway Museum *Day Out with Thomas*. Information: 951-943-3020 or 951-657-2605 or <http://www.oerm.org/>
- 6, 8** Slim Gauge Guild MRC Open House. 300 S. Raymond Ave (Basement), Pasadena, CA 91105 Sun 10:00 AM to 7:00 PM Tue. 6:00 PM to 10:00 PM Info: Jeff Smith (818) 590-1729 jeff@slimgaugeguild.com or www.slimgaugeguild.com
- 18-20** Cal-Stewart Toy Train Southern California Meet at the Pasadena Convention Center \$30 per person or per family. The Friday night "Welcoming Party/Dinner" carries an additional charge, which is listed in the final brochure. Those wishing to attend only one day of trading will be able to attend Sunday only,

Cont'd...

OTHER EVENTS OF INTEREST

cont'd from page 7

beginning at 9:00 am, for \$15. The Cal-Stewart meet continues to be located at the Pasadena Convention Center, 300 East Green St., Pasadena, CA, 91101, Halls A & B. <http://www.ttos-sw.org/cal-stewart.htm>

19-29 LEGO Modular Railroad at San Diego Model Railroad Museum, Balboa Park, San Diego. Regular hours. <http://www.sdmodelrailroadm.com/>

19 Model Railroads of Southern California Layout Tour Ventura and Santa Barbara Areas. Info at http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Model_Railroads_Of_Southern_California/

December

3-4 Great Train Expo Del Mar 10am to 4pm Sat and Sun. For more info: <http://trainexpoinc.com/> Adults: \$7.00, Kids Under 12: FREE!

10-11 Great Train Expo Pomona Fairplex 10am to 4pm Sat and Sun. For more info: <http://trainexpoinc.com/> Adults: \$7.00, Kids Under 12: FREE!

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Pacific Southwest Region 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 with the annual PSR Board meeting, and ends Sunday, September 25th with the annual PSR Membership Meeting and other events. Convention events include clinics, layout tours, prototype tours, train rides, auctions, 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 on 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.

Wednesday kicks off the festivities with the PSR Board meeting in the afternoon, followed by an evening reception in the Flagstaff Visitor's Center, the former AT&SF, and current Amtrak station. Thursday the fun begins in earnest, with a full day of clinics and a prototype tour to the Nestle/Purina feed mill, with operating sessions thrown in for good measure. On Thursday evening, there will be a "Haunted Flagstaff" walk. Friday will be more clinics, and a tour to the BNSF Winslow Yard. The evening events include silent and Chinese auctions. Saturday morning the day opens with the Hobo Breakfast, then you can take the tour to the Grand Canyon Railway shops in Williams, or you may prefer the Swap meet. The evening will conclude with the banquet and contest awards. Sunday morning we'll hold the annual Membership Meeting and there will be operating sessions and layout tours for you as you head for home. These are only the highlights, there will be much more to keep you occupied while you're here.

The Convention will be at the Radisson Woodlands Hotel in Flagstaff (<http://www.radisson.com/flagstaff-hotel-az-86001/azflag>). Flagstaff has many attractions and activities available for you and your families. Points of interest include: Grand Canyon Railway, Verde Canyon Railroad, Grand Canyon National Park, Snowbowl Skyride, Lowell Observatory, San Francisco Peaks, Painted Desert, Meteor Crater, Sunset Crater, Walnut Canyon, Sedona, and Jerome. Flagstaff has many great restaurants including the Sakura Sushi and Teppanyaki Restaurant located in the Radisson. The historic downtown area also has many specialty shops and a variety of excellent restaurants.

Convention items will be available for pre-order on line (early bird discount), and during the Convention at the Company Store. Logo selections include polo shirts, pins, patches, and commemorative cars (HO & N scales). The Extra Fare and Clinic Schedules will be loaded on the web page soon. We look forward to seeing you and are available to answer any questions you may have, at flagmrrc@gmail.com.

NMRA to Update Data Sheets

The NMRA has initiated a project to update the Data Sheets. For those of you who may not be familiar with these documents, from the NMRA page *Introduction to Module Standards and Recommended Practices*, comes this definition: "A Data Sheet is a listing of helpful information which supplements the Standards and RPs. They often contain drawings or sketches as an aid to construction. These are not put to a vote and are not a function of the Engineering Committee but are handled by the Publications department." Many of the existing data sheets have not been updated in quite some time. The new committee is being formed to update these sheets so they are more useful to modelers, particularly those modeling modern railroading. M. David Johnson, Life Member, has been placed in the chair of this committee. If interested in helping out, or learning more, contact him at mdj@bds-soft.com.

* * *

San Diego Division Members Win at National Convention!

San Diego Division members walked away from the contest room with several awards at the NMRA National Convention in Sacramento last month!

Pete Steinmetz won Best in Show for his photo of BNSF Auto Racks at Needles (below), and Honorable Mention in the Color Model category for his photo of Tunnel Motors on the Butte Canyon Bridge (next page). Rodger Gredvig, MMR, won the Thumbs (levity) Award for his "Reefer" car (also on the next page), and Lise Conway took Third Place in the People's Choice for her Gold Hill Station (no photo available). Congratulations to all the winners.



Left: Pete Steinmetz won Best in Show for this photo. Some of the things that make it stand out (in addition to the great day for shooting!) are good depth of field, nice framing of the locomotives by the signal masts, and good angle on the subject.

Right: Pete Steinmetz won an Honorable mention for this photo, taken on the Short Track Railroad Donner Pass Exhibit at the Antique Gas & Steam Engine Museum. Again, note the excellent depth of field and even lighting.



Above: This "Reefer" car earned Rodger Gredvig, MMR, the "Thumbs" award for levity. Thumbs is the character who appears in cartoons in the model railroad press. Rodger's model includes appropriate warning signs at each corner. Gary Robinson photo

There was quite a lot of activity in the Contest Room. Models in every scale, all photos were great, and the N scale engine service terminal was astounding. We're very fortunate to have talented modelers such as Pete, Rodger, and Lise in the San Diego Division. There are also quite a few great modelers in the Division who didn't enter the contest, but are no less talented. If you're not involved in Division activities and meeting these people, you're really missing out. Why not come to the next event and introduce yourself? You'll find a friendly, helpful group. Bring some examples of your work to share. All these modelers will be happy to offer advice on how to improve your work, if you ask them.

* * *

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.



By the time you read this, Short Track Railroad will have completed another successful run at the Spring Tractor Show. This show takes place the last two weekends in June at our home on the grounds of the Antique Gas and Steam Engine Museum in Vista.

Our layout has been making remarkable progress in construction, track work, buildings, and especially scenery.

Our scenery crew, headed by Don Ham and Ray Inbody, has covered a lot of territory this year. Their favorite saying, "We need more trees".

Our laser crew, headed by Don Diehl, has been busy creating downtown Colfax, CA. I say creating because of the different operations involved. First there is research on the specific building or buildings. The research involves finding and studying photographs of the buildings. After the photos have been studied, a CAD drawing is created. Material is selected. The drawing is loaded into our laser. The laser cuts the material and a basic kit is created. The next steps are finding detail parts, painting, and assembly.

Construction slowed down for a month or so as members took family vacations. Some members attended the NMRA Convention, X2011 West, in Sacramento.

We designed a new club logo (above) and had new shirts, hats, and name badges made. They look great and have been a big hit with members.

Our club operating sessions continue to be popular with members and guests. They are held at our section house the second Thursday of the month. Start time is 7PM. All are welcome.

Our next big show is the Fall Tractor Show which runs the last two weekends in October.

* * *

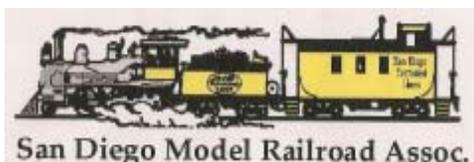
The San Diego S Gaugers have had a very busy couple of months. We held the June club meeting in our new clubhouse in Liberty Station. Our first open house at our new clubhouse was a success. Around 90 visitors toured the facility and layout.

In July, our layout made the 500 mile trek to Sacramento and arrived in good shape for display at The National Train Show. The layout joined 5 other S gauge layouts present for the show. We were located next to a huge LEGO display and we received a lot of interest from kids of all ages. Our layout appeared on local TV and our attending members received the NMRA Golden Spike Award. Ten days after returning we setup the layout at the Poway Station 2 day show at Rancho Bernardo where we were well received.

We are looking forward to our next open house at our clubhouse on Aug 27th from 4PM to 8PM in conjunction with Liberty Station's outdoor presentation of the movie Avatar. If you miss us in August, we'll be displaying our layout at the San Diego Model Railroad Museum in Balboa Park over the Labor Day Weekend.



* * *



For those new to San Diego or our Association, we are one of the principle exhibitors in the San Diego Model Railroad Museum in Balboa Park. We have 2 layouts: an HO layout and an O-scale layout (2 rail). Both layouts can be operated on DC or DCC.

Cont'd...

On the HO layout, the members have been busy putting in brick scenery by the Santa Fe depot. This brick work corresponds to the bricks shown in photos of the Santa Fe depot about 1950. The street called Broadway in front of the depot is currently being paved. Rocks, bushes, and ground cover are being added to several sections of the layout to cover plastered areas or freshen up existing areas. Putting in or enhancing scenery seems like a never ending job!

On the O-scale layout, several new Tortoise switch machines have been installed replacing the old snap action machines. The old machines are wearing out after many years of service. Block detection and signaling have been added with the appropriate Red/Yellow/Green indication. Not only does it add some realism for the operator, but the public seems to enjoy watching the lights change as the trains progress around the layout.

If you have an interest in hearing more about our Association or about joining us please: send me an email, 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 (CSC) attended our second show in 2011, the May Big Train Show. The final layout was 24' x 36' and we had two new modules at the show. We had Josef's new corner



module with our first tunnel (left) and Bob Treats new bridge and canyon module with a deep canyon and great looking bridge (above). Hope you had a chance to see both of them.

In July, four plus On30 groups formed the biggest On30 module layout to date in California. The layout was in a 58 x 40 foot area with 50 plus modules. CSC had 25 modules making the trip up to the show. By the time you read this, we will have attended our second show in July at the GTE in Pomona.

The group is free to join and there are no dues. If you 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. See you at the show, the train 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!

Join us on our Yahoo site! <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/CSCModOn30/>.

* * *

Cont'd...

North County Model Railroad Society

It's been an active spring for our club. We picked up three new members and work continues on the new Peninsula in our new 1000 sq ft expansion area. Switch machine wiring and circuit breaker installation is progressing nicely. The next step is block wiring and construction, and wiring of five new control panels. The new freight yard and passenger terminal on this new Peninsula will add a new dimension to our monthly formal operation sessions.

The San Diego Division held their spring meet at NCMRS. After Show & Tell. Clinics, and a box lunch, members were free to run their equipment on our layout. I was unable to attend the meeting but I am told that the meet was a great success.

In late June we set up our 8 ft by 16 ft modular demonstration layout downstairs for the Grand Opening of Earthgrown Market (Formally Boney's). Our layout has a four track main line and is set up for little engineers to operate. We are always hit with the kids.

We are open for visitors Sat. from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm and the demonstration layout is always available for junior engineers to operate. Visit our website www.ncmrs.org for directions or call 760-722-7366.

Dick Miller

* * *

The San Diego Garden Railway Society

The San Diego Garden Railway Society continues to sponsor successful monthly meets at the home of members. In June we visited with Dick & Julie Dale, whose representation of Waukesha, WI, was almost as good as Julie's Waukesha Beef Sliders! Almost 90 people enjoyed the afternoon festivities.

In July we stopped by the A&D Lines of Dan and Anita Brown. Dan runs live steam, and he has a new Heisler that was fun to watch. Tight radius curves restrict the size of the locomotives that can be run, but the effect is dramatic.

Next, on August 28 we'll be at the home of Ted & Donna Kazmar. In September we'll visit with J. Rennilson on a date to be announced, and in October we'll have the annual picnic, also on a date to be announced. Please remember to RSVP to the host if you'd like to attend one of our meetings. Information can be found on our web page, <http://www.sdgrs.com> on how to contact Dick Dale, President, for more info.



* * *



Poway Station has been busy the past couple of months. First we set up our N scale layout in Old Poway Park for the Old Fashioned Fourth of July. We were quite busy, with the layout room always full of people. Our newest member, Richard Martin, had a great time running his various sound-equipped N scale trains all day.

Next we set up both the N scale and the HO scale layouts, along with invited guests San Diego S Gaugers and Zo-Cal (Z-Bend) group, for our annual show at San Rafael parish in Rancho Bernardo. This set up let us show off our new Free-Mo access point on the main HO layout. This will give us a lot of flexibility in the future, as more modules are developed to take advantage of this interface.

We're currently looking for our next set up venue, as unfortunately, Old Poway Park has moved their annual Train Song Festival from October to April. This leaves us with a hole in our schedule before we close the year out by setting up the N scale for Christmas in the Park, December 10, 2011. The respite will give us some time to maintain and repair some of our modules.

We're always looking for new members. The only requirement is to love trains, and enjoy a good time. See our web page for information on how to contact us or get involved. www.powaystation.org

* * *

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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.

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 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...

What?! The summer's half over? How did that happen? On well, we have the Fall to look forward to, and it promises to provide a lot of fun.

We'll start off with the Summer Meet and Picnic, then move to layout tours, swap meets, and open houses through November. A busy time for model railroaders. Check out the calendar on page 6.

I recently returned from the NMRA National Convention in Sacramento. It was great fun, but exhausting. I chose to do mostly clinics, and they were scheduled from 8:00am through 10:00pm on most days. I learned a lot, but mostly that I'm not as young as I used to be. I saw some amazing layouts on tour, and the Oakland UP container facility was very enlightening. One of the most enlightening things was that UP has apparently changed their posture towards railfans. I think I got a taste of everything the National has to offer, not the least of which was the National Train Show (NTS).

Speaking of the NTS, I was a little disappointed that more of the vendors didn't have things for sale. There were some way cool things that will be coming out, and the layouts on the NTS floor were amazing! My personal favorite was the Labaja layout of the Edmonton Society of Model Railroad Engineers (<http://www.trainweb.org/esmre/index.html>). This may be the finest HO modular layout I've ever seen, complete with a (working) simulated waterfall, a helicopter rescue of a climber, and the Faller automobile system. Check out their web page for pictures of some of this.

It was gratifying to see that several San Diego Division members won awards in the contest room. I know that, with the skill of area modelers, we could win more awards if more of you would enter. Why not bring something to the Summer Meet for starters?

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.powaystation.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.gr2012.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



PSR 2011 Convention



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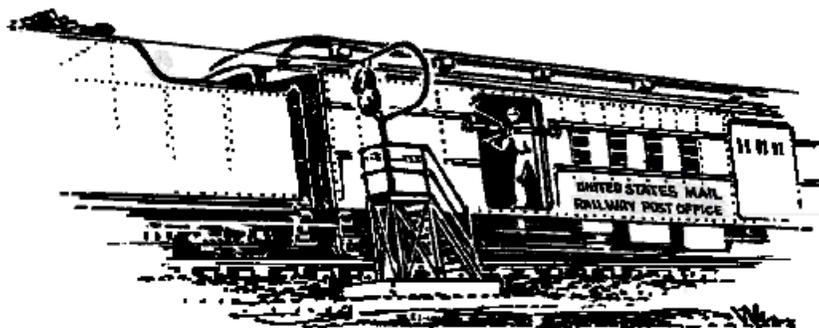
Open to the Public

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!

- Summer Meet Preview
 - San Diego Division Winners!
 - NMRA News
- Look Inside!



MAIL HOOK

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



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



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

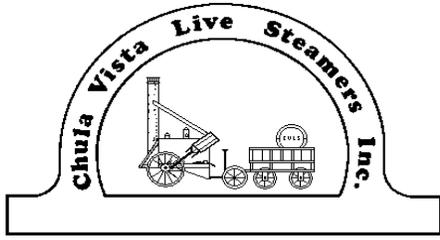
Make checks payable to: Arizona Division (c/o Larry Gibbs; 1400 E Appalachian; Flagstaff, AZ 86004)

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



Chula Vista Live Steamers, Inc.

2011 Fall Meet

Labor Day Weekend

September 2nd (Friday) – 5th (Monday)

Setup on Thursday, Camping in the Evening

The Chula Vista Live Steamers invites you and your family to join us for time of fellowship, fun and to run your 1 ½ inch scale equipment on our 8,000 feet of track. All types of equipment welcome.

Registration is only \$5, (children under 5 years free) which includes an Event Button and Saturday Potluck!

Camping & RV/Trailers (no services), Call Dan Williams (760) 815-0978

Schedule of Events

Friday: Registration (9:00AM). Steam boilers must have a valid current certificate and ash pans, and will be checked before steaming. Pick up copies of the Rule Book at the Registration booth.

Saturday: Registration (9:00AM). Public Run (12:00noon-3:00PM). Potluck starts at 5:00pm. A Refrigerator is available for cold food storage. No oven; microwave or charcoal grill will be available. Bring what you make best!

Raffle starts at 6:30pm, Tickets (2 for \$1) sold at the Registration booth until 4:30pm

Sunday: Breakfast at 8:00am, Cost: \$3. Public Run (12:00noon-3:00PM).

Sodas, water and snacks will be sold at the Registration Booth. Collectable CVLS T-Shirts will be available for sale at the Registration Booth.