

# MAIL HOOK

SAN DIEGO DIVISION, PSR-NMRA

4TH QUARTER, 2013

## SUPERINTENDENTS REPORT

*By Don Fowler*

## Steinmetz 2013 MOY, New Director

I always look forward to our annual PSR Convention and this year's event was great! The Cajon Division put together a fine event and everyone that I talked to had a great time. We enjoyed new clinics that included scenery, operations, DCC and the latest technological advances in our hobby. The prototype tours were excellent and the auction was one of the best I've ever attended. The layout tours were phenomenal and we had some unexpected laughs at the awards banquet. The best part of every convention is meeting up with old friends and making some new ones. Congratulations and many thanks to the Cajon Division for a great job!

The San Diego Division's Summer Meet was held on August 10<sup>th</sup> at Templar's Hall in the Old Poway Park. We had a very good turnout and enjoyed some great clinics. Robin Becker's clinic was on Smartphone Throttles and Mike Pfulb discussed and demonstrated Battery/RC Loco Control. Last but not least, Jimmy Simmons gave a great clinic on Weathering Structures. We also enjoyed a nice barbeque, silent auction and

Congratulations to Pete Steinmetz, selected as the San Diego Division Member of the Year (MOY) for 2013. Pete was also elected the new Director of the San Diego Division. Pete received his MOY award at the recently-completed Pacific Southwest Region convention in San Bernardino. Pete is currently the Division Membership Chair, and the moderator for our Yahoo group, as well as organizing clinics for Division meets and our upcoming (September 2014) PSR convention.

Pete has been a member of Short Track Railroad (N scale) for years, and has recently joined the California South Coast (On30) group. He has given clinics locally, and at other model railroad events out of the region, as well as being an award-winning railroad photographer.

He has a lot of enthusiasm and many good ideas. He'll be a valuable member of the Pacific Southwest Region Board serving the membership for the San Diego Division. Be sure to congratulate him when you see him at the next event.

### In This Issue

*Continued on Page 2*

Superintendent's Report .....	1
Member of the Year .....	1
Summer Meet Wrap Up .....	2
Director's Report .....	3
2013 PSR Convention .....	3
Fall Meet Preview .....	4
Clinic News .....	4
Layout Tours .....	5
Welcome New Members .....	6
NMRA News .....	6
Events Wall Calendar .....	7
Events & Schedules .....	8
Club Car .....	9
National Narrow Gauge Convention ....	10
From the Editor .....	11



*Superintendent Fowler (R) and outgoing Director Robinson (L) present MOY to Pete Steinmetz.*

*Tom boyles Photo*

## *Superintendent's Report* from Page 1

raffle. Special thanks to the Poway Station Model Railroad Club for their operating modular display.

Our September layout tour was hosted by Bob Treat and featured his spectacular "G" scale railroad. Taking up a sizable chunk of the back yard, Bob has done a phenomenal job of modeling mountain railroading at its best. His work on the mountains, trestles, structures and details is unsurpassed and the trains ran beautifully as well. After visiting Bob's railroad, I was inspired to go home and do some more work on my own.

On October 12<sup>th</sup>, we visited Ben Sevier's Missouri Pacific "HO" scale railroad. If it's been awhile since you've visited Ben's railroad or never been before, you were in for a real treat. He has been working hard on enhancing his railroad's operation and regularly hosts operating sessions based upon the MP's operating system of the 1950's. Ben has incorporated some of the latest and greatest technological enhancements to his railroad like smart phone throttles and Duncan McRee's electronic wizardry to make operations very enjoyable. Way cool!

On November 9<sup>th</sup>, we'll hold our Division Fall Meet at the San Diego Model Railroad Museum from 9 am to 3 pm. Our clinics will include "Life after Floquil" (Pete Steinmetz), SP Painting & Weathering Guide (Jeff Cauthen) and "How to Give a Clinic (Pete Steinmetz). There will also be lunch, model judging, show & tell and a Hobo Auction! It will be great to visit the museum layouts and see all of the new work that's been done. Don't miss out on the fun and join us for this great event.

We are making great progress in the planning for the 2014 PSR Convention that will be held right here in San Diego September 3 -7. The logo has been designed and merchandising has been approved that will include shirts, pins, patches and commemorative cars in "HO" and "N" scales. Clinics will include some new offering as well as some of your past favorites. Prototype tours, contest judging, Ladies program, raffle, auction, hobo breakfast and swap meet will also be included. We'll culminate the convention with a very nice awards banquet and membership meeting. There will be something for everyone so don't delay, register today!

Last but not least, we want to extend you an invitation to our annual Division Holiday Party at our home on December 14<sup>th</sup>. We'll run the trains, enjoy a nice dinner, have holiday games and, of course, the famous gift exchange. Please join us for a great time of holiday cheer and great fellowship!

Kim & I wish you a very happy and memorable holiday season,

Don

---

## **Summer Meet Wrap-Up**

We had a great Summer Meet at Old Poway Park. The morning started off with three terrific clinics. First, Robin Becker demonstrated the WiFi throttle capabilities of JMRI, and gave us a preview of some of the enhancements being developed. Robin is a member of the team working on these enhancements.

Next, Mike Pfulb, a member of the California South Coast On30 group and the Dead Rail Society, showed us some advances that have been made in recent years in battery power and radio control of locomotives. Some local model railroaders have been using this method to operate O and G scale trains for several years. The battery technology has progressed to the point where it is now practical to install in On30, and some HO scale models. This may put Brite Boy out of business!

The final clinic was on weathering, presented by Jimmy Simmons. Jimmy is the owner of Monster Model & Laserworks. His clinics are always filled with helpful, easy to use tips, and this clinic was no exception. I can't wait to try some of them on my layout.

Following the clinics, lunch was served. Division management provided the hot dogs, hamburgers, chips, and drinks, and members supplemented this with salads and desserts. As usual, way too much food, but it was good!

After lunch we returned inside to the Silent Auction. Many items were donated by members, and some were kicked in by the Division, resulting in a very successful auction. Some people, including me, went home with some great bargains.

While all these events were going on, Poway Station treated us to some operating modules for our viewing pleasure. It was nice to have running trains at a meet.

Our next meet is the Fall Meet, in November. See the preview on page 4.

## DIRECTOR'S REPORT

*By Pete Steinmetz*

Thank you for electing me your new PSR San Diego Division Director. Gary Robinson left some pretty big shoes to fill, literally. I hope to be as successful as Gary in representing the membership.

One of the reasons I ran for office is the membership in our division is very active. There is a lot of participation by many members. A division with active participation can support many programs. We have been discussing ways to offer more benefits to our members. Our quarterly meets have been very successful, drawing more members to each event. There have been new and different clinics offered. PSR San Diego will host the 2014 PSR Convention at the Marriott Courtyard on Hotel Circle. (This is a fine hotel with excellent facilities for hosting a convention). We already have a good committee, planning many exciting activities. We will be asking members to volunteer for various duties both leading up to, and during, the convention.

As Division Director, I represent the membership in the division on the PSR Board of Directors. If any members have suggestions or comments, please don't hesitate to contact me. Please use [director@sandiegodivision.org](mailto:director@sandiegodivision.org)

Pete

### ***Pacific Southwest Region Convention September 25-29, 2013***



Clockwise, from top left: cars rolling free at the UP Colton hump yard prototype tour; the "runaway" string; scenes from an fabulous On30 layout on the tour. All photos by Gary Robinson.





## FALL MEET PREVIEW

The NMRA San Diego Division 2013 Fall Meet will be held on Saturday, November 9, 2013, from 9am. to 3 pm, at the San Diego Model Railroad Museum in Balboa Park.

We'll start the day off with three clinics:

**"Life After Floquil"** by Pete Steinmetz. After the discontinuance of Floquil and PolyS paints, there is a need to find alternatives. Pete will discuss new and established brands you can use. There will be surprises.

**"Southern Pacific Painting and Lettering Guide"** by Jeff Cauthen. Jeff will discuss his new book, which illustrates paint and lettering schemes for both passenger cars and locomotives from 1913 to 1996.

**Third clinic** to be announced.

There will also be a Mini-Clinic on "How to Give a Clinic" by Pete Steinmetz. This will be a discussion of what is needed to organize and give a quality clinic. If you have never given a clinic, or need to improve your presentation skills, this is a necessity.

Following the clinics, we'll have a BOX LUNCH for purchase, from Subway. The cost will be \$5, and drinks will be supplied. Feel free to bring munchies and deserts. Please reserve your lunch through Bruce Deck, at [meets@sandiegodivision.org](mailto:meets@sandiegodivision.org), or 858-270-3916.

After lunch we'll have AP judging if you want it, a Show & Tell, and a Favorite Model Contest, then a HOBO Auction. Bring trains (and other) stuff you don't need and wish to donate – others will find treasure, and you'll help the Division.

Parking may be available behind the museum (if you arrive early), or in the Grove parking lot off Park Boulevard. Enter through the Pacific Beach room at the rear of the museum.

---

## Clinic News!

### ***Fall Meet Clinics November 9, 2013:***

**"Life After Floquil"** by Pete Steinmetz

After Testors announced they will discontinue their Floquil and Poly S paint brands, modelers have been scrambling to find alternatives. Pete will discuss new and established alternative paint brands that modelers can use. There will be surprises.

**Southern Pacific Painting and Lettering Guide** by Jeff Cauthen

Jeff will discuss his new book, which contains Illustrated paint and lettering schemes for both passenger car and locomotives from 1913-1996.

There will be an additional clinic to be announced.

*Mini-Clinic*

**"How to Give A Clinic"** by Pete Steinmetz. This mini clinic will discuss what is needed to organize material to give a quality clinic. If you have never done a clinic, or want to improve your clinic presentation skills, check out this short clinic.

### ***Winter Meet February 8, 2014:***

**"Constructing Roads"** by Don Ham

Don will share his techniques for constructing realistic roads. These techniques can be used in any scale.

**"Sketch Up"** by Steve Moss

Steve will discuss how to take a drawing done in Sketch Up software and convert it to a format that laser cutters can use.

There will be a third clinic and a mini clinic.

Clinics are being organized for the PSR Convention in San Diego in September. There will be many interesting clinics given by many interesting clinicians. Some have never been given in the PSR.

If anyone has a clinic they would like to give, or a suggestion for a clinic topic, contact me at [clinics@sandiegodivision.org](mailto:clinics@sandiegodivision.org), or post on the Yahoo Group.

## LAYOUT TOURS

### September – Bob Treat, Fn3

Bob Treat's Snow Creek Railroad is one of the finest model railroads you'll ever see in any scale. Fn3 railroading is 1:20.3 scale, using LGB or similar track. The railroad has been partially rebuilt since we saw it last, due to a washout in a big rainstorm. Battery powered locomotives operated by radio control eliminate the need for Bob to spend a lot of time cleaning track, allowing him to concentrate on scenery and operations. Bob use advertising board for most of his buildings and retaining walls. It stands up well outside, is easy to work with, and results in realistic appearance. This is a truly beautiful garden railroad.



Rodger Gredvig, MMR photo

### October – Ben Sevier, HO

Ben models a division of the Missouri Pacific that ran through Texas. His staging yard is in his laundry room (ask him how he got the property rights) and the mainline forms a "W" in his garage. He's still working out some minor kinks in his operating scheme, so he hasn't gotten



*Above:* This shot shows how Ben has added schematic diagrams, color-coded turnout controls, and other visual aids for operators, to the valance and fascia.

*Right:* Don Mitchell makes up a train at Gurdon Yard.  
Gary Robinson photos



a lot of scenery down, but this is a fun railroad to operate, and you'll be interested to see some of the techniques he used to make the railroad seem larger.

The next two months will be the Fall Meet, and the Christmas party. The next layout tour will be:

Cont'd...

## LAYOUT TOURS cont'd

### January 2014 - Don Ham, MMR, HO/HOn3, Escondido

Don Ham's Central Coast RR is situated in one bay of his garage. It is an 11'x17' HO freelance layout depicting the Santa Maria Valley of the California's central coast during the 1950's transition era. The bench work is open grid and 1/2" plywood, cork road bed, code 83 and 70 track. Approximately half the turnouts are hand-laid. The scenery is 60% complete, with many scratch built and kit bashed structures. The layout is fully operational so you can watch trains pass through coastal towns and country side. Since we last visited, Don has added narrow gauge, and plans to expand this.

### March 2014 - Clement Roberts, G scale, Carlsbad

Following the Winter Meet in February, we'll visit Clement Roberts' G scale railroad in Carlsbad.

### April 2014 - Dan & Lise Conway, HO, Encinitas

In April we'll stop off to see Dan & Lise Conway's HO scale railroad.

\* \* \*

---

## 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.*

Brian Eshelman Rancho Penasquitos

Please introduce yourselves to these new members at our next event, and make them feel welcome.

\* \* \*

---

## North County Model Railroad Society Loses Its Lease

The North County Model Railroad Society, a fixture above the Boney's store in Oceanside for eight years, has lost its lease. The layout has been dismantled, and members are actively seeking new quarters. If you can help in this regard, please contact President Al Cuevas, at [f7awp913@gmail.com](mailto:f7awp913@gmail.com).

---

## NMRA News

Got a good layout? Can you write a good story about it and take a few pictures of it? If so, you could be part of the NMRA Marketing Team's nationwide promotion of this year's National Model Railroad Month.

Page Martin, our Marketing Director, is looking for at least 20 modelers to prepare layout articles and photos that can be used in local, regional, and national publications all around the country. These don't have to be magazine-quality layouts, just ones in any scale that their modelers are proud of. The only restriction is that it must be a U.S. layout (ABC Regions won't be left out - there's news coming in the near future!) The deadline is soon - so hurry! Please send two photos of your layout and a 200-word write-up on why you feel you're the "face of model railroading" to [marketing@hq.nmra.org](mailto:marketing@hq.nmra.org). Mark the subject line as NMRRM Submission.



## November 2013

## San Diego Division - Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					<b>1</b>	<b>2 Multiple Events</b>
<b>3 Multiple Events</b>	<b>4</b> Glendale MRC Open House	<b>5</b> Slim Guage Guild Open House	<b>6</b> Highland Pacific Open House	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9 Multiple Events</b>
<b>10 Multiple Events</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> Pasadena MRC Open House	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Short Track Ops Session, AGSEM	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> Pasadena MRC Open House
<b>17</b> Pasadena MRC Open House	<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> LEGO Club opens at SDMRM	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Thanksgiving	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>

## December 2013

<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> GTE, Del Mar
<b>8</b> GTE, Del Mar	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> Short Track Ops Session, AGSEM	<b>13</b>	<b>14 Multiple Events</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> Christmas	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> New Year's Eve				

## January 2014

			<b>1</b> New Year's Day	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> Short Track Ops Session, AGSEM	<b>10</b>	<b>11 Multiple Events</b>
<b>12</b> GTE, Anaheim	<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> Short Track Clinic, AGSEM	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	



## 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](mailto: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.

### 2013

#### November

- 9 **Fall Meet**, San Diego Model Railroad Museum, Balboa Park. 9am - 3pm. Clinics, Hobo Auction, show & tell, contest judging. No-host box lunch from Subway. RSVP: [meets@sandiegodivision.org](mailto:meets@sandiegodivision.org)

#### December

- 14 **Holiday Party**, Don & Kim Fowler's. Contact [superintendent@sandiegodivision.org](mailto:superintendent@sandiegodivision.org)

### 2014

#### January

- 11 **San Diego Division Layout Tour**. Don Ham, HO, Escondido. 12-3pm. Contact Don Ham, [layouts@sandiegodivision.org](mailto:layouts@sandiegodivision.org)

#### February

- 8 **Winter Meet and Swap Meet**, Clairemont Christian Fellowship Church, 4570 Mt Herbert Ave, San Diego. Swap meet 8:30-11:30, then lunch and clinics. [meets@sandiegodivision.org](mailto:meets@sandiegodivision.org)

#### March

- 8 **San Diego Division Layout Tour**. Clement Roberts, G scale, Carlsbad. noon -3pm. Contact Don Ham, [layouts@sandiegodivision.org](mailto:layouts@sandiegodivision.org)

#### April

- 12 **San Diego Division Layout Tour**. Dan & Lise Conway, HO, Encinitas. noon - 3pm. Contact Don Ham, [layouts@sandiegodivision.org](mailto:layouts@sandiegodivision.org)

#### May

- 10 **Spring Meet**, Details TBA. [meets@sandiegodivision.org](mailto:meets@sandiegodivision.org)

#### June

- 14 **San Diego Division Layout Tour**. TBA. Contact Don Ham, [layouts@sandiegodivision.org](mailto:layouts@sandiegodivision.org)

#### July

- 13-19 **NMRA National Convention & Train Show**. Cleveland, OH., <http://www.2014cleveland.org/>

\* \* \*

### 2013

#### November

- 1-22 San Diego Model Railroad Museum, Circus Rails: Life on an Circus Train Exhibit. Balboa Park, San Diego, CA. Tu-Fr, 11am - 4pm; Sa-Su, 11am - 5pm. Closed Mon. See web page for admission prices. [www.sdmrm.org/](http://www.sdmrm.org/)
- 2-4 Open House, Glendale Model Railroad Club, 619 Hahn Ave, Glendale, CA. 11/2, 10am-4pm; 11/3, 1pm-4pm; 11/3, 7:30pm-10pm. <http://www.gmrrc.org/>
- 3, 5 Open House, Slim Gauge Guild Model Railroad Club, In the basement, 300 S Raymond, Pasadena, CA. Sun: 10am-6pm; Tue: 6-10pm. <http://www.slimgaugeguild.com/>
- 6, 9-10 Open house, Highland Park Society of Model Railroad Engineers, 854 E Broadway, San Gabriel, CA. 11/6, 7-10pm; 11/9-10, noon-5pm. [www.highlandpacificrr.com](http://www.highlandpacificrr.com)
- 9-10, 12, 16-17 Open House, Pasadena Model Railroad Club, 5458 Alhambra Ave, Los Angeles, CA. Sat 1-5 and 7-9pm; Sun 1-5pm; Tue 7:30-10pm. Donation: Adults \$3, children 7 and over, \$1. <http://www.pmrrc.org/>
- 26 - mid Jan 2014 San Diego Model Railroad Museum, Southern CA LEGO Train Club Annual Holiday Show, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA. Tu-Fr, 11am - 4pm; Sa-Su, 11am - 5pm. Closed Mon. See web page for admission prices. [www.sdmrm.org/](http://www.sdmrm.org/)

#### December

- 7-8 Great Train Expo, Fairgrounds, 2260 Jimmy Durante Blvd, Del Mar, CA. 10am - 4pm. Admission, under 12 free. [www.greattrainexpo.com/](http://www.greattrainexpo.com/)
- 14 Christmas in the Park, Old Poway Park, 14134 Midland Road, Poway, CA. Family Christmas celebration, including modular railroad display by Poway Station. 3:30 - 8:30pm. <http://www.poway.org/Index.aspx?page=110>

### 2014

#### January

- 11-12 Great Train Expo, Anaheim Convention Center, 800 W Katella Ave, Anaheim, CA. 10am - 4pm. Admission, under 12 free. [www.greattrainexpo.com/](http://www.greattrainexpo.com/)



# 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.*



After a successful Summer, we move into one of our busy times, the Fall season. October 19 & 20 and 26 & 27 are the dates for the Fall Tractor Show. We will be running many trains and expect big crowds all days. Join us for trains, food, tractors, and fun. This event requires admission.

Our operating sessions on the second Thursday of the month have been drawing many model railroaders. We start operating at 7PM sharp. Get there a little early for a briefing and crew assignments.

We welcomed new members who joined us from North County Model Railroad Society. We were all sorry to see them lose their space. Other NCMRS members have been coming to our operating sessions. We aren't the same scale, but we still run trains.

Short Track continues to work on our layout. Those who haven't seen it in a while will notice quite a few changes.

We now have a Facebook page where we post announcements. <https://www.facebook.com/ShortTrackRR> You don't need a Facebook account to view our page

Our Web site has been updated and is going through changes: [www.shorttrackrr.org](http://www.shorttrackrr.org) Check it out.

Pete Steinmetz

August found us at the 33rd National Narrow Gauge Convention, August 28 – 31 at the Hilton Hotel in Pasadena. CSC hooked up with 5 other groups to form a 44 x 44 layout with 66 modules. Modules from 6 groups and multiple states made up the On30 layout. The layout was in the San Gabriel Room and included modules from the following groups, California Central Coast Modular Group On30, California Central Valley Modular On30 Group, On30 PNW, On30 Texas Outlaws, On30 Florida Renegades On30, and California South Coast Modular Group On30 (CSC). The layout was a record breaking layout with 66 modules and 6 groups.



Our next planned show is the GTE Del Mar Show in December, 12/07-08/13. You should be able to see a number of new modules at Del Mar. If in the area during any of the shows, stop by and see us and say hi and come run your On30 DCC trains with us.

The group is still free to join and there are no dues. So, want to join in and build a module or just run trains? Module standards are posted on the Yahoo site. 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...

## Club Car (cont'd)



The San Diego S-Gaugers spent a very busy Labor Day weekend at the San Diego Model Railroad Museum running trains and educating the general public about the wonders of S-Scale. Our layout is somewhat unique as it represents what is best from the 1950's version of American Flyer as well as the challenge of today's model railroading. Our Gilbert Siding contains action toys operated by a push button – allowing kids of all ages to dump the contents of a gondola, unload a race car, clear a bull off the track, blow the billboard train whistle, and provide water to a visiting steam engine. It also holds an operating magnetic crane, stock yard, log loader, barrel loader, sawmill and package loader. Once kids work their way through the Gilbert Siding they are presented with a "Jr. Engineer" name tag to wear – this Labor Day weekend we designated over 200 Jr. Engineers and had an estimated 500 visitors.

We have an Open House planned for Saturday, October 19<sup>th</sup> at Liberty Station. This Open House will be the first time we've sponsored a scavenger hunt with prizes – should be an interesting and busy day.

We're also getting ready for the GTE at the Del Mar fairgrounds in December. Our members are busy improving the track side businesses for our inside main as well as building two additional modules (approx. 6 foot square in total) that will contain a 26 inch turntable & a five stall roundhouse for trains on the outer main to interact with.

See our web page for more information at <https://sites.google.com/site/sdsgaugers/>.

Dale Minard



For the first three weeks of November, we will be exhibiting *Circus Rails: Life on a Circus Train*. Come run away with us to join the circus train! Discover what it's like to live and travel with the circus via the largest privately-owned passenger train in the United States. See items from the Ringling Circus Museum, Circus Model Builders, and SDMRM's collection of model circus trains.

Then, in Thanksgiving week, the Southern California LEGO Train Club exhibit opens, to run through mid-January. This is always a popular exhibit with the kids. Be sure to bring them by over the Holidays. We'll be open New Year's Day, 11am – 4pm.

The San Diego Model Railroad Museum is open Tuesday-Friday 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM and 11:00 AM - 5:00 PM on Saturday and Sunday. Adult admissions are \$8.00; military, senior, and student discounts; children 6-14, \$1.00, children 5 and under, free.

---

## National Narrow Gauge Convention Held in Pasadena

The 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Narrow Gauge Convention was held in Pasadena, August 28-31, 2013. Modelers from all over the United States, and outside, were in attendance to display some fantastic models, attend some great clinics, see some excellent model railroads, re-connect with friends and make new ones, and generally have fun! There were also two vendor rooms, with some vendors who were well-known to narrow gauge modelers, but may have been new to others. There was quite an amazing variety of products on display. One of the things about this convention was, most of the people were modelers, and very skilled at that. Narrow gauge has always been a builder's scale, with commercial products only recently starting to become available. This was apparent in the quality of the modeling on display.



One thing of interest was the way the schedule was set up. The afternoons were devoted to layout tours. There were no clinics scheduled, and the vendor and contest rooms were closed. This allowed everyone the opportunity to get out and see the layouts. All in all, this was an enlightening experience.

## SAN DIEGO DIVISION STAFF

Director:	<b>Pete Steinmetz</b>	760-943-0590	director@sandiegodivision.org
Superintendent:	<b>Don Fowler</b>	619-258-3529	superintendent@sandiegodivision.org
Chief Clerk/Paymaster:	<b>Ben Sevier</b>	858-538-9863	paymaster@sandiegodivision.org
Achievement Program:	<b>Paul Schmitt, MMR #342</b>	760-744-6424	ap@sandiegodivision.org
Clinics:	<b>Pete Steinmetz</b>	760-943-0590	clinics@sandiegodivision.org
Club Liason:	<b>(vacant)</b>		clubs@sandiegodivision.org
Contests:	<b>Rodger Gredvig MMR #218</b>	858-571-7118	contest@sandiegodivision.org
Layout Tours:	<b>Don Ham, MMR #491</b>	760-747-7727	layouts@sandiegodivision.org
Mail Hook Editor:	<b>Gary Robinson</b>	760-839-5877	mailhook@sandiegodivision.org
Meets:	<b>Bruce Deck</b>	858-270-3916	meets@sandiegodivision.org
Member Aid:	<b>(vacant)</b>		
Membership:	<b>Pete Steinmetz</b>	760-943-0590	membership@sandiegodivision.org
Yahoo Group Moderator	<b>Pete Steinmetz</b>	760-943-0590	psrsandiego-owner@yahoogroups.com
Publicity:	<b>Byron Densford</b>	619-456-9543	publicity@sandiegodivision.org

### 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 a summer it's been! I've had some great model railroading experiences, both within and outside the Division. I was able to participate in the NMRA National Convention and Train Show, then the Division Summer Meet, the 33<sup>rd</sup> National Narrow Gauge Convention, and finally, the Pacific Southwest Regional Convention. Each was different, and each had much to offer, in its own way.

This issue gives you a glimpse into those offerings, with descriptions of a couple of events for you to enjoy. Superintendent Fowler summarizes a couple of things in his message, and there are more detailed descriptions elsewhere in this issue.

Newly-elected Director Steinmetz introduces himself, and it sounds like he has some exciting plans for the Division. This would be a great time to get involved in the administration of the Division!

November is Model Railroading Month, and many of the big clubs in the LA area will be having open houses. Most of these are listed in the Calendar section. You should take advantage of the opportunity to see some fine modeling.

We also have our Fall Meet coming up at the San Diego Model Railroad Museum (SDMRM). This is always a fun time. It's a good opportunity to see the SDMRM, learn to improve your model railroading skills, and spend time with friends. Bring someone with you who isn't a member, and show them what they're missing.

We finish off the year with the annual Christmas party at the home of Don and Kim Fowler. This is always a lot of fun. Then we start all over in January! Great fun!

Gary



## 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: (858) 538-0930

### 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 Model Railroad Society (HO)

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

Oceanside. Info: (760) 722-7366 [www.ncmrs.org](http://www.ncmrs.org)

### Poway Station All Scale Modular Club

Info: [www.powystation.org](http://www.powystation.org)

### San Diego Free-Mo (HO)

<http://sdfreemo.org/>

### San Diego Garden Railway Society

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

### San Diego S-Gaugers

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

### Short Track Railroad Club (N)

Antique Gas & Steam Engine Museum, Vista

Info: [www.shorttrackrr.org](http://www.shorttrackrr.org)

### ZoCal Group (Z)

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

## Online - Web Sites of Interest

NMRA: [www.nmra.org](http://www.nmra.org)

PSR: [www.psrnmra.org](http://www.psrnmra.org)

NMRA National Convention <http://www.2014cleveland.org/>

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

Arizona Division: [www.azdiv-nmra.org](http://www.azdiv-nmra.org)

Cajon Division: [www.cajondiv.org](http://www.cajondiv.org)

Los Angeles Division: [www.ladiv-nmra.org/](http://www.ladiv-nmra.org/)

San Diego Model Railroad Museum: [www.sdmodelrailroadm.com](http://www.sdmodelrailroadm.com)

San Diego Rail: [www.sandiegorail.com](http://www.sandiegorail.com)



# MONSTER

model & laser works

The Monster is in the Details

<http://monstermodelworks.com/>

### REED'S HOBBY SHOP

• Exclusively Trains •



Steve Bovee, Owner

[www.reeds-hobbies.com](http://www.reeds-hobbies.com)

E-mail: [reeds@abac.com](mailto:reeds@abac.com)

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

## HOBBY CENTRAL

[www.hobby101.com](http://www.hobby101.com)

858-693-0373

"San Diego's Ultimate Hobby Store"

9705 Carroll Centre Road, Suite 103 • San Diego, CA 92126  
Email: [hobbycentral@hotmail.com](mailto:hobbycentral@hotmail.com)



### San Diego Model Railroad Museum

World's Largest Operating Model Railroad  
Museum

1649 El Prado, Balboa Park

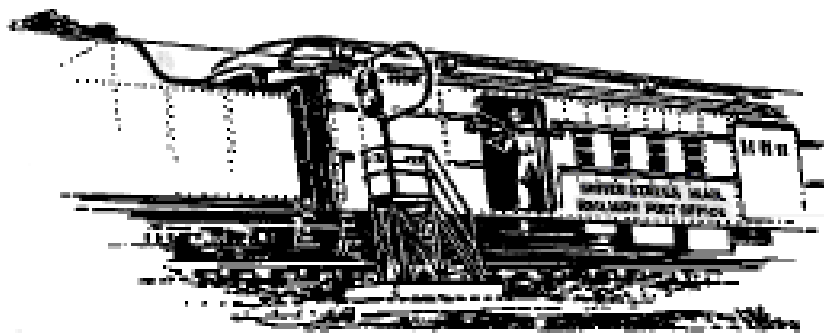
Open to the Public

Tuesday through Friday 11:00 - 4:00

Saturday - Sunday 11:00 - 5:00

Admission: Adults \$8, Students \$3, Seniors \$6

Military \$4, under 15 free; first Tuesdays free to all



# MAIL HOOK

## LOOK INSIDE FOR THE LATEST NEWS!

- PSR Convention Report
    - Upcoming Layout Tours!
      - Meets, Meets, Meets and Clinics!
- 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**