

# MAIL HOOK

SAN DIEGO DIVISION, PSR-NMRA

4TH QUARTER, 2010

## SUPERINTENDENTS REPORT

*By Don Fowler*

I have never been prouder of the San Diego Division than last week at the close of our Pacific Southwest Region Convention that was hosted and held right here in San Diego September 15-19 at the Handlery Hotel & Resort. This was one of the best planned and orchestrated events that I've ever attended (and I've attended a lot). We all owe a great debt of gratitude to Convention Chairman Ben Sevier and our Committee members who worked very hard to make it a success. I've heard nothing but positive responses from our attendees and look forward to our next Division hosted convention in 2014.

The 2011 NMRA National Convention will be held in Sacramento next July and our next PSR Convention will be next September in Flagstaff. If you haven't yet signed up, please do so that you don't miss out. Conventions are a great time to renew old acquaintances and make some new friends while enhancing our skills in our favorite hobby.

On the local front, our next Division Meet will be on November 13<sup>th</sup> at the San Diego Model Railroad Museum. The Division will be hosting the luncheon this year (that's right, free lunch) and we'll

*Continued on Page 3*

## CONVENTION WRAP UP and FALL MEET PREVIEW

The 2010 Pacific Southwest Regional (PSR) is history. That means two years of hard work by the convention committee are over, but it also means all of us had an opportunity to renew acquaintances from other divisions, see some great local layouts, participate in several educational opportunities in the form of clinics and prototype tours, and maybe have some fun in the process!

The convention began with the annual Board of Directors meeting, where a new Manual of Operations was approved. This manual contains the operating procedures for the Region. Having these procedures in a document separate from the Bylaws simplifies on-going administration of the Region.

Wednesday evening the San Diego Model Railroad Museum (SDMRM) hosted a reception, during which the San Diego Society Of N Scalers (SD SONS) held an operating session on their Pacific Desert Lines. They had quite a crowd of happy model railroaders. At the same time, the La Mesa Model Railroad Club displayed their improvements on the Tehachapi Pass exhibit. Parts of this exhibit are still under construction, but it was interesting to see the progress they're making. The San Diego 3-Railers had their Lionel-sized trains running, much to everyone's delight, and the San Diego Model Railroad Club had their San Diego & Arizona Eastern open. Quite a nice evening of trains! *{I encourage you to check out the SDMRM if you haven't been there recently. There's always something new. Ed.}*

Thursday the convention really got rolling, with a full day of clinics that ran into the evening hours, and the first prototype tour, to the Pacific Southwest Railway Museum in Campo. Everyone who attended the Campo trip was very pleased. The Railroad Prototype Modelers (RPM) and the

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## CONVENTION WRAP UP (cont'd)

Contest Room opened, where some excellent modeling was on display. The Railette program also kicked off on Thursday, with Kim Fowler leading a full day of activities for about sixteen ladies. Layout tours and operating sessions at some of the premier model railroads in Southern California completed the schedule of events for Thursday.

Friday was more of the same. The prototype tour to the San Diego Electric Railway Museum was converted to a self-guided tour, but that was the low spot to the day. The Friday afternoon trip to the Pasha auto transloading facility was a big hit. Friday evening, instead of clinics, we had auctions, live and silent. Some folks got some great deals, and the sellers were happy as well. Thanks to Bob Mitchell for serving as the auctioneer, and to all those who donated items for either auction.

Saturday morning brought more clinics, and a super swap meet. In addition to the convention registrants, we had about 75 local people who found some treasures. Saturday afternoon were layout tours and operations, then the banquet. Contest prizes and Region and Division Members of the Year were announced and awarded. Congratulations to Bob Chaparro, PSR Member of the Year, and Ray Inbody, San Diego Division Member of the Year, as well as the various contest winners. Tony Koester closed the festivities by regaling us with anecdotes from his long experience in model railroading, telling some tales on himself and some of the other biggest names in the hobby, all in good fun.

Sunday we wrapped up with the annual Membership Meeting, where a new set of Bylaws were approved. These new Bylaws bring the Region into conformance with the National Regulations (Bylaws) and authorize the Manual of Operations approved by the PSR Board on Wednesday. What a great time! I can't wait for the next one, in Flagstaff next year. Hope to see you all there.

Our next event will be the Fall Meet. The SDMRM will provide the venue, and the Division will provide the lunch. We'll have a silent auction, for which we could use donations, and we're planning clinics on AP and Contest Judging, and Tree Making using the Bottle Brush method. Festivities begin at 11:30, and will conclude around 3pm. Carpool (parking is difficult at times) and use the rear entrance.

## In Memoriam: Robert H. (Bob) Moore



The San Diego Division lost one of its most ardent supporters recently, with the passing of Robert H. (Bob) Moore in July. Bob was instrumental in the last few conventions hosted by the Division, serving as the Clinics chair in 2002, and serving as Prototype Tours chair for 2006 and 2010. A popular clinician at various Region and Division events, Bob reminded us frequently of the many ways to enjoy our hobby without relying on advanced technology. A member of Poway Station All Scale Model Railroad Club, Bob liked to run prototypical consists of mail and passenger trains. His Hershey's candy train was always a hit with the youngsters, and Bob enjoyed watching their faces as they followed the train around the layout.

Although suffering declining health in the last few years, Bob was always in good humor when talking with his many friends. Bob had been a POW in the European theater during WWII, and a medical doctor specializing in occupational medicine as well as Ferroequinology. A member of the Community Presbyterian Church in Point Loma, Bob was concerned with the well being of his fellow man, both within and outside the model railroad community. Please join me in expressing our condolences to Bob's family.

*The family has not specified where donations may be sent in Bob's name. I would suggest the NMRA or the church. Ed.*

also have clinics, models, and a Chinese Auction. You will also enjoy seeing the impressive progress being made on the Museum layouts as well.

Don't forget to save the date for our annual Division Christmas Party on December 11<sup>th</sup>. We will enjoy great food, games, a gift exchange and run the trains until the wheels come off. If you haven't attended before, you won't want to miss it.

The San Diego Division remains strong, both in membership support and financially. Our monthly events continue to grow in attendance and enthusiasm. As of August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2010, there were 171 NMRA members listed as residing in our Division. There has also been an impressive increase in our member's participation in the Achievement Program. We will very soon have a new crop of Master Model Railroaders in our midst.

It's hard to believe that 2010 is quickly coming to an end. Who knows what 2011 will bring to model railroading? I'll bet we see some exciting new product releases, enhancements to our hobby technology and more opportunities to get together and enjoy each other's fellowship. We will continue to cherish our hobby's heritage as we embrace the future of model railroading. We will also continue to recognize and celebrate our member accomplishments and support each other as we grow in the hobby.

If you haven't had the opportunity to join us in our activities lately, now is the time to get on board and get more out of your NMRA Division and model railroading.

I hope to see you soon,

Don

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## **Preparing for the Inevitable, or How to Make It Easier on Your Heirs**

As Hank Williams sang, "No matter how you struggle and strive, you'll never get out of this world alive." That was proved true over the past couple of months, as we lost two good friends, Bob Moore and Bill Gordon. The passing of these modelers brings to mind the passing of some other model railroaders I've known, and there are some lessons for all of us in these experiences. No one likes to contemplate their mortality, but neither can we escape it. Taking some time to organize our thoughts on the disposition of our model railroad will make it easier on whomever has to handle our affairs once we've passed.

Probably the biggest thing we tend to lose track of is that our heirs will most likely have little or no idea what to do with everything. It may be our pride and joy, but it may be a burden to those left behind. Here are a few ideas we can use to make it easier to them to know what to do with all our "stuff."

Remember that our heirs are most likely not model railroaders. As such, they have no idea of the value of things. To them, that unbuilt FSM kit is worth the same as the Model Power kit next to it. Likewise that OMI brass Hudson looks the same to them as the AHM plastic Hudson. Each of us should take some time to make an inventory of our trains, and indicate which things are more valuable.

Discuss our wishes with our executors or trust administrators so they know what we want done with our trains. You may have some specific bequests of some special items. Perhaps you'll donate the rest to one of the many model railroad organizations in the area.

Enlist the help and support of some close model railroad friends. Make a pact for the survivors to help your heirs dispose of your empire. This may involve listing something on ebay or Craig's List for disposal, or simply helping our heirs pack up our things for moving to their home. In return for their help, offer something of value from our collection. Be sure your heirs know of this arrangement. And, don't forget to augment the group continually with new members, so we're not "the last man standing."

Many local clubs will assist with dismantling our layouts carefully, so special buildings can be salvaged. Consider making a donation to them in exchange. This could be cash, or something from our collection.

The key to all this is to take some time to organize our collection and record our wishes. Make sure someone knows what they are. If you have a trust, record your instructions there for your trust administrator. Our heirs will have plenty on their minds after we pass. Let's not make it harder on them than it has to be. A little pre-planning will go a long way to simplify their lives. I hope none of us needs this advice any time soon, but don't procrastinate. You never know when your train will be called.

Gary

# NMRA NEWS

## Scanning of the KML photos begins

By Gerry Leone, MMR

NMRA Communications Director



If you're a subscriber to *NMRA Magazine* (formerly *Scale Rails*) you've seen the "Timeframes" series of photographs printed on the magazine's last page. Those are all shots taken from the Kalmbach Memorial Library (KML) archives. The fact is, our NMRA Library has over 100,000 images, negatives, slides, plans and drawings, and only a handful have ever been seen by NMRA members because it would have entailed making a personal trip to Headquarters in Chattanooga, Tennessee, to flip through the files.

Soon that will all change, thanks to the NMRA's Diamond Club. The Diamond Club is a fundraiser specifically designed to support adding enhanced content to our website at [www.nmra.org](http://www.nmra.org). The first item on the list of is scanning those 100,000 images and making them available for download.

The good news is that scanning of the photographs has begun! In August of 2010, Historical Archives Services (HAS), the firm the NMRA Board of Directors hired to do the scans and design the photo website, began receiving and cataloging shipments of photographs from KML. HAS estimates that the first batch of photographs will be available for viewing online sometime in the first quarter of 2011, after a short period of beta testing late this year.

Putting the entire library online will be a costly, time consuming task, since each photo's listing will also contain highly detailed, searchable metadata, which is being added by the railroad experts at HAS. This detailed metadata will make it easier and faster for users to find exactly the photograph they're looking for. Current plans are to make the low-resolution thumbnails of the photographs available to everyone via the website around the clock. Users will be able to download high-resolution files, and NMRA members will receive a substantial discount. Proceeds from the scans will help fund the remainder of the project and future Diamond Club web projects.

As promising as this sounds, it's important to remember that the Diamond Club still hasn't reached its projected goal of \$75,000. If you haven't contributed to this worthy cause, please send your donation now to The Diamond Club, NMRA, 4121 Cromwell Road, Chattanooga, TN 376421, or do it online at [www.nmra.org/diamondclub](http://www.nmra.org/diamondclub).

# # #

## Large Scale Coupler Technical Report Published

The NMRA Large Scale Coupler Study Group has updated its report as of June 15, 2010, and proposed a Recommended Practice aimed at encouraging manufacturers to produce couplers that are compatible with those of other manufacturers. This report is available on the NMRA web page, [www.NMRA.org](http://www.NMRA.org), from the Standards & Conformance link on the home page. Steve Siedensticker of the San Diego Division has been instrumental in creating this body of work. Thanks, Steve.

## Revised Standard 7, Clearances, Proposed

For years the NMRA standards gage has been based on the Plate C clearance. Those of us running double-stacks and autoracks know this gage provides inadequate clearance for these cars. Plate H has been used by the American Railway Engineering and Maintenance-of-Way Association (AREMA) to establish clearances since 1983. The NMRA has recognized the need to update its gage, and proposed this modification to Standard 7. The draft revision proposes three separate clearances for old-time, classic, and modern periods. See more at [www.NMRA.org](http://www.NMRA.org) and follow the Standards and Conformance link.

# LAYOUT TOURS

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## December (12<sup>th</sup>) Layout Tour 2010

Don Fowler - Southern Pacific in multiple scales

Our N scale railroad measures 16x20' and models the Southern Pacific from 1975-1995 from West Colton California to Colfax, California, with stops in Mojave and Roseville. The system includes operating signals, grade crossings, night lighting, scale track, and a hot box detector. We are currently transitioning to DCC but can also accommodate DC operation.

The G scale Southern Pacific railroad has a 400' mainline and runs around the perimeter of the backyard. Features include a tunnel, bridges, waterfalls, engine facility, 5 track storage yard, and operating signals. There are two small Z scale Southern Pacific layouts and a small O-27 scale Southern Pacific layout as well.

## January (8th) Layout Tour

Dick Roberts - Nevada County Railroad in HO Scale

The Nevada County Railroad is an HO scale standard gauge layout based on the Nevada County Narrow Gauge Railroad. The layout follows the NCSNGRR mainline from the interchange with the Southern Pacific at Colfax, California, through Grass Valley to Nevada City. It is set in the 1920's era. This layout is a mushroom design in a 21 x 23 foot room that takes advantage of almost every cubic foot of space. The aisles climb to follow the 164 feet of mainline and as you follow your train with the DCC controller you pass the scratch-built structures and excellent scenery. The most unique feature of the layout is the elevator that carries the train vertically from one level to another. The layout was featured in the Sep/Oct 2006 issue of *Narrow Gauge and Short Line Gazette*.

## March (12th) Layout Tour

Nelson Rath - Western-themed O Scale

Nelson has a special 38 x 16 foot building for his O scale empire, The railroad depicts a western setting and runs just about everything west of the Big River. UP, SP, D&RGW, GN, WP, and more. This is no broken-down class III branch line! Nelson runs the big stuff. We are talking huge Hudsons, Challengers, Turbines, and the Grand Daddy of them all... the UP Big Boys. In O scale you can imagine the pulling power and the awesome sound of the long consists of hoppers or reefers thundering down the track.

## April (8th) Layout Tour

Ron Cousineau (tentative)

Ron has an outdoor Garden Railroad that is a delight to behold.

## Seeking Volunteers to Open Their Layouts

The Division is always looking for layouts to add to our tour schedule. It doesn't matter what state your railroad is in, just that you're willing to share what you've done with others. Most of the people who come to see your layout will offer constructive suggestions if it isn't complete. These may improve the operation and therefore enjoyment of your layout. You may have some ideas for how to do certain things that the rest of us haven't thought of. There's a message on the Yahoo Group "Model Railroads of Southern California" that contains some tips on things to consider when hosting a layout open house. Check out message #4010. Then contact Don Ham, our Division layout tour chair, to get on the schedule. Hope to see your layout on tour soon. You can reach Don at [Layouts@SanDiegoDivision.org](mailto:Layouts@SanDiegoDivision.org).

# November 2010

# San Diego Division - Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> SD Div Fall Meet
<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>				

# December 2010

			<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> GTE, Del Mar
<b>5</b> GTE, Del Mar	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> SD Division Hol. Party
<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> GTE, Pomona
<b>19</b> GTE, Pomona	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	

# January 2011

						<b>1</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> SD Division Layout Tour
<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> GTE, Anaheim
<b>23</b> GTE, Anaheim 30	<b>24</b> 31	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>

## 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](mailto:mailhook@sandiegodivision.org). Events should be of interest to San Diego Division members. Division-sponsored events are listed in **bold** typeface.

**2010**

### November

- 13 San Diego Division Fall Meet**, San Diego Model Railroad Museum, 1649 El Prado, San Diego, 11:30 am - 3pm. Contact: Don Fowler, [superintendent@sandiegodivision.org](mailto:superintendent@sandiegodivision.org)

### December

- 11 San Diego Division Holiday Party and Open House**, Don & Kim Fowler, Santee. Hours 3-10, dinner 6.

### January 2011

- 8 San Diego Division Layout Tour**, Dick Roberts' Nevada County Railroad, El Cajon, 12 - 3pm. HO scale.

### February

- 12 San Diego Division Winter Meet**, Antique Gas & Steam Engine Museum, Vista (tentative)

### March

- 12 San Diego Division Layout Tour**, Nelson Rath's O scale freelanced railroad, El Cajon.

### April

- 9 San Diego Division Layout Tour**, Ron Couisineau

### May

- 14 San Diego Division Spring Meet and Annual Business Meeting w/Elections**, Location TBA

### June

- 11 San Diego Division Layout Tour**, Dick Trotter, Coyote Pass & Northern

### July

- 3-9 X2011, NMRA National Convention**, Sacramento, CA.

### August

- 13 San Diego Division Summer Meet**, TBA

### September

- 21-25 Rails to the Rim, Pacific Southwest Region Convention**, Flagstaff, AZ

**2010**

### November

- 3, 6-7 Highland Pacific RR Open House**, Highland Park Society of Model Railroad Engineers, Inc. 854 E. Broadway San Gabriel, Call (626) 285-1031 or see the web page at <http://highlandpacificrr.com/>

- 6-7, 9, 13-14 Pasadena Model Railroad Club Open House**, 5458 Alhambra Ave., Los Angeles. Adults \$3, Children \$1 (under 7 free w/adult) . Call (323) 222-1718 or E-mail: [Webmaster@pmrrc.org](mailto:Webmaster@pmrrc.org) for times on specific dates.

- 7 TTOS SP Division Toy Train Meet**, 11-3:30, 2271 W. Crescent Ave, Anaheim, CA. adm \$5. More info KEN FLORY 714-538-8218

- 13-14 Chula Vista Live Steamers Public Run Day**, 12pm - 3pm, Rohr Park, Bonita, CA. More info at <http://www.chulavistalivesteamers.com/>

- 13-14, 16 California Southern Model Railroad Club Open House**, 11/13 10-8, 11/14 noon-6, 11/16 7-9. More info at <http://californiasouthern.org/>

- 19-21 TTOS Southwestern Division Cal-Stewart Meet**. <http://www.ttos-sw.org/activities.htm/> or call 818-848-2653 .

- 23 Lego Train Club display opens**, San Diego Model Railroad Museum, Balboa Park. Admission

### December

- 3-4 December Nights in Balboa Park**, San Diego, 5-9pm. San Diego Model Railroad Museum free admission.

- 4-5 The Great Train Expo**, Del Mar Fairgrounds, Del Mar, CA, For more info, see <http://www.greattrainexpo.com/>

- 11 Christmas in the Park**, Old Poway Park. Poway Station modular N scale layout on display. 1907 Baldwin 0-4-0 running. 3:30-8:30. For more info see <http://poway.org/Index.aspx?page=110>

- 11-12 Chula Vista Live Steamers Santa Run Day**, 12pm - 3pm, Rohr Park, Bonita, CA. More info at <http://www.chulavistalivesteamers.com/>

- 18-19 Great Train Expo**, Fairplex, Pomona For info see <http://www.trainexpoinc.com/schedule.html>

### January 2011

- 22-23 The Great Train Expo**, Anaheim Convention Center, Anaheim, CA. For more info, see <http://www.greattrainexpo.com/>

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

# 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.*



We have had a busy month at Short Track Railroad. A lot of planning went into our participation in the PSR "Clear to San Diego". We had an op session, an open house, and member's home layouts open for visitors. Many of our members were involved in the organization of the convention itself. We had quite a few contest entries and some wins. In addition, some club members gave clinics at the Handlery hotel.

We participated in the annual Fall Tractor Show at our museum. All our layouts were up and running. The show ran October 16 and 17 and October 23 and 24. The next Tractor Show will be in June 2011. There is an admission charge. More details can be found at [www.agsem.com](http://www.agsem.com)

Our regular op sessions on the second Thursday of the month continue to be popular with members and visitors. Sessions are getting better and better as we gain experience with the software, and upgrade the layout. Anyone interested is encouraged to show up at 7:00 PM.

We are continuing construction on our Donner Pass layout. The latest piece of engineering is The Butte Canyon Bridge (BCB - near the town of Cisco). It is made of ABS plastic that was cut on our industrial laser. The piers were made of plaster from molds we created just for this project. It was a challenge because the real bridge started as a single-track structure. The second track was put in years later. This meant 2 different materials for the piers, the first being cut stone and the second being concrete. They are accurately represented in plaster on our project. BCB was built in a box in order to get the pier heights fixed at the proper length. When everything was correct and fit properly it was removed from the box and dropped into the layout. By constructing the bridge in a box, the installation on our layout, was completed in one morning. BCB took about 40 hours to complete, spread over a 2-month period. The bridge construction crew consisted of Tim Woodard, leader and chief construction person; Milt Perkins, drawings and plans; Paul Schmitt, painting and track work; Jim Wirt, electrical wiring, and Ray Inbody, scenery.

On a more somber note, we mourn the passing of member Bill Gordon, a long-time member of our club.

\* \* \*

Contact information for the club is now included among the clubs and organizations listed on the back cover of the San Diego Model Railroad Museum's *San Diego Telegraph*, the quarterly newsletter. Thanks are due to John Rotsart, the museum's executive director, for making this happen. Also, the two most recent issues of *NMRA Magazine* each contained an article by an S modeler, exhibiting increased interest in our favorite scale.

Several members quickly knocked together a temporary "odd man" module for our Labor Day visit to SDMRM. We needed one more 2-foot by 4-foot straight module to balance the layout module count for the visit without leaving behind the very handsome trestle bridge module that wouldn't otherwise have had an opposite side mate.

We will build a permanent club owned odd man module. This module will have full S MOD electrical and mechanical standards compatibility, legs, and will otherwise be very similar to the temporary one in that it will have mainline trackage only, and no elaborate scenery or decorative structures. This will give the club the option to bring it along if needed when selecting which modules best fit into a particular space, and to leave it behind without regrets when its not needed. As members independently build new straight modules, the need for this flexibility is likely to increase.

The club plans to participate in this year's Great Train Expo in Del Mar. Scheduling of a show for this year had been in some doubt, but that has been resolved and the GTE is scheduled to be in Del Mar on December 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>, and SDSG plans to participate.

Next year's Extra 2011 West Convention, which will combine the NMRA and NASA annual conventions,



will held from July 3<sup>rd</sup> through July 9<sup>th</sup> 2011 in Sacramento. Several SDSG members will be attending, and there is much interest in bringing the layout to the cooperating National Train Show being held across the street from July 8<sup>th</sup> through July 10<sup>th</sup>. We have sent in a preliminary request to participate in the show and are awaiting more complete information that is expected in mid September.

\* \* \*

## Poway Station All Scale Model RR Club

Poway Station recently finished a successful display at the Train Song Festival in Old Poway Park. This year we showed our N scale modules along with some of our HO modules, and we ran a "car clinic" for the public to observe.

The N scale layout is coming along nicely. Most of the mountain contours have been established on one module, and we're ready to add rock molds, ground cover, trees, and other scenery. Pretty soon those black diamonds will be pouring out of the Leverite Mine.

For this display, some of the HO modules were set up as a switching layout along the side of the room. These are the newest modules, and offer a lot of switching action. When complete, they will also provide an access point to attach to our standard layout Free-Mo modules that some of our members are building.

The car clinic we had set up demonstrated how we check cars for proper coupler height, NMRA recommended weight, and wheel gauge. Keeping cars tuned up results in better operation. Many members of the public were intrigued to see how we do this.

Our next display will be at Christmas in the Park, December 11, 2010. This will be held at Old Poway Park from 4:30-8:30pm. In addition to our display, Santa will arrive by train, courtesy of the Poway Midland Railroad, to visit with kids in Santa's Workshop. Various Christmas crafts and carolers will be available for the kids. Bring the whole family out.

Membership in Poway Station is always open. You only need an interest in railroading to join us. Any members will be happy to answer any questions you may have. Or, you can visit our web page at [www.PowayStation.org](http://www.PowayStation.org) for further information about our club. We hope to see you soon!



\* \* \*



The San Diego Model Railroad Museum commissioned a video entitled "A Model Railroad Showcase," to commemorate the Museum's 30th anniversary. The video debuted on San Diego's public broadcast station, KPBS, on September 18, 2010, and is now available for purchase at the Museum Gift Shop.

Also available is a new book on passenger trains by Museum member John Fiscella. The book includes schedules, consists of trains, rosters of passenger service equipment and locomotives, birth-to-death listings of equipment details, history, photographs, glossary of technical terms and an index to the hundreds of passenger cars listed. This will be an invaluable reference for passenger train aficionados.

The Southern California LEGO Train Club returns November 23<sup>rd</sup> for their annual visiting exhibit. The exhibit runs from Tuesday November 23 thru Mid-January 2011. This exhibit is always popular with the kids, young and old. Come down and see what's new this year.

Mac's Kids Corner continues every Tuesday and Friday from 11am -3pm: For more information on this and all our upcoming events, including hours and admission, please visit the Museum's web page at <http://www.sdmodelrailroadm.com/#>.

## SAN DIEGO DIVISION STAFF

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Nominations:	<b>(vacant)</b>		
Publicity:	<b>(vacant)</b>		

### **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...**

November is Model Railroad Month. There are many open houses and special events beginning this month and running into December. I hope you can take advantage of all of them. I know I'm going to try to get to as many as I can. Check the Other Events column for a sampling, and support those that you can. You may find a good group of folks that could use your help.

If you have a home layout, invite the neighbors over, especially the kids. We have to get young people interested in our hobby for it to grow in the future. What better time than over the Holidays, when everyone is happy, and everyone has trains under the tree (don't they?). If you don't have your own layout, take someone to the San Diego Model Railroad Museum. It's free on the evenings of December 3 and 4, and every first Tuesday. Or select one of the other events. Above all have fun!

A lot of kids will be getting trains for Christmas. Many will have difficulty making them run properly. Offer your assistance so they maximize their enjoyment. You'll maximize yours at the same time. Try it, you'll like it!

The NMRA National Convention will be in Sacramento next July. This will not be the same convention you've heard of in the past. The guys in Sacramento are pulling out all the stops to make this the best national convention ever! I hope you took advantage of the early registration, but even if you didn't, you won't want to miss this one. I haven't seen the schedule yet, but I've heard some rumors, and I can't wait.

Later in the year the PSR convention will be in Flagstaff, a great destination, and a great railroad town. I hope you can make that one, too.

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)

*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](http://www.ncmrs.org)

### **Poway Station All Scale Modular Club**

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

### **Short Track Railroad Club (N)**

Antique Gas & Steam Engine Museum, Vista

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

### **San Diego Garden Railway Society**

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

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

NMRA National Convention <http://www.x2011west.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)



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## **San Diego Model Railroad Museum**

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1649 El Prado, Balboa Park

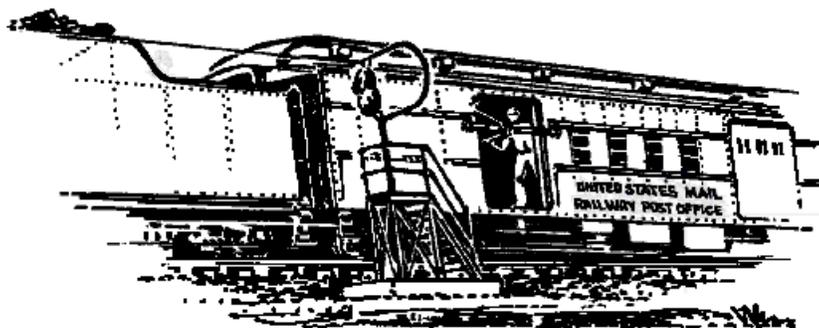
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Saturday - Sunday 11:00 - 5:00

Admission: Adults \$5, Students \$3, Seniors \$4

Military \$2.50, Tuesdays free to all



# MAIL HOOK

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    - NMRA News
      - Layout Tour Schedule
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## MAIL HOOK

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