

PACIFIC SOUTHWEST REGION DISPATCH

NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION



ARIZONA
CAJON
LOS ANGELES
SAN DIEGO



VOLUME 38, NUMBER 2 2nd Quarter, 2020

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VAN NUYS LOCAL 2020

CANCELLED

As many of you already know, the 2020 PSR NMRA Convention, originally scheduled for September 9th through the 13th has been cancelled due to the impacts of the Covid 19 virus on the ability to provide a safe, active and engaging event. If you are a registrant you can roll your registration over to the 2021 convention, donate your registration fee to cover 2020 costs incurred or request a refund on your registration. For more information on the 2021 Convention please see page 7.

Note from the Editor: If you are interested in publishing an article in the Dispatch, drop me a line or send me an article at PSRDispatch@PSRNMRA.org. I am always interested in new content as long as it pertains to events or activities of interest to model railroaders in the region. Publication of articles gives you credit towards your MMR Authorship AP.





**The
PSR
BACKSHOP**
Gary Butts, MMR, President



Well, here we are in the middle of it. I hope all of you are doing well and staying safe. Be happy that we all have a great hobby to fall back on that in many cases does not require close personal contact. In my case our long-awaited layout expansion is moving ahead at an amazing pace. Fortunately, most of our local hobby shops are still open at some level and I have been able to get the few supplies I needed by calling the shops to make sure they were open and picking them up the same day. Stay safe, act wisely and catch up on your model railroading projects.

We have recently lost one of our fine members to his last run. Bill Jacobs was heavily involved for many years in several positions within the PSR Region management, most recently (and for many years) as the Region Contest Chairman and simultaneously the Cajon Division Achievement Program Chairman. His encouragement and advice helped many of our members earn contest awards and advance through the AP program. I am one those that benefited from his benevolent nature. Bill will be missed.

I'm sure that by now you have heard that our 2020 Convention in Van Nuys had to be canceled due to the virus. This decision was not taken lightly but circumstances resulting from the extended closure of Los Angeles' venues and personal distancing requirements ensured a very low attendance and probable closure of our convention hotel. The Los Angeles and Cajon Division convention committees have been working together for the last several weeks to ensure that next year's convention is financially secure and will present many of the great clinics that were scheduled for this year's convention. They have come together with a good set of options regarding refunds for LA convention pre-registered members and you will find them elsewhere in this publication as well as on the LA and Cajon Division web sites.

Meanwhile, are looking at upgrading the Cajon Division's Buena Park meet on October 24th to include the PSR Board of Director's meeting, Awards Banquet and presentations, Hobo Auction, contest room, etc. This mini-convention would be open to all of our PSR Division members. Please leave the date open, so that we may finally have a chance to get together and do what we do best: Talk trains, catch up

with each other and have fun. If this event works out, there will be plenty of notice to all of our members so stay tuned.

We have recently received the final decisions from NMRA Headquarters relative to young people's participation in NMRA sponsored events. I am sad to say that, due to the potential for disastrous litigation stemming from abuse of children in other portions of our society, we must protect ourselves from even the most frivolous of charges. The NMRA insurance policy that protects not only our management but any of our members that participate in NMRA sponsored events does not cover child abuse and therefore we are at risk. A single law-suit could easily end the NMRA even if the charges were found not credible. For this reason, we (all NMRA Regions and Divisions) cannot directly sponsor any event that is designed for or is destined to attract under-age people. We can lend a hand, donate, etc. but cannot directly sponsor these types of events. This means, for example, sponsoring a Boy Scout event is out. NMRA sponsored events can be attended by children if they are in the company (eyesight) of their parent 100% of the time. A non-parent can also fill this requirement but must present a notarized statement to the fact in order to do so. This is tough and will impact many of our Division and associated club events. If you would like to get a copy of the exact ruling by the NMRA Board of Directors and Legal department, contact your Division Director or myself to be sent a copy.

Somewhat relative to the above paragraph, as most of you may know, the PSR management has authorized pursuit of Federal non-profit incorporation for the Pacific Southwest Region to include all of its Divisions within California, Nevada and Arizona. It has been our experience that many venues, especially those that are government related, offer substantial discounts for 501c-3 corporations and we hope to take advantage of this in the future. In addition, incorporation will add a layer of personal liability protection for any PSR member that might be officiating at or associated with an NMRA event where an accident occurs that would attract litigation. This process can be somewhat complicated to include the Divisions in different states and we have retained professional council to accomplish the task. This project appears to be on track. A substantial portion of the legal and government required fees will be covered by the semi-annual stipend we receive from HQ and the balance supplied from the Region's assets. There should be almost no noticeable drain on our Division's resources to get this accomplished. We expect to have the incorporation in place by our September convention (Covid-19 willing) and will announce the progress then.



2020 Convention

Pat Raymer, PSR 2020 Convention Chair

To all our valued NMRA members,

It is with a heavy heart that I must inform you of the cancellation of the Van Nuys Local 2020 convention. This decision was not made lightly. As I'm sure you could guess, the motivation behind this decision is the worldwide Coronavirus pandemic.

We watched convention after convention cancel, including the National Convention in St. Louis, due to the COVID-19 outbreak. We thought we might have a chance to hold our convention, considering that it was scheduled later in the year. We monitored current events daily as we pushed forward with our planning, hoping against hope for good news. As time passed, it became more and more evident that we might have to cancel. The "last straw" was the announcement by L.A. County that the "Safer At Home Order" had been extended to within weeks of our starting date.

At this point we contacted the convention hotel, to find out if they had any plan regarding food and banquet service during the outbreak. We were told that if the L.A. City regulations in September were the same as they are now, there was no back-up plan and they would not be able to provide service to a group as large as our convention. Van Nuys is located within the City of Los Angeles, and thus the hotel must follow city regulations, as well as county and state regulations. Approximately 50% of the deaths in California due to COVID-19 have occurred in Los Angeles County.

With that news, I convened an on-line meeting of our convention committee to discuss the future of our convention. I outlined 9 specific reasons that we may have to cancel. These reasons generally fall into 2 categories. The first and foremost reason is the health of our members and their families. This is priceless, and I would never want to put anyone in harm's way. The second is the financial aspect of the convention, including potential lack of attendance due to concerns over the first reason, the economy, etc. If you would

like the small details, feel free to contact me and I will discuss the minutiae with you.

The committee members in attendance voted unanimously for cancellation. I then contacted PSR president Gary Butts to inform him of the decision, and requested a meeting of the voting members of the regional board of directors. The purpose of this meeting was to hold a vote regarding the cancellation of the convention. This was accomplished via email, rather than a virtual meeting, and all voting members of the regional board voted in support of our decision to cancel. Everyone felt it was best to err on the side of caution.

That is the not-so-short story of how we got to where we are now.

If you were registered for the convention, you should have already received a notification email. If you have not received this email, please contact our registrar, James Keena at pjkeenawhittier@msn.com, to discuss your options.

I would like to recognize the four vendors that had agreed to attend our convention up to the point of cancellation. Please visit their websites and support them however you can:

AZATRAX

www.azatrax.com

GREEN STEAM PRODUCTS

www.greensteamproducts.com-authorized

HOUSE OF BALSAM/ZAP

www.houseofbalsa.com

TAM INDUSTRIES

www.tam-industriesonline.com

I can imagine you might feel a certain amount of disappointment hearing this news. I can tell you that the Van Nuys Local 2020 convention committee, after putting literally years of time and talent into the planning of this convention, share your feeling of disappointment.

It is my sincere hope that all of these problems will be sorted out by September 2021, and that we will all be able to be together again, enjoying the best hobby in the world, which we all love.



From the **V.P.**

Pat Raymer, Vice President

How to Plan a Regional Model Railroad Convention during a Global Pandemic

(An open letter to a future convention chairman who has to plan one)

If you had told me three years ago that five months before our regional convention our country would be throttled down to notch 1, most everybody would be staying home all day, toilet paper would be a form of currency, and the freeways in L.A. would be wide open, I would have been skeptical. If you had told me the same thing six months ago, I would also have been skeptical. Yet here we are, self-isolating, and when we do go out to the store to try to score some toilet paper, we are wearing an outfit that not so long ago would have us detained as a potential robber.

I titled this article with some ironic humor because, to my knowledge, a regional model railroad convention, or any model railroad convention for that matter, has never had to be planned during a global pandemic. There is no playbook for this, no past precedence to lean on. Every day is a new day, and the news plays out on TV, good, bad, or really bad.

And so I will share what I have learned about planning a convention during a global pandemic. First of all, if you know there will be a global pandemic at the same time as your convention, don't schedule your convention! I may meet some push-back on this, but there *are* more important things in life than model trains, such as your health and the health of your friends and family. If, however, you have spent 3 years planning your convention and everything is just about in place and you have told a lot of people you are going to have a great convention and they have registered to attend, and at the last minute a global pandemic gets tossed in the mix, **DON'T GIVE UP!** At least not right away. You owe it to everyone involved - the convention committee, the clinicians, the people who have offered to open their layouts, the hotel venue, and most of all the members who have registered or will register to

attend – to give it your best shot.

There is a lot to take into consideration at this point. How long will your global pandemic last? Will it seem to leave and then come back again? Will the local governmental agency in charge allow you to have a gathering the size of your convention? Will people be afraid to go? Will your clinicians back out? Will the wonderful people who have offered their layouts for tours back out? Will your vendors back out? If you don't get enough people to attend, will your convention be a financial disaster? The cold, hard fact is: you won't know the answer to any of these questions immediately except for the last one.

At this point, you should reach out to as many people as you can, however you can, to let them know that you haven't given up yet. Get at least one article published in the NMRA magazine promoting your convention. Get your message out to the division newsletters in your region. If your neighboring regions have had to cancel their conventions, reach out to them and invite them to participate in your convention. Keep your convention website current, this is where everybody who is interested will go for information. All of the brochures, posters, displays, etc. that you have had produced up to this point are useless now.

Follow current events closely and try to sort the facts from the fiction. Envision how this will affect your convention.

Now I will present you with the hardest pill to swallow: know when to say "when". At some point, a decision will have to be made-are we doing this or not? You will have to take everything that I have mentioned previously, and likely more, into consideration when you reach this point. Seek the counsel of your convention committee. Seek the counsel of your regional officers. Seek the counsel of past convention chairs. If you end up having to pull the plug on your convention, do so knowing that you have done the best you can.

This is my advice to you, a future convention chairman who has to deal with what we are dealing with now. I hope it never has to be used.

See you down the line.



Arizona

Frank Baker, Director

Arizona is officially closed due to the Covid 19 Virus. All Club layouts are closed and several hobby shops have “call in hours” are closed or, in a few cases, open. The major club layouts at the Arizona State Capital, Scottsdale McCormick Park, Adobe Mountain park are all closed until notification from the Governor of Arizona.

Our spring division meet was cancelled in March due to the virus. The Summer meet is scheduled for June 13th in Prescott. We have a lot of enthusiasm in Prescott. This meet is in jeopardy of being cancelled due to the virus and the facility requirements. A final decision will be June 1st. Clinics / Clinicians have been selected and await final okay from the church and the state.

We have been discussing utilizing ZOOM to create a division forum open to all NMRA members in the region. The National NMRA has implemented this and several division and region members have participated with the current forums.

With travel and meetings cancelled, I talked to several Arizona Members that have been busy working on their layouts, structures and other elements of the hobby. We all have plenty of time to build. Thank heaven for Amazon, EBAY and the post office.

I have been talking with many members that have been busy working on their layouts or building. I too have been busy working on my layout. One of the islands consists of an area 6 ½ feet x 15 ½ feet for a large cityscape. I have been busy working on an elevated highway running lengthwise thru the city. Here are a couple of pics. Enjoy.

Stay safe and healthy. More on the Zoom meeting soon.



Cajon

Jeff Herrmann, Director

My how our daily schedules and patterns have changed with stay at home and work from home directives are (at least for now) the “new normal!” My heart goes out to those of you who have lost work related income and those who cannot just hug your kids or grandkids like you want to.

While it is unfortunate but clearly understandable, Cajon Division has lost the opportunity for so many of the NMRA events we were looking forward to both this spring and into the summer. Our hope is that in the not too distant future we can get back to “normal”, at least from a schedule perspective, for our NMRA division meets, regional convention, and model railroad club activities.

The Cajon Division Board of Directors is busy at work planning our October 24th meet in Buena Park, CA and our November 14th meet in Boulder City, NV. We fully anticipate, as of this writing, that it will be OK to have group meetings and activities again, even if they look a little different than they used to. We also look forward to the Pacific Southwest Region Convention scheduled for September 9-13th in Van Nuys. Be sure to check-in regularly to our division website to get the latest info on events and registration status at www.cajondivision.org

Our Cajon Division Board of Directors has also decided that during the next few months we are going to step up our communication with our membership through a couple of on-line sources. We already have a Cajon Division PSR Group where we are encouraging our members to post pictures and brief descriptions of modeling projects our members are working on. Go to: CajonDivisionPSR-Group@groups.io.

We also plan to have a Cajon “mini” Order Board email blast at least monthly over the summer with on-line clinics and layout tours. Please let us know if you have content you would like to share or show off a model you have been working on. Also. We are working on a format for regular video conference that will be open to all members to attend. Think of it as a “video clinic.” We will announce the topic and time for viewing and provide the link. If the topic appeals to you please attend. If you would like to be a presenter, let us know!

No doubt during this period you have had more time for modeling and model railroad projects! I encourage you to patronize our local model railroad hobby shops. I understand that if you call in advance to place an order, they can still get you the supplies you need. It is probably more important than ever to keep buying from those shops! I also hope you will share some information about what you are working on to make these “interesting times” more enjoyable and meaningful for you and the other NMRA members in our division!

Be safe and stay healthy!



Los Angeles

Mona Raymer, Director

Hello PSR friends!

Such unprecedented times we are all going through. I hope this finds each and every one of you and your families safe and well!

This year certainly has taken a strange turn. It is not anything like we had envisioned or planned.

Since my last article, Pat and I attended and set up a table to promote the PSR Regional Convention, Van Nuys Local 2020 at the Bakersfield train show held March 7th and 8th. We were able to give out information, registration forms and connect with many of the attendees there. We met a lot of very nice people and had a wonderful time!

Upon our return, we pretty much saw that the world had gone crazy during our absence here. We attempted to go to the store to get a few groceries we needed and couldn't even get in the parking lots. When we finally were able to get to the market, we saw empty shelves and there was not a single roll of toilet paper, hand sanitizer (which we have used for over two decades), or bottle of alcohol to be found! We were shocked at the panic buying and hoarding that had transpired.

We were looking forward to the Desert Rails meet that the Cajon Division was going to have at La Quinta at the end of March, and the Cajon Division meet in Boulder in early May, but as I'm sure you know, both were cancelled (as was the L.A. Division's SpringRail). By the time we found out it was cancelled, we were already in self-isolation (pretty much since we returned from Bakersfield) due to the coronavirus Covid-19 worldwide pandemic. That being the case, we have been hunkered down at home doing things that always seemed to be "put off".

How many models have you now painted? What about all of those kits that have been sitting around

waiting to be put together? Has your scenery been spruced up? Perhaps you've started a new layout. We were continuing with our planning to bring you a GREAT convention. We had been following updates very

closely. So it is with a heavy heart that I must tell you that the Van Nuys Local 2020 committee team has taken a vote to cancel the Convention since we will be following all recommendations of the City and County, local health organizations, the CDC and World Health Organization. As much as we would like to see all of you, NOTHING is more important than the good health of all of us! We will get through this together and we will be able to gather for the wonderful fellowship we are able to share with this special group of modelers when it is safe to do so.

In the meantime, I have so much gratitude for all of you! Those that I am able to call my friends and those of you that are my friends that I have not had the opportunity to meet. The NMRA has given me the opportunity to meet so many people I would not have otherwise met. Friendships that I would have missed out on. Caring, giving people so eager to share ideas, methods for doing a variety of things and sharing their generosity. Here is one BIG instance: because of one of these friendships, I was able to obtain masks for Pat and myself. One friend told another friend we were looking (I model, but I don't sew), so she called me and is made masks for us! You both know who you are –THANK YOU!!! I appreciate you so very much!

We are hopeful that physical distancing restrictions will be eased so that we are able to bring you the event we have planned for December. We are looking forward to seeing you there! Date currently, as follows:

Sept. 9th – 13th: Van Nuys Local 2020 Convention
*****CANCELLED*****

Dec. 5th & 6th: Frosty Freight (formerly Freight Fright)
***New Date!** South Coast Botanic Gardens
 26300 Crenshaw Blvd.
 Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA 90274

Until next time....Happy modeling, stay safe and stay well!



San Diego

Pete Steinmetz, Director

Certainly the world has changed since my last report. I was in Europe when the shut downs started. I came home a few days early fearing flights to the USA would be canceled. They were. It seems like the PSR along with the rest of the USA is starting to reopen. I work out of my home so my world has not changed to much from a work perspective.

Our division had come to a stop. Our one train store, Reed's, is now back open full time after being closed. They are fully stocked and welcoming customers. Discount Hobby Warehouse, while not handling trains has an excellent selection of paint, glue, and tools.

Our layout tours and our Spring Meet have been canceled. It seems most modelers are huddled at home. All clubs, especially the ones in parks, are still closed.

Many have taken to the internet for modeling information. The NMRA has run their virtual convention NMRA-X on Facebook. NMRA-X will do more Facebook sessions with a variety of clinic presenters.

There have been a number of Zoom meetings featuring a variety of topics. A number of NMRA Divisions are hosting meetings, layout tours, show and tell, clinics, and discussions for their members. Plenty of opportunity to interact with fellow modelers live. Just not in person.

With the 2020 PSR Convention canceled, all eyes are on the Cajon Division as the host for 2021. It should be a well attended event, with many clinics and activities.

The San Diego Division October Layout Tour in conjunction with the North County Model Railroad Society Swap Meet and Train Show is scheduled for Saturday October 10 in Oceanside. Details to follow.

Hopefully the next column will bring news of all the cool train events around Southern California.



PSR Membership

Pete Steinmetz, Membership Chair

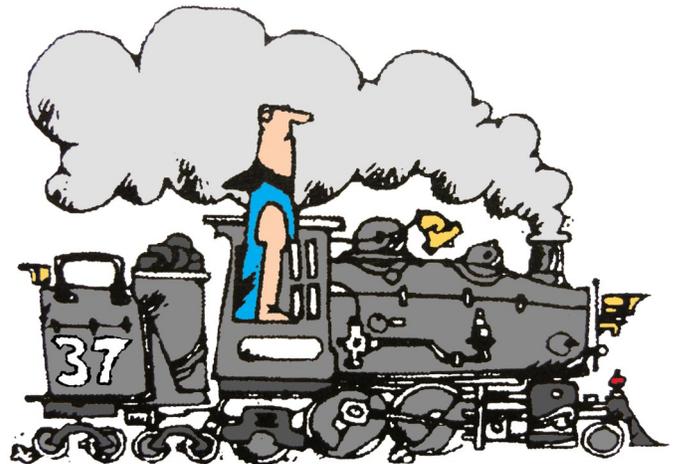
I'm not going to rehash our lifestyle changes due to the Covid-19. As far as PSR Membership goes, the NMRA office is closed. The staff is working from home so if you want to renew, I would suggest you do it on the NMRA web site and not USPS.

www.nmra.org. If you have not used it previously, you will need to register using your E Mail the NMRA has on file. The E Mail address where you receive the Bulletin.

Many Divisions have taken to the internet to share the model railroading hobby.

The Cajon and San Diego Divisions were part of a recent Zoom Meeting along with the 2nd Division of the PNR. There were two clinics, 3 layout tours, along with "show and tell". It was also broadcast on you Tube. Reviews were very positive.

There is a continuing Facebook series called NMRA-X. The first presentation was a 24 hour virtual convention featuring clinicians from all over the world. There are continuing NMRA-X presentations. The schedule is May 16 and 30 starting at 9:00AM Pacific time and going until 9PM.



2021 PSR/NMRA Convention

“ORANGE BLOSSOM SPECIAL”

As you are probably now aware, the Los Angeles PSR 2020 “Van Nuys Local” Convention has been canceled due to the coronavirus. Los Angeles Division is first and foremost concerned about ensuring a healthy and safe environment for their guests to enjoy model railroading. Unfortunately, the restrictions imposed by the County of Los Angeles eliminated all the social activities from the convention.

To help mitigate the impact of the “Van Nuys Local” cancellation, the 2020 and 2021 PSR convention teams have worked out an agreement to transfer any fully registered delegate (full registration with banquet) over to the 2021 convention as full registration. If you opt to do this, you will be fully registered with banquet for the 2021 “Orange Blossom Special” Convention. You will receive from the Van Nuys Local a refund for any extra fare items you did not receive. This will be a savings of \$26 over the 2021 regular convention registration price and around \$10 over the early registration price. You will be receiving instructions from Los Angeles on how to transfer and/or receive a refund. Note that the transfer to 2021 and/or discount pre convention rate is only good through September 30, 2020.

Fortunately, many of the clinics that were to be offered at LA will be offered at the 2021 convention. Besides clinics we will also offer layout and prototype tours, contest show room, non-rail activities, and operating sessions. We will also have all the normal social events, such as the Welcome Reception, General Membership Meeting with continental breakfast, the famous Cajon Hobo Auction with numerous quality items up for grabs, Saturday morning Swap Meet, Hobo Breakfast, and Awards Banquet.

Central Orange County is rich in layouts so driving time and distances to them will be short. If you do not want to drive, we are also planning a bus layout tour to 3 outstanding layouts which will limit visitors to 10-12 people at a time. We are still working on a number of prototype tours, and quite a few operating layouts will be available to sign up to crew! The 2021 PSR/NMRA Convention, the “**Orange Blossom Special**” will be held at the Hilton Irvine/Orange County Airport Hotel, located at 18800 MacArthur Blvd, Irvine, CA 92612, just across the street from John Wayne Airport (SNA). All meeting rooms are located off the main lobby, and a modular N scale layout will be set up in the lobby.

We have negotiated discounted room rates for attendees:

\$134 for single and double.

\$144 for a triple.

\$154 for a “Quad”

These special rates for attendees include:

FREE parking with unlimited in/out privileges.

FREE wireless internet.

20% menu discounts at onsite restaurants.

There are several upscale restaurants close to the hotel, with world renowned South Coast Plaza and Fashion Island, just a short drive from the hotel. Also located in the area are the Lyon Air Museum, the Marconi Auto Museum, the Red Car Museum, and a short drive will put you in the heart of Newport Beach. Of course, we invite you to plan some time to visit our great local hobby shops!

Note: The hotel will not be accepting room reservations until after October 1, 2020. Check our website for details.

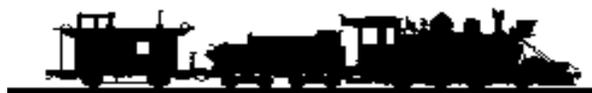
For more information about the 2021 PSR/NMRA Convention **Orange Blossom Special** visit our website:

<https://psrconvention.org/OrangeBlossomSpecial2021>

Carl Heimberger

Convention Chair

2021 PSR/NMRA Convention Orange Blossom Special





Achievement Program

Carl Heimberger, AP Chairman

If someone had said to me 4 months ago, I would be spending two now going on three months under a stay at home order from the government I would have told them they are nuts. Back then there were numerous division meets and train shows on the horizon. In fact, so many one could not attend all of them. I had laid out my schedule on which shows and meets I would attend and what model project I would get completed to enter into the contest rooms. Yet within just a few weeks every train show and division meet was canceled. And now we find out that the 2020 PSR Convention Van Nuys Local has just canceled. Yes, I am disappointed, but I am also safe and healthy.

We should all use this time we have at home to complete the many projects you may have sitting on a shelf and get them ready for division meets that will start this fall. Let's bombard the contest rooms with all the projects we have completed.

A few of our members did get paperwork done and approve before the lock down and should be recognized.

Gary Butts MMR – Structures Certificate

Morrie Fleishman – Author Certificate

Tim Foote – Golden Spike

James Keena – Golden Spike

Due to the shutdown National has developed some new rules so remote evaluation can be done in some of the AP Categories, check with your division AP Manager.

Do not let this bump in the road keep you from enjoying this great hobby. If you had registered for the 2020 PSR Convention Van Nuys Local check, their web site for the exit strategy and refund policy. This coming fall and spring take advantage of your local division meets. And look forward to the 2021 PSR Convention "Orange Blossom Special" in Irvine California, September 2021.



PSR Treasurer

Joel Morse, Treasurer

PACIFIC SOUTHWEST REGION 37

TREASURERS SUMMER DISPATCH REPORT

SUMMARY:

During the period January 1, 2020 through March 31, 2020 there were very limited expenditures by the Region.

The March 31, 2020 Bank Statement indicates that the Region has \$32,080.91 in the Region Checking Account.

There were two large transactions this period: payment of \$2,500.00 to Schmiesing, Blied et al. Attorneys at Law, as the first of two payments for incorporation of the Region 37 as a 501c3 Corporation, and deposit of the first annual Division Membership Rebate of \$930.00.

Pursuant to PSR Board of Directors vote, the \$930.00 rebate is the first of two Division Membership Rebates that are to be retained by the PSR, to defray a portion of the cost of Region incorporation.

Region Assets as of March 31, 2020:

Wells Fargo Checking Account: \$32,080.91

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

A quick reminder that because of the current "stay at home" requirements, that NMRA National is not in the office and as a result membership renewals may be processed more slowly. If you have the ability to renew online this will be processed much more quickly than mail-in renewals, as mail is only being accessed periodically by National staff.



The Show Room

James Keena, PSR Contest Chair

With the recent Safer-at-Home requirements that many of us are having to cope and comply with since March, some people have been negatively impacted with the reduction in work hours or even a loss of jobs. Our prayers go out to those that are facing financial difficulties and wish for a speedy economic recovery and reinstatement of employment. For those that are working in essential service or the medical field, our heartfelt thanks go out to you.

For others it has provided an opportunity to be with our families and work on long neglected projects. For some of us this includes most likely a long honey do list that at least we are trying to catch up with. Some are either enjoying or enduring Hallmark Channel Movies, binge watching television series or going through our VHS or DVD collections.

For us model railroaders, our hobby provides a needed focus and release of stress in our lives. It gives us an opportunity to create our own miniature railroad empire, building detailed models or running our railroads.

Normally visiting with our fellow compatriots that enjoy trains at Model Railroad Conventions would be part of our regular activities. In lieu of the NMRA National Convention that was to take place in July, but was canceled, the NMRA has created NMRA-X, which is live online clinics that are available on Facebook. These new forum of connecting with other model railroaders provides additional educational opportunities to learn new technics as well as visiting other model railroads across the globe.

Conventions are usually great opportunities to again reunite with our fellow model railroaders to enjoy renewing or creating new friendships. Unfortunately, the overriding concerns for the health and safety of our members and inability of the hotel to provide the

services to support a successful Convention has resulted in the Convention Committee's difficult decision to have to cancel this year's Van Nuys Local 2020 PSR Convention.

In the meantime, whichever way you enjoy model railroading, it is great to share your joy with others and receive positive feedback and encouragement to further you modeling or photographic skills. I would encourage you to continue to connect with you fellow model railroaders' though phone calls, emails or various social media platforms.

Therefore, the next Regional Show Room is planned to be open for entries at the Orange Blossom Special 2021 Convention in Irvine from September 8 to 12, 2021. This will provide an excellent opportunity to share your accomplishment with others and receive recognition as well.

The Orange Blossom Special 2021 Show Room will have the following categories available to display your models, crafts and photographs:

Models:

- Steam Locomotives
- Diesel & Other Locomotives
- Traction
- Passenger CCar
- Freight Car
- Caboose
- Non-Revenue Car
- Structures
- Displays

Photos:

- Model B&W
- Model Color
- Prototype Color

Arts & Crafts:

- General
- Needlework
- Railroadiana



The Show Room

James Keena, PSR Contest Chair

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As an added bonus, we will be conducting a popular vote Square-Foot Display Challenge that will have cash prize or gift certificate awards. Winners would receive a 1st Place award of \$50.00, 2nd \$30.00 and 3rd \$20.00. Rules are simple, bring in a new never entered before 12" x 12" display that sits flat on a table and has at least one piece of track on it. There is no height limit. All scales are welcome from Z to G. Remember this is a popular vote contest that is voted upon by your fellow model railroaders, so go for the gusto, the wow factor, added details, prototypical correct, fantasy, whimsical or humorous.



Past Square Foot Entries

Your entries in the Show Room can be just for display, popular vote or for Merit Evaluation. Each entry will need the NMRA Contest Entry Form #901 filled out with your name and description of your item. This is for record keeping purposes and to assure that each entry is returned to its proper owner. For those seeking Merit Evaluation, NMRA Contest Form #902 will need to be submitted as well.

Both forms are available on the NMRA website <https://www.nmra.org/contests> for download, but actual paper copies will also be available at the Convention. A Clinic at the Convention will also be available for those that need assistance in filling out the forms.

Looking forward to seeing you and your entries at the PSR Orange Blossom Special 2021 Regional Convention to be held in Irvine, California September 8th to the 12th, 2021.

In the meantime until then, keep safe!



2-4-4-2 #7 "Skookum" at Niles Canyon Railway in 2019.



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