



PACIFIC SOUTHWEST DISPATCH

NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION



ARIZONA
CAJON
LOS ANGELES
SAN DIEGO



VOLUME 40, NUMBER 4 4th Quarter, 2022

Board of Directors

President, Pat Raymer
President@PSRNMRA.org

Vice President, Gary Butts, MMR
VicePresident@PSRNMRA.org

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Director@AZdiv-nmra.org

Cajon, Harold Helland
Director@CajonDivision.org

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San Diego, Pete Steinmetz
Director@SanDiegoDivision.org

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Contest@PSRNMRA.org

Achievement Program
Carl Heimberger
APT@PSRNMRA.org

Historian
Per Harwe
Historian@PSRNMRA.org

"Chief Hobo-in-Charge"
Ed Hall, MMR
Hobo@PSRNMRA.org

Nominations
Vic Cavalli
Nominations@PSRNMRA.org

Editor
Kevin Spady, AIA
PSRDispatch@PSRNMRA.org

Webmaster
Marshall Wales
Webmaster@PSRNMRA.org



Did you enjoy this years PSR Regional Convention? It's not too late June's convention event in Flagstaff Arizona on your calendar! "Grand Canyon Special 2023" is coming

June 7—11, 2023.

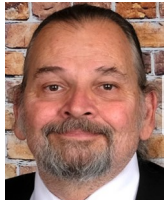
[Convention Website Link](#) (control-click)

Editors Note

I wish you all a Happy Holiday Season 2022! I encourage you to get out there and participate in events in 2023. Build your models, bring them to meets and conventions, write articles (I can use some here!) and reengage the hobby with a passion! Stay safe and keep on chugging along! Kevin Spady—Editor

HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO YOU ALL!





FROM THE WAYCAR

Pat Raymer—President

Tempus Fugit! (Time flies!)

When our illustrious Dispatch Editor Kevin Spady emailed a reminder that the deadline for this issue of the Dispatch had lapsed, the first phrase that came to my mind was “tempus fugit”! It was my mother, an educator by profession, who taught me the phrase when I was but a wee model railroader-back when the automobile was just losing its fins. It certainly didn’t have the same impact to me then as it does now. Time behaves rather oddly, at least to my perception. It seems to recede slowly, but arrive rapidly. It doesn’t seem that long ago that we were enjoying the hospitality of the San Diego Division at the “Back on Track in 2022” PSR Regional convention but, in reality, two and one half months and two holidays (yes, Halloween is a holiday at our house) have passed and another holiday is-you guessed it-rapidly approaching.

What, you may ask, does all this musing about time and its peculiarities have to do with you, me, and the Pacific Southwest Region? Well, for one thing, you may have less time to register for the 2023 PSR Regional convention than you think. The good people of the Arizona Division who are planning the “Grand Canyon Special 2023” Pacific Southwest Regional convention have thoughtfully requested and received approval to move the convention dates to June 7-11 2023, rather than our usual September time frame, all with our comfort in mind. The convention is being held in Flagstaff, a beautiful alpine city in northern Arizona. Its proximity to the Grand Canyon makes a ride to the rim of the canyon on the Grand Canyon Railway a must-do, and the “Grand Canyon Special 2023” convention does not disappoint. Arrangements have been made for our own steam powered private train to the rim, but seating is limited, so you might want to act soon. Tempus fugit! The last Pacific Southwest Regional convention in Flagstaff was in 2011, and I am very much looking forward to our re

turn visit. Please visit the PSR convention website via www.psrconvention.org, for more information. Speaking of rapidly approaching events, our neighbors to the north in the Pacific Coast Region will be holding their “Rails to the River 2023” Regional convention April 26-30 in Sacramento.

This brings me to another rapidly approaching event, taking place in Long Beach, CA. in 2024. The “SurfLiner 2024” NMRA National Convention may seem a long way off, but tempus fugit! This convention is being hosted by the Pacific Southwest Region, which means all of you! An event of this scope is an “all hands on deck” situation. It is my goal as Chairman of this convention to present the Pacific Southwest Region in the best possible light.

I am very pleased that members from all four of our divisions are serving on our convention committee, and doing a wonderful job. Just because you do not live near the convention venue does not mean you can’t be a valuable member of our convention team. There are many levels of involvement, from convention planning to serving as a volunteer at the convention. If you would like to participate, please contact me at: president@psrnmra.org and I will make sure we find a spot that is right for you.

On another subject, in past issues of the Dispatch I have asked for responses from the membership on various subjects and have received none. As a member of the Pacific Southwest Region, I feel you deserve to have a voice in region affairs. Other publications such as the NMRA Magazine or Model Railroader have reader response features, and I would like to provide a similar feature for the Dispatch. Please direct any comments or questions to me at: president@psrnmra.org. Your feedback will help us provide the best value for your membership.

I wish you all a very Happy Holiday Season and all the best in the New Year!

Until next time, see you down the line!

Pat

P.S. For the rivet counters out there, tempus fugit actually translates to time *flees*, but that’s for





THE PSR BACKSHOP

Gary Butts, MMR
Vice President

I hope your holiday season has been going well. It truly is a time to reconnect with friends and family. With the lessening of Covid restrictions here in Orange County, we have been able to host a small gathering of close friends for Christmas and Sandy's birthday celebrations. It really felt good (normal?). Sandy and I are scheduled to receive our 5th set of vaccinations next week and I hope it will be the last for a while. Meanwhile, progress on my latest train project is moving along well and the recent bout of rain restricting our outdoor activities has made it even easier.

Things are starting to heat up relative to our 2024 National Convention. We hold monthly regular committee meetings via Zoom and I can tell you that all of the committees are moving ahead at a good pace. It may seem like there is plenty of time but when you put the time lines together with hotel commitments, layout commitments, merchandise commitments, Prototype tour commitments, non-rail activities, registration software learning curves, web site preparation, financial planning, volunteer coordination, etc., etc. it starts to seem like it will be a close call.

As an example, the convention cars procurement, which are a part of the merchandise committee's (I am a member) responsibility, require a commitment 1-1/2 years in advance from all of the vendors we contacted, along with payment schedules. This means that the convention logo must be finalized (thank goodness, it is!) and that vendors must be found willing to put together a special run of cars just for us and this has to happen withing the next month (it will). Add to this, Convention shirts, Badge holders, Literature bags, Convention lapel pins, Volunteer identification vests, etc., etc.

Each of the, some 16, different convention committees have similar responsibilities covering their areas of commitment and it is really fun to see this all coming

together. Although our National convention is slated to be held in Long Beach, make no mistake, this is a Pacific Southwest Region production and we have committee members from all of our divisions joining in this effort. Do we have all of the bases covered? Nope! If you have any spare time, contact any committee member (or me: AP@CajonDivision.org) or your local division management to indicate your willingness to help and join the fun. We will need a plethora of volunteers during the convention if you can't afford any time before, with jobs ranging from an hour or two to whatever you can spare. Become a part of this effort and open yourself up to some Achievement Award points and convention perks that will be available to those that participate in its production.

Putting my Cajon Division Achievement Program chairman's hat on for a second, please join with me in congratulating our latest Pacific Southwest Region and seventh Cajon Division Master Model Railroader: Harold Helland, MMR. Harold is the Director of the Cajon Division and has just qualified for his MMR certificate by earning Achievement Awards in seven of the eleven award areas. Harold holds Achievement Awards in: Master Builder-Cars, Master Builder-Structures, Master Builder-Scenery, Master Builder Prototype Models, Model Railroad Engineer Civil, Model Railroad Engineer Electrical, Association Volunteer and Chief Dispatcher.

As part of the acceptance of the MMR Certificate, Harold has pledged to offer assistance to any model railroader seeking it, NMRA member or not. If you have a question on how to solve a particular model railroad related problem, do not hesitate to contact Harold or any of our PSR MMR's for an educated opinion and possible help. Congratulations Harold!





Cajon

Harold Helland, Director

Looking back on 2022, I find that the Cajon Division had a pretty good year. We started the year with the inception of Cajon Connection held via a Zoom meeting which broke up into three sections, including electronics, operations, and scenery. The electronics section focused on track wiring, lighting and Arduino driven action. The operations section provided the opportunity to share information about traffic control, and car movements. The scenery group covered different methods of developing and building realistic scenery. Scenery starts with the planning of your model railroad. Scenic decisions about forests, mountains, towns, industries, engine facilities, and passenger facilities all need to be considered during model railroad planning.

Cajon Division held a Spring Meet in April in Buena Park. The meet featured clinics, Swap Meet, Hobo Auction, Celebration of Models, and a live version of the Cajon Connection. The Clinics included, Scenery Made Easy, Creating a Rolling Stock Fleet for Operations, and Using Hunterline Stains for Weathering. The Spring Meet included a General Membership Meeting and an Awards Ceremony.

The PSR Convention, "Back on Track 2022", was held in September in San Diego. The prototype tour of the Pasha Automobile Loading Facility along with the San Diego Trolley Yard was a complete success. There were enough items in the Hobo Auction for everyone to go home with something. Another well received addition was the inclusion of several modular railroads. They provided an opportunity to see some scenery and enjoy working model railroads at a model railroad convention. Numerous clinics were presented including several hands-on clinics, which allowed attendees to take home something they made. The Celebration of Models had several entries which were evaluated for Merit Awards. If there were not enough railroad items for the members at the Hobo Auction, the

Swap Meet provided another chance to purchase the "can't live without" model railroad item. At the Awards Dinner and Banquet, several awards were given to well deserving Cajon Division members. Annette Palmer received the NMRA Presidents award. Joel Morse received the PSR Presidents' Member of the Year Award and Per Harwe received the Cajon Directors' Member of the Year Award. Overall, the 2022 PSR Convention "Back on Track 2022" was a great success.

The Cajon Division Fall Festival was held in October in Buena Park. The event included Bingo, Swap Meet, Hobo Auction, Celebration of Models, a General Membership Meeting, and a "T" Track Modular Railroad. Six Clinics included: Making Realistic Pine Trees, Making Turnouts Using Fast Tracks Templates, Building a "T" Track Module, Building a Museum Exhibit, Introduction to Arduino Control Boards, and DCC Boot Camp.

One other major event occurred in 2022. The Pacific Southwest Region was awarded the 2024 NMRA National Convention to be held in Long Beach. The planning process for the convention is moving forward, making progress, and will be a joint effort of all four PSR Divisions. SurfLiner 2024 will be held at the Long Beach Convention Center August 4 through August 11, 2024, with the base operation at the Westin Hotel. Prototype Tours include Tehachapi Loop, Cajon Pass, Los Angeles Union Station, The Southern California Railway Museum, and the Metro Rail Fleet Services Maintenance Facility. Please consider joining the SurfLiner 2024 Convention Team and contributing to the success of the 2024 NMRA National Convention.

As I look forward to 2023, I know Cajon Division will have several great meets for everyone to participate. The PSR Convention, "The Grand Canyon Special", will be held June 7 through June 11 in Flagstaff, Arizona at the Drury Hotel. The feature event will be an exclusive steam train ride to the Grand Canyon. This is another PSR Convention all Pacific Southwest Region members should plan on attending.

Have a great Holiday Season.



Arizona

Terry Fearn, Director

Hello to all the PSR members from the NMRA
Arizona Division.

Our monthly division Zoom calls and quarterly meets are on-going and well attended. On November 19, our fall meet was held in a new venue in Tucson. We had 60 members attending, including NMRA members from as far away as Yuma. Three clinics were presented including Fast Tracks Turnouts, Publishing Your Pet Project, and Building Realistic Parking lots. Our spring meet will be in the Phoenix area.

Planning is well along for the 2023 PSR convention, hosted by the Arizona Division. The Grand Canyon Special will be held in Flagstaff, AZ on June 7-11, 2023. Please visit our website for more information and to register. Flagstaff is in northern Arizona at an elevation of 6,910 feet and features comfortable summer temperatures. The downtown area includes shopping, attractions and historic Route 66. Our convention headquarters is the Drury Inn and Suites, adjacent to the High Country Convention center in downtown Flagstaff. Book your room at the Drury Inn using the special convention rate. Included in the rate is complementary breakfast, complementary evening drinks and snacks and free covered parking.

The Flagstaff depot is blocks away from the hotel and hosts daily Amtrak service and nearly 100 BNSF freight trains. Other points of interest in Flagstaff are the Riordan Mansion State Park, Museum of Northern Arizona, and Pioneer Museum. A short drive away is Lowell Observatory, Sunset Crater, Meteor Crater, the restored La Posada Inn, the former Harvey House in Winslow and of course, Grand Canyon National Park. Layout tours will be featured the day before the convention in the Phoenix area and after the convention in

Three simultaneous clinics are planned for the full day on Thursday and Friday: Two clinics are on modeling topics and one clinic is dedicated to the Grand Canyon - Its history, geology, geography, and surrounding area. Also on the schedule is a swap meet, hobo auction and awards banquet on Saturday night.

A highlight of the convention will be a shop tour (not normally open to the public) of the Grand Canyon Railway on Friday of the convention. On Saturday, the railroad will run a special excursion train behind steam locomotive #4960 for NMRA members and guests. The excursion train offers multiple classes of service; however, the First Class and Luxury Parlor cars are already sold out. There will be a two-hour layover at the Grand Canyon and photo run-by on the return trip. Don't wait to make your convention and train reservations. We hope to see you in Flagstaff this June.



Los Angeles

Vic Cavalli, Director

Has normalcy from COVID-19 finally arrived to the Los Angeles (L.A.) Division? I certainly hope so, and that it might stay for a long time.

The year has concluded with a couple of excellent events occurring. First, at the beginning of October, the *Los Angeles Area Prototype Modelers'* meet was conducted with approximately 70 individuals attending. Then, mid-November, the Division held its own interactive *FallRail 2022* mini-meet to the approval of another 25-30 Regional members.

The remainder of 2022 is being spent sending out a survey to each individual member of the Division so L.A.'s Advisory Board may prioritize its resources in parallel with those benefits members want the most in 2023.

Continued on page 6





Los Angeles

Vic Cavalli, Director

Continued from page 5

Already scheduled for the beginning of 2023, L.A. shall hold its annual Membership Meeting and Banquet; occurring late-February or early-March. Prior to that, the Division will be attending the Great Train Show at the Ventura County Fairgrounds the weekend of February 18th and 19th; promoting the benefits of being a NMRA member. Hopefully, either late-March or early-April, the Division will start sponsoring bi-monthly home, or club, layout open houses.

Possibly, depending on the feedback our Advisory Board receives, we may arrange for a *SpringRail 2023* event during the second quarter of the new year.

So, as you can see, the Los Angeles Division has high hopes for next year.

As usual, I highly recommend you check out new offerings on our L.A. Division website www.ladiv-nmra.org; especially the current issue of our quarterly newsletter, the *LA Coupler*, www.ladiv-nmra.org/index.php/news-and-information/la-coupler-newsletter/current-edition.

In closing, I would like to take this moment to wish you, your families and friends, a joyous holiday season and a wonderful, healthy new year.

Until next quarter's report, happy model railroading to you!

NMRA YouTube Channel

If you have access to the internet take a minute to check out the NMRA YouTube Channel at

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLBbDhVLodgxn8otpnudMsHdQMucCzcTWD>

While it is challenging to watch videos live during the week if you are a working person, these video recordings of the presentations give you access to many events you might not otherwise get to see.



San Diego

Pete Steinmetz, Director

Since the 2022 PSR Convention in September things have been pretty quiet in the San Diego Division.

January layout tour:

January 14 2023 from 11AM – 3PM

Grossmont Center Mall, La Mesa (Just East of San Diego off I-8. San Diego S Gaugers. Both S Scale and S Gauge operating layout.

We will have an in person meet in on Saturday February 11.

Location TBD

All members in Cajon, LA, and San Diego divisions should get 1 or 2 E Mails a month promoting the San Diego Division layout tours and meets. If members aren't receiving the emails, send me your name and email address and I will make sure you are on the list.

Director@Sandiegodivision.org

March layout tour:

March 11 is from 10AM – 2PM.

Location is the spectacular Snow Creek Railroad built by Bob Treat. Snow Creek is an impressive outdoor Fn3 layout that has been featured in many publications..

Bring a guest or 2 to any San Diego meet or layout tour.

Don't forget the PSR Convention in Flagstaff, AZ June 7 – 11, 2023

One of the highlights is a ride On the Grand Canyon Railway in a private train pulled by a steam engine.

<https://azdiv-nmra.org/psr2023convention/>





Awards Program

Carl Heimberger, AP Chairman

Awards Program Report

As 2022 comes to an end we did have a few AP Certificates earned this past quarter and one **MMR**.

Award Program Certificates went to:

Marshall Wales	Volunteer
Paul Buhrke	Author
Harold Hellman	Volunteer
Carl Heimberger	Structures
Carl Heimberger	Scenery

And our newest **MMR** went to **Paul Buhrke MMR # 721** congratulations.

An observation I have noticed over the years is the misunderstanding of what the NMRA Awards Program is really about. Yes it is a way of recognizing members who have excelled in certain areas of model railroading but in reality it is far more than just that. If you truly embrace the program it will introduce you to new modeling and communication skills you may have not experienced.

Take for example Author you may already have much of this done if you have given clinics with handouts or written materials that has been published in your Division or Region newsletter.

How about Cars. We all have probably at least did some additional detailing and weathering on our cars so that meets half the requirement. Scratch building four additional cars is really not that hard and think of the new skills you will introduce yourself to.

If you have built a layout or some modules you have probably met 90% of Civil, Electrical, Scenery and possibly Structures. Sure you have to

scratch build some track and structures but think of the skills you will enhance or learn. Heck you may have even meet the requirements for Prototype Models if you have on the layout a particular part of a real railroad represented.

Dispatcher, what could be easier then running some trains. Yes there is some paperwork required but if you have an Op's layout you should already have that done or if you operate on other layouts they should also have the supporting paperwork, you just need to copy it.

And yes Volunteer and Official will require you put in some service time for the good of the NMRA, but do not sell that short. I have met and made many lifelong friendships that would have been missed if I had not gotten involved. And that was a lot better than just watching TV.

And of course the dreaded Motive Power. This is one that I ruled out as being something I could ever accomplish. But now having five AP Certificates under my belt and close to completing Cars Electrical and Civil I have taken a second look at Motive Power and feel with the skills I gained over the years of building models it may not be beyond my reach. Yes it may take me a year to do it but just think of all the additional skills I will learn.

So, what is my point? Model Railroading like everything in life is a fluid and growing experience, so embrace it and expand your skill level. Heck it was not that long ago we just ran DC and look how the hobby has changed with just the introduction of DCC. It is time to challenge yourself and take that step into the unknown. Believe me you will not regret it.

Carl Heimberger
PSR AP Manager

Convention Update

**National Model Railroad Association
Pacific Southwest Region Convention**
Arizona Division / Flagstaff, Arizona June 7 – 11, 2023



For More Information or to Register, Visit our Website at:

www.psrconvention.org

Convention Update

An exclusive steam train to the Grand Canyon is the highlight and focus of *The Grand Canyon Special 2023* Convention. The Convention will be located in Flagstaff, Arizona, which offers over 100 BNSF trains each day, cool summer temperatures, a rich diversity of downtown attractions and historic Route 66. The High-Country Convention Center and the Drury Inn are the featured convention facilities offering clinics and activities for everyone. There will be model railroading clinics and a special series dedicated exclusively to the Grand Canyon excursion. The format is new, unique and exciting, featuring two days of convention activities culminating Saturday with the NMRA Steam Train to the Grand Canyon, one of the seven wonders of the natural world!

Bring your Family! Bring you Friends!

This Convention Has it ALL:

- **The Grand Canyon**
 - Most often cited bucket list item
- **Exclusive Steam Train**
 - Engine House Tour
 - Run-by at the Pumpkin Patch
- **Clinics for Everyone**
 - One in every three clinics dedicated to the Grand Canyon—Its history, geology, geography and surrounding area
 - Clinics specifically for modelers
- **Railfanning**
 - At the Flagstaff Depot with over 100 trains passing every day
- **Layouts**
 - Tours in Phoenix, Flagstaff and Williams
 - Operations at Flagstaff and Verryl Fosnight's Wyoming Division
 - Modular layouts at the Conventions
- **Banquet**
 - Contest Winners
 - NMRA Member of the Year—by Division
 - Featured Speaker—Dale Angell, The Toy Man!

Early Registration Special
Register before April 1
and save 10% off the
price at the door



3

This is your opportunity for a one-of-a-kind train adventure to the Grand Canyon. Here's what makes this tour special:

- Exclusive to NMRA members
- Steam train run-by up 4% grade
- Steam powered by Engine 4960
- Your choice of unique railcars
- Engine Facility tour that is not available to the general public



PSR Treasurer

Joel Morse, Treasurer

PACIFIC SOUTHWEST REGION 37

TREASURERS WINTER 2022 DISPATCH REPORT

SUMMARY:

During the period July 31, 2022, through October 31, 2022, there were quite a few PSR financial transactions, both deposits and credits. On the deposit side, the Region received the Division Membership Rebate from National (\$859.00), a rebate from the Amazon Smiles Program (\$8.65) and \$46.89 from the Hobo Breakfast at the San Diego Regional.

On the Credit side, we paid out the \$859.00 Membership Rebates to the Divisions, reimbursed Vic Cavalli \$89.00 for Election Buddy, reimbursed Gary Butts \$146.55 for the Golden Spike Awards and Member of the Year Awards engraving presented at the San Diego Regional, and reimbursed Mike Allee \$97.36 for materials to construct easels for the Photo Contest at the San Diego Regionals.

The October 31, 2022 Bank Statement indicates that the Region has \$22,219.54 (compared to \$29,584.74 on January 31, 2022) in the Region Checking Account. Note that the PSR provided \$10,000 in "seed money" to the 2024 Convention Committee.

PSR Wells Fargo Checking Account:

Region Assets as of July 31, 2022: \$22,228.91

Region Assets as of October 31, 2022:
\$22,219.54

Net Change this period: -\$9.37



Historian's Report

Per Harwe, Historian

Per has indicated that he has not received any new historical information and is hoping that members remember to provide Photos, Pins and Badges of past events to him for our archive. - Ed.



The Show Room

Mike Allee, PSR Contest Chair

Some wonderfully done models and crafts made their way to this years convention in San Diego *Back On Track in 2022*. What follows are pictures of these entries along with information about the entries.

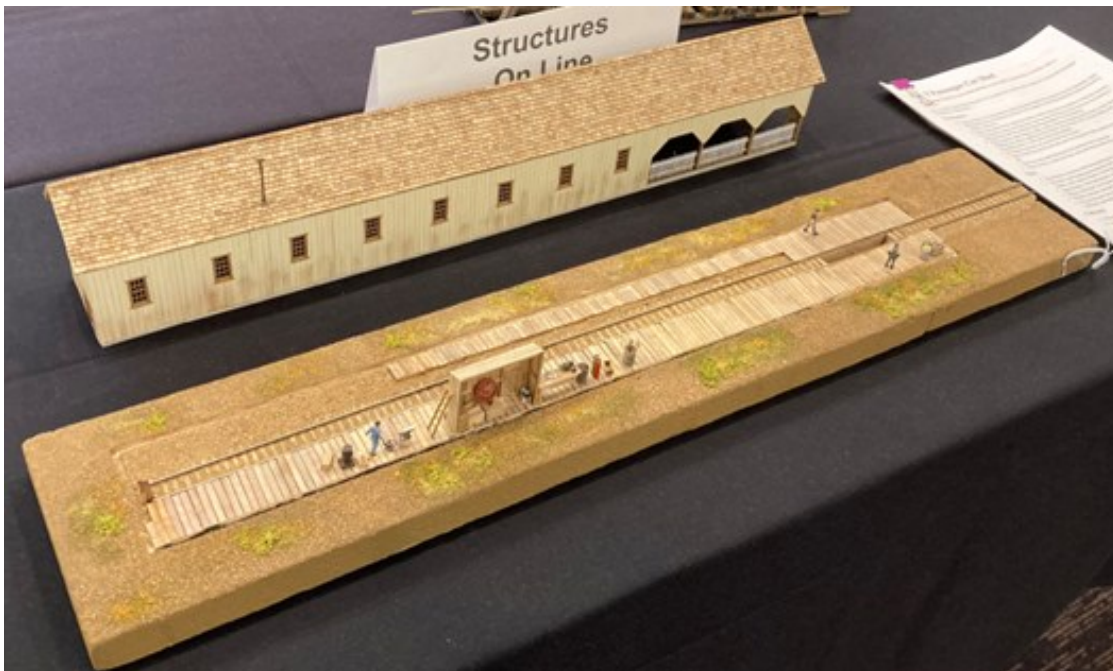
As you are aware entries can be placed in either of two categories, those to be Evaluated (E) using the criteria put forth by the NMRA, to gain recognition as a merit award model in the Achievement Program (AP) or not. The second category is made up of other models and additional items for Display Only. All items in the Celebration (Show) Room are subject to the judgement of the convention attendees in the "Popular Choice" (PC) vote.

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The 2022 Convention Showroom

Unlike when I presented the awards at the banquet, leaving the "Best of Show" to the last I'll start with Carl Heimberger's (Cajon Div.) *V&T Car Shed* "Best of Show" E and First Place PC in Structures On-Line, receiving a merit award. Each wall board was applied separately along with the thousand plus individual shingles. Scratch built in HO Scale



The Convention Showroom



Steve Cole (Los Angeles Div.) took First Place E and Second Place PC in Structures On-Line for his *Howe Thru Truss Bridge*. If a picture of this bridge in a scene and didn't look close you might think it was prototype. A merit award was received. Kit built in S Scale



In the Structures Off-Line First Place E & PC went to Christopher Greenwood (San Diego Div.) for his *Greenwood Milling Co.* Well done scratch built N Scale, received a merit award.



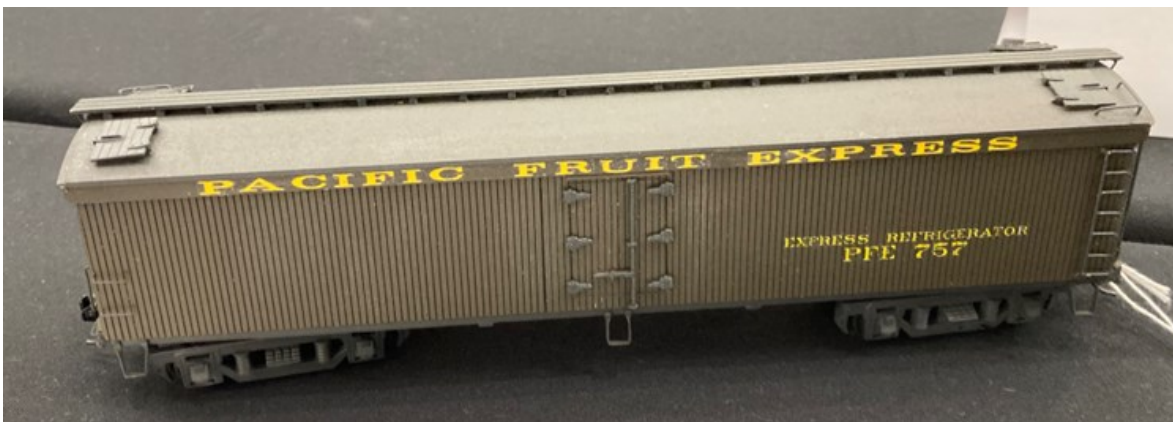
The Convention Showroom



Second Place E Robert Behm (San Diego Div.) for his HO scratch built *Tractor Barn*. His attempt to weather the structure like a picture that accompanied the model was very good.

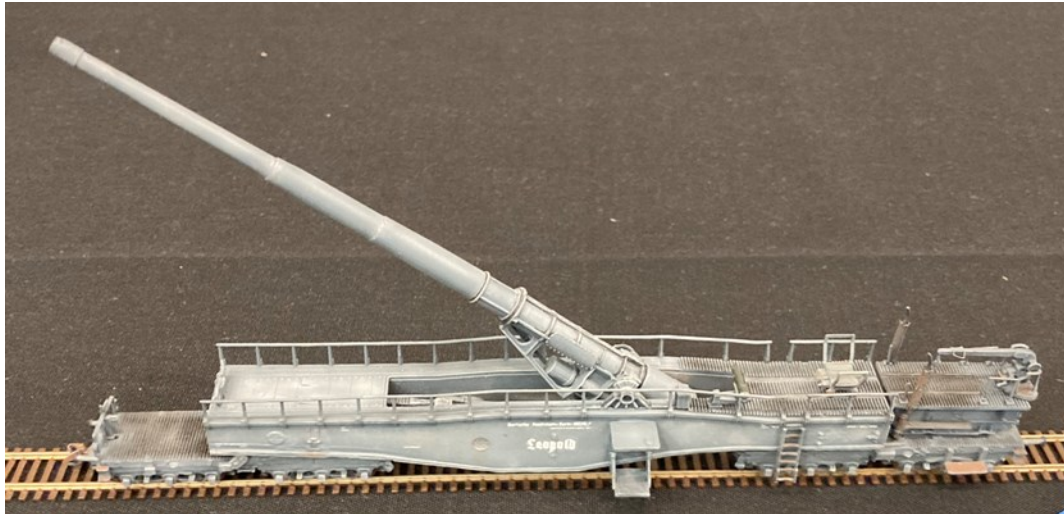


Third Place E & PC went to Jim Phillips (Cajon Div.) for his scratch built *Clyde's Auto Salvage* model. The model was entered in Structures Off-Line and the only thing that is evaluated in the category is the structure. All the fine "junk" and fence (not attached to building) not included.



This *Pacific Fruit Express Reefer S Scale* by Steve Cole (Los Angeles Div.) received a First Place in E & PC as well as a merit award in the Passenger Car category. It appeared to be just out of the paint shop.

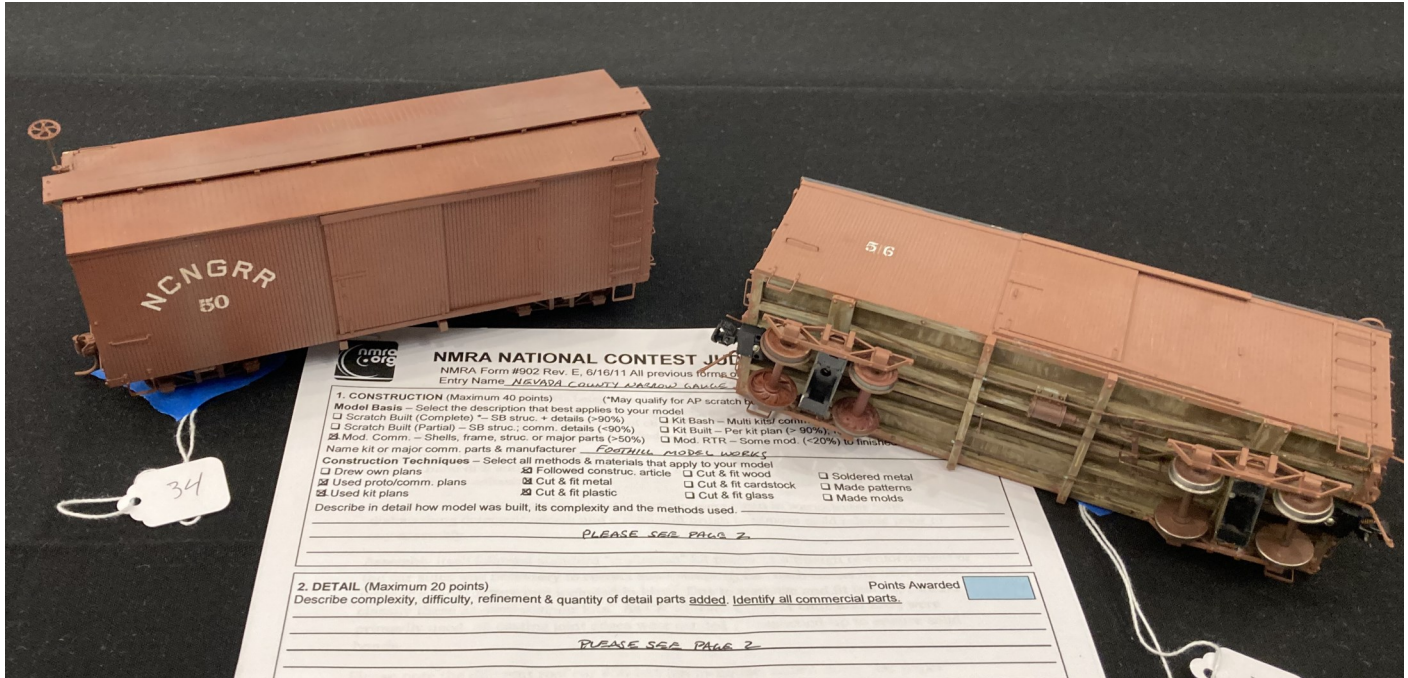
These two German rail canons, *Thor* & *Leopold* kits in N Scale by Christopher Greenwood (San Diego Div.), took First and Second in both E and PC in Non-Revenue Cars. Leopold (below) took more than a year to build. (Judges regret having broken a couple of small pieces off.)



The last evaluated class was Freight Cars. First Place E, PC & a merit award went to Steve Cole with his HOn3 Scale kit, *Southern Pacific Narrow Gauge Stock Car #157*.

Vic Cavalli (Los Angeles Div.) received Second Place E , PC & merit award for his *Nevada County Narrow Gauge Box Car #56* in S Scale. #50, entered in Display-Only received a

Gauge



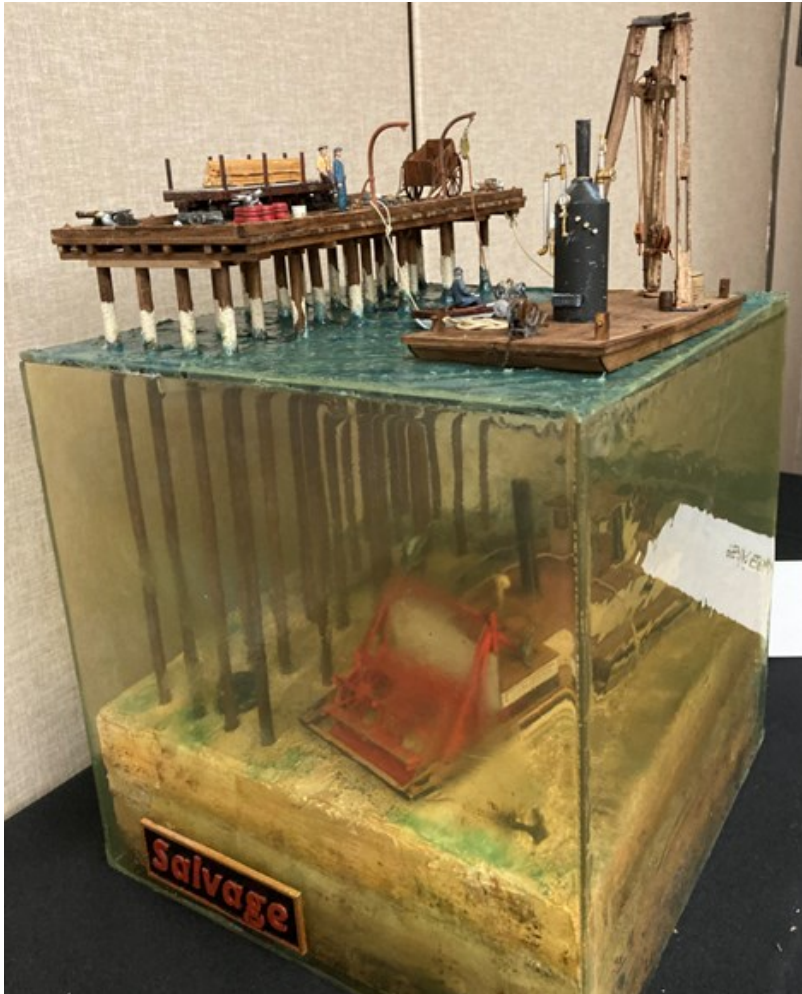
Special Awards Thumbs Category



Annette Palmer received First Place PC for her *Jurassic Park* in HO Scale.

For Display Only Division (Peoples Choice Awards)

These are items that are not evaluated for a merit award or there is not a merit category for the item. Members and spouses can display their handicraft. There is no merit for photos so they are included in this category and PSR doesn't judge photos (requires qualified judges).



Duncan McKee (San Diego Div.) received Second Place PC in Structures Off-Line Display Only for his *Sanasalito Pier with Sunken Boat* PC.

Favorite Train Display

Annette Palmer (Cajon Div.) received First Place in the Favorite Train Display-Only category for *Military Train (On Memory of Mel Marquardt)* PC.



Arts and Crafts Display-Only category



Kim Folwer's (San Diego Div) First Place *Flamingos Denim Shirt* PC.



Mona Raymer Los Angeles Div.) received Second Place for her *Pine Stitched Gourd* PC.



Kim Fowler received Third Place for her *Easter Wall Hanging* PC.



In the Arts and Crafts Needle Point Category *Chassie the Railroad Kitten* by Annette Palmer received First Place PC



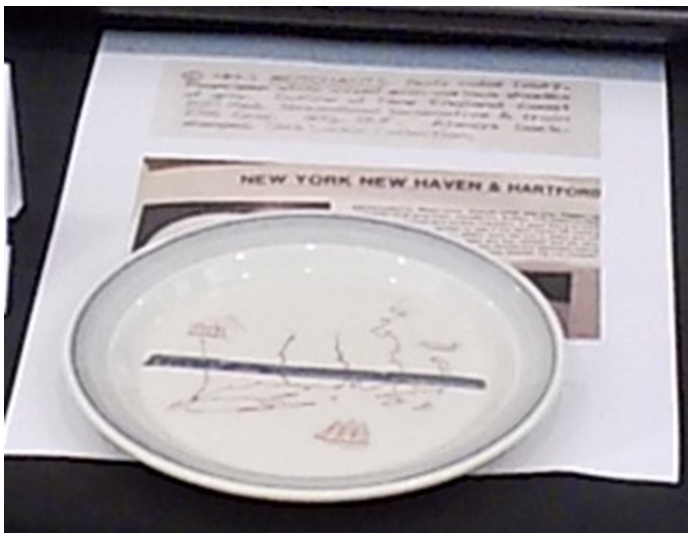
Arts and Crafts Railroadiana Category



In the Arts and Crafts Railroadiana Category First Place PC was received by Mona Raymer for her *Santa Fe Meal Service*. (Probably never recognized the service is set in reverse.)



Diner in Dinnah (below) by William Ligon (San Diego) received Second Place PC



Roberta Fleishman (Cajon Div.) received Third Place PC for *NYNH&H RR*

Photo Display Only

B&W Prototype: *Snow Day at the Depot* by Earl Grad (San Diego Div.) received a First Place PC.



Color Prototype: *Then and Now* by Mona Raymer received First Place PC.



Color Prototype: *End of the Run* by Mona Raymer received Third Place PC.



Modules

The last category, to my knowledge, never having an entry in PSR is Module. Robert Heselgrove and Robert Osterhauadt constructed four modules in N Scale entitled *Solor* borrowed from "Thomas the Tank" and depicting several scenes using Thomas' friends.

First Place E., unfortunate that there is no merit award offered for this category.





This is their effort to create youngsters interest in the hobby, a wonderful effort in my opinion.

The models and crafts that were displayed in the Celebration Room were quality, as you can see by the pictures. The one downside in the Celebration Room was the number of models to be evaluated; eleven total submitted by seven modelers. If you were at the convention where was your model and if you were not at the convention why not? If you enjoy another area of the hobby you might give modeling a try. You never know you may have hidden talent or find modeling relaxing after a day of ...

A grateful thank you to those that enjoy modeling or crafts and allowed us to enjoy their work. All receive awards and are mentioned above.

Thanks goes to the evaluators; Gary Butts, Morrie Fleishman, Harold Hedland, Annette Palmer, Rodger Gredvig, M. Kestle, Patrick Regan, Paul Stoner, & Chris Tompson.

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Photographs by Rodger Gredvig & James Keena.

THE JOYS OF CLINICS

Mark Canighan

After many years of giving the occasional clinic at various Conventions and meets, I decided it was time to discuss the why, what and how of being a clinician.

First of why do it? There are many reasons, and not everyone who presents a clinic does it for the same reason. There is the aspect of showing off, there is sharing skills and information on different subject, but maybe most importantly – someone has to do it.

What would a meet be without the clinics, a layout tour with a lunch or dinner? Even a bunch of guys (and or gals) sitting around discussing some specific item is a kind of a clinic. It takes many different people with different takes on a subject to provide the dynamic environment that any hobby requires. Otherwise we would all be modeling the 1954 Pennsylvania railroad in O scale. Plus, the best way to filter data is to compare different inputs and look for the consistencies, or the components that fit your needs.

I have presented clinics on designing and building a simplified signaling system, then attended the next clinic on a more sophisticated system that was specific to a given railroad. And I learned more. You can never underestimate the value of the input of the other participants in the room adding other experiences or ideas to the ones presented. Even opposing ideas can be the crucible that tests your own take on a subject, and in some cases burn away irrelevant or even wrong information, leaving you with a better grasp on your own subject.

Some clinics are the facts and figures of a subject, the history, the physical layout and/or the function of a railroad, an industry, or a specific location. Some clinics are the nuts and bolts of how to replicate some component of a railroad or operation. But in all cases, its sharing with other that have similar interest. They wouldn't be there at meet in the first place if that wasn't the case.

So, what does it take to present a clinic? At the most basic – someone who has something to say and someone (hopefully more than one) who want to learn something. Everything after that is just frosting on the cake. But the cake should be eatable and the better the frosting the more enjoyable the treat.

First you have to have a subject that you find interesting, or why bother. And besides you would do a poor job of it anyway. But if you have real passion for the subject, you will fill the room with and maybe infect the attendees with it (in a good way).

The process of preparing a clinic even on a subject that you know well will cause you improve your knowledge or skill on the subject. There is the extra research you may do to fill in a few blanks and thus teach yourself more. And when you have to look at a subject and simplify it so that others can understand it, again helps you to understand it better. It is also a metric of how well you do understand any subject by how well you can translate it into other terms that else can grasp.

So, how do you get started in presenting clinics at convention? Well I'll let you in on the secret on how I did clinics a nation convention. It was not the MMR (don't have one, sorry Carl I'll get around to turning in those AP forms one of these days, it only took me twenty years to get my golden spike). So how did I do it, I raised my hand!

I first got started by sitting thru a clinic and thinking I could do a better job. Its not that it was poorly presented, it was just more focused on the product they were promoting, a signaling system, and not enough on the basic of a signaling system in the first place. Some additional research and a little playing around with a few parts and I had a clinic ready for the next time the clinic was in my division. After that all I had to do was literally raise my hand. The second hardest thing to get are new people willing to present a clinic (the hardest getting articles for the newsletter).

After that you start thinking about other subjects you could do a presentation on. Don't want to always give the same presentation over and over again. That's like running the same train at every train show on your club layout.

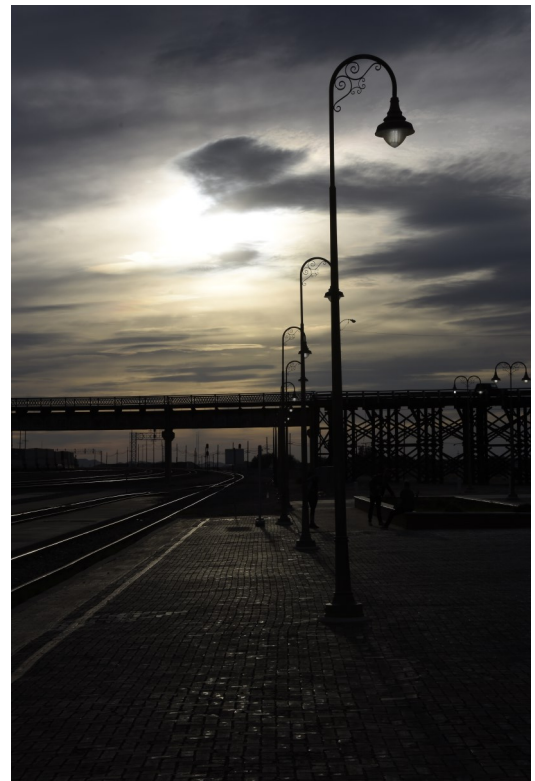
There are practical issues that have to be addressed. These days it is getting harder and harder to find a working slide projector or an overhead projector. The Laptop, Power Point and digital projector have become the standard tools for presentations any more. Besides, do you really want to drag around a white board, and fresh set of markers? And I am sorry to tell you that the Convention does not generally provide copying services for those handouts. They are usually an out of pocket expense for the presenter. So, remember that when you comment that the copies would have better in color, or they run out of copies.

And all the bits and pieces and parts on the table were another out of pocket, unless they are sponsored by a manufacture (maybe if you're the manufacturer, but that's still out of pocket). That will happen right after Broadway Limited walks up to our layout at a show and offers free engines to everyone in gratitude for providing the layout. But this is not a business, not an investment, it's a passion. Just keep on thanking your presenter and letting them know you learned something new. And don't be afraid to share some little thing you may know.

Now we even have a new form of clinic to deal with, the YOUTUBE video. Don't forget in addition to the tools and materials used, there is the TIME spent, time isn't free. There are costs to making your own video to post, even if you're not keeping track of time. . Every minute spent on one thing is a minute not available for something else. I for one see my time spent on doing good, making a better world. So, if every one tried to present just one clinic just once, wow!

STAY CALM AND PLAY WITH TRAINS!

Editor's Note: Every convention or meet organized and presented by the Region or your Division can always use more interesting and informative clinics. If you ever have the inclination to present something you have an interest in, or have completed in your modeling life, give it a try! I know that the 2023 Convention in Flagstaff and the 2024 National Convention in Long Beach would love to have a broad range of clinics to offer.



Late afternoon at Barstow Yard near Harvey House



PROTOTYPE TOURS



Travel Town RR

CONVENTION HOTEL
THE WESTIN LONG BEACH



NON-RAIL ACTIVITIES



Long Beach Convention & Visitors Bureau

LAYOUTS & OPERATIONS



2024 NATIONAL CONVENTION

SURFLINER



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Kevin Spady, AIA, Editor
NMRA Pacific Southwest Region
727 Luton Drive
Glendale, CA. 91206

