

# MAIL HOOK

SAN DIEGO DIVISION, PSR-NMRA

4TH QUARTER, 2015

## SUPERINTENDENTS REPORT

*By Don Fowler*

Fall has arrived, but it sure doesn't feel like it. Where's that nice cool, crisp weather we've all been waiting for? The year has gone by quickly and before you know it the holidays will be upon us. We've had a great year so far with some excellent Division activities. The best is yet to come so don't miss out.

September 15-20<sup>th</sup> we attended the annual Pacific Southwest Region Convention in Scottsdale, AZ. There were many great clinics, layout & prototype tours and other fun activities. The Convention Committee and the Arizona Division did a great job to ensure that all of the attendees had a memorable time.

On October 10<sup>th</sup>, we visited the North County Model Railroad Society in Oceanside. They have done a great job on their railroad in a very short time and are providing a fine representation of our hobby to the visiting public. There was much to see and the trains ran great. If you didn't make it, be sure to stop by when you get a chance.

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## DIRECTOR'S REPORT

*By Pete Steinmetz*

It was a busy and interesting Summer. A number of PSR San Diego members attended the NMRA Convention in Portland, OR. All had a good time. Many attended layout tours, prototype tours and clinics. Some members traveled on the Coast Starlight from San Diego to Portland and return.

Another group of San Diego modelers attended the National Narrow Gauge Convention in Houston, TX. We were all treated to a good dose of Texas hospitality. The emphasis was on layout tours and clinics. Vendor rooms and clinics were all at the host hotel. All layout tours were self guided which worked out well.

September also saw the PSR convention in Scottsdale, AZ. The Arizona Division did a great job of hosting. There were very good field trips, operating sessions, clinics, and plenty of conversation between members. In 2016 the LA Division is hosting the PSR Convention. They have quite a few activities planned along with good clinics and some excellent layout tours. More information is available elsewhere in this issue.

*Continued on Page 2*

## Summer Meet Wrap-Up

The San Diego Division Summer Meet was held August 8 at the auditorium in Poway Community Park. This is a great venue for us, as it provides ample, air-conditioned space, and the ability to grill those dogs and burgers nearby. Since it works out so well, we'll try to reserve it for next year as well. Poway Station set up a few HO modules so there trains running during the meet.

Bob Mitchell, from the Cajon Division, reprised the backdrop painting workshop he presented at

*Continued on Page 3*

## ***Superintendent's Report*** from Page 1

Our Division's Fall Meet will be held on November 14th at the San Diego Model Railroad Museum. Jimmy Simmons, owner of Monster Modelworks, will be providing a hands on craftsman structure construction clinic using one of his newest releases. Be sure to sign up for this as soon as possible. The construction tips and techniques are invaluable. There will also be lunch, show & tell, contest judging and door prizes. Please join us for a great event.

On December 12<sup>th</sup>, come on by our house and check out the progress on my new double decker 20' x 22' N scale layout. I've tried to learn from my previous mistakes and I'm sure that I'll make some new ones. I'm doing some things differently this time so you'll want to come check it out and share some thoughts and advice. Bench work is well under way as of this writing and I'm hoping to begin laying track in a few weeks.

After the layout tour, we'll convene for our annual Division Christmas Party. Please join us for a fun evening of great food, games and fellowship. More details to follow on this.

November is National Model Railroad Month and November 13<sup>th</sup> is "Take a Train to Work Day". This is a great opportunity to share our great hobby with others in a variety of ways. **Talk** to people about model railroading and how much fun it is. **Show** people your model trains and explain how they work. **Invite** people to NMRA events so that they can see how our local community of model railroaders learn from each other and enjoy the fellowship of our hobby. If you do something special, I'd really like to hear about it.

Kim and I wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Don

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## ***Director's Report*** from Page 1

Our Fall Meet will be Saturday November 14 at the San Diego Model Railroad Museum in Balboa Park. We have an outstanding line up starting with a Hands On Clinic by Jimmy Simmons. Build one of Jimmy's Monster Model Works buildings. The one for this clinic will be HO Scale - Hansen Machine & Tool Background Kit. Cost will be \$30.00 and will cover one kit and material. The kit retails for \$39.95, so this is a great deal. The number of kits will be limited, so register early. Modelers must participate in the clinic in order to buy the kit. More details including how to reserve your spot will be available on the PSR San Diego Web Site.

We are working on some interesting and exciting ideas for 2016. Stay tuned to the Mail Hook and your E Mail.

Pete Steinmetz

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## ***NMRA News*** Extracted from the NMRA E-Bulletin

There is a new section on the NMRA Members Only page that is a forum, where members can log in and discuss whatever is on their mind. There are several pre-defined topics, as well as a General Interest section where you can join a discussion in progress, or post your own topic. Check it out!

The NMRA will begin to put a new emphasis on programs for beginning model railroaders. Volunteers are needed to formulate and organize this program.

The NMRA is looking into a possible "Swap Group" for members only. The group would allow members to swap or sell their used or extra model railroad items. Stay tuned for details on this.

The Member Discount program is picking up steam. Over 130 letters were sent out to various scenic and tourist railroads across the country asking for discounts for NMRA members, and many have responded positively.



## Summer Meet Wrap-Up (cont'd from Page 2)

the 2014 Pacific Southwest Regional Conference, held here in San Diego. There were about 15 participants, and from the look of the student backdrops, all picked up the techniques fairly well.



Bob Mitchell (R) assists Ryan Di Fede, while Richard Figone and Jack Byers work. *Gary Robinson photo*

Hot dogs and hamburgers, with all the fixings, were provided by the Division board. Bruce Deck, Meets chair,



L: Bill Ewing expounds on his lighting module. R: Rodger Gredvig and Bob Graves look over a silent auction table. *Gary Robinson photos*

*Continued*

## Summer Meet Wrap-Up *from Page 3*

organized the menu, and members brought accompaniments, such as chips, veggies, and cakes. No one went away hungry!

Bill Ewing gave a short presentation on his lighting control module. This module allows control of several LEDs to create a realistic appearance of changing lights in a building.

There was also a silent auction that generated a lot of interest. Quite a few folks went home with new treasures, or cash for no longer needed items that will turn into new treasures!

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# HELP WANTED

The San Diego Division is seeking an enthusiastic person to edit and publish *The Mail Hook*, the official publication of the Division. If you enjoy writing and editing, this is the position for you! The Division will provide Adobe Pagemaker software, or you can use software of your choice. The publication is quarterly. What a deal, only four times a year, and you can contribute to the success of the Division! If interested, contact the outgoing editor at [mailhook@sandiegodivision.org](mailto:mailhook@sandiegodivision.org), or any of the board members. A complete list of board members can be found elsewhere in this publication.

The next edition is due out in January, 2016.

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## PSR CONVENTION SUMMARY

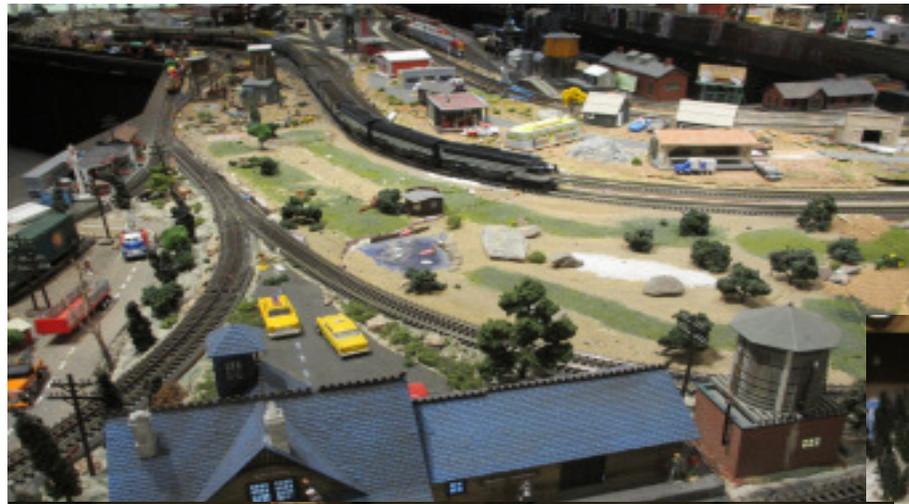
The 2015 PSR Convention was held in Scottsdale, AZ, September 16-19, at the McCormick Ranch Millenium hotel. Over 250 delegates, including 75 Railfans (formerly Railettes) attended, and were treated to a great time! The annual Pacific Southwest Region board meeting was held Wednesday afternoon, and several clinics (workshops) were available for others to attend while the board meeting was going on.

Wednesday evening there was a BBQ reception at the McCormick Stillman Railroad Museum, where delegates could ride the miniature train (R), or visit the three model railroad layouts, or just relax

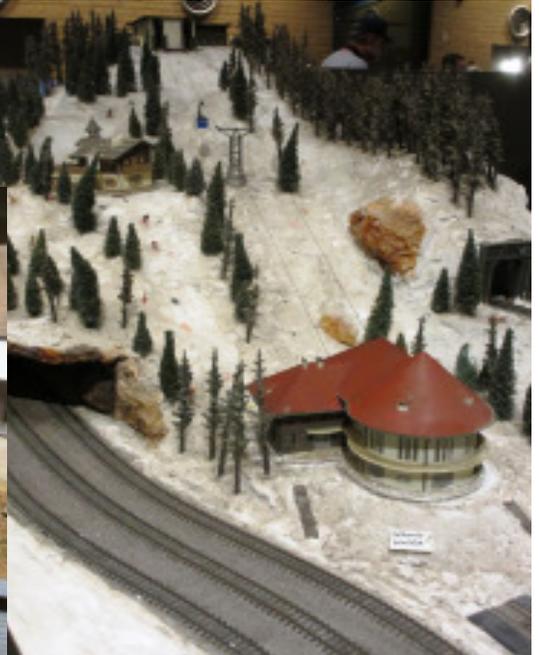


## PSR Convention Summary (cont'd)

in the beautiful park, after enjoying a western bar-b-que dinner and good fellowship. Some delegates



Previous page: Paradise & Pacific consolidation. Left: O scale layout. Middle left: HO scale layout. Middle right: N scale layout. Bottom: Jack Eiermann operating with the Scottsdale club HO layout. *Gary Robinson photos*



were fortunate enough to be able to participate in an operating session on the HO layout.

The general membership meeting was Thursday morning, and of course there was a full schedule of workshops Thursday and Friday, as well as a few on Saturday. There was also a hobo auction Thursday night, where Gary Robinson, and Kim and Don Fowler, cleaned up! There was also a huge swap meet on Saturday morning, following the traditional Hobo Breakfast.

The model contest ran from Wednesday through early Saturday morning, and there were

quite a few entries. Some of the work was exquisite, and many Certificates of Merit were awarded.

Layout tours and operating sessions were held throughout the week, including Sunday, but the formal convention conclusion was the banquet on Saturday night. The banquet speaker, Dale Angell, was informative and funny. You can see part of his presentation on his You Tube page, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZNyvlcgIAZQ>. Our own Don Fowler was named Member of the Year for both the Division and the Region! Gary Robinson was presented with his second Achievement Program certificate, Association Volunteer. What a great time, and Arizona has set the bar high for Los Angeles next year!

# LAYOUT TOURS

## September

In September we were fortunate to find the Old Town Model Railroad Depot, 2415 San Diego Ave #107, San Diego, CA 92110. This is an O scale railroad, occupying two store fronts along San Diego



Above: Country scene at Old Town Model Railroad Depot. Below L: country wedding. Below R: Downtown at night.

*Gary Robinson Photos*



Avenue. If you weren't able to join us, you missed a great railroad! One side is a daytime, rural scene, and the other side is a nighttime city scene. The amount of equipment running, and the attention to detail in the various scenes, is absolutely stunning! You'll also find a great deal of art work and railroading along the walls, including some original posters advertising some famous trains. Due to my social secretary

*See "Layout Tours" on Page 6*

*Layout Tours, cont'd*

double-booking us for that day, I couldn't stay as long as I would have liked, but I will be going back. You should too! The depot is open Sundays and weekdays, except Tuesdays (closed) from 11am until 6pm. Saturdays it's open 11 - 7. I'm sure the proprietors, Gary and Danny, will be glad to see you. Check out their web page, <http://oldtownmodelrailroaddepot.com/index.html>.

**October**

October brought us to the North County Model Railroad Society, in their (relatively) new home in heritage Park, 230 Peyri Dr, Oceanside, CA 92058. They've really done a lot of nice work since moving into these quarters just over a



Top: Looking along the length of the layout.  
Middle: The town of Oceanside. Bottom: A rural scene. Top and bottom, Rodger Gredvig photos; middle, Gary Robinson photo.

See "Layout Tours" on Page 7

## Layout Tours, cont'd

year ago. They have some sections of the layout finished (or apparently so), but there is still much work to be done.



San Luis Rey River. *Rodger Gredvig photo.*



Fairgrounds on kids' layout. *Gary Robinson photo.*

They also have their kids' layout in another room, where youngsters can operate a train on one of four tracks, and a small railroadians museum in a room between the two layouts. The club members are always happy to show off their layout, open to the public Saturdays, 10am to 3pm.

## December

In December (November is the Fall Meet), we'll again visit with Don and Kim Fowler in Santee. Don has completely torn out his beautiful N scale layout, and is well underway with the bench work for the next iteration, planned to be multi-level, with no duck unders. Their G scale will be running outside. Following the layout tour, we'll adjourn to a local restaurant for the annual Christmas Party.

## January

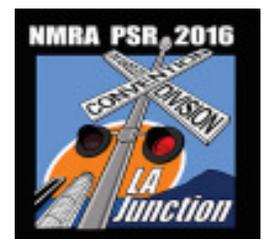
We are still looking for more layouts to add to our tour for 2016. If you have a layout you'd like to share with us, contact Kirk Treanor, the layout tour chair, at [layouts@sandiegodivision.org](mailto:layouts@sandiegodivision.org) for more information. We'd love to see what you're doing, even if you're not finished doing it.

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## Pacific Southwest Region 2016 Convention

The Los Angeles Division of the NMRA proudly presents LA Junction, from September 21st. to September 24th. 2016. To be held at the DoubleTree Hotel Los Angeles - Westside (Culver City), providing a central location to many of the activities. Join us for tours of some of the finest layouts in Southern California, excellent behind the scenes tours of prototype railroad facilities, a welcome reception Wednesday evening, a wonderful selection of clinics, a hobo auction, swap meet, an available brunch at the Magic Castle, an available trip to Santa Barbara and back aboard the Silver Splendor, and more. This will be a great opportunity to meet new model railroaders, see old friends and share our common enjoyment of the hobby.



You can register on line, at <http://www.psrconvention.org/lajunction/registration.html>, or you can use the registration form on the next page and mail it in. Everything else you need can be found on the web page. We look forward to seeing you there !!

\* \* \*



**Los Angeles Junction**  
**Pacific Southwest Region Convention**  
**September 21-24, 2016**  
 Presented by: Los Angeles Division, PSR  
**Double Tree Los Angeles Westside, 6161 W. Centinela Ave.**  
**Culver City, CA 90230 1-866-8199-5320**



**Group Code: NMR Cutoff Date for Group Rate Reservation is August 30, 2016**

NMRA #: \_\_\_\_\_ Registration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name (s)\* (1) \_\_\_\_\_ (2) \_\_\_\_\_

\* As you want to appear on your badge

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State & Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Region & Home Div: \_\_\_\_\_ Primary Scale \_\_\_\_\_

Item	Qty	Each	Total
Adult Rail (NMRA Member) Registration & Banquet ( __ Beef __ Salmon __ Veg)		\$ 115.00	
Adult Rail (NMRA Member) Registration Only		\$ 75.00	
Adult Family (with NMRA Member) Registration & Banquet ( __ Beef __ Salmon __ Veg)		\$ 90.00	
Adult Family (with NMRA Member) Registration Only		\$ 65.00	
Youth (with NMRA Member) Registration & Banquet ( __ Beef __ Salmon __ Veg)		\$ 80.00	
Youth (with NMRA Member) Registration Only		\$ 55.00	
Non NMRA Member Surcharge		\$ 10.00	
Banquet Only ( __ Beef __ Salmon __ Veg) Saturday		\$ 85.00	
Ladies Rail Fan Lunch		\$ 20.00	
Convention Patch		\$ 5.00	
Convention Pin		\$ 5.00	
Convention Shirt Men's S M L XL Short Sleeve or Pocket Polo (Circle Size & Type)		\$ 30.00	
Convention Shirt Men's 2XL 3XL 4XL Short Sleeve or Pocket Polo (Circle Size & Type)		\$ 35.00	
Convention Shirt Lady's S M L XL Short Sleeve or Polo (Circle Size & Type)		\$ 30.00	
Convention Shirt Lady's 2XL 3XL 4XL Short Sleeve or Polo (Circle Size & Type)		\$ 35.00	
Convention Car HO Scale		\$ 30.00	
Convention Car N Scale		\$ 24.00	
<b>( Extra Fair)</b>			
<b>MetroRail Maintenance Facility Tour</b> (Includes Bus & Light Rail Transportation) ◆		\$ 32.00	
<b>Silver Splendor Dome Car Trip to Santa Barbara</b> (Breakfast & Dinner served in the car) ▲ ◆		\$ 135.00	
<b>Los Angeles Union Station Behind the Scenes Walking Tour</b> (Includes Bus Transportation) ◆		\$ 37.00	
<b>Magic Castle Brunch &amp; Magic Show - Sunday Morning</b> ▲		\$ 62.00	
<b>Total</b>			

▲ **This Extra Fair Reservation is non-refundable unless tour is canceled by Convention Committee**

◆ **Tour is Limited to 48 Persons**

Credit Card      Visa    M/C      Circle Card Type

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ CV# \_\_\_\_\_ Cash \_\_\_\_\_

Issued To: \_\_\_\_\_ Please Print \_\_\_\_\_ Check \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ C/C \_\_\_\_\_

Month    Year

**Make Checks Payable to: Los Angeles Division**

James Keena, PSR 2016 Registrar, 12341 Heritage Springs Drive, Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670  
 Registrar's Contact Information: Email: pkeenawhittier@msn.com Phone: (562) 325-3846

## November 2015

## San Diego Division - Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1 Multiple Events</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> Slim Guage Guild Open House	<b>4</b> Highland Park Open House	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7 Multiple Events</b>
<b>8 Multiple Events</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Day Out w/Thomas	<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> TTOS Meet	<b>21</b> TTOS Meet
<b>22</b> TTOS Meet	<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 2015

		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Lompoc Valley Open House	<b>5</b> Lompoc Valley Open House
<b>6 Multiple Events</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> Short Track Ops Session, AGSEM	<b>11</b>	<b>12 Multiple Events</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>	<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 2016

					<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> Short Track Ops Session, AGSEM	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> SD Div Layout Tour
<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>	<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>						

## 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.

### 2015

#### November

- 14 San Diego Division Fall Meet**, San Diego Model Railroad Museum, 1649 El Prado, Suite 4, San Diego, CA (Balboa Park). Hands-on workshop (reservations advised), judging, show & tell, museum tour, lunch. 9am - 3pm. [Meets@sandiegodivision.org](mailto:Meets@sandiegodivision.org)

#### December

- 12 San Diego Division Layout Tour**, Don & Kim Fowler, Santee, CA. Noon - 3pm. more info [layouts@SanDiegoDivision.org](mailto:layouts@SanDiegoDivision.org)  
**12 San Diego Division Christmas Party**, details TBA. [meets@SanDiegoDivision.org](mailto:meets@SanDiegoDivision.org)

### 2016

#### January

- 9 San Diego Division Layout Tour**, details TBA. [layouts@SanDiegoDivision.org](mailto:layouts@SanDiegoDivision.org)

#### February

- 13 San Diego Division Winter Meet**, Clairemont Christian Fellowship Church, 4570 Mt Herbert Avenue, San Diego, CA. Workshop TBA, judging, Hobo Auction, show & tell. Noon - 5pm. More info [Meets@sandiegodivision.org](mailto:Meets@sandiegodivision.org)

#### March

- 12 San Diego Division Layout Tour**, details TBA. [layouts@SanDiegoDivision.org](mailto:layouts@SanDiegoDivision.org)

#### April

- 9 San Diego Division Layout Tour**, details TBA. [layouts@SanDiegoDivision.org](mailto:layouts@SanDiegoDivision.org)

#### May

- 14 San Diego Division Spring Meet**, Short Track, Antique Gas & Steam Engine Museum, 2040 N Santa Fe Drive, Vista, CA. Silent Auction, workshop, lunch, model judging, show & tell. [Meets@sandiegodivision.org](mailto:Meets@sandiegodivision.org)

#### June

- 11 San Diego Division Layout Tour**, details TBA. [layouts@SanDiegoDivision.org](mailto:layouts@SanDiegoDivision.org)

#### July

- 3-10 Highball to Indy, NMRA National Convention and National Train Show**,

### 2015

#### October

- 31** 50's Time Table & Train Order Operation Session, San Diego Society of N Scales (SD SONS), San Diego Model Railroad Museum, 1649 El Prado, San Diego, CA 92101. 8am - 6pm+, briefing 7:30am. More info at [kelli.jonestt@gmail.com](mailto:kelli.jonestt@gmail.com)  
**31-11/2** Fall Open House, Glendale Model Railroad Club, 619 Hahn Ave, Glendale, adjacent to Fremont Park. Sat 10-4, Sun 1-4, Mon 7:30-10. Free admission. Free parking in and around the park. Guests are invited to wear costumes. More info: [Dcistone@mindspring.com](mailto:Dcistone@mindspring.com)  
**31-11/2** TT&TO Operating Session, La Mesa Model Railroad Club, San Diego Model Railroad Museum, 1649 Casa del Prado, San Diego. Observers welcome. More info at [lamesaclub@att.net](mailto:lamesaclub@att.net).

#### November

- 1, 3** Slim Gauge Guild Open House, 300 South Raymond Ave (basement), Pasadena, CA. Sun 10-6, Tue 3-9. <http://slimgaugeguild.com/>  
**4, 7-8** Highland Park Society of Model Railroad Engineers Open House, 854 Broadway, San Gabriel, CA. Wed 7-10pm, Sat & Sun, noon - 5pm. <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Highland-Pacific-Railroad/224041617678346>  
**7-8, 14-15** Pasadena Model Railroad Club Open House, 5458 Alhambra Ave, Los Angeles, CA. Sat 1-5, 7-9, Sun 1-5. Donation \$5 adult, \$1 kids 8 and over. More info <http://pmrrc.org/>  
**7-8, 11, 14-15** Day Out With Thomas, Orange Empire Railway Museum, 2201 S. "A" Street, Perris. The grounds are open every day from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Info (951) 943-3020 or <http://www.oerm.org/>  
**14-15, 17** Fall Open House, California Southern Model Railroad Club, 12140 E Firestone Blvd, Norwalk, CA 90650 Sat 10am - 8pm, Sun Noon - 6pm, Tue 7pm - 9pm. More info: (562)863-3156  
**20-22** TTOS Cal-Stewart Meet, Ontario Convention Center, 2000 E Convention Center

*Continued on Page 9*

## SCHEDULE OF OTHER EVENTS OF INTEREST (cont'd)

Indianapolis, IN. <http://www.nmra2016.org/>

- 9 **San Diego Division Layout Tour**, details TBA.  
[layouts @SanDiegoDivision.org](mailto:layouts@SanDiegoDivision.org)

### August

- 13 **San Diego Division Summer Meet**, Poway Community Park, 13094 Civic Center Drive, Poway, CA. Workshop, model judging, BBQ lunch. [Meets@sandiegodivision.org](mailto:Meets@sandiegodivision.org)

### September

- 10 **San Diego Division Layout Tour**, details TBA.  
[layouts @SanDiegoDivision.org](mailto:layouts@SanDiegoDivision.org)  
21-25 **LA Junction, Pacific Southwest Region Convention**, Culver City, CA. More info <http://www.psrconvention.org/lajunction/>

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Way, Ontario. More info [cal-stewart.org](http://cal-stewart.org)

### December

- 4-6 **Lompoc Valley Model Railroad & Historical Society Open House**, 428 North I, Lompoc. Info <http://lompocvalleymodelrailroad.org/>  
6 **TTOS/SW Toy Train Meet**, 136 E Santa Clara St, #2, Arcadia. More info <http://www.ttos.org/>  
12 **Christmas in the Park**, Old Poway Park, 13134 Midland Road, Poway, CA. Steam train rides, Poway Station modular layout, tree lighting and Santa visits, hay and pony rides, kids activities, food. 3:30 – 8:30. Free admission. More info at <http://www.poway.org/Calendar.aspx?EID=333&month=12&year=2015&day=12&calType=0>

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## Club Car



The July Great Train Show (GTS) was our last planned show for 2015, and included a good deal of rain for the weekend show. Even with all the rain, we had new modules there from Foster and Ken, and our layout area was full of modules. Foster had a four footer and Mike's old 6 footer. Ken was there with his new mountain/bridge module including touch controls for switches. Happy to say the new boats by David, Dennis and Kevin were on display at GTS show. They will be painted and rigged for the Costa Mesa Show, and all I can say is, "Wow!"

We ended up having a work session the last weekend of September, with modules being upgraded and work done before the next show.

Sorry to say, there will be no World's Greatest Hobby show for 2015 or 2016 in California. The word is, it will be coming in 2017. At this time we plan to be at the GTS Costa Mesa (January), Del Mar GTS (February), and Big Train show for 2016.

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, what are you waiting for, time to join in and build a module or just run your DCC 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/>

Dain Leese

\* \* \*

A milestone for our Tehachapi Exhibit!

In late August the La Mesa Model Railroad Club held a golden spike ceremony at Summit on their Tehachapi Pass exhibit. The celebration was in recognition of a thirty plus year effort to model the pass between Bakersfield and Mojave, inclusive. While the exhibit is far from complete, the main line track is now totally functional and supportive of the club's hosting of operating (op) sessions.



*Continued on Page 10*

## Club Car (cont'd)

Op sessions are events where train movements on the exhibit are controlled by a set of rules nearly identical to those of the prototype railroads. For example, timetable and train order (TTTO) operations mandate that train movements be authorized by the dispatcher in accordance with the published timetable and rule book as augmented by train orders. Most often, 1950's era rolling stock is used during TTTO sessions. Up to 50 people perform the jobs the prototype railroads staffed to keep trains moving on Tehachapi pass. Modelers from around the country and even the world have come to the La Mesa club to participate in these activities.

The public is welcome to observe such operations during normal museum hours, however be advised that parts of the eastern end of the line are not visible from the public aisle. As one club member has stated, the first rule of model railroading is that one never has enough space. Even 8,000 square feet is not enough to make all parts of the exhibit readily visible. To remedy the situation, club members often provide private tours. So if you really want a behind the scenes tour let one of our friendly operators know.

Club Website: <http://www.lamesaclub.com/>

Museum Website: <http://www.sdmm.org/>

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On October 31, 2015, the San Diego Society of N Scale's Pacific Desert Lines will be hosting a 1950s era Time Table & Train Order operation session. The Pacific Desert Lines is a large switching layout, located in the San Diego Model Railroad Museum in Balboa Park, that offers a wide variety of opportunities for train crews. There are two large yards for switching duties, additional switching between yards and two large freight houses, through freight and passenger trains, local freight operations with switching moves at over 40 industries, and administrative positions (dispatching and station operators). There will be a briefing at 7:30 am and the session will begin at 8:00 am. If you are interested in participating, please email Kelli Jones at [kelli.jonestt@gmail.com](mailto:kelli.jonestt@gmail.com) to RSVP. Please also include your preference for duties so we can try to accommodate them. Drinks and a taco lunch are available for \$10. The San Diego Model Railroad Museum is located at 1649 El Prado, San Diego, CA 92101



Kelli Jones

\* \* \*



We are working on a solution for the switches that we need to lay track on the three new Gilbert Town Modules. We can obtain baseball caps with our club logo for about \$8/each, in lots of 24. These would be good for publicity.

The search for a permanent site is on hold for the time being.

We had a successful visit at the San Diego Model Railroad Museum over the Labor Day Weekend. The layout attracted a steady flow of visitors with the busiest day realized on Sunday. We did not experience any loss of power

on the corners, probably due to our reduced size.

We had to decline an offer from the Liberty Station Foundation for the club to setup trains at the Command Center this holiday season. Unfortunately the space available would require us to create a new, small, layout for that venture, so the board will recommend another club for that effort.

We received the keys for our suite at Grossmont Center for our Christmas display and distributed them to the officers. The suite is located next to Panera Bread and allows us to setup our entire layout. We moved in on Sept 29<sup>th</sup>. The window operation during the Halloween Season will include ceramic Halloween village houses. Both window layouts are setup and operational.

Alex Sibbald

\* \* \*

## NMRA 2015 National Convention

Portland, Oregon, was the site of the 2015 National Model Railroad Association (NMRA) Convention, and the National Train Show (NTS). And, what a beautiful site it was! We had mostly great weather, but hot by Oregon standards, even so, it wasn't so bad for us from Southern California. San Diego Division delegates included Superintendent Don Fowler and his wife Kim, Paymaster Ben Sevier, Layout Tour Chair Kirk Treanor, Duncan McRee, Jack Eiermann, Gene Forbes, Dick and Linda Albrecht, and Gary Robinson. There may have been others as well.

The national board meetings were held August 21-23, and delegates to the convention began to arrive on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, when the first clinics (workshops) were held. Workshops were held all week, with the first beginning at 8:00am, and the last beginning at 10:00pm! Many clinics were offered twice, giving everyone a better chance to see the ones they wanted.

Prototype and layout tours were held all week as well. Prototype tours included a ride on the Oregon Coast Railroad, a visit to the last steam-powered lumber mill in the US, a paddle-wheeler ride on the Columbia River, and a tour of the Gunderson (car building) plant, among others. There were plenty of layouts to be visited, both private layouts and clubs.

The NTS opened for delegates Friday morning, admitting the public at noon. That allowed the delegates some time to visit with manufacturer's representatives before the crowds arrived. At noon on Friday, there was already a long line of the public waiting to be admitted.

The convention was great, and Portland was a lovely place to visit. It's not too early to register for next year's convention, to be held in Indianapolis, July 3-10, 2016. Go to the NMRA web page, [www.NMRA.org](http://www.NMRA.org), to register.



Clockwise from Top: McCloud River Railway #25 in Rockaway Beach, Cape Mears Lighthouse, Tillmook factory, on the Oregon Coast Tour (photos by Gary Robinson); Hull-Oakes lumber mill and sign on the Hull-Oakes Lumber tour; Kirk Treanor at Albina Yard. photos by Kirk Treanor

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### Mail Hook

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

**Responsibility:** Except for official reports, all opinions expressed are those of the authors, and do not necessarily represent those of the San Diego Division or its parent organizations.

**Subscriptions:** The "Mail Hook" is available in hard copy (paper) by subscription at the following rates: \$6/year for NMRA® members, \$10/year for non-NMRA® members, and is mailed First Class.

**Delivery:** The "Mail Hook" is available in hard copy (paper) format through paid subscription and at San Diego Division events. Normal distribution is through email delivery or on the Division and PSR websites.

**Submissions:** Contributions of articles on any railroad or model railroading topic of interest to the membership are welcome. There is no compensation, but published articles can be credited to the NMRA® Author Achievement Certificate. If you are interested in submitting articles, event information, or other information of interest to members of the Division, please follow these guidelines:

1. Preferred method is by email to the editor, with the submission attached as a text document. Also accepted are: text document on diskette, printout from laser or ink jet printer, or typed using new ribbon.
2. Keep in mind that submissions may be edited for length or formatting, or not used, at the discretion of the editor.
3. Submission deadlines for publication: January 2, April 1, July 1, and October 1.
4. If you wish submission materials returned (i.e., photos), please include a stamped, self-addressed envelope with your submission.

### From the Editor...

The summer is over. You wouldn't know it from the local temperatures, but Fall has now officially arrived. That means the national and regional conventions have come and gone, and the Holidays are looming. I hope you all have your Christmas lists prepared.

We still have some train events coming up. Model Railroad month is November, and there are many events going on. We have the Fall Meet the second Saturday in November, with a great hands-on workshop from Jimmy Simmons. Of course, the meet will feature model judging, show & tell, and lunch. The Hobo Auctino has been moved to the Winter Meet.

Many Southern California clubs are having open houses between now and Christmas. Thomas the Tank Engine will make his annual visit to the Orange Empire Railway Museum in November. The Division layout tour and Christmas party will wrap up the year, then we start again in 2016.

On a personal note, I will be relinquishing the editor's post. This will be the last issue of the Mail Hook that I will publish. The Division has begun a search for my successor, but no one has stepped up as of the publication date. I've enjoyed doing this for the past seven years, and I would encourage anyone to give it a try. It has allowed me to make new friends, both inside and outside the Division, learn new skills, and oh, by the way, if you're involved in the Achievement Program, you can earn points towards the author certificate.

I'd like to thank all the people who have supported me by submitting articles and reports. I hope you continue to support my successor.

Hope your signals are all green.

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 Modular Club (HO)

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.nmra2016.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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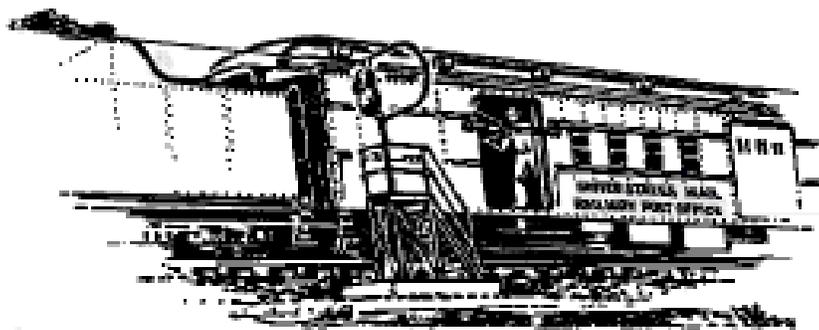
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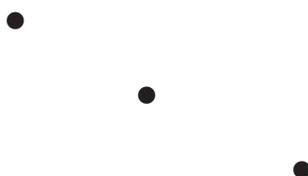
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# MAIL HOOK

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