

MAIL HOOK

SAN DIEGO DIVISION, PSR-NMRA

3RD QUARTER, 2009

SUPERINTENDENTS REPORT

By Don Fowler

Greetings!

I wish to thank you all for your support and the endorsement to serve the San Diego Division as your Superintendent. I am gratified and honored to serve you in this capacity. I would also like to publicly thank Ben Sevier for all of the work and leadership that he provided in this assignment. Ben introduced some great new programs and processes for our Division as Superintendent, that I intend to continue and build on, with your help. Ben has agreed to serve and was elected as our Clerk/Paymaster, which I greatly appreciate.

One of our mutual concerns is to provide every opportunity for our Division to grow and find new ways to serve the membership (that's you). I thought it important to share a strategy paper (*See E-ersion. Ed.*) regarding this subject that I authored and shared at our last mid-year PSR Board of Directors meeting. Please give it a read and share your thoughts with me at our next event, or drop me an e-mail when you get time. I will also continue to serve as your Division Director until my term ends at the PSR Convention when our new Director takes office.

Have a great summer and please join us in our activities when you can.

Don

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SUMMER MEET PREVIEW AND UPDATE!

The San Diego Division Summer Meet will be held at San Rafael Catholic Church parish hall on Saturday, August 8. Originally, this meet was to be in conjunction with Poway Station's annual show at the hall. Unfortunately, the church has some construction in progress, and an unforeseen delay has caused a parking issue that dictated the show must be canceled. This does not affect the meet, except inasmuch as there will be no layouts available to run your trains, and no ice cream social. The church and Poway Station apologize for any inconvenience this may cause, but encourage you to attend regardless.

There are two great clinics planned after lunch (don't forget to bring a dish to share). Jim O'Connell, a well-published local Z scaler, will share some of his scenery tips. Jim's favorite part of model railroading is building the layout and scenery. His current layout is the second of a series of three he has planned, and he's just about to demolish it to start on the third. Looking at the pictures of his layout on teh nest page, you can see his scenery expertise.

See "Summer Meet" on Page 2

In Memoriam

Edward I. Hatch, Life Member 5422, passed away Monday, August 3, 2009. Ed was an active member of the San Diego Division, and a long-time chair of the Achievement Program. The Division extends its sympathies to Ed's family, and offers its thanks for his many contributions to our success. Services will be at the Our Mother of Confidence Catholic Church, Regents Road and Governor Drive, at 11:00 am on Friday, August 7, 2009. The family has not stipulated where donations should be made in Ed's name.

The Division recommends the NMRA Foundation or the church. Ed.



The second clinic will be presented by Bob Moore, well-known to many of you for his activities in the Division. This time Bob will share his expertise on operations, with a particular emphasis on passenger operations. One of Bob's favorite things is to build an exact model of a particular train. Maybe we'll learn something about his current project.

All Photography this page by Jim O'Connell



We expect to have a number of display models, and judging will be available for those who wish to have it. Bring your project out and let us see what you're doing! Who knows, you might inspire someone else.

Remember, the festivities get under way at 11:30am. See you there!

* * *

SPRING MEET SUMMARY AND ELECTION RESULTS

The Spring Meet was held at Peace Lutheran Church, where the pot luck was as good as ever. Festivities got under way at 11:30, followed by a short meeting and elections. Don Fowler was elected as Superintendent, and Ben Sevier was elected as Chief Clerk/Paymaster, effectively swapping positions. This provides a lot of continuity in Division leadership. Following the meeting, Rodger Gredvig gave us a photo tour of Jack Burgess's famous Yosemite Valley Railroad. I was personally amazed at the relatively small size of this railroad, after having seen it in model magazines for so many years. But size has nothing to do with quality, and this is a quality railroad. Thanks, Rodger, for sharing your visit with us.

After Rodger's slide show, Ron Walker and Gary Robinson showed us how to build a Grassinator. This is a tool for applying static grass to your layout, much like a Noch Grassmaster. However, the Grassinator, based on an article by Joe Fugate in *Z Trains*, can be built for a lot less than you'd pay for a Grassmaster. A

Continued on next page

Spring Meet from Page 2

short demonstration was given with the completed tool, and it was awarded as the door prize, to lucky recipient John Sigurdson.

Finally, we got to see a great scratch-built building, courtesy of Gordon Miller. The warehouse had some interesting angles, and lots of details. It will look great installed on a layout.

The next meet is August 8, at San Rafael Parish in Rancho Bernardo. See you there!



Some of the guys watch Rodger Gredvig's slide show on the Yosemite Valley Railroad. "Lucky John" is right up front!



Frank Tepedino's railroad cannon.



Gary Robinson explains the Grassinator.



Gordon Miller's Sokol Mattress building



Ron Walker displays some Grassinator components. Slow down, Ron, so the camera can see what you're showing us. In his right hand he has the small strainer, and in his left is the plastic food storage container that becomes the material bowl on the Grassinator.

All Photography this page by Ron Tindall

STRATEGIES FOR ATTRACTING AND RETAINING MEMBERSHIP

Presented to the NMRA-PSR Mid-Year Meeting by
Don Fowler, San Diego Division
March 3, 2009

INTRODUCTION

Article I, Section 2 of the PSR By-Laws states; *"The primary purpose of the PSR shall be to further the enjoyment of the hobby of model railroading and promote the aims and objectives of the NMRA within the Region boundaries."*

While there are plenty of instructions and directives in our Manual of Operations and By-Laws regarding the establishment of a Membership Committee and the rights of membership, there is virtually nothing provided that addresses strategies for attracting and retaining members.

The elitist philosophy that "Because we exist, people will want to join." has never been farther from the truth. In these challenging economic times, we must now more than ever actively recruit and retain members to sustain our organization, especially at the local level. The past accomplishments of the NMRA, while important, are not enough alone to convince model railroaders to contribute their time or financial support to our cause. We must demonstrate the organizational value that we have collectively come to recognize and appreciate to newcomers who for whatever reason, have chosen not to seek membership on their own.

The following strategies are not intended to serve as mandates but to hopefully generate some new thoughts and energies into our recruiting efforts. It is my hope that they will stimulate discussion that will evolve into working protocols adopted at our Division levels to actively seek out and attract new members to our organization. Should the Board of Directors agree, perhaps a generalized protocol could be accepted as part of our normal operating procedures.

Here are some of my suggestions;

EMBRACE IT & SELL IT TO THE MEMBERSHIP

In order for this effort to be successful, we must first sell/convince our individual members of its importance and the necessity of their participation. As a governing board, we must encourage and be receptive to new recruiting ideas and innovations. We may also want to review and/or consider revising our mission statement to include our commitment to the growth and development of our Region and respective Divisions.

MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN

Develop a membership campaign that creates a competition between Divisions where individual members are recognized for their successful recruiting efforts. Prizes or awards could be given annually at our Region Conventions for Divisions and members who have had the greatest success in the previous year. A suitable prize might be a paid one year NMRA membership. As part of our Board Member development program, the winner(s) could provide a training clinic on their successful strategies.

ATTRACTING & IDENTIFYING VISITORS/PROSPECTS

Implement strategies to attract prospective members such as advertising in magazines and hobby shops as well as passing out activity calendars at shows and displays. At your events, look for new faces and utilize sign-in rosters for follow up contact. Review member lists monthly for new names and update it as necessary. Be careful to watch for participants who become inactive and ensure that they are contacted.

INITIAL CONTACTS

Ensure that newcomers to your events are introduced formally to the group and informally to individual members. Provide them with a specially colored name tag and assign a personal mentor/recruiter/host/guide. Educate and explain our organization and activities. Give them a gift such as a door prize, a copy of Scale

Continued on next page

Strategies from previous page

Rails, a Division newsletter, a NMRA standards gauge or a free 6 month trial membership). Ensure that you provide them with an activity calendar and invite them to your next scheduled event. Ask them to complete a questionnaire that includes their

- Preferred scale
- Favorite railroad
- Level of expertise
- Layout progress
- Interest in joining a club or operating group

FOLLOW UP

Ensure that your new guest receives a follow up phone call thanking them for their attendance and reminding them of the next event. Send a letter of welcome from Division Superintendent that outlines the benefits of our organization and invites them to join (include an application) with instructions and local contact info. Add them to your e-mail roster and mention visitors in your Division newsletter. Lastly, track and monitor your progress to evaluate what's working and what isn't.

CONCLUSION

I realize that some of this is very basic and that some of you are already doing this. I also know that we're not doing everything that we could to grow our membership and that sometimes things fall through the cracks. Although our Membership Chair and Committee should lead this effort, growing our membership is everyone's responsibility and we must all take an active part. Hopefully this proposal will generate some healthy thought and discussion that results in expanding our ranks.

Respectfully submitted,

Don Fowler, Director
San Diego Division

MEET DON FOWLER

Don Fowler is the newly-elected Superintendent of the San Diego Division. For any of you who may not know Don, here's a little background. Ed.

I have enjoyed model railroading since age five, thanks to my dad who was a professional railroader. I model the Southern Pacific from 1975-1995 in Southern California on a 16 x 20 N scale layout in my garage. I've just taken the leap from DC to DCC, so I'm in a learning mode. Our family also have layouts in Z, O-27, and G scales. I'm currently involved with NMRA's Achievement Program and have so far earned five certificates, Scenery, Volunteer, Official, Author, and Electrical.

My wife Kim and I live in Santee and have four adult children and three grandchildren. I just celebrated 31 years in law enforcement this spring, the last 26 years with the San Diego County Sheriff's Department. I currently serve as the Captain of the Encinitas Patrol Station, which provides law enforcement services for the cities of Encinitas, Solana Beach, Del Mar, Rancho Santa Fe, NCTD Rail Transit and the Fairgrounds. In addition to model railroading, I also enjoy



Continued on next page

MEET DON FOWLER (CONT'D)

golf, music, rail fanning, and travel by rail.

I have been a member of the NMRA since 1992 and it has been my privilege to serve for the past six years as the San Diego Division's Chief Clerk/Paymaster. I will complete my second two-year term as our Division Director in September 2009. In addition to the Superintendent's position, I also currently serve as Clinic Chair. My favorite benefit as an NMRA member and specifically as a member of the San Diego Division are the friendships that I have made over the years. I really enjoy the fellowship



Don & Kim Fowler's G scale layout



Don Fowler's N scale layout

and sharing our mutual interests in model railroading. I am constantly amazed at the talent and skills that our members possess. I am also very grateful to have an understanding and supportive wife who not only enjoys the hobby with me, but actively participates in Division activities as well.

I look forward to serving as your Division Superintendent, and with your help, we will have some excellent times enjoying the World's Greatest Hobby.

New Clubs in Town

S Scale

The San Diego S-Gaugers (SDSG) formed in January 2008. They had a modular layout at the Great Train Expo (GTE) in Del Mar last December, but somehow I missed them. I was fortunate to notice that they were subsequently mentioned on the Model Railroads of Southern California Yahoo group and found a web page (<http://sites.google.com/site/sdsgaugers/Home>) where you can learn more about them. I also learned that they are accepting new members, and they have some local events coming up where you can see what they're doing, and meet the current members. First, on August 22, they will be having an open house at one of their members' homes. Contact them at sdsgaugers@yahoo.com for more information. Next, they'll be displaying their layout at the San Diego Model Railroad Museum September 4 - 7. Finally, they plan to be back at Del Mar for the 2009 GTE on December 12-13, 2009.

Z Scale

There's also a Z-Bend group in San Diego. I did notice them at the GTE, but the length of my list prevented me from following up until recently. I was quite impressed with the scale of the scenery to the trains. Sweeping vistas are possible when the trains are this small. Z-Bend, for anyone not familiar with the organization, is Z scale modular railroading using standards similar to Bend Track (N scale). The Z scale standards can be found at <http://www.zbendtrack.com/>. The local group currently can be reached through their Yahoo group (see next page). Let's get small!

Z Gauge Railroading in San Diego: Big Changes in Small Scales

by Gary B. Hoffman

Z gauge model railroading is kind of an underground activity in the San Diego area. A few of the model train dealers in the area do carry some Marklin and Micro-Trains Lines products, but not in large numbers. I moved here 20 years ago, bringing my accumulated Marklin sets with me, but didn't find many fellow Z-scalers, either in the shops or the San Diego Model Railroad Museum. I went to a few train shows that appear occasionally at Del Mar but found only a smattering of Z on display, and no layouts at all.

This has changed recently, with the December 2006 Great Train Expo in Del Mar acting as the the inflection point. Since then, Z scalers have been coming out of the woodwork and many are converting from other scales. Why the sudden activity? I strongly believe that the adoption of the Z-Bend Track module standard has been the catalyst to bringing together many who would otherwise sit at home and run their trains around their lonely layouts.

Z-Bend Track or ZBT was developed as a standard in the late 1990's as an implementation in Z scale of Ntrak and Bend-trak concepts. Promoted tirelessly by the late Bill Kronenberger of Texas, ZBT appeared first as a curiosity, then gained traction in the Midwest and in the San Francisco Bay Area, where enthusiasts formed the San Francisco Bay Area Z Module Cooperative (and whose members are known as the BAZ Boyz). They cranked up a Yahoo group in 2004, began to hold weekly group building sessions, and then took the resulting modules to local train shows. I joined that Yahoo group in late 2004 and visited one of the work sessions on a trip to Northern California in early 2005.

I came home and began planning my module, but it languished until BAZ Boy Jeff Merrill visited me later that year and encouraged me to get the module into shape for a future show. He and Jim Manley hauled their modules those 500 miles to a GTE show in December 2006 and I connected my plain-Jane module to Jeff's very sophisticated Y and balloons and I was hooked. I spend the show studying Jeff's modules from all sides — and underneath — until I had a good idea of how the pro's made modules. That show was the first public showing of Z scale modules in San Diego and perhaps all of Southern California.

At that show, we collected interest cards and built a mailing list. Jim Manley created a Yahoo group for Southern California, called ZoCal, and we started getting attention from model railroaders in the area who were excited about Z. They came out of the woodwork. People like Jim O'Connell, a long time Z scale enthusiast who kept a layout when he lived on a boat, now builds wonderfully detailed Z scale scenery in his layouts at a home in Santee. David Lancaster of Claremont, well-known for his portable N scale layout, has embraced the ZBT concept and has created wonderful yards and passing tracks for shows. Others, like Don Fedjur of Carlsbad, who had been collecting Z rolling stock for many years, now had a great way to show it off.

The Los Angeles area produced a bounty of Z friends who joined us in this effort (you can't really call it a club) and Lajos Thek lead the effort to put together a massive layout at the NTS show in 2008 in Anaheim. Modules from three states and totalling over 20 Z scale miles of mainline were a major highlight of that show. We developed a ZoCal logo and put it on signs and T-shirts and really stood out to all who attended.

A parallel development that has finally got model train enthusiasts interested in Z scale railroading has been the rise of American prototype models from Micro-Trains Lines and American Z Lines. These products supplement the well-known European (and American) models made by Marklin and have given a more American flavor the the Z scale fleet. At each show, modellers of other scales continue to be amazed at what we are doing in Z. I tell them, we get more fun per square inch with Z scale than the other scales. You don't have to abandon your previous model railroading work to join us in this fun. Just add Z to your repertoire.

ZoCal Group on Yahoo

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

Some of many great Z oriented web sites:

<http://www.ztrains.com/>

<http://www.ztrack.com/>

<http://www.ztrackcenter.com/>

<http://www.zscalemonster.com/>

http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Z_Scale/

Welcome to the neighborhood, and best wishes! I saw the Z Bend layout at last years GTE and was quite impressed. Interested readers can contact Gary Hoffman through the ZoCal Group on Yahoo, or through Mailhook@sandiegodivision.org, and I'll forward your note. Ed.

LAYOUT TOURS

By Gordon Miller

The following layout tours have been scheduled for the coming months. If you'd like to get your layout on the tour, contact Gordon Miller at membership@sandiegodivision.org.

August: 8/15/2009 Ray Inbody O Scale

This free-lanced railroad is set from the steam era up to 1957. It has Santa Fe and Union Pacific equipment as the primary road names. The locomotives are diesels on the layout. It is a point to point operation, with two main yards and two industrial sections. All switches and turnouts are operated manually. The railroad includes the route from Vernon, CA to San Pedro, CA. It is housed in a stand-alone building which is 10' wide by 20' long. February was two years since I started the layout.

September: 9/12/2009 Duncan McRee HO

The Tam Valley RR is an HO proto-freelanced model railroad based on the Southern Pacific. It is built as shelves running through 3 bedrooms of the owner's home as a point-to-point layout about 80 feet long, and is 90% sceniced. The Tam Valley RR starts as harbor scene in Sausalito California, runs up the Sierra Mountains, along the Truckee river, through the Nevada desert and terminates at Ogden, Utah. The main feature of the layout is beautiful scenery including hand painted backdrops, numerous streams and rivers, lots of rock carvings, and a number of Bob Mitchell's "Perfect Pines." There are also a large number of craftsman structure kits on the layout. All of the rolling stock and engines are weathered.

October: 10/10/2009 : Jack Byers HO

The West End of the B&O, is in the early stages of construction. The bench work and helix for this bi-level railroad are done, and some track is down. Jack promises to have the DCC system installed so we can see some trains run. The West End is housed in its own building, and you'll be interested to see how Jack has planned his railroad. Jack hopes we can provide him with some constructive suggestions to improve his plan for operations.

November: Bob Moore 11/14/2009 HO

Bob Moore's Chicago Western layout represents his railroad's division point in the fictitious town of Robertsville, IL, south of Peoria. Robertsville and West Robertsville are busy with shops and the connection from the Chicago Western main line to the line to St. Louis completing the Chicago - St. Louis line. Also high speed cross-overs allow a connection honoring a joint Santa Fe - Chicago Western trackage agreement (which allows Bob to run his Santa Fe and BNSF equipment) and Santa Fe uses Robertsville facilities as needed. Scenes include a 50 cow (that's prototypical) dairy farm, diesel and steam service facilities, downtown West Robertsville, a General Aviation airport with a WWII war bird fly-in for the week end, and a stub end passenger station. The layout can be operated either in the 50's or the present and is DCC. Bob's layout is in a dedicated room (35 X 10 1/2 feet) and uses 11 1/2 x 11 1/2 feet of a multi-purpose room. The dedicated room has a complete backdrop, and scenery is complete excepting one small portion. The other space has a partial back drop with completed scenery. The mainline run is 136 ft.

December: 12/12/2009 Don & Kim Fowler N & G

Don's highly detailed N scale SP layout is one of the finest in the county. Don and Kim have combined to build a great G scale layout also. Add in the Division holiday party, and it's sure to be a lot of fun.

* * *

PSR CONVENTION

The PSR 2009 Convention will be held in Las Vegas September 2-6, at the Texas Station Hotel & Casino . The Cajon Division is pulling out all the stops to make this a great convention. Registration forms, including Extra Fare events, are now available. A registration form is included at the end of this newsletter. Bob Mitchell has a full clinic schedule and is putting the schedule together. There's a great tour to Pahrump that combines inch and a half (ride on!) trains with an outstanding G scale layout, plus a box lunch. Bowling (yes, bowling!), the famous Cajon Division Chinese Auction, and Charlie Getz as the banquet speaker. This is bound to be a great experience! If you haven't already done so, get your registration in.

August 2009

San Diego Division - Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8 SD Div Summer Meet
9 SD Div Planning Meeting	10	11	12	13	14	15 SD Division Layout Tour
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

September 2009

		1	2	3	4	5
			Pacific Southwest Regional Conference, Las Vegas, NV			
6	7	8	9	10	11	12 SD Division Layout Tour
13 SD Div Planning Meeting	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

October 2009

				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10 SD Division Layout Tour
11 SD Div Planning Meeting	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

SCHEDULE OF PSR-NMRA EVENTS

OTHER EVENTS OF INTEREST

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

2009

August

- 8 **San Diego Division Summer Meet**, San Rafael Parish Hall, 17252 Bernardo Center Drive, San Diego, CA 92128, 11:30 - 3:00.
- 15 **San Diego Division layout tour**, Ray Inbody, O scale

September

- 2-6 **City of Las Vegas, PSR Annual Convention**, Texas Station Hotel, Las Vegas, NV. For more info, go to <http://www.psrconvention.org/2009/>
- 12 **San Diego Division layout tour**, Duncan McRee, HO Scale

October

- 10 **San Diego Division layout tour**, Jack Byers, HO scale (under construction)

November

- 7 **San Diego Division layout tour**, Bob Moore, HO scale
- 14 **San Diego Division Fall Meet**, San Diego Model Railroad Museum, 11:30 - 3:00

December

- 12 **San Diego Division layout tour**, Don & Kim Fowler

2010

February

- 13 **San Diego Division Winter Meet**, TBA

May

- 8 **San Diego Division Spring Meet and Annual Meeting**, TBA

July

- 10-18 **NMRA National Convention and National Train Show**, Milwaukee, WI

See the San Diego Division web page calendar for Other Events of Interest for the balance of the month of September, and October. Ed.

2009

August

- 8-9 Chula Vista Live Steamers Run Days, Rohr Park, Chula Vista, CA. 12 – 3pm. <http://www.chulavistalivesteamers.com/main.html>
- 15 Glendale Model Railroad Club estate sale at 715 N. Sparks Ave. in Burbank, starting at 8:30 A.M.
- 15-16 Swap Meet, San Diego Electric Railway Association, National City Depot, 922 West 23rd St, National City, CA 91950. Set-up 7:30, Open 8:00 – Noon. Sellers \$5 (provide your own table), buyers \$2. Coffee and donuts for sale on site, free parking. More info: David Slater - dslater@sdera.org or 619-222-5442.

- 22 Pacific Desert Lines operating session, San Diego Model Railroad Museum (N scale), 10am- ??, RSVP Steve Seidensticker, sseiden@cox.net.

- 22 San Diego S-Gaugers (modular) Open House, 1-5, Encinitas, CA. For info, see <http://sites.google.com/site/sdsgaugers/>, or e-mail sdsgaugers@yahoo.com.

- 29 Santa Susana RR Historical Soc. Swap Meet and Open House. Swap Meet 7:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. Open House 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Santa Susana Park Pavilion. 6503 Katherine Rd., Simi Valley, CA. Admission \$2.00 for adults. <http://www.santasusannadepot.org/2006swap.htm> and <http://santasusannadepot.org/Foundation/Map.htm> events@santasusannadepot.org

September

- 4-7 San Diego S-Gaugers (modular) at San Diego Model Railroad Museum, 10am – 4pm.
- 12 Swap Meet. Orange Empire Railway Museum, 2201 S. "A" Street, Perris, CA 92570: 951-943-3020 or 951-657-2605 <http://www.oerm.org/>
- 13 TTOS Southwestern Division Train Meet. Masonic Lodge, 50 Duarte Rd., Arcadia, CA, 91007. \$5.00 per person, children under 12 free. 818-848-2653 <http://www.ttos-sw.org/activities.htm>

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.



The San Diego Society of N-Scale <<http://www.sdsons.org/>> will host an open operating session at it's Pacific Desert Lines layout in the San Diego Model Railroad Museum Saturday August 22 from 10am until everyone is too tired to run. Everyone interested in model railroad operation is invited. No experience is necessary. If you are a novice you will be paired with an experienced crewman. Come at any time after 10am and leave whenever you have to go.

Prototype operation will be simulated with RailOp generated manifests and switch lists. Train movement will be coordinated by a dispatcher issuing track warrants. Two person crews will handle through freights, locals, and passenger trains.

Coffee and doughnuts will be served in the morning and sandwiches will be provided for an early afternoon lunch, compliments of the club.

The Pacific Desert Lines is one of the largest N-Scale layouts in the U.S. If you have never seen it you have a treat in store. Come, enjoy the experience, learn about the operations side of model railroading, and HAVE FUN!!!

If you have questions or need more information contact Steve Seidensticker at <sseiden@cox.net>.



We're shut down. No, not really "shut down"; our bills are paid. It's probably more accurate to just say, "there ain't no trains running right now" on the Donner Pass Exhibit

(DPE).

Why? Because of S.C.E.N.E.R.Y.

We discovered long ago, that our electric locomotives rather dislike running on rails covered with hydrocal plaster. As a result, much of our mainline is covered with protective masking tape,

while our volunteers add the scenery. And let me tell you...it can be messy!

Not all of our activities are plagued by "geo-physical-constipation". Just east of Eder, stick pins hold the roadbed in place for future track expansion. When the glue is dry, we'll remove the pins for the tracklaying crew that will follow.

Over near the front entrance to our section house, work is proceeding on the Long Ravine Bridge. Soon little 1:160 scale autos and trucks will be able to pass safely under the Southern Pacific mainline outside of Colfax, California.

Our older N-Trak layout is fully functional and open to traffic.

Stop in on any given Saturday morning, from 9:00 to 1:00 PM, to see the work in progress. You may want to wear some old clothes in case we put you to work. For membership or just more information about the Short Track railroad, please see our website at:

<http://www.shorttrackrr.org/>

North County Model Railroad Society

It's been a busy spring and summer at NCMRS. Serious track layout and bench work planning continues for a new Peninsula in our recently completed 1000 sq. foot addition. It seems that nothing is more fun for a railroad club than planning for additional track work.

In late June on a Saturday when an article appeared about our club in the San Diego Union we had visitors at the door when we opened at 9:00 AM. The parade of visitors with their junior engineers who wanted to run trains on our demonstration layout continued all day long. It was fun to see such interest in model trains by young and old. The final visitor count that day was 82.

We have just completed the installation of a three track test and programming track set up that will allow members to program their locomotives and set up consists. As a part of this programming set up we have installed Decoder-Pro, which when it is fully operational will allow members to easily setup and record locomotives CV values. Based on reports from other clubs who are using Decoder-Pro we expect this program will allow our members to take full advantage of their locomotives decoder capabilities.

We are open to the public every Sat from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. Please see our website www.ncmrs.org for directions or call 760-722-7366.

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Membership:	Gordon Miller	619-857-6908	membership@sandiegodivision.org
Nominations:	(vacant)		
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.

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...

Wow, do we have a lot of stuff going on in August! This will be one of the busiest summers I can remember. The calendar for August takes up an entire column! Sure to be a fun month. The highlight of the month will be the Summer Meet, on August 8. We will be hosted by Poway Station, who were to have their annual show at San Rafael parish in Rancho Bernardo. Unfortunately, the show has been cancelled but the meet will go on at that location. .

We also have a heightened level of model railroading activity in the San Diego area. There are at least two relatively new clubs, and may be a third. See the articles on S and Z scale clubs, for starters. Also, one of the Z scalers will be giving a scenery clinic at the Summer Meet. His layout is impressive, and I'm anxious to hear his suggestions.

Thanks to Gordon Miller, we have a full schedule of layout tours. He's scheduled through February 2010, but he's always on the lookout for more. If you'd like to have your layout on the tour, let him know. If you're still "getting ready," try to shoot for September 2010, so we can include you on the tour for the convention.

Don Fowler, the new Division Superintendent, has published a membership treatise that outlines clearly some of the things we must do to grow NMRA membership, and asks for a personal commitment from each current member. What can you do to help?

You'll be seeing some changes coming in *The Mail Hook* as well. These changes are intended to make the newsletter more readable and enjoyable in the electronic version, which most of you now receive. This issue starts the process with a slightly different layout on many pages, to improve readability. We'll be increasing the use of color pictures in the electronic version as well. There are additional articles and pictures in the web issue. Check it out. Other changes will be implemented over the next few issues. I'll be interested in your feedback.

Model Railroad Clubs in San Diego

San Diego Model Railroad Museum

Balboa Park, San Diego

Info: www.sdmodelrailroadm.com

La Mesa Model Railroad Club (HO)

Info: LaMesaClub@att.net

San Diego 3-Railers (O)

Info: (858) 538-0930

San Diego Model Railroad Club (HO & O)

Info: www.sdmrrc.org

San Diego Society of N Scale (N)

Info: www.sdsons.org

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

North County Model Railroad Society (HO)

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

Poway Station All Scale Modular Club

Info: www.powystation.org

Short Track Railroad Club (N)

Antique Gas & Steam Engine Museum, Vista

Info: www.shorttrackrr.org

San Diego Garden Railway Society

Info: www.sdgrs.com

ZoCal Group (Z)

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

San Diego S-Gaugers

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

Online - Web Sites of Interest

NMRA: www.nmra.org

PSR: www.psrnmra.org

NMRA National Convention <http://www.nmra75.org/>

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

Arizona Division: www.azdiv-nmra.org

Cajon Division: www.cajondiv.org

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

San Diego Model Railroad Museum: www.sdmodelrailroadm.com

San Diego Rail: www.sandiegorail.com



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September 2nd-6th, 2009

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Texas Station Hotel-Casino and Convention Center, Las Vegas, Nevada
2101 Texas Star Lane, North Las Vegas, NV 89032 (Rancho Rd. at Lake Mead Blvd)

Name(s)* (1) _____ (2) _____
(3) _____ (4) _____

Address _____

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Phone & Area Code _____ E-Mail** _____

NMRA Member (yes or no) _____ I.D. # _____ Registration Date _____

Region _____ Home Division _____

* As you want it to appear on your badge(s) ** E-Mail is the preferred communication method

For more info contact Bob Mitchell at cajondivision@coastinet.com

FARE	QTY	EACH	TOTAL
Full Registration (Includes Banquet Dinner)		@ \$ 99.00	
Spouse & Youth (7-18) Registration (Includes Banquet Dinner)		@ \$ 79.00	
Banquet Meal Choice <input type="checkbox"/> New York Steak <input type="checkbox"/> Chicken			
Full Registration (Excluding Banquet Dinner)		@ \$ 65.00	
Spouse Registration & Youth (7-18) (Excluding Banquet Dinner)		@ \$ 45.00	
Non-Members are welcome at no additional charge However, are encouraged to purchase a 6 month membership Rail Pass		@ \$ 9.95	
Banquet Dinner Only (<i>Guest Speaker is Charlie Getz</i>)		@ \$ 45.00	
Bowling for Trains (Division Team Challenge) ~ Wednesday Night This is also the site of the Welcome Mixer ~ No Fee ~ Open Bar in Lounge		@ \$ 10.00	
Day Fare/Per Day (Excludes Banquet) <input type="checkbox"/> Thurs <input type="checkbox"/> Friday <input type="checkbox"/> Saturday		@ \$ 40.00	
Hobo Breakfast (for qualified Hobos and their guests only ~ Sat Morn)		@ \$ 15.00	
Raillette Luncheon ~ Friday		@ \$ 15.00	
Convention Car with Decals (Kadee PS-1 Box Car with Data)		@ \$ 24.50	
Convention Patches		@ \$ 3.50	
Convention Pins		@ \$ 4.00	
Convention T-Shirts Circle Choice(s) S M L XL 2X 3X		@ \$ 13.00	
Convention Polo Shirts Circle Choice(s) S M L XL 2X 3X		@ \$ 27.00	
Manufacture Hands on Clinic (Includes Laser Kit) 4 hrs ~ Saturday AM		@ \$ 45.00	
The San Diego Gang's Hands on Scenery Clinic 3 hrs ~ Friday Afternoon		@ \$ 5.00	
Layout Bus Tour to Pahrump, Nevada (Includes Sack Lunch) ~ Friday AM		@ \$ 30.00	
Hoover Dam Bus Tour (Includes Tour Guide & Chocolate Factory)~Thurs		@ \$ 78.00	
Layout Bus Tour Las Vegas (G, O, On3, HO, N) ~ Saturday Morning		@ \$ 25.00	
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Email to Charlie@abbottstdg.com or FAX to 702-871-5463			
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Contact Maria Shellhase using her direct number during business hours 702-631-8358. Or her cell number 702-425-0650. (Report any problems to Bob Mitchell at 951-440-9729 cajondivison@coastinet.com)			
or you can contact the Reservation line 800-654-8804, Select #1, Tell Reservation what nights you will be attending - then tell them you are with the Cajon Division and the Group Code is TCICADV.			

San Diego S-Gaugers



Open House

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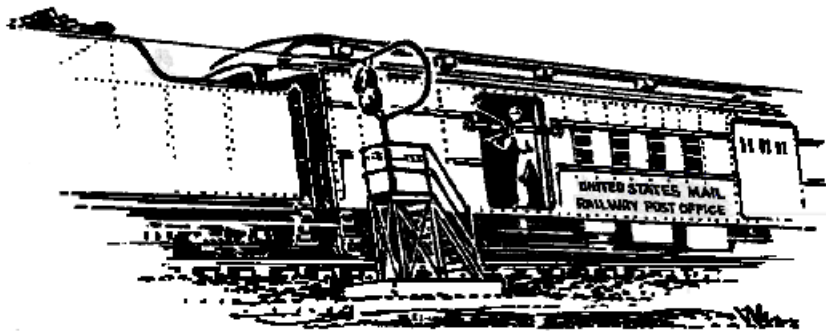
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For additional information, visit our web site at,
<http://sites.google.com/site/sdsgaugers/>



MAIL HOOK

LOOK INSIDE FOR THE LATEST NEWS!

- Spring Meet Summary
 - Z Gauge Railroading in SD
 - Layout Tours
- 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**