

PACIFIC SOUTHWEST REGION

DISPATCH

NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION



ARIZONA
CAJON
LOS ANGELES
SAN DIEGO



VOLUME 38, NUMBER 4 4th Quarter, 2020

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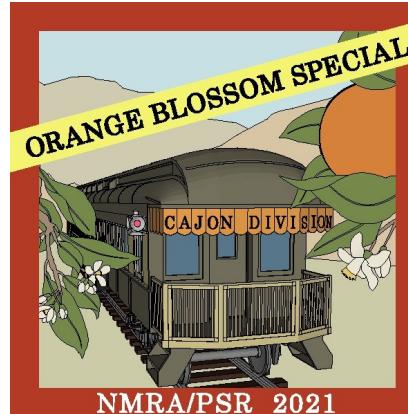
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2021 PSR/NMRA Convention ORANGE BLOSSOM SPECIAL

September 8 —11, 2021

See page 5 for more information

Planning is well underway for the 2021 convention with many clinics already on board, as well as layouts and operations sessions.

Check out

psrconvention.org/Orange_Blossom_Special2021

for more information!

Note from the Editor: Happy Holidays everyone! Hope you all have a delightful holiday season despite limitations due to pandemics! Stay safe and stay well. I hope to actually see some of you in person next year!





THE PSR BACKSHOP

Pat Raymer

Greetings PSR Members!

This is my inaugural article as President of the PSR. I would like to thank everyone who took the time to vote in the regional election. Even with the usual one horse race, there was an excellent turn-out. Credit goes to elections chair Vic Cavalli for managing the election.

I am looking forward to continuing to serve the region for the next 2 years. These are dynamic times, and the region faces many challenges. I am sure that, with the able assistance of the regional board of directors, we will rise to meet these challenges.

The PSR board of directors meeting, which would have normally been held at the PSR convention, took place via Zoom on October 25th – 26th 2020. The meeting was divided into 2 two hour meetings. It was at this meeting that the results of the election were certified and the official transition of the offices of President and Vice-president took place.

Items on the agenda included the formation of a separate region by the Arizona division, and the ongoing progress of the PSR 501c3 non-profit corporation filing.

The Arizona Division has expressed interest in forming a separate region, and has been preparing a petition to that end. The primary reason for this has been stated as an aging membership and waning interest in travel to Southern California for conventions and other events. There was no opposition voiced by the President, Vice-president, or the other Division Directors. The National administration is aware of this, and has reached out to me for comment. The matter will likely be on the agenda for the mid-year National Board of Directors meeting in February 2021. If the Arizona Division is successful in their effort, the remaining three divisions in the PSR would be faced with changing some of our traditional procedures. The one that stands out immediately is the change from a 4 year convention cycle to a 3 year convention cycle.

The opinion has been expressed that this would put undue pressure on each Division to produce a convention with such a short turn-around time. One possible solution would be to divide the annual convention workload across all of the Divisions with coordination by Region leaders. The first opportunity for this would be the 2022 convention, as the 2021 convention is pretty well locked in. Stay tuned for more on this in the upcoming months.

The 501(c)(3) incorporation filing continues, with the application submission occurring within the next couple of weeks. We will likely have this finalized early next year. Because of our incorporation plans, the PSR bylaws and Manual of Operations required revision. I distributed the draft version of the bylaws to the voting members of the Board and the Treasurer and Secretary for comment. The final version of the bylaws will be made available to the PSR membership for review and approval early next year. Vice President Gary Butts has agreed to review the Manual of Operations and recommend revisions to align it with the new bylaws.

Other items discussed at the meeting included membership attraction/retention strategies, the NMRA at-risk persons protection policy, and the stagnant “life member account”. The “life member account” is a hold-over from the days when there were administrative costs involved in communications between life members and the region (printing, postage, etc.). The board unanimously voted to remove the restriction on this account and transfer it to the general fund.

2020 has been one heck of a year and I won’t miss it when it’s gone! It is said that when a door closes a window opens. A lot of doors closed in 2020 and so we found some open windows. As an organization we must find ways to give value to our members, and through creative thinking we are finding our way. I have high hopes for the coming year and am looking forward to better times ahead.

I am always interested in hearing from our members. If you have any questions or comments, please email me at president@psrnmra.org.

I wish you all a very happy, healthy, and prosperous holiday season! See you down the line!



FROM THE V.P.

Gary Butts

New stuff, new seat!

As you are probably aware, Pat Raymer and I have switched PSR management positions (by popular vote, of course). Pat is our new Pacific Southwest Region President and I have taken on the responsibilities of Vice President. Pat and I agreed to this switch two years ago prior to assuming the positions vacated by Don Fowler and Ben Sevier. The idea was to keep new ideas flowing and to let both of us get the experiences associated with both positions. It also gave me a leg up on an Achievement Award that Pat already had earned. Well, I was somewhat surprised at the amount of effort that is required of the president's position to keep things progressing and on-track. Some of those projects are continuing and Pat will be able to complete most of them and, no doubt, will initiate some new ones under his command in the next two years. It has been a fun, educational and rewarding experience and I would encourage all of our members to consider contributing to the direction our part of the hobby is going by signing up to serve in any one of the many Region committees. If you are interested, see Pat, myself or any Board member at any time.

To that end, we are still actively pursuing incorporation of our Region as a non-profit entity. This effort has been delayed but is continuing and I'm sure will be detailed in other columns in this publication.

On the new news front, the Region has procured a stock of HO and N scale car kits specifically earmarked for use in securing new members at public train shows, swap meets, etc. The idea is that any first-time new member to the NMRA that turns in a completed Regular membership application (not for Rail Pass or re-rail) along with the required dues at one of these events receives one of these model car kits as an incentive. See your Division Director to secure these cars for your local Division public events.

Also, on the horizon, is a review of our Region's Manual of Operations and possibly incorporation of some changes to our By-Laws as well. These documents basically outline how we, as a Region, conduct our day to day business. You can review these documents by download from our Region Website under the "Library" header. Incorporation as a non-profit requires a few changes to these documents to clarify how we proceed. The changes are relatively small since we have been conducting ourselves in a non-profit manor since inception, but specific details need to be delineated to satisfy the IRS. I have signed-up to recommend changes to the MOO and hope to have them ready for review at our next Directors meeting.

Also, relatively new is the change to Region-wide upgrade of the Golden Spike Awards in the PSR Achievement Program. Taking a cue from our Cajon Division, all new Golden Spike recipients within our PSR Region now receive, in addition to a nice certificate, a mounted Golden Spike trophy with individualized plaque and a Golden Spike lapel pin to add to your NMRA shirt or hat. Your Division AP chairman now has a stock of these awards so finish up those Golden Spike requirements, have them certified by your Division AP evaluation team and display your award and pins! Cool stuff!

The Cajon Division was able to hold an in-person Covid compliant meet in Orange County last month and it came off without a hitch. It was really nice to see old friends (outside and in masks, of course), new models and catch up. They are planning to try again, virus permitting, early next year.

Stay Safe and I hope to see you soon. – Don't forget to register for our 2021 Convention in September.





Cajon

Richard Hock, Director

It's Cajon Claus!

... Well almost, but looking for some stocking stuffers!

Greetings from the Cajon Division! It is hoped that this newsletter finds everyone healthy and safe. If there is one Christmas gift I could give, it would be that... health, wellbeing and safety. Then, of course, comes the trains!

As I start looking forward to the holidays, this year just reminds me of how different life has become and how I look for some simple pleasures. The simple pleasure of having a meal with friends, dining at a restaurant. The simple pleasure of a summer vacation without travel restrictions and quarantine requirements. The simple pleasure of a regional convention or seasonal meet. Arizona was a hoot of a great time. Sadly missed Los Angeles, but now setting my sights on the Cajon Division's Orange Blossom Special scheduled for next September. Hmm... I think I will make that a stocking stuffer for this Christmas.

In fact, I totally enjoyed the Cajon Fall Meet at Buena Park last month. It was wonderful to see familiar faces, in person, and have those casual railroad conversations and exchange of ideas. The Cajon Division is considering a Spring Meet at the same outdoor venue. Hmm... I think I will make that a stocking stuffer for this Christmas.

Okay, okay! Where did I put the boxes for my Christmas train? Yes, I am in the process of building a new train for the Christmas holidays. It all started with that release last year of the Broadway Limited Light Pacific holiday steam engine. Need that Ho, Ho, Ho whistle and the sleigh bells, bell right about now. Ordered the Christmas passenger coach and have a stock car of reindeer. Think I need to rummage around to find some miscellaneous rolling stock in need a Christmas sprucing up! Hmm... I think I will make that a stocking stuffer for this Christmas.

The Christmas train. I think that most of us in the hobby got started with that Christmas train that ran

around underneath the Christmas tree, the Lionel variety with smoke puffing. There was nothing like that four car train, racing around the speedway track as fast as I could make it go, from the controls of today's joy stick, which was the throttle of yesterday's oversized transformer.

But the greatest excitement was unwrapping that first time train set hidden among the brightly wrapped gifts displayed under the tree. For me, it was an Aurora Postage Stamp Cannon Ball, N scale train set consisting of Pennsy F unit with dummy. It was 1967. During that Christmas vacation, my Dad bought a sheet of homasote board and cut it in half. One for me and one for my brother. The home layout was born underneath my bed. I still have that train set in its original box. The last time it was out was under the Christmas tree about ten years ago. All of you N gaugers, please forgive for defecting to HO scale. However, I need to be able to see and handle my trains. (Old age.)

Stocking stuffers has always been a Christmas tradition growing up and has continued in my household. Stocking stuffers are small gifts, but delightful gems that have made lasting memories for me. I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays. May this holiday season finding some stocking stuffers for 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](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLBbDHVLodgxN8otpnudMsHdQMucCzcTWD)

There are over 75 videos available from the NMRA-X event held during the week of July 12th. 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 the events. Take a few minutes to browse the library and see what interests you!



Arizona

Frank Baker, Director

Fall has been more of the same: COVID, COVID, COVID. Train events that were planned months ago have continued to be cancelled. A brief light at the end of the tunnel last weekend was a train swap meet outdoors in a parking lot. While not very well attended, it did give some hope for the virus to end. Perhaps at least hypothetically.

The Arizona Division has been holding a ZOOM build class of a FOS building. The class was over four Saturday mornings. Several of the modelers have gone beyond the basic kit design and created their own modifications. The banter and questions have been good and there are many fine models to be judged. All the models will be photographed and sent to me for final judging. Several prizes will be awarded. I congratulate all those that have participated.

The idea behind the kit build was intended to get each modeler to consider going for their MMR. These kit builds are a good step in that direction. We have asked if there is anything else we can do with ZOOM to enlighten the Arizona membership to participate in the MMR program.

Arizona has been in the process of becoming its own region. A formal letter was sent to all the members describing the rational behind this decision. There have been a few naysayers, but by in large, Most members are in favor of this movement. There is still a long way to go to make this happen. The NMRA Board of Directors will be sent the petition and must review it at their Board of Directors meeting in February. There are a lot of details that will need to be defined between now and then, and more after the formal okay. It is my belief that Arizona can perform as a standalone region, enjoy continued prosperity and have closer ties within the region.



Los Angeles

Mona Raymer, Director

Hello PSR friends!

Well, it is hard to believe that the year has gone by so quickly,...even though it seemed to be dragging by just a few short months ago. It is officially Fall. Halloween has come and gone. Thanksgiving is just two weeks from today as I am writing this. Then, Hanukkah and Christmas will be here before we know it. I would like to wish you all a very happy holiday season and hope you are still able to make great new memories during this new way of celebrating.

Division news: Our Superintendent, Vic Cavalli, penned a Covid-19 Policy Statement that will be implemented when we are able to meet in person once again.

The Los Angeles Division Advisory Board has purchased a license for ZOOM and now have our meetings via this app. We also issued a Virtual Media Survey that was sent out via email to all of our members. It provided the Advisory Board with great information to be able to move forward with online meets for our membership via the ZOOM app. We will start these meets on November 21st.

The Regional BOD issued a check in the amount of \$2,804.00 to the Los Angeles Division to cover one-half of the losses incurred for the Van Nuys Local 2020 Convention that had to be cancelled.

I am sad to report that unfortunately when it came to our "go/no go" date for our December meet, it was easily understood that we would not be able to move forward due to the continued restrictions in the County of Los Angeles and at the South Coast Botanic Gardens. We have high hopes that come next year we will be able to plan and have our usual meets and more. I am looking forward to seeing you then!!

Dec. 5th & 6th: Frosty Freight - ****CANCELLED****

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



2021 Convention Report

Carl Heimberger, Convention Chair

The Pacific Southwest Regional Convention 2021 Orange Blossom Special

The 2021 PSR Convention The Orange Blossom Special, is less than a year away and if you have not already signed up you should consider doing it now.

Check out the convention web site at www.prsconvention.org for the latest updates. Here are just a few of the convention highlights included in your registration package. Pre-convention clinics, layout tours and Welcome Reception. General PSR Membership meeting including continental breakfast, over 34 first class clinics to attend. Check them out on the web site, and lots local layouts to visit and Op's layout for operators. There is also a show room for you to show off all the items you have built over the last year and this year there will be a one-foot challenge with cash prizes. Also included is the Hobo Auction with numerous quality and classic items up for grabs. And let's not forget the Swap meet and Annual PSR Awards and Recognition Banquet. Bringing a spouse, we have a great Non-Rail program planned that includes clinics, social events, and tours.

In addition to the standard convention package we have some great extra fare clinics, and tours planned. Extra fare clinics include how to paint people, modeling realistic surf, build a basic kit building, build a lumber load, weathering, and build a searchlight signal. Our premier prototype tour will be to the Gemco Yard in Van Nuys to watch a train being classified that will head north latter that day. For the first time in several years we are offering a layout tour bus, see the web site for more details about this tour. We also have Non-Rail tours to the Nixon Library, and whale watching. For complete descriptions of all the convention event visit the convention web site.

If you are planning to stay at the hotel you should reserve your room now as we have a limited number of rooms blocked at the convention rate and they will go fast. The hotel is the Hilton Irvine/Orange County Airport Hotel, and it is right across the street from the

Orange County Airport so if you fly in you can walk to the hotel.

Our convention management team has been working hard over the last few years on this convention just for you to enjoy. Do not let all this hard work go to waste. We would love to see all of you at the 2021 Orange Blossom Special September 8 through 11, 2021. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact any of our management team, you will find their information on the contact us page. I am looking forward to seeing all of you at the 2021 Orange Blossom Special.



San Diego

Pete Steinmetz, Director

The San Diego Division continues to run our successful Zoom Meets on at 1:00PM. on second Saturday of the month.

We have a show and tell which is available to all. Take 5 minutes and show us something you haven't been working on. We also have a clinic and a layout tour. The meets are on Zoom and YouTube.

We have our Winter Meet scheduled for Saturday February 13. This has always been an in person meet. For us, it is way to early to think about whether we will hold an in person meet or if it will be on Zoom. Luckily, we don't have to make that decision until January.

We have seen many modelers make the most of the Covid pandemic. Modelers have begun working on projects that have long been put off.

Layouts have been spruced up. Photos have been taken at deserted locations. Railfanning and social distancing work together. What an interesting time to be a model railroader.

NMRAX will be busy over the next couple of months. Plenty of opportunities to view layout and learn modeling skills. Check the NMRA.org Calendar for exact dates and clinician schedule.



Achievement Program

Carl Heimberger, AP Chairman

I am happy to report that more applications for AP Certificates are coming in and that is a good thing. It appears that many modelers spent the time during the stay at home orders to work on their model railroads and to go back over old paperwork to see if they have completed any of the certificate categories like Volunteer or Official and Author. And others have been improving their layouts, working on cars, structures, or motive power, and now that some of the requirements have eased up and with social distancing their work is being evaluated. This is encouraging and I would encourage members to contact their Division AP Managers to see how they can get their work evaluated.

This past month Bob Ginger from Arizona received his AP Certificates for Author, Scenery, Structures and Electrical Engineer and currently has his Dispatcher paperwork in for approval. And Frank Baker from Arizona has also received his Certificate for Official.

There are currently 2 modelers in Cajon who will have their layouts evaluated in the next week for Civil and Electrical. And at the Cajon Division meet last month, 7 merit awards were issued for structures to three modelers so we can expect to see some certificates being issued soon.

So, going forward look at the lack of train shows and club meetings as an opportunity to make improvements to your layouts, build cars and structures so as the restrictions ease up you will be ready to get your work evaluated. If you have any questions, contact your Division AP manager they are there to help you.

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. Also, just don't forget to renew!



PSR Treasurer

Joel Morse, Treasurer

PACIFIC SOUTHWEST REGION 37

TREASURERS FOURTH QUARTER

DISPATCH REPORT

SUMMARY:

During the period June 30, 2020 through September 30, 2020 there were very limited expenditures by the Region.

The September 30, 2020 Bank Statement indicates that the Region has \$35,435.27 in the Region Checking Account.

There were only a couple of transactions during this period:

- Deposit of \$905.00 Membership Rebate (Not distributed to Divisions, held to pay for Region incorporation costs, per Board action).
- Reimbursement of \$89.00 for Election Buddy costs for Region Election

One transaction that occurred since October 1, 2020 and not reflected in the September 30, 2020 account balance, was a check in the amount of \$2,804.00 made out to the Los Angeles Division to cover one-half of the 2020 LA Junction Convention losses (By action of the Region BOD)

Region Assets as of September 30, 2020:

Wells Fargo Checking Account: \$35,435.27





The Show Room

James Keena, PSR Contest Chair

With the restrictions imposed by the State and Local Governments, there have been very few physical model railroad events held. Many events are now being held on-line virtually via Zoom meetings. One actual event that was recently held was the Cajon Division Buena Park Fall Meet. This event was primarily held outdoors complying with face mask and social distancing guidelines. This was an abbreviated event that consisted of a swap meet, Show Room, Show-&-Tell session and Hobo Auction. The event was attended by about 41 members from the Cajon, Los Angeles and San Diego Divisions.

There were several items entered in the Show Room for merit evaluation as well as for display only. In addition, there were several awards that were presented at the Buena Park Event.

Achievement Awards:

- Gary Butts — Association Official
- Gary Butts — Structures
- Morrie Fleishman — Author

Golden Spike Awards:

- Mike Allee
- Sandy Butts
- James Keena

With COVID-19 restrictions still remaining in effect for the foreseeable future into the spring of 2021, it provides members the opportunity to continue working on your model railroads as well as your future entries for the Show Room. It is hoped that situation will change in 2021, which will allow for more of these tentatively scheduled model railroad events such as the following NMRA sponsored events to be held:

- Los Angeles Division SpringRail in Whittier, April 17, 2021

- PCR Sugar Pine Centennial Convention in Fresno, April 22 to 24, 2021
- NMRA National Rails by the Sea Convention in Santa Clara, July 4 to 11, 2021
- PSR Orange Blossom Special Convention in Irvine, September 8 to 12, 2021

In the meantime keep safe and enjoy your modeling and time together with your family.

James Keena
PSR Contest Chair

Here are the Merit Awards that were given at the Buena Park Event:



McKenzie Brewery by David Arendas



Tenement Row and Tuxedo Junction Freight & Shipping by Carl Heimberger



The Show Room

James Keena, PSR Contest Chair

Buena Park Event Merit Awards Continued:



Cooling Tower. Carl Heimberger



Junk Yard by Carl Heimberger



Atwood Packing House by Carl Heimberger



Anida Mills by Joel Morse



New member, Jerry Duncan of the Los Angeles Division won Popular Vote for his scratch built O-Scale Pullman Sleeping Car Buckman.



Convention Patch and car displays. See Historian's Report on Page 10



Historian's Report

Per Harwe, Historian

This Historian's report reflects what so many others have noticed about 2020:

(Almost) nothing happened!

I say “almost” because one important thing was discussed in the last PSR Board of Directors meeting; the expanded responsibilities of the Historian. From having been limited to take care of, and add to, the collection of Convention cars, it now includes collection and preservation of information pertaining to past Presidents and Directors, Member-of-the-Year recipients, and a unified display of AP Awards winners. Add to that to maintain the *Dispatch* newsletter collection. A great deal of progress has been made here and now comes the hunt for missing issues.

That’s a mighty big task to get started on and I will have to call for everybody’s help in achieving these lofty goals. I will work with the PSR Webmaster to create a corner on the PSR website for these items. Once that is up and running I will get back with more details requests for missing data.

The convention memorabilia collection includes every issued car from 1982 through 2020 with 1982 being lettered for PCR and 1983 PCR/PSR. No cars were issued in 1997 and 2015.

Patches are missing for following years:

1982, 1983, 1985, 1986, 1988, 1989, and 1998. No patch was issued in 2020.

Frank Baker, our Arizona Division Director, graciously donated the patch from the 1992 convention.

Pins are missing for following years:

1982, 1983, 1985, 1996, 1998, 2000, 2001, 2003, 2004.

I am looking for confirmation that patches and pins were, or were not, issued for these years. If anyone knows of a missing patch or pin and is willing to donate them to the collection, please contact me via email: history@psrnmra.org

I will gladly accept a scan, or copy, of the patch or pin, I consider that better than having an empty spot in the collection cabinet!.

History of the NMRA's Pacific Southwest Region

by Don Fowler, MMR

The Pacific Southwest Region (PSR) officially began on June 1, 1982. Originally part of the Pacific Coast Region (PCR), our Region consists of four Divisions; Arizona, Cajon, Los Angeles, and San Diego covering the entire state of Arizona and the southern portions of California and Nevada.

The proposal to split the Pacific Coast Region was first presented at the PCR Board of Director's Meeting at Reno, NV in October, 1980. The primary argument in favor of the proposed separation was due to the geographical and member size of the PCR and the related difficulty in serving the large number of members at the region conventions. Los Angeles Division Director Robert A. Rowe recommended that the new region be known as the Pacific Southwest Region.

In January 1982, the membership of the PCR voted in favor of splitting their Region as recommended. Official approval from NMRA National was granted at the February 1982 mid-year board meeting of the Board of Trustees.

On May 1, 1982 an unofficial first meeting of the PSR Directors and other interested Region members was held to propose a slate of officer candidates for the first election, held in June, 1982. Robert A. Rowe was elected as the new Region's first President. The first official meeting of the PSR Officers and Directors was held on October 2, 1982 in Needles, CA. The first issue of the not yet named newsletter was published in October, 1982. In December, 1982 the name “PSR Dispatch” was approved with a logo designed by Bruce Briggs.

The first annual PSR Convention was held May 17-20, 1984 in Scottsdale, AZ with the title “Saguaro ‘84” and adjourned with the Region's first Annual Membership Meeting on May 20, 1984.

Historical information for this article was derived from an original article by Marta Metcalf published in the NMRA Bulletin (date unknown).



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The NMRA National Convention is on the West Coast next year! Check it out!

Rails By The Bay – NMRA 2021 National Convention

July 4-11, 2021

www.nmra2021.com

- Educational focus on prototype modeling, operations and technology
- Over 100 terrific clinics
- World-class Bay Area layouts on tour
- Extensive operating sessions
- Host hotel – Santa Clara Marriott. Ample meeting room and SIG space. Discounted room block opens soon.
- Niles Canyon Railway, Roaring Camp & Big Trees narrow gauge, & SP narrow gauge to ride
- Great local attractions and tours like Santa Cruz mountain wineries, Filoli estate, Levi's Stadium and more





Kevin Spady, AIA, Editor
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