

MAIL HOOK

SAN DIEGO DIVISION, PSR-NMRA

1ST QUARTER, 2014

SUPERINTENDENTS REPORT

By Don Fowler

HAPPY NEW YEAR and welcome to 2014! Last year came and went so fast that it's hard to believe that it's gone. As we transition into the new year, we pause to reflect on the highs and lows of the past and contemplate our hopes and dreams for the future. In 2013, I was able to complete and submit the final Achievement Program (AP) requirements for the Master Model Railroader certification. I guess that I needed to be challenged and by completing the program, I was provided with a feeling of accomplishment. As with most things worthy of our time and effort, the journey expanded my knowledge and skills while affirming the great friendships and support in our organization. If you haven't already started the program, I would encourage you to explore it further. The quest and its rewards are definitely worth it.

This year, I will continue planning for a new N scale layout and experiment more with operations. The new 16' x 20' double decked railroad will incorporate the latest in model railroad design and

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DIRECTOR'S REPORT

By Pete Steinmetz

We are going to be a busy division in 2014. Leadership has many activities planned for our members.

We started with our January layout tour at the home of Don Ham in Escondido. February 8 sees our Winter Meet at The Clairemont Christian Fellowship. (Detailed Information elsewhere in the Mail Hook) We continue with layout tours in March and April. May 10 we have our Spring Meet at the Antique Gas and Steam Engine Museum. There will be layout tours in June and July. There is no meet in August because we have our PSR Convention in September. There will be a layout tour in October and our Fall Meet in November.

Speaking of conventions, we only get to host the PSR Convention every 4 years. For the organizers, that is a good thing for a couple of reasons. Putting on a convention is a lot of work that requires quite a few people. We always need volunteers to help at the convention.

The other reason is we can have fresh material. There will be quite a bit of fresh material at our convention. We have some new prototype tours to go along with ones convention attendees have come to expect.

There will be many new clinics that have never been given at the PSR Convention. There are presenters that many of us have not seen before. There will be at least 4 hands on clinics with new material??? There will be clinics in our "Messy, Smelly, and Dirty" track. These will be held outside.

Stay tuned to the Mail Hook and our Yahoo Group for all the details.

One of my goals is to increase membership in the NMRA and the PSR San Diego Division. If you have fellow modelers that are on the fence

Continued on Page 2

Superintendent's Report from Page 1

technology, featuring the Southern Pacific's 1990's operations selectively compressed between the Port of Long Beach and Bakersfield. Groundbreaking is scheduled for spring of 2015. In the meantime, operations will continue on the existing layout until demolition begins.

Have you identified some modeling goals for this year yet? If you want to ensure that they are completed, make a list with a timetable and post it where you'll see it every day. Remember that the most effective way to eat an elephant is one bite at a time. Create reasonable objectives to achieve those big goals and you'll be a great success.

Division activities will continue in 2014, starting with a layout tour at Don Ham's home on January 11th. If you've never visited Don's layout before, you missed a real treat! He models the Southern Pacific in HO scale with an emphasis on the citrus industry. His modeling skills and attention to detail are second to none. He's also added a narrow gauge line since we last visited.

On February 8th, we'll be kicking off our Winter Meet at the Clairemont Christian Fellowship Church with a swap meet. Bring your unneeded railroad items to sell, and some money to buy new stuff. That will be followed by lunch and some excellent clinics. Of course, we'll also have contest judging, show & tell and door prizes so please join us and don't miss out on the fun.

Thanks to all who were able to attend the Division Holiday Party on December 14th. We ran the trains, enjoyed a great meal, played some reindeer games and had a rowdy gift exchange (no injuries or arrests). For next year we're considering an ugly Christmas sweater contest and charades. Kim and I hope that your holidays were great and extend best wishes for a great new year!

Don

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Director's Report from Pg 1

about joining or are just not sure, tell them about our Rail Pass program. It's \$9.99 for 6 months of full membership, including the magazine. This is a good chance to kick the tires and see what we are all about. Bring a friend to a layout tour and introduce them to other members. Most of us are fairly friendly and lots of us can hold a conversation.

Pete

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Fall Meet Wrap-Up

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

We started the day off with three clinics:

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

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

"Planning for Your Layout Plan" by Cliff Anderson. Cliff covered the things you need to think about before and during your planning process, so you end up with the most effective plan.

There was also a Mini-Clinic on "How to Give a Clinic" by Pete Steinmetz. This was a discussion of what is needed to organize and give a quality clinic.

Following the clinics, we had a BOX LUNCH from Subway. As luck would have it, we even had ordered enough to accommodate those without reservations!

After lunch there was a Show & Tell, then a HOBO Auction. Trains (and other) stuff not needed by the donor was auctioned off, and many of us went home with "new" treasures.

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WINTER MEET PREVIEW

The San Diego Division Winter Meet & Swap Meet will be held Saturday, February 8th at the Clairemont Christian Fellowship Church, 4570 Mt. Herbert Avenue. The swap meet will begin at 8:30, and run until 11:30. As an added bonus, the swap meet will include the estate of an HOn3 modeler. The estate includes new engines, cars, and accessories, as well as quality name items & 100 books. Admission is \$2 for NMRA members, \$3 for non-members, and children 12 and under are free. Tables are free for sellers, and set up begins at 8:00am. Coffee and donuts will be available for purchase. The church is off Genesee Avenue, approximately halfway between Clairemont Mesa Boulevard and Balboa Avenue.

Following the swap meet will be a box lunch from Subway, for \$5. Reserve your lunch by contacting Bruce Deck, meets@sandiegodivision.org, or 858-270-3916. Ham, turkey, roast beef, Italian cold cuts, or a vegetarian lunch are your choices. Soft drinks are included.

After lunch we will have some clinics. One will be on SketchUp, a freeware drawing program that allows you to create plans that can be printed out and used as a pattern for scratch-building, or made into a mock up with roofing and siding textures, or (with some other software) converted into a file that can be used by a laser cutter to create parts. This is particularly useful when you only have a picture of a building that may have been razed, or exists in a part of the country where you aren't. A second clinic is planned, but we had to change the topic at the last minute, and the replacement isn't set yet. Whatever it is, I'm sure it will be fun. Join us!

* * *

Welcome New Members

New members keep our organization vital by bringin new ideas and enthusiasm to our group. Each month, we list the new members since the last issue, and run a short background on those who are willing. This may help both the new members and exisiting members identify those in the group with similar interests. To submit background, contact me or Ray Inbody, Membership Chair. Ed.

Roy Alfred, Ramona

David Henkel, Escondido

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

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Clinic News!

Winter Meet February 8, 2014:

"Sketch Up" by Per Harwe, Cajon Division Director

Per will discuss how to create a plan for a structure from a photo, and present some potential sources for finding photos of building that no longer exist.

There will be a second clinic to be announced. (Only two clinics this time, because of the swap meet.)

Spring Meet May 10, 2014

"Constructing Roads" by Don Ham

Don will share his techniques for constructing realistic roads. The demonstration will be in N scale, but these techniques can be used in any scale.

Other clinics are still being evaluated.

Clinics are also being organized the for the PSR Convention in San Diego in September. There will be many interesting clinics given by many interesting clinicians. Some have never been given in the PSR. If anyone has a clinic they would like to give, or a suggestion for a clinic topic, contact me at clinics@sandiegodivision.org, or post on the Yahoo Group.

LAYOUT TOURS

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

Don Ham's Central Coast RR is situated in one bay of his garage. It is an 11'x17' HO freelance layout depicting the Santa Maria Valley of the California's central coast during the 1950's transition era. The bench work is open grid and 1/2" plywood, cork road bed, code 83 and 70 track. Approximately half the turnouts are hand-laid. The scenery is 60% complete, with many scratch built and kit bashed structures. The layout is fully



This is the scene they're looking at. Note how the street next to the General Store continues onto the backdrop and tapers off in the distance. Gary Robinson Photo.



Don Ham, MMR, (our host, in tan cap) points out some features in the town of Casmalia to Superintendent Don Fowler and Paymaster Ben Sevier while Steve Studer looks on. Gary Robinson Photo

operational so you can watch trains pass through coastal towns and country side. Since we last visited, Don has added a narrow gauge line, and plans to expand this. There is still a portion of Don's layout that is under construction, and I personally can't wait to see how he finishes it. The details, the mini-scenes, the backdrops, and the natural materials used in creating this layout make it one of the best you'll ever see. I hope you didn't miss it!

March 2014 - Clement Roberts, G scale, Carlsbad

Following the Winter Meet in February, we'll visit Clement Roberts' G scale railroad in Carlsbad for March. Clement was on our tour schedule last year, but had to cancel. We're looking forward to this visit to his great G scale railroad.

April 2014 - Dan & Lise Conway, HO, Carlsbad

In April we'll stop off to see Dan & Lise Conway's HO scale railroad. It is 1955. The South Fork RR still uses steam locomotives, but a second-hand 44-ton diesel works the mines at Gold Hill. The South Fork interchanges with the Southern Pacific, and with the Virginia & Truckee RR in Minden, NV. Other branches serve gold mines and agricultural industries. A logging line uses a Shay to haul logs to a sawmill at Sierra City. The South Fork has an unusual track plan featuring long runs. Of note, the South Fork features buildings built by Lise, who has added highly detailed, scratch-built interiors to many of them. Come watch some classic short line railroading: small steam locomotives hauling short trains up steep grades to the towns and mines of the region it serves.

We need layout tours for June and July, as well as September for the convention. If you're interested in showing off your layout, even if it's under construction, contact Layouts@SanDiegoDivision.org.

NMRA News

NMRA News



- The headquarters building in Chattanooga has been sold to the Tennessee Valley Railroad Museum (TVRM). The Howell Day Museum and the NMRA Library will be moving to the California State Railroad Museum (CSRM) in Sacramento, where we will also be opening an exhibit on the Magic of Scale Model Railroading. Day-to-day operations have moved into a new building, that costs less to operate than the previous one. The new mailing address is:

National Model Railroading Association

PO Box 1328

Soddy Daisy, TN 37384

The telephone numbers remain the same.

- National is working on integration of all US Regions and Divisions under a single umbrella for the IRS. When complete, this will extend National's tax-exempt status to all subordinate units with a minimum of paperwork.
- National is also working with manufacturers on a "self-conformance" system, whereby the manufacturers will voluntarily comply with standard requirements, eliminating the need for a standing committee at NMRA to do this.
- Annual audit reports and budgets will be coming to the NMRA web page, as the web page redesign project progresses. There are other, higher, priorities that must be addressed first, but members have asked for this, and it will be done.
- Many of you may have heard of the EduTRAIN program. The primary goal of this program is to create a selection of "turnkey" clinics that can be presented by someone other than the original author, thereby making these clinics available to Regions and Divisions that otherwise may not have skills in the clinic topic. These are meant to supplement, rather than replace, clinics currently given in Regions and Divisions.
- The South East Region (SER) successfully presented "Model Railroad Magic," an off-shoot of the NMRA's "Build a Memory" program. Build a Memory works with Home Depot and model railroad retailers to introduce Home Depot customers to model railroading. You can review the FoxNews story about Model Railroad Magic at the web page: <http://www.myfoxatlanta.com/story/24233442/model-trains-bring-sick-children-joy> .
- The NMRA National Convention will be held in Cleveland, Ohio, July 13-20, 2014. For more information, visit <http://2014cleveland.org>.

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2014 PSR Convention

The 2014 PSR Convention will be hosted by the San Diego Division of the Pacific Southwest Region, NMRA (<http://www.sandiegodivision.org/>). The Convention will begin on Wednesday, September 3rd, and end Sunday, September 7th, 2014. Events will include clinics, layout tours, prototype tours, a hobo auction, a swap meet, and a banquet.

The theme of the convention is bringing together modelers of railroading and trains, regardless of scale, interest or techniques. There will be clinics on model building, scenery and other topics, layout tours of layouts (many featured in the modeling publications), operations sessions, the PSR Contest Room, Railette events, and many other activities to keep you interested, informed and entertained. There is also another concurrent event as part of the Convention - Saturday is the Model Railroad Swap Meet sponsored by the San Diego Division, PSR, NMRA

The site of the Convention is the Marriott Courtyard in San Diego. The hotel reservation link is now active at **Book your group rate: NMRA Pacific SW Conference** . Be sure to use this link, which contains the group code, or you'll get a message that no rooms are available.



Uniting Railroad Modelers 2014

Pacific Southwest Region Convention

September 3-7, 2014

Presented by the San Diego Division, PSR, NMRA®
Marriott Courtyard, Hotel Circle, San Diego, California

Reg # _____

NMRA #: _____ Registration Date: _____

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

*As you want it to appear on your badge

Address _____ Phone (pri) _____

City _____ State & ZIP _____ Phone (alt) _____

E-Mail** _____ **E-Mail is the preferred communication method

Region & Home Division _____ Primary Scale _____

My trains run on: ___DC ___DCC ___Other _____

REGISTRATION TYPE

	QTY	EACH	TOTAL
Adult Rail (NMRA Member) Reg, Banquet, & Raffle (09/30/2013-03/31/2014)	_____	@ \$75.00	_____
Adult Rail (NMRA Member) Reg only (04/01/2014-07/31/2014)	_____	@ \$75.00	_____
Adult Rail (NMRA Member) Reg only (after 08/01/2014)	_____	@ \$90.00	_____
Adult Family Member, with NMRA member, Reg, Banquet, & Raffle (09/30/2013-03/31/2014)	_____	@ \$65.00	_____
Adult Family Member, with NMRA member, Reg only (04/01/2014-07/31/2014)	_____	@ \$65.00	_____
Adult Family Member, with NMRA member, Reg only (after 08/01/2014)	_____	@ \$75.00	_____
Youth (10-17, with paid adult), Reg Only	_____	@ \$15.00	_____
Single Day – Indicate Day [] Thur [] Fri [] Sat	_____	@ \$15.00	_____
Banquet Only	_____	@ \$35.00	_____
Non-NMRA member surcharge (applied to Rail Pass if eligible)	_____	@ \$10.00	_____
Extra Fare from reverse (when posted)			_____
	Total	\$	_____

Would you be interested in helping out while at the convention? _____ Yes _____ No, thanks

Would you be willing to give a clinic? Topic: _____ Yes _____ No, thanks

Operating session interest? _____ Yes _____ No, thanks

Make checks payable to: San Diego Division Send registration form and payment to:

Gary Robinson, PSR 2014 Registrar, 2319 Conway Drive, Escondido, CA 92026

Registrar's contact information: Email: grobbedobbie@yahoo.com Phone (760) 839-5877

Convention Hotel: Marriott Courtyard, 595 Hotel Cir S, San Diego, CA 92108

Reservations: [Book your group rate: NMRA Pacific SW Conference](#) or 619-291-5720. Room Rate \$99.00 per night, plus taxes.

February 2014

San Diego Division - Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Multiple Events
2	3	4	5	6	7	8 Multiple Events
9	10	11	12	13 Short Track Ops Session, AGSEM	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27 Short Track Clinic, AGSEM	28	

March 2014

						1 OERM Swap Meet
2	3	4	5	6	7	8 SD Div Layout Tour
9	10	11	12	13 Short Track Ops Session, AGSEM	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 / 30	24 / 31	25	26	27 Short Track Clinic, AGSEM	28 Cajon Division Temecula	29 Meet

April 2014

		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10 Short Track Ops Session, AGSEM	11	12 SD Div Layout Tour
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24 Short Track Clinic, AGSEM	25	26
27	28	29	30			

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. Events should be of interest to San Diego Division members. List not all-inclusive. Division-sponsored events are listed in **bold** typeface.

2014

February

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

March

- 8 **San Diego Division Layout Tour**. Clement Roberts, G scale, Carlsbad. noon -3pm. layouts@sandiegodivision.org

April

- 12 **San Diego Division Layout Tour**. Dan & Lise Conway, HO, Carlsbad. noon - 3pm. layouts@sandiegodivision.org

May

- 10 **Spring Meet**, Details TBA. meets@sandiegodivision.org

June

- 14 **San Diego Division Layout Tour**. TBA Contact Don Ham, layouts@sandiegodivision.org

July

- 13-19 **NMRA National Convention & Train Show**. New Cleveland Convention Center, 300 Lakeside Avenue, Cleveland, OH. Clinics, Special Interest Group meetings, prototype tours, contests, National Train Show including vendors and layouts. <http://www.2014cleveland.org/>

August

- 9 **San Diego Division event TBA**

September

- 3-7 **Uniting Railroad Modelers, Pacific Southwest Region Convention**, Marriott Courtyard, Hotel Circle South, San Diego, CA. Clinics, prototype tours, contests, Hobo auction, swap meet Registrations received through March 28 include the banquet, and a chance to win a \$100 gift certificate from Reed's Hobbies in La Mesa. Info and printable registration form at <http://www.psrconvention.org/SanDiego2014/index.html>

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2014

February

- 11-12 **Great Train Expo**, Anaheim Convention Center, 800 W Katella Ave, Anaheim, CA. 10am - 4pm. Admission, under 12 free. www.greattrainexpo.com/
- 22 **Annual LA Divisino Business Meeting**, Coco's, 1150 W Colorado Blvd, Arcadia, CA. No-host dinner, 6pm. <http://www.ladiv-nmra.org/>

March

- 1 **Swap Meet**, Orange Empire Railway Museum, 2201 S "A" St, Perris, CA. \$7 ages 12 and up, \$5 ages 5-11, \$18 vendors and helpers (Open at 7am). <http://www.oerm.org/spring-railroadiana-swap-meet-0>
- 8-9 **Winter Rail**, Stockton, CA (Railroad Photography Exposition and Railroadiana show) Scottish Rite Masonic Center, 33 W Alpine Ave, Stockton, CA. http://winterail.com/Winterail_News.html
- 22 **Santa Susana Depot Swap Meet & Open House**, Simi Valley, CA. Swap meet 7am - 10am (vendor check-in 5:45), open house 10am - 4pm. Entrance fee \$2 adults. Dave Putnam, 661-753-6066 or events@santasusannadepot.org.
- 29 **Western Prototype Modelers Meet**, San Bernardino, CA. <http://railroadprototypemodelers.com/sbdmeet.htm>

April

- 30-May 5 **PCR/NMRA Coast Rails Convention** (PCR Regional), San Luis Obispo, CA. <http://www.pcrnmra.org/conv2014/index.html>

May

- 17 **Spring Rail 2014**, 7am - 4:30pm. First Christian Church, 200 S 5th St, Alhambra, CA. Swap Meet, clinics, Hobo Auction. <http://www.ladiv-nmra.org/events.html>
- 31 **Santa Susana Depot Swap Meet & Open House**, Simi Valley, CA. Swap meet 7am - 10am (vendor check-in 5:45), open house 10am - 4pm. Entrance fee \$2 adults. Dave Putnam, 661-753-6066 or events@santasusannadepot.org.

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CAJON Division



Temecula Meet March 28-29, 2014



Mary Phillips Senior Center

Once again the Cajon Division of the Pacific Southwest Region of the National Model Railroad Association will hold its annual meeting in Temecula, California, March 28-29. This meet is open to all member of the NMRA. Guests are welcome to attend the meet as well.

This year we will feature the usual Friday night Bingo and goodies. This is a great time to hook up with model railroad friends seen only at these meetings and also to make new friends within our area.

Saturday morning will feature several clinics to help you hone your railroad modeling skills. This year there will be a new member orientation clinic to answer any questions new members may have regarding the activities of the Division and Region, including meets, conventions, Achievement Program, model contest, volunteer opportunities, etc. The model contest room will be open for model contest entry, viewing, and popular voting. Bring your latest favorite model to the contest and see how you do!

The afternoon activities start with a Pizza lunch and self-guided layout tours of the several great member layouts in the Temecula area. The PSR board meeting will be held Saturday afternoon, all members are welcome to attend.

Saturday evening, Dinner and the Awards Banquet will be at Pat and Oscars Restaurant in Temecula, with a great meal, Region and Division officer updates and Division and model contest award presentations. The final event for the evening is the always popular Chinese auction featuring tons of model railroad stuff waiting to go home with you!

Where:

Friday night and Saturday clinics and luncheon will be at the Mary Phillips Senior Center, 41845 Sixth Street in Old Town Temecula. <http://www.cityoftemecula.org/temecula/residents/parksfacilities/seniorcenter/>

Saturday evening dinner and awards banquet will be at Pat and Oscars Temecula, (951) 695-2422, 29375 Rancho California Rd, Temecula, CA 92591. <http://patandoscarsstemecula.com/>

Tentative Meeting Schedule:

Friday: 6-9 pm: Bingo and goodies.

Saturday: 7-8 am: Registration and pastries

8 am-12 noon: Clinics, Contest Room model entry, viewing and popular vote

12-1 pm: Lunch

1-5 pm: Self guided layout tours, PSR Board meeting, Contest judging,

5-6 pm: Happy hour at Pat and Oscars

6-8 pm: Dinner, Officer updates and award presentations.

8-? pm: Chinese auction

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.



As 2013 closes, it is time to reflect on what Short Track accomplished in 2013 and a look into 2014.

We finished all the buildings in the town of Colfax. Work will continue in 2014 to add details like figures and cars, light more buildings, and add a sound system.

Most of the rockwork and coloring has been completed around Verdi.

The topography around Truckee has been finalized. The balloon track in Truckee is complete.

The Main Street buildings in Truckee are completed but not installed.

More buildings will be installed as the scenery in Truckee proceeds.

The backside of the Roseville/Sparks yard has been completed.

The turntable in Sparks is installed and operating.

On the N Track side, we are refurbishing the Jim Fitzgerald Yard modules. They will be installed and give us more operating possibilities. These modules haven't been used since the Del Mar Fair set up many years ago. In addition, we will build two new two-foot modules for inclusion in the layout.

We had our section house patched and painted this Fall. It required quite a few patches and 12 gallons of paint to complete the job. We hadn't painted since we first erected the buildings in 2003.

The second Thursday Ops session finished on a high note. Attendance has been increasing. We have even had to go to some 3 man crews. We encourage new people to attend the Ops sessions. New people will be paired with an experienced Ops person, who will teach them how it's done. This is a very hands on experience.

We are planning more construction and improvements for both our layouts. Come by and visit.

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GTE Del Mar Show December, 12/07-08/13 was a little wet, but fun show, great to see all the San Diego people. GTE Anaheim 2014 January 11-12 2014 is/was our first show of the 2014 year. We had two new modules for this show, Bruce, one of our new members showed off his new logging/Saw mill modules for the first time. We are planning to sign up for the Big Train Show and see you all there.

If in the area during any of the shows, stop by and see us and say hi and come run your On30 DCC trains with us.

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

We are one narrow minded group, and we are looking for a few good men, and women, and young people..... and in no set order!

Join us on our Yahoo site!

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/CSCModOn30/>

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Cont'd...

Club Car (cont'd)



The December GTE at the Del Mar Fairgrounds saw the unveiling of some major changes to the San Diego S-Gaugers' layout. A 6' by 6' pop-out was added to the corner west of our rail yard. This new area contains a 26" turn table along with a 5 stall round house. With the exception of two switches, the track for this new area has been completely laid and wired. The round house is under construction and plans are being made for additional rail yard accessories such as a coal tower, sand house, water tower, ash pit, and a diesel fueling station to name but a few. Additionally, two new four foot modules were added to each end of the layout, increasing the depth of our oval from 14' to 18'. While the contents of one of the new modules is still under development, the second contains a Military Air Museum that displays aircraft from 1917 to the late 1950s, early 1960s; in addition to the aircraft, this module contains two hangars, a control tower, and a fueling station.

The GTE was the second time we used the alignment pins that were installed on all of our modules last spring. To say that they were a success is an understatement – we've estimated that these pins have cut at least an hour off of set-up time.

As we turn our attention to the new year our focus includes the upcoming Pacific Southwest Region Convention in September, our National Train Day open house in May at Liberty Station, the continued development of our layout, and the growth and expansion of our club and its activities.

Dale Minard

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History, innovation, and environmental sustainability are prevalent themes in the San Diego Model Railroad's proposed "Miniature Balboa Park" Garden Railway Exhibit. The garden exhibit will transport present day patrons of Balboa Park back to the era of the Class 1 streetcar, developed by John D. Spreckels, to bring visitors of all ages to the 1915 Panama-California Exposition.

With the expertise of over 300 model railroad volunteers, and in collaboration with Balboa Park Online Collaborative; the SDMRM proposes to create a 16'x32' "Miniature Balboa Park" representation in G-scale (1:32) as it appeared in 1915 for the Panama-California Exposition. It will feature cutting edge mobile interactive technology, solar power, and environmentally sustainable plantings

Scale light rail streetcars that brought the masses to the exposition will travel along the model representation of Balboa Park just as they did back in 1915. Classic Balboa Park Spanish Colonial architecture will be displayed as it appeared in exquisite miniature detail. Vignettes of exposition events and displays such as concerts held at the organ pavilion, the Santa Fe Indian Village, and California bell tower (complete with working sound) could be displayed alongside operating G-scale streetcars. Scale model figurines in period attire would be spotted throughout the exhibit enjoying the festivities. All of the excitement of this small scale Panama-California Exposition will be displayed in a beautiful garden landscape that emulates the beauty and history of Balboa Park.

The prime location for this G-scale exhibit installation will be in an underutilized outdoor space directly behind the San Diego Model Railroad Museum's facility in the Casa De Balboa Building. The exhibit will beautify an area of the park that is currently lacking in public use and aesthetic. The exhibit will also strengthen the San Diego Model Railroad Museum's reputation as "Our Nations Showcase for Model Railroad" (Model RR Magazine) and the largest, only accredited rail themed museum in North America.

The SDMRM is seeking to collaborate with many local, regional, and national artists and organizations to research and develop this exciting and engaging exhibit. Current and future collaborations include: San Diego History Center, San Diego Bonsai Club, Solar Partner, the San Diego Garden Railway Society, and nationally recognized model railroad artist, Jim Rimpau.

We're looking forward to our next swap meet, on February 8. Vendors please bring your own tables.

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SAN DIEGO DIVISION STAFF

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

Mail Hook

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

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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 trials and tribulations of being the newsletter editor never end. I got this issue ready (I thought) well in advance of the publication deadline. I was just waiting for a couple of small details to finalize it and get it out. Then the computer gremlins struck, and I had to rebuild the whole thing. Accordingly, I'm a little late getting this issue into your hands. I have to find a better way!

But I think it's a good issue, if a little abbreviated from what I wanted it to be. There's a lot going on at National, and some of it is described herein. I'll have more in the next issue, after I get the information from the mid-year meetings.

There are four good meets coming up this Spring, as well as the PCR Regional Convention in San Luis Obispo. I've been trying to get to that for the past couple of years without success. It looks like this is another year I'll miss it, but I'm told they put on a convention second only to ours.

The Meets begin with our Winter Meet and Swap Meet this Saturday, then the Cajon Division Temecula Meet March 28-29, followed by our Spring Meet May 10, and the LA Division's Spring Rail May 17.

Also on March 29, for the rivet counters among you, is the Western Prototype Modelers meet in the Santa Fe station in San Bernardino.

So there's plenty of activity to keep you busy the Spring. Grab a friend and take advantage of some of these great opportunities. Even better if that friend isn't a member of the NMRA, so you can introduce them to all we have to offer!

Gary

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

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

Poway Station All Scale Modular Club

Info: www.powystation.org

San Diego Free-Mo (HO)

<http://sdfreemo.org/>

San Diego Garden Railway Society

Info: 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

ZoCal Group (Z)

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

Online - Web Sites of Interest

NMRA: www.nmra.org

PSR: www.psrnmra.org

NMRA National Convention <http://www.2014cleveland.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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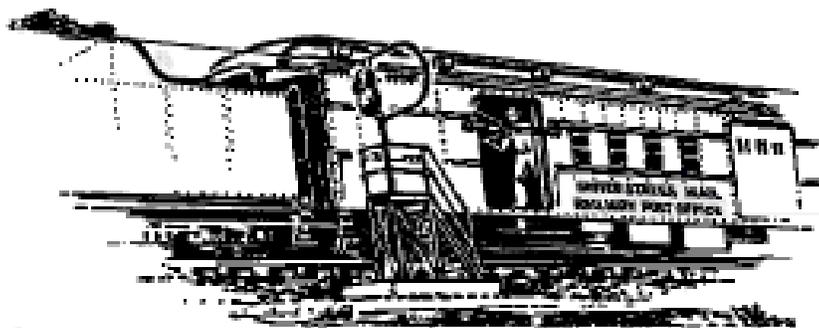
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Admission: Adults \$8, Students \$3, Seniors \$6

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



MAIL HOOK

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- PSR 2014 Convention
 - Upcoming Layout Tours!
 - Meets, Meets, Meets and Clinics!
- Look Inside!



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c/o Gary Robinson, Editor
2319 Conway Drive
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