

MAIL HOOK

SAN DIEGO DIVISION, PSR-NMRA

OCTOBER 2004

Superintendent's Report By Ben Sevier

Well, another year is coming to a close. It's been a busy one in the Division, with something going every month - all of it interesting, full of great layouts, interesting people, and lots of trains! We've seen small layouts, big layouts, outdoor layouts and layouts in garages, layouts in their own buildings and layouts in bedrooms. Big trains, little trains, and everything in between. But all have one thing in common - good modeling, great people, and the fun of this great hobby. By the way, when are we going to get a chance to see your layout?

In this issue is an article on various modeling awards earned by members of this Division. However, there is one award that is not given for modeling, but for doing the most to help the San Diego Division during the past year. At the PSR Convention in Glendale this year the San Diego Division "Member of the Year" award, nominated by the Division Director, went to Dave Balsler for all of his hard work in putting together the monthly layout tours. These layout tours have been a great success, bringing together Division members (and guests) each month to learn how other modelers have approached this great hobby. Dave has done a fantastic job getting people to open their layouts to us. Dave, we really appreciate what you have done!!

On a different note, we're going to be trying a different approach to getting information out to you. The postcards that get sent out each month have been a great success (according to those I've talked to at the events), so those will be continued. However, it is expensive to send out both the cards and a 10 page newsletter - printing and postage being the main culprits. Additionally, while it is not obvious in the printed issue, the photographs in the "Mail Hook" are in color, but color printing is very expensive so we don't do it. While the Division is not by any means "broke", the funds we have are finite, and will be almost exhausted by printing and mailing costs before our next "influx" of funds, the PSR Convention in 2006 - which will also need funding. So, there will be a few changes:

First, the Mail Hook will no longer sent out in paper form to all members. Instead, it will be published electronically (e-mail and the website) - this will enable you to get it faster, with color and more pages. If you don't have access to e-mail or the web (and not everyone does), you can get a paper copy in one of 2 ways - attend a Division function (Meet, layout tour, etc), where they will be available, or assist with the cost of the publication with a small subscription fee of \$6.00/year for NMRA members. In order to receive each quarterly issue by e-mail, send your e-mail address to: sddiv@sbcglobal.net. Please include your full name, address and phone number as well, so that we can update our records. Your e-mail information will not be released to anyone outside of the NMRA for any purpose.

Secondly, we will be expanding informational mailings such as post cards and flyers to keep you informed of upcoming and current events. These appear to be a much better use of our funds, and will keep you informed of "what's happening" as it happens.

Thirdly, as I've mentioned in the past, we're working on getting the Division Website up and running - we have a domain name, and are mainly waiting on the Webmaster (that's me) to get the

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Layout Meets & Tours

By David Balsler, Layout Tour Chairman

The year is coming to an end, and we have seen some great layouts! I would like to thank the gentlemen who have invited us to their homes during the past year and shared the Model Railroads they have built. January – Don Fowler, February – Art & Lou Dominy, March – Nelson Rath, April – Bob Chapparo Orange County Road Trip, May – Rodger Gredvig and Randy Schissler, June – Cajon Division Tour, July – John Sigurdson, August – San Diego Model Railroad Museum, September – Dick Roberts, and in October – Dave Balsler.

Coming up in November and December

are two really neat layouts: Ross Black's On30 "Beaver Creek Railway" and in December the "World Famous" Steve Harris and his



Dave Balsler & Ed Hatch

HOn3 "Rio Grande Southern".

Ross has been working in On30 for about 15 years and has a mining railroad with very large trees and scratch built buildings. Ross always has at least a half dozen projects on his workbench and a few dozen more in the works. I have known Ross for a long time and he is one of the most creative modelers around. His layout is in his garage and the atmosphere he has created is pure fun. Watch out for the real whipsaws hanging from his ceiling! Even if you are not working in this scale you will see some new ideas and have a good time.

I refer to Steve as "World Famous" because his efforts have been rewarded by a cover shot and an article in the November '04 issue of Model Railroader. Check that issue for all the details. Steve is an excellent modeler and has been a clinician at many conventions. His railroad is a two level design, is operated by DCC and the locomotive sounds, especially the Goose, make everything come to life.

The Layout Tours for the first three months of 2005 are set. We will be making a return visit to

the N-scale Southern Pacific of Don Fowler, the HOn30 Westside Lumber Company of Burton Maxwell, and the HO scale B&O "West End" of Jack Byers.

Since our last visit to Don's layout last January a lot of work has been done. Don models the Southern Pacific during the 1975 to 1995 period between West Colina and Colfax, California, with guest appearances by other west coast railroads. Features include sound systems, operating grade crossings, block signals, and night lighting. Since the last visit Don and his crew have completed a lot more scenery, the desert town of Mojave, three tunnels, a stream, a motel, and a campground. There is also new night lighting and more sound effects. As we go to press Don has assured me many new projects will be completed by January.

A new layout on the tour will be the Westside Lumber Company of Burton Maxwell. Burton is recreating portions of the famous logging line in HOn3 and is incorporating certain aspects of the real company such as Buffalo Landing, Camp 8, River Bridge, Cleavey River Bridge and eventually Camp 45. Current projects under way are the engine facilities, car repair shops, sand & oil facility and the sawmill. The layout is a point to point design in a 16x37 foot room with scenery about halfway done and trackage about 80% complete. Being scheduled for a layout tour normally motivates a builder, and Burton is planning on completing a lot of those projects he has underway.

Jack Byers has purchased a 12x42 foot modular building, has set it up next to his house and dedicated it 100% to his railroad. A space of 8x12 feet has been set aside at one end for his workshop, library, and lounge area.

Jack is modeling the B&O "West End" with the hub



Taking on Water - Dick Roberts Layout

of the railroad set in Grafton, West Virginia in the mid 1950's. Big steam is predominant, but diesels are arriving. The terrain is steep but the grades are limited to 2%. The creeks and hollers will have mines and lumber operations that provide the operating revenue. The layout is a two level walk in

design with benchwork around three walls and a center peninsula. By March track will be laid and the train will be running. Jack thanked me for getting him on the tour because he said it will be a real incentive to get moving!

Layout tours for the balance of 2005 have not been set although I do have the old regulars ready to jump in and host again.

If you have a layout, or if you know someone who does, take the big step and commit for a date in the future to be a host. If you do, I promise you will drop that magazine you have already worn out and add some track and scenery to the old "Plywood Central". Visitors like to see layouts that are in the construction stage so the wiring, benchwork, switch machines, and other things are fully exposed. You will be helping the new guy get started and the old hands may answer some questions you might have about your next project.

I am going to take the step and sign up for next year because as of today I am tearing down the HO scale Onion Valley and rebuilding a new version in On30. I have lots of work to do but it will give me new motivation to build something better. You should do it too!

The January tour at Don's house will be Saturday the 15th from noon to three. The February tour at Burton's house will be on Sunday the 13th from noon to three and on Monday night the 14th from 6:00 PM to 10:00 PM (please note the times and dates). The March tour at Jack's house will be on Saturday the 12th from noon to three. Directions for all the tours will be sent to you by postcard the week of the tour. If you don't get a postcard call me



Sam Dale - Running on the 'N'
John Sigurdson's Layout

at (760) 436-6139 and I will get you directions. Layout tours are set up for members and associates, but you are encouraged to bring along anyone who is interested in the hobby.

Editor's note: One of the best ways to get someone who's been "out of the hobby" for a while is to get them to come along on a layout tour. While the tours are noted to energize those of us who are being a bit laggard on working on our layouts, they also serve as an incentive for "inactive" hobbyists to get back in, especially when they see the changes that have come about with the fantastic availability of smooth running models, DCC, new techniques, and of course the impact of being around

others who are as "strange" as they are in the love of trains and modeling. So, grab that neighbor who is always talking about that layout he had as a kid, along with his wife and kids, and bring them along. I can assure you they will enjoy the adventure, and you will have helped your friend, and the hobby. See you there!

Clinicians Needed!

We are currently compiling a resource list of members who are willing to provide training on various aspects of model railroading to be provided at meets, shows and conventions.

General topics may include bench work, track, electronics, scenery, operations, engines & rolling stock, maintenance, history, or any other related topics. There are many talented modelers within our Division who have developed or refined many techniques and skills. In order to expand our membership and support each other, these skills need to be shared. If you would like to contribute your talents to help support our hobby, please contact our new Clinic Chair Don Fowler for further

information. We welcome experienced clinicians and newcomers as well. Assistance is available for developing presentations if desired. The more you invest in our Division, the more you'll get out of model railroading.



Looking at a Neat Layout - Ross Black Layout

Director's Report

By Rodger Gredvig, MMR

At the recent PSR convention in Glendale the election results were announced and Ed Hall won a second term as PSR President. Since there were no candidates for VP, Bill Mergard of the LA Division has accepted the appointment by the President with the approval of the Board of Directors. With the adoption of the LRP (Long Range Plan) at the National Convention last June, the regional President will now also serve on the NMRA Regional Advisory Council as our representative. Therefore, the position of Trustee will no longer exit after June 30, 2005. In the meantime, Bill Jacobs of the Cajon Division was elected to serve the remaining months as Trustee. We will learn more about the new structure after the National Trustee Board meets in January.

At the PSR Board of Directors a decision was made to revise the contract policy for hosting the regional conventions.

Beginning in 2006 (San Diego's turn), the host Division will receive "the first 30% of net profits, with the remaining sum split between the host and the region" -- essentially this means a 65-35% distribution. In the past the San Diego Division kept the first \$4000, before splitting the remainder with the region. Curiously, under the old policy, over the last 10 years the San Diego Division contributed more than \$9000 to the Region -- which (discounting the National Convention in Long Beach) was more than the other 3 divisions combined! The new policy is believed by some as a way to bring additional revenue to the region which is suffering from stagnated growth in membership. Time will tell. In the meantime, we have already begun a search for a site for our next PSR Convention in 2006. If you have suggestions (or special connections) please let us know.

Speaking of the Board of Directors, I will complete my maximum two terms as Director next year. A new Director (or slate of candidates) needs to be proposed by the mid-year BoD in March. Please submit names (even your own) to our Superintendent, Ben Sevier prior to that date.

**Nominations needed
for Division Director
to represent the San
Diego Division on
the PSR Board of
Directors**

MONTHLY LAYOUT MEET LOCATIONS

Steve Harris (December) - 15236
Woods Valley Road, Valley Center, CA.
(760) 749-0423

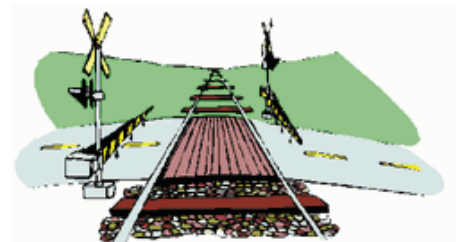
I-15 to Old Castle Rd exit. Watch the signs carefully at the exit. Go EAST at the bottom of the off ramp, than a quick right/south on Champagne Blvd., (Old 395) then after a hundred yards, a left/east on Old Castle Rd. Old Castle becomes Lilac, but you probably won't know it. Go 7.1 miles to Sierra Rojo Rd. Turn right/west on Sierra Rojo Rd. Go up the hill .4 miles and look for the HARRIS sign at a little paved lane through a grove. Turn right/north and go a little over .3 mile ALL THE WAY to the end of the lane.

Don Fowler (January) - 10768
Sayers Court, Santee, CA 92071. (619)
258-3529

Go East on SR 52, exit at Mast Blvd. Turn left on Mast and proceed for 3.3 Miles. Turn left on Magnolia and proceed for 2 blocks. Turn right on 2nd street and proceed for 2 blocks. Turn left on Cleary and proceed 1 block. Turn left on Holborn and proceed for 2 blocks. Turn right on Sayers Court and proceed to 10768

Burton Maxwell (February) - 318 Rose View Place, Chula Vista, CA 91910 619 420-2725
South on 805 toward Chula Vista. Exit at "H" Street West. Turn right on "H" Street and proceed to the first light. Turn right on Hilltop for short distance. Turn left on Center Street for short distance. Turn right on Rose View Place and proceed to no. 318.

Jack Byers (March) - 11592 Kaywood Lane Escondido, CA 92026. (760) 839-2785
North on I-15 beyond SR78 in Escondido. Exit at El Norte Parkway. Turn right on El Norte Parkway and proceed past Centre City Parkway. Turn left on Broadway and proceed for 1 mile. Turn right on North Street and proceed for 300 yards. Turn left on Kaywood Drive and proceed for ½ mile. Turn right on Forest and proceed to the last street. Turn left on Kaywood Lane and go to top of hill. Limited parking! If you are able, park at bottom and start hiking!



Awards & Presentations

Division members have been active this past year, working on the various awards and certificates that are available in the NMRA Achievement Program (AP).

If you are not aware of the AP program, which is comprised of various certificates leading up to the Master Model Railroader (MMR) certification, check out the NMRA web site at www.nmra.org. The process of completing each of the certificates is designed to teach you more about the hobby of model railroading, and improve your modeling skills.

I've been notified that Paul Schmitt has completed all the requirements for the MMR certification, and it has been approved by NMRA as MMR #342. Paul completed the Motive Power, Cars, Scenery, Model Railroad Engineer-Civil, Model Railroad Engineer-Electrical, Chief Dispatcher and Association Volunteer certificates. Hopefully we will have the award certificate for the official presentation at the Winter Meet in February. Congratulations to Paul!!

Gordon Miller has been working on his AP certifications, and completed his second one last year.



Rodger Gredvig & Gordon Miller

However, he has been on sea duty since, so hasn't been around for his official presentation. Rodger presented Gordon with his award during the Layout Tour at Dick Roberts' house. Good work, Gordon!

Don Fowler (our intrepid Clerk/Paymaster) has been hard at work on the paperwork for his AP certificates, and he was awarded his first one, "Master Builder Scenery" at the PSR convention in Glendale in September. Reportedly, Don is close to finishing up several more for next year, with the MMR as his goal - keep at it, Don! You will get a chance to see Don's 'N' scale layout during the Layout Tour in January - don't miss it - you won't believe what can be done in 'N' scale.

At the PSR Convention (great event - you

shouldn't have missed it!), there were very few models entered into the Model Contest. However, the quality of those entered was very high, and one of the neatest was an 'N' scale passenger non-revenue car (an Electric Power Car for a Circus Train) entered

by our own Bob Moore. While Bob normally models in 'HO' scale, he built this car for a friend and won an award for it. Actually, he won four awards: First Place in Non-Revenue Cars, the Ingenuity Award, the PSR

President's Award in the First PSR Entry category, and First Place in the Color Photography category for his picture "4449 Meets the Yakima". Bob also presented an interesting clinic at the convention. Congratulations, Bob!

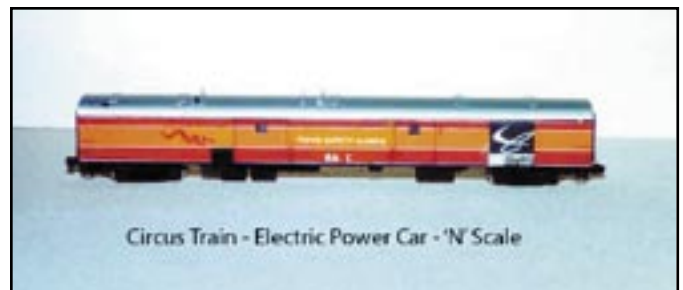
While many of us don't think we are "good enough" to enter and win contests, you might be very surprised at how good you



Ben Sevier & Don Fowler



Ben Sevier & Bob Moore



really are. At the Division Meets each quarter we offer a model contest, which you can enter just by bringing a model. In participating in the contest, you can learn what you did right, (or not), develop as a modeler, and have a good time. Which is what this hobby is all about.

November 2004

San Diego Division - Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6 Fall Meet SD MRRM 1 - 4pm
7	8	9	10	11 <i>Veteran's Day</i>	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20 Layout Tour Ross Black 12:00 - 3:00
21	22	23	24	25 <i>Thanksgiving</i>	26	27
28	29	30				

December 2004

				1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11 Layout Tour Steve Harris 12:00 - 3:00	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25 <i>Christmas</i>	
26	27	28	29	30	31		

January 2005

							1 <i>New Year's</i>
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15 Layout Tour Don Fowler 12:00 - 3:00	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	
23/30	24/31	25	26	27	28	29	

SAN DIEGO DIVISION STAFF

Director:	Rodger Gredvig MMR #218	858 571-7118	pgredvig@nethere.net
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Clinics:	Don Fowler	619 258-3529	donald.fowler@sdsheriff.org
Club Liason:	Jack Eiermann	858-487-8449	jeierman@san.rr.com
Contests:	John Sigurdson MMR #236	760 747-1152	jtsig@cox.net
Convention:	(vacant)		
Layout Tours:	Dave Balser	760 436-6139	dbalser@adelphia.net
<u>Mail Hook</u> Editor:	Ben Sevier	858 538-9863	bwsevier@sbcglobal.net
Meets:	Milt Perkins	858 748-7995	mep Perkins@cox.net
Member Aid:	Bob Schimmel MMR #193	858 273-8511	
Membership:	Gary Robinson	760 839-5877	grobbiedobbie@yahoo.com
Nominations:	Chuck Hart	858 748-6816	pce@cox.net
Publicity:	(vacant)		

Mail Hook

The "Mail Hook" is the official publication of the San Diego Division, Pacific Southwest Region, National Model Railroad Association (NMRA®), and is published quarterly in San Diego, California. The "Mail Hook" is available to all members of the NMRA® who live in San Diego and Imperial Counties.

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Submissions: Contributions of articles or photos 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 2005: January 15, 2005, April 16, 2005, July 16, 2006 & October 15, 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 10/08/04:

Accounts:	<u>Operating</u>	<u>Money Mkt</u>
Prior balance:	139.61	11,675.20
Interest:	0.00	18.76
Revenue:	0.00	0.00
Transfer (mm/ops):	1,200.00	(1,200.00)
Expenditures:	<u>964.12</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Current balance:	375.49	10,493.96

Superintendent's Report
Continued from page 1

server up on the Internet. With our own website (not shared as part of a bigger site, as we currently are), we can provide up to date information, photos, and a place to members to have discussions or research information.

So, this will be the last "mass mailed" issue of the Mail Hook. Please let me know what you think about this (or any other Division issue or question) by e-mail, regular mail or a phone call.

As mentioned by Rodger in his column, we are looking for someone to volunteer for the position of Division Director. This person represents the Division on the PSR Board of Directors, does not take a large amount of time, and can be a rewarding experience. If you are interested, let me or one of the other people listed in the Staff Directory know. We have to send nominations in to the PSR by February 1st, 2005 for submission to the Board of Directors.

I'm looking forward to seeing you at the next layout tour or Division Meet.

SCHEDULE OF PSR-NMRA EVENTS

December 2004

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

January 2005

Jan 15 - Sat 12:00 noon - Monthly Layout Meet -
Don Fowler, "Southern Pacific West", Santee.

February 2005

Feb 5 - Sat 11:30am 'til 3:00pm - **SD Division
Winter Meet** - Peace Lutheran Church, Linda
Vista.

Feb 13 & 14 - Monthly Layout Meet - Burton
Maxwell, "Westside Lumber Company",
Chula Vista

Feb 26 & 27 - **Cajon Division - Orange County/
Anaheim Layout Tour.** Info: Bob Chaparro,
psrpom239@cox.net www.cajondiv.org

March 2005

Mar 12 - Sat 12:00 noon - Monthly Layout Meet
- Jack Byers, "B&O West End", Escondido

April 2005

Apr 9 - Sat 12:00 noon - Monthly Layout Meet
- TBA

May 2005

May 14 - SD Division Annual Swap Meet -
9:00am 'til 11:00am - Poway Community Park
Auditorium. Poway, CA

May 14 - SD Division Spring Meet and Annual
Membership Meeting - 11:30am 'til 3:00pm
- Poway Community Park Auditorium, Poway

May 21 - Sat 12:00 noon - Monthly Layout Meet
- TBA

June 2005

Jun 11 - Sat 12: noon - Monthly Layout Meet - TBA

July 2005

Jul 3 - 11 Cincinnati Limited 2005 NMRA
Convention, <http://www.cl2005.org/home.htm>

August 2005

Aug 13 - Sat 11:30am 'til 3:00pm - **SD Division
Summer Meet/Picnic** - Detail TBA

Aug 20 - Sat 12:00 noon - Monthly Layout Meet
- TBA

September 2005

Sep 7 - 11 **Pacific Southwest Region Convention.**
Cajon Country. Sponsored by Cajon Division.
Radisson Resorts Knott's Berry Farm, Buena
Park CA. Contact Jan Wescott (702) 566-0856.
wescvgas@cox.net www.cajondiv.org.

Sep 17 - Sat 12:00 noon - Monthly Layout Meet
- TBA

October 2005

Oct 8 Sat 12:00 noon - Monthly Layout Meet -
Dave Balser - Encinitas

November 2005

Nov 12 - **SD Division Fall Meet** - details TBA

Nov 19 - Sat 12:00 noon - Monthly Layout Meet
- TBA

December 2005

Dec 3 & 4 - Sat & Sun - GATS - membership table

Dec 10 - Sat 12:00 noon - Monthly Layout Meet
- TBA



OTHER EVENTS OF INTEREST

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 for discount and
details. (630) 834-0652

Dec 11-12 GATS, Costa Mesa, CA. 11 AM
- 5 PM. Orange County Fairgrounds, 88 Fair
Drive. See www.GATS.com for discount and
details. (630) 834-0652

Dec 18-19 Great Western Train Show, San
Bernardino Fairgrounds, Victorville, CA. 11
AM - 5 PM. North See www.GATS.com for
discount and details. (630) 834-0652

March 2005

Adobe Mountain Railroad Park event, Glendale,
AZ. Watch for more details.

Model Railroad Clubs in San Diego

San Diego Model Railroad Museum

Balboa Park, San Diego

Info: www.sdmodelrailroadm.com

La Mesa Model Railroad Club (HO)

Info: LaMesaClub@att.net

San Diego 3-Railers (O)

Info: (619) 690-4358

San Diego Model Railroad Club (HO & O)

Info: www.sdmrrc.org

San Diego Society of N Scale (N)

Info: www.sdsons.org

North County Model Railroad Society (HO, N)

Oceanside

Info: (760) 746-4779

Poway Station Model Railroad Club

Old Poway Park, Poway

Info: www.powystation.org

Short Track Railroad (N)

Antique Gas & Steam Engine Museum, Vista

Info: flyers@inetworld.net

San Diego Garden Railway Society

Info: www.sdgrs.com

If you would like your club listed, or have news of interest, contact the Club Liason, San Diego Division

Online - Web Sites of Interest

Train Net: www.trainnet.org

Rail Pictures: <http://www.railpictures.net/>

NMRA: www.nmra.org

PSR: www.getnet.net/~dickg/nmra/psr/psr.html

Rails to the Verdigos Convention: www.getnet.com/~dickg/nmra/psr/2004conv.html

San Diego Division: www.getnet.net/~dickg/nmra/sdiego/sdiego.html

Cajon Division: www.cajondiv.org

San Diego Model Railroad Museum: www.sdmodelrailroadm.com

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

The Overland Trail: www.overlandtrail.com

Orders: 1-800-642-9054
Phone: 1-619-294-8372
Fax: 1-619-294-3312

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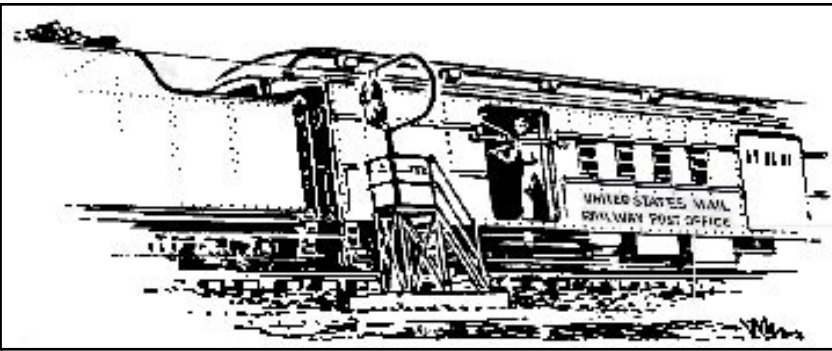
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Military \$2.50, Tuesdays free to all

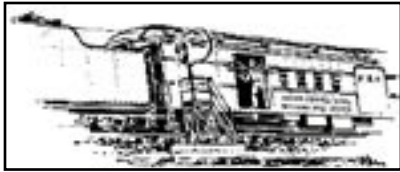


MAIL HOOK

LOOK INSIDE FOR THE LATEST NEWS!

- Layout Mini-Meet Schedule
 - Event Schedules
 - Convention Reports

• Look Inside!



MAIL HOOK

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



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