

# PACIFIC SOUTHWEST REGION NMRA

# DISPATCH

NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION



ARIZONA  
CAJON  
LOS ANGELES  
SAN DIEGO



VOLUME 42, NUMBER 3 3rd Quarter, 2025

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## FROM the EDITOR

With the changes in graphics and logos coming from National this fall and early next year you will see a distinct difference in the Dispatch from what you have seen over the past several years, starting in Q1, 2026. It is my intent to update and modernize the Dispatch to reflect a more contemporary format, in keeping with the new initiatives coming out of National. The content will remain the same, but how it is presented will be different.

In addition, you will start seeing the various Division newsletters being distributed to all Divisions, not just the Division it comes from. This should help get information from the Divisions more widely distributed, and give each member the opportunity to participate in other Division activities.

Have a great fall everyone! - Kevin Spady, Editor





## PSR President

Joel Morse, President

### From the Brass Hat

Congratulations to Harold Helland and the entire “Pacific Southwest” Regional Convention Team! What a great event they put on! Interesting and varied clinics, great prototype tours and the introduction of the modular layouts with ops and the vendor room added new dimensions to the weekend. One highlight for me was Awards Banquet Keynote Speaker, Dr. Cinthia Priest, who was terrific, describing her background in model railroading and presenting an approach for members to enlighten other modelers to the true benefits of membership.

Many awards were presented at the Awards Banquet, including Member of the Year for the PSR and each Division. These awards recognize members who have volunteered substantial time and energy to make the organization more valuable to the rest of the membership:

**NMRA President's Award: Gary Butts, MMR  
Member of the Year Awards:**

**PSR: Pat Raymer**

**Cajon: Paul Stoner**

**Arizona: Craig Carnell**

**Los Angeles: Ron Varnell**

**San Diego: Wayne Pierce**

**Congratulations and thank you for your efforts!**

You could be next year's recipient in your Division or PSR! All you need to do is get involved!

Regional conventions are a great time to make new friends, discover shared interests, learn a few new things and share your knowledge with others. Personally, I met a few members I hadn't met

before and got the opportunity to spend time with members I knew but haven't had a chance to spend much time with. If you weren't there, you really missed out on the fun! I hope you make a commitment to join us at the “All Aboard for 2026” regional convention now being organized by the San Diego Division.

Unfortunately, the Southwest Express was Cajon Director Harold Helland's “swan song”, as he passes on the Cajon Director position to long time Cajon member, Gary Stenberg. The Cajon Division and the Region owe a big **“Thank You” to Harold** for his dedication and hard work on the behalf of all the members of the PSR. Welcome aboard Gary Stenberg!

One of the key features of every PSR Regional Convention is a Board of Directors meeting where the Region Officers and Committee Chairs discuss the efforts from the past six months and look ahead to the next six months. One new item we discussed is that we will begin to distribute the Division Newsletters to all members of the PSR as a standard procedure. The Board felt that Division membership is an accident of geography and that there was a lot of information in each Division Newsletter that would be of value to all the PSR members, particularly events information and modeling tips and stories. The Board recognized that there may be some overlap in administrative information but considered it a small price to pay for the benefit of wider distribution of the information to the membership.

Another item discussed by the Board was NMRA National's Vision 2035 program, which, among several other efforts, includes updating technology to streamline membership initial and renewal experience, and a change in the NMRA logo. More on this to come as details filter down from National.





## PSR Vice President

Frank Kenny, Vice President

Unfortunately, Frank was unable to submit an article for this issue.



## Arizona

Chris Thompson, Director

In August I attended the NMRA National Convention in Novi, Michigan just outside of Detroit. I thoroughly enjoyed the convention, the team there had a full spread of activities and implemented some great ideas to improve the convention experience. There were some very large and impressive layouts on tour since this is the land of houses with basements. There is a lot of railroad history and preservation in the Detroit area, and the prototype tours covered a lot of this history during the week, including the restored Michigan Central Station and the Greenfield Village History Park. I ran into a few PSR members there, which was great to see. One new thing the team in Novi did was, in addition to the regular contest room which had a lot of awesome models entered, there was a large area in the SIG room for display only models similar to an RPM style meet. This was quite successful, and I estimate there were probably about three times the number of models in the display only area compared to the contest room. Perhaps that is something we can consider for the PSR conventions, we may be able to get more people to share their models with us.

A few weeks later I was in Irvine enjoying the PSR Convention. The Cajon team put together another great event for us to enjoy. We kicked it off on

Wednesday with an ice cream social and bingo. I'm not one to pass up a chance for ice cream. On Thursday I was in an operating session on PSR President Joel Morse's very nice N-Scale layout. Joel has an impressive operating scheme, and the crew ran 23 trains in a three-hour session! On Friday I went to the Southern California Railway Museum tour where the restored Santa Fe 5704 is currently located and painted in its Bicentennial scheme. The museum staff is working hard to get 5704 mechanically fully functional again, so it can be back out on the tracks in its red, white, and blue livery. Later I was able to attend the clinic given by Stephen Priest covering the acquisition and body restoration of this locomotive, which is an amazing story. The convention wrapped up with a delicious meal at the convention hotel. The guest speaker was NMRA Magazine Editor Cynthia Priest, and her talk on the camaraderie and fellowship we all enjoy by being members of the NMRA was very inspiring.

The next in-person meet for the Division is October 18<sup>th</sup> in Scottsdale, which is also the Annual Meeting of Members. The election of the Superintendent takes place in even numbered years, so that will be on the agenda for the Annual Meeting next year. The regular line up of activities can be expected, so bring those models to the contest room if you can. We always enjoy seeing the modeling skills and workmanship of our members.

This year the Arizona Division is going to host the Cactus Crawl layout tour on Saturday and Sunday, November 15 & 16. One of the goals of the Cactus Crawl is to get exposure to the model railroad hobby to attract more people to the hobby and potentially the NMRA. This also meshes well with November being National Model Railroad Month. We expect to see some of the great layouts we had last year from across the state open

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## Arizona

Chris Thompson, Director

for visits, and hopefully some new ones for this year. Layouts will be open in the Phoenix valley area, the Tucson area, and up north around Prescott, Flagstaff, and Williams. Check out the Arizona Division web site for more information on the Cactus Crawl, we will start posting participating layouts soon.



## Cajon

Gary Stenberg Director

Greetings All from the Cajon Division!

My name is Gary Stenberg, and I am the newly installed Director for the Cajon Division. Let me tell you a little about me and then we'll get into the really important stuff. I have been a member of the NMRA my entire adult life. I joined the NMRA in about 1967 at the age of 17 and became a Life Member in 1971. I model in HOn3 and HO standard gauge, preferring Rio Grande and Great Northern. When the Cajon Division first started, I served as the first Editor of the Order Board and then as the second Superintendent. Getting married and having four children diverted me from being very active for a long time. About five years ago, I was asked to serve as the Chief Clerk of the Cajon Division. I met new people and got recharged for the model railroading hobby. So here I am. Enough about me. Now, to the really good stuff.

PSR convention in Irvine: The Pacific Southwest Region held our annual convention during the first week of September. Although all of the facts aren't in yet, I can say that those of us who attended had a great time. Preliminary information obtained indicates that, while we didn't make a lot of money for the Region and Divisions, we were in the black. The special event trips to LA Union Station and to the Southern California Railway Museum (formerly known as the Orange Empire Railroad Museum) were sold out! Clinics were presented in person and via ZOOM. This allowed us to have input from different parts of the country as well as from local modelers. Three modular clubs set up for the show and operated for almost the entire run of the convention. There was a silent auction (I got outbid, darn it) and the traditional Hobo auction (I did better with this one). Plus, we had a swap meet with some really good items for sale. We even had operating sessions on members' layouts that counted for the Achievement Program (Chief Dispatcher). Can't have a convention without a banquet and ours was no exception. The banquet, included in the price of admission, was enhanced by the keynote speaker, Cinthia Priest, the editor of the NMRA Magazine. Cinthia's presentation was outstanding, stressing that WE are the NMRA. Although the attendance was down from previous conventions, I would say that it was a success.

Cajon Division Emphasis: During the next two years, the Cajon Division intends to involve more of our membership by scheduling our events in locales more convenient to them. Traditionally, our "Meets" have been located in Buena Park, on the western edge of our division. We are looking into scheduling more events in the "Inland Empire" which would be more accessible for most of our membership. Recognizing that our Division also goes out into Nevada, we are encouraging

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## Cajon

Gary Stenberg Director

model railroaders in that area and are supporting local meets. Our hope is to encourage NMRA participation and organize more formal Division meets locally. We are going to be sending out a “Needs Assessment” questionnaire to help us determine what our membership wants.

Achievement Program: In 1969, the NMRA had 26 Master Model Railroaders. Our own Carl Heimburger has just been recognized as Master Model Railroader # 798!!! Congratulations Carl.

The Achievement Program is seen by many as just too hard to do. But here's the secret, the Achievement Program really is a systematic method to become a really good modeler. The easiest Certificate to obtain is the “Association Volunteer” Achievement Certificate. All it takes is...well...volunteering. Every time you volunteer for something like being an evaluator of models at a Regional convention, or being the Chief Clerk, you get points. After a while, you get enough points and you're there. Just turn in the simple paperwork. The “Chief Dispatcher” certificate takes around 50 hours of running trains in a prototypical manner plus learning about train graphs and scheduling. This certificate encourages group participation, meeting new people, and having fun running trains. That's just two of the eleven areas that are covered. I highly recommend participating in the Achievement Program.

Encouragement: I'm going to return to my roots a little. Back in High School, I had a friend who had an uncle in Santa Ana, where I lived. Eric knew I liked trains and said, “Let's go see my uncle.” We did and I met Richard Clute. Richard was a retired mechanical engineer and was an

avid, highly skilled model railroader. He had been a member of the Santa Ana Model Railroad club back during World War II and, in retirement, had a small model railroad (the Looselip and Snakesnake RR). The model railroad was HO/HOn3, with entirely hand laid track and minimal scenery. Mechanically, it was flawless. I never saw a derailment on any of it. He, and his wife Virginia, welcomed me into their home on numerous occasions. Richard was such a positive example and he encouraged me to become a committed model railroader. In our talks, I learned an awful lot. He was a great mentor. Now, at 75 years old myself, I try to be a mentor to whomever I can be. Perhaps someone reading this can become a mentor to an up-and-coming model railroader. Maybe that can be you!

PAX and High Green.





## Los Angeles

Vic Cavalli, Director

Third quarter 2025 has been a busy period for Los Angeles (L.A.) and neighboring Division events.

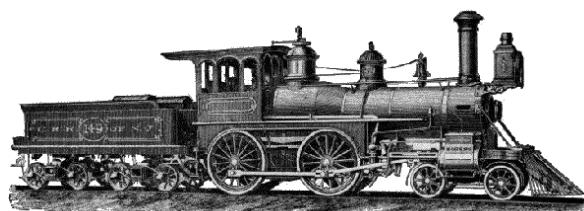
Quarterly Division-sponsored “open-houses” started things off with visitations to PSR Vice President **Frank Kenny**’s *Central Pacific Railway* (N Scale) circa 1978 – representing the routes between Fresno and Mojave, CA, focusing on the prototypes Southern Pacific, Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe, and Frank’s personal Central Pacific Railway (CPRX) railroads and, **Ron Varnell**’s Union Pacific-based *Anywhere East & West Railroad* (HO/HOn3) – a 1,400 square foot, highly detailed, private layout featuring logging, oil extraction, strip and gold mining, and numerous other rail served industries. Ron had his “portable” N-Scale modular layout set up for viewing too. Each open house attracted 40-50 NMRA members and their guests.

A few weeks later, all Region members were treated to four (4) full days of model railroading fun and activities at the PSR’s annual convention, *Pacific Southwest Express*, expertly hosted by the Cajon Division at the Hilton Irvine - John Wayne Airport in Irvine, CA. Attendance was announced to be approximately 130 NMRA members and their guests and, from the feedback I received, all had a wonderful time. I won’t go into any specific L.A. highlights here (though there were several) as I expect they will be covered in an article to be found elsewhere in this issue of the *Dispatch*. In short: **WELL DONE, CAJON!**

Looking ahead, our next “biggie” occurring within the L.A. Division boundaries will be the *2025 Los Angeles Area Prototype Modelers and Swap Meet* scheduled for October 11<sup>th</sup> at the Imago Dei Church, Bellflower, CA. [Side note: While currently coordinated solely by *Railmaster Hobbies*, Division leadership is looking into how we might be able to better contribute/support this event going forward.]

Thereafter, expect at least another *Layouts of the L.A. Division* open house, more club-based swap meets (check “*Upcoming Model Railroad and Prototype Events*” found towards the end of each issue of this newsletter for places, dates and times), monthly Fellowship Get-Together at *Railmaster Hobbies*, Bellflower, CA, on the last Saturday of each month and, of course, L.A.-sponsored, monthly *Sand House Chat* Zoom sessions – all PSR members always welcomed – the first Thursday evening of each month. All this, and just possibly even more, prior to the year’s end.

Well, “that’s a wrap” for now. Until next quarter, happy model railroading to you.





## San Diego

Tim Foote, Director



### Pacific Southwest Region Convention 2026

Come join us in beautiful San Diego for the PSR 2026 Model Railroaders Convention. The convention is being hosted by the San Diego Division

on September 9-13, 2026.

The convention has many model railroad activities including an array of clinics, prototype tours, contests, layout tours, hobo breakfast, hobo auction and a swap meet. The introductory event will be held at the famous Model Railroad Museum in Balboa Park. The final event will be the Banquet. The speaker will be SP Author & Historian Jeff Cauthen.

The San Diego Division has some excellent layouts, many of which have been published in popular model railroad magazines. You will be able to view those layouts during the convention. Clinics will include Modeling with the PSR Masters led by Gary Butts, MMR. There will be activities every night of the convention.



The convention will take place at the **Doubletree by Hilton Hotel San Diego-Mission Valley** at 7450 Hazard Center Drive, San Diego, California.

The hotel is near a trolley stop that provides access to most areas of San Diego. Mission Valley is a centrally located area with access to popular areas of San Diego including restaurants, shopping centers and the beaches. Additional information and the registration link is at: <https://www.sandiegodivision.org/index.php/convention-2026>

### ACTIVITIES OF THE SAN DIEGO DIVISION:

In addition to our preparation for hosting the 2026 PSR Convention the San Diego Division holds in person activities every month. It also issues a quarterly newsletter, The Mail Hook, covering club activities, informative articles, with photographs, on railroading and model railroading layouts and modeling techniques. The Mail Hook will be sent to all PSR members in the future.

#### October 11, 2025, Saturday - Model Railroad Layout Tour.

This HO scale model railroad layout tour will be hosted by Gene Forbes at his backyard structure that houses his HO scale layout.

#### November 8, 2025, Fall Meet.

Activities: Show & Tell, clinics, door prizes and more.

#### December 13, 2025, Saturday - Model Railroad Layout Tour, Dinner and Holiday Party.

This event is exclusive for San Diego Division members.





## Awards Program

Carl Heimberger, AP Chairman

### Second Quarter 2025 Awards Program Report

The second quarter of 2025 has been very productive for the PSR with five members receiving certificates.

Vic Cavalli – Cars

Jack Debolt – Civil

Wayne Pierce – Cars

Pat Raymer – Author

Carl Heimberger – Cars, Civil & MMR

So, why is there an Awards Program? For one, to recognize members who have helped run the organization by volunteering their time. Also to recognize members who have accomplished various model building skills such as car, motive power, scenery, structures, etc. And all of that is good but for me it was the learning experience that pushed me out of my comfort zone to achieve MMR. Never in my wildest dream after I got my first merit award would I have thought I would ever archive MMR. For one, I am actually an introvert, second, I despise writing stuff, and I am just kind of a low-profile guy. But I am also an achiever and when I see a need I step up the plate.

Yes, there is a reason that out of the current world wide NMRA membership of around 16,000 there are only a little under 800 MMRs. My guess is first the perception of the program: it is NOT a test but in reality, a way to push you out of your comfort zone and try things you never thought you would even want to try. Have you ever built a passenger car? Myself no but after building one I had so much fun I built three of them. As a teenager I built my own turnout as I did not have the money for commercial ones. Building the ones for

civil was a great learning experience. Would I do it again sure but not in HOn3 with code 70 rail. Maybe in O or G so I could see what I was building. As far as structures I love building them and in 25 years went from 89 to 124 points by just again pushing myself and I learned a lot of new structure building techniques.

So, what is my point? Life is full of opportunities and it is all about learning exciting new stuff. This is not about you competing against others but about you competing against yourself. Even if you never achieve your MMR, you will not regret the journey, the new skills you will learn, and the new friends you will make along the way.

Carl Heimberger  
PSR AP Manager



## Historian's Re-

Brian Neeley, Historian

Unfortunately, Brian was unable to submit an article for this issue.

## 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=PLBbDHVLodgxN8otpnuMsHdQMucCzcT  
WD](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLBbDHVLodgxN8otpnuMsHdQMucCzcTWD)

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.





## **PSR Treasurer**

John McGreevy, Treasurer

### **PACIFIC SOUTHWEST REGION 37 TREASURERS AUTUMN REPORT**

There were no PSR revenue transactions during the period June 1, 2025, through August 31, 2025.

Expenses totaled \$2,030.25. A payment of \$116.00 total was made to Election Buddy for the 2025 Director elections in each of the four divisions. A payment of \$100 was made to Lomita Calvary Assemblies of God for hosting the N scale meet in late May. We had a booth there and met several members. Payments totaling \$1,742.31 were made for member of the year awards. Please note that that the purchase was for Bells used as the award and the engraving. The purchase was enough for two years of awards.

Additional expenses consisted of two payments totaling \$71.94 for In-motion website hosting.

No Deposits were made during this period. Net cash expenses this period: \$2,030.25. The on-line Bank Statement indicates that the Region had \$32,117.82 on 8/31/2025.

#### **PSR Wells Fargo Checking Account:**

**Region Only Cash as of May 31, 2025:**  
**\$34,148.07**

**Region Only Cash as of August 31, 2025:**  
**\$32,117.82**

**Change this period: \$2,030.25**



## **Membership**

Rudy Spano, Membership Chair

As of August 2025 our Regional Membership stands at 898 members. In May of this year our membership was 916. In August of 2024 our membership was 985. We have been experiencing a downward trend over the year. The membership in each Division is as follows: San Diego 144, Los Angeles 207, Arizona 293 and Cajon 254.

Something that I have noticed in San Diego is the growth in model railroad clubs and groups. When I speak to these club members and ask why they are not members of the NMRA, they generally respond that they see no benefit in an NMRA Membership. They have built into their groups, resources for the hobby and a sense of comradery with fellow modelers. They can attend our conventions as non-members. They are not interested in model contests or the AP certification. With so many publications out there about model railroading as well as videos and social media sites, the NMRA magazine and other publications are not seen as a plus.

So, what would cause them to join? How will we grow our membership with these groups? I think one of the answers might lie in a paraphrase of John Kennedy's famous line, ask not what the NMRA can do for you, but what can you do for the NMRA and by extension, the hobby of model railroading? You might ask yourself this question, what am I doing for the NMRA and for model railroading? How can I help the PSR grow its membership?





## Education

Mike Allee—Education Chairman

### What's the Model For?

I recently operated at La Mesa. Being the Contest (Celebration) Chair for Cajon & PSR I have an interest in looking at structures from an evaluation point of view. It occurred to me that there can be difference between a model that is constructed for evaluation and a model constructed to be placed on a layout. The La Mesa models are very good the outside detail craftsmanship is first class (you might say museum quality). There may not be any interior detail, the three foot rule really applies here. The interior will never be seen, it would be up to the modeler and their pride to included that detail. Some of these models are more than ten feet away from the viewing public. Some are not even viewable by the public, hidden in the deep unknown. (Took me more than a day to learn how to get from one place to another and I was still learning when the session was over.)

A museum quality model may not be an award wining NMRA Achievement Program model. There's no interior detail or because of the distance from the viewer fine or exterior detail is not included on the kit. The Achievement Program is designed so a modeler shows all of his/her modeling ability and to encourage them to improve those abilities. Models can be privately evaluated by an AP Manager or more likely at an NMRA show in the Celebration Room by a group of evaluators (judges). Both contest and judge are terms that probably shouldn't be used when models are being evaluated.

There can't be a contest for one simple reason, variables, the models aren't the same and

therefore different levels of abilities and techniques would be used to complete the model. It is how well the modeler's abilities accomplish the techniques that are being evaluated not judged. The judging is not judging but rather evaluating and therefore should be referred to as evaluation. And judges should be referred to as evaluators.

Since the models are not the same, even though in the same category, they are not being evaluated against each other. The scores the modeler receives represent their ability to use the techniques needed to build the model. Of course, a complicated model having been chosen by a modeler and constructed with well learned techniques will receive a high score. Yet, the less complicated model constructed with techniques being learned will be scored appropriately. Moving from the later example to the former is what the Celebration Room (NMRA has changed Contest Room to Celebration Room) is all about. Giving those that wish to have their abilities analyzed and suggestions where improvement could take place or where advanced or exceptional work has occurred.

Evaluation of rolling stock be it a caboose or locomotive or anything in-between the evaluation process is the same. Take some time and visit NMRA website ([nmra.org](http://nmra.org)), click on Education (dark blue column). A column to the right has an index of all sorts of education items. We're interested in Contests (should be Celebration). Click on Forms then to the left click on D. Model Contest Judge's Score Sheet. This is Form 902, the form we use in the Cajon Div. and the PSR with a slight modification, I'll explain later. You can see there are five categories your modeling abilities are evaluated under. You fill this out carefully and completely. No prose, use bullet points even though it says describe do it as briefly as possible.

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## Education

Mike Allee—Education Chairman

If you provide pictures to show conformity but the pictures show the present condition and you show it as it might have been in it's prime so state.

The evaluators have a copy of AP Judging (Evaluation) Guidelines, click on it. These guidelines describe to the evaluators what to consider in the category. At the bottom of each category description you will find a Point Matrix. The rows go from easy to difficult and the columns from a little to a lot. Once the evaluators agree on a score it is recorded on Form 902. This is where Cajon and PSR form differs from the NMRA form. The rows are numbered and the columns are alphabetized. Rather than have a single box for the score ours has three the row, column and score are recorded. Which provides more information about your modeling. The evaluators are supposed to write comments about your model. These would be comments about your abilities and suggestions where you could improve, I suggest you use these matrixes to score your self once you finished the model. If your score is fifty or better your model could receive a place. If the model scores more than eighty-seven and half you will receive a Merit Award.

There's one more place you can go to get information about your modeling abilities and that of others. Become an evaluator. The NMRA says "experienced judges" will do the evaluation. "Experienced judges" have to start as unexperienced and that is where divisions and regions come in. A unexperienced evaluator is teamed with an experienced evaluator. It never fails that after the evaluations are over learners will express how

much they learned. Many evaluators return again and again. I'm sure there are several reasons but one of them must be that they get to look carefully at the models.

If you're considering or already working on your Master Model Railroader (MMR) it would be wise to volunteer to evaluate. Not only will you get to look closely at the models, you'll learn what to include in your descriptions on Form 902 and learn more about our modeling techniques. Fill the form out at home. There's not enough time at the show to complete the form besides you more than likely will forget to include important information. If you're not sure how well you completed the form there will be an experienced modeler, usually an AP Mgr., in the room to review your form and offer suggestions. If you're still not confident enter the model in Display Only. You've made the first step in having your work looked at. The next show will be much easier to enter. Evaluate!

Mike Allee,  
Cajon & PSR Contest Chairman





**2025 PSR Convention Award Winners and Photos**



**President's Award**



**“Ron’s South Bay Pier” by Ron Varnell (LA)**



**Best In Show**



**“Ron’s South Bay Pier” by Ron Varnell (LA)**





## PSR Regional Convention Winners



### Thumbs



**1<sup>st</sup> Place: "Outhouse Under Construction" by Gary Stenberg (CAJ)**

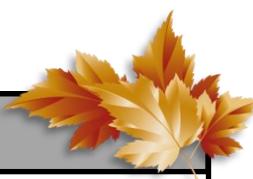


### Steam Locomotive



**1<sup>st</sup> Place Popular Choice & Evaluated: "UP Big Boy 4014 Lego" by Harold Helland, MMR (CAJ)**





## Displays Off-Line



1<sup>st</sup> Place Popular Choice: "Ron's South Bay Pier" by Ron Varnell (LA)

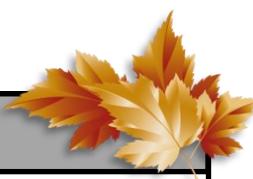


## Structures On-Line



1<sup>st</sup> Place Popular Choice, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Evaluated:  
"Steam Locomotive Water Tower" by Jim Phillips (CAJ)





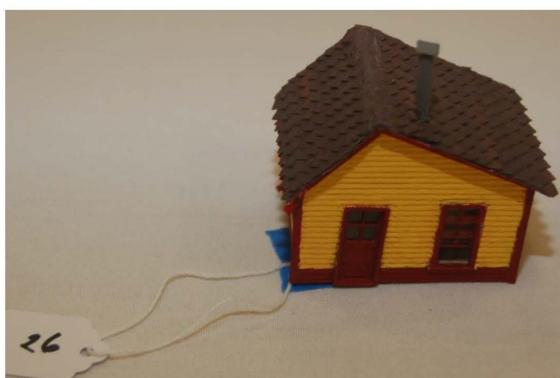
## Structures On-Line



**2<sup>nd</sup> Place Popular Choice & 1<sup>st</sup> Place Evaluated:  
"Oyster Bay Long Island Water Tower 1889-1942" by Gary Butts (CAJ)**



## Structures On-Line



**3<sup>rd</sup> Place Popular Choice & Evaluated: "Small Railroad Shed" by Patrick Rogan (CAJ)**





## Structures Off-Line



1<sup>st</sup> Place: Popular Choice &  
Evaluated: "California Tank House"



2<sup>nd</sup> Place Popular Choice &  
Evaluated: "Winery Tasting Room"

All by Patrick Rogan (CAJ)



## Photos Prototype Black & White



1<sup>st</sup> Place Popular Choice & Evaluated:  
"Coming Into the Station"



2<sup>nd</sup> Place Popular Choice & Evaluated:  
"Rusty Mary Rides Again"



3<sup>rd</sup> Place Popular Choice & Evaluated:  
"Porter"



All by Stephen Blanor





## Photos Prototype Color



1<sup>st</sup> Place Popular Choice & Evaluated:  
"Across the Trestle"



2<sup>nd</sup> Place Popular Choice &  
Evaluated: "V&T #25"



3<sup>rd</sup> Place Popular Choice & Evaluated:  
"Colorado Narrow Gauge"



All by Stephen Blanor



## Diesel & Other Locomotive



1<sup>st</sup> Place Popular Choice & Evaluated: "SP 9950 GE U50" by Dan Kamikubo (LA)





## Freight Car



**3<sup>rd</sup> Place Popular Choice, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Evaluated:  
"Navarro County Narrow Gauge Box Car #38 On3" by Vic Cavalli (LA)**

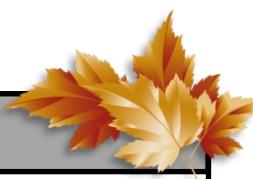


## Freight Car



**2<sup>nd</sup> Place Popular Choice, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Evaluated: "Box Car" by Patrick Rogan (CAJ)**





## Freight Car



1<sup>st</sup> Place Popular Choice & Evaluated: "N.C.O Zerolene Tank Car" by Vic Cavalli (LA)



## Favorite Train



1<sup>st</sup> Place Popular Choice: "Southern Pacific Narrow Gauge" by Steven Bradley (SD)





## Caboose



**1<sup>st</sup> Place Popular Choice & Evaluated:  
"Denver & Rio Grande Western Caboose #0575 On3" by Vic Cavalli (LA)**



## Caboose

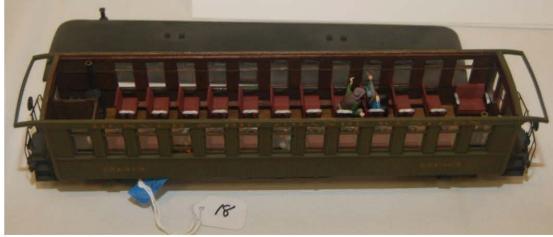


**2<sup>nd</sup> Place Popular Choice & Evaluated: "Drover Caboose" by Patrick Rogan (CAJ)**





## Passenger Car



1<sup>st</sup> Place Popular Choice & Evaluated: "D&RGW Coach #283 On3"



2<sup>nd</sup> Place Popular Choice & Evaluated: "D&RGW Coach #210 On3"

All by Vic Cavalli (LA)



## Displays On-Line



1<sup>st</sup> Place Popular Choice & Evaluated:  
"Butt Valley Dam Construction 1919" by Peter Davidson





## 2025 PSR Convention Photos



Introductions



Guest Speaker: Dr. Cinthia Priest



Bingo night!



Cajon Member of the Year: Paul Stoner



MMR for Carl Heimberger! Congrats!



Los Angeles Member of the Year:

Ron Varnel





## 2025 PSR Convention Photos



Hobo Auction



Convention Historical Display



Banquet Dinner



Ops crew on Joel Morse's layout



Vendor Displays



Arnold Arons Dispatching





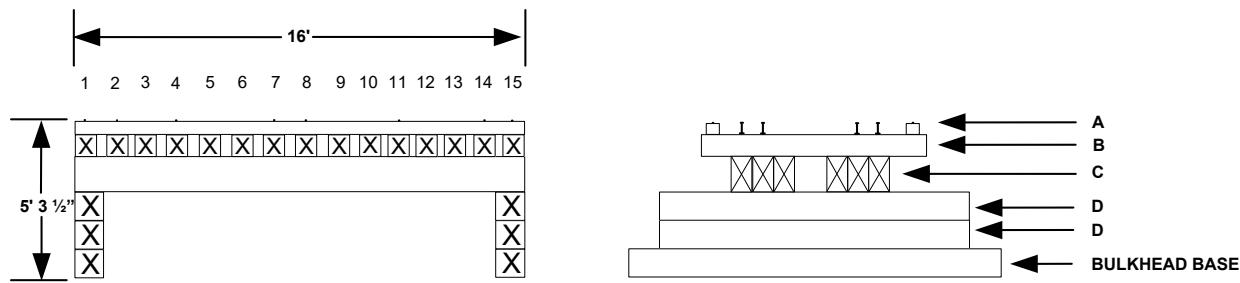
# RIO GRANDE SOUTHERN

## BRIDGE 41A

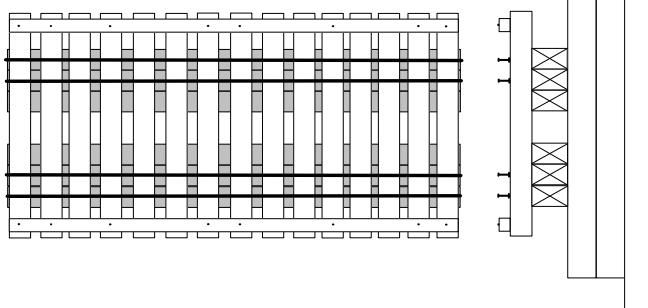
By Gary Stenberg

I wanted to build a trestle to be considered for the Achievement Program “Master Builder – Structures” award. I knew that this would require some very intense and delicate work. Thinking “How can I start this major project” I decided to build a part of the trestle. Start small was my motto. Doing a bit of research, I found a Rio Grande Southern bridge (41A) that actually was similar to a part of the trestle I wanted to build (RGS Story Vol 3)

Here are the plans drawn for this model.



	NAME	DIMENSIONS
A	GUARDRAIL BOARD	4" x 8" x 16'
B	CROSSTIE	8" x 8" x 8'
C	STRINGER	8" x 16" x 16'
D	BULKHEAD CAP	12" x 12" x 12'
BULKHEAD BASE	BULKHEAD BASE	12" x 12" x 14'



Continued on Page 25





Here is the list of parts needed for the bridge.

IDENTIFICATION	NAME	DIMENSIONS	QUANTITY
A	GUARDRAIL BOARD	4" X 8" X 16'	2
B	CROSSTIE	8" X 8" X 8'	15
C	STRINGER	8" X 16" X 16'	6
D	BULKHEAD	12" X 12" X 12'	4
<b>BULKHEAD BASE</b>	<b>BULKHEAD BASE</b>	<b>12" X 12" X 14'</b>	<b>2</b>
SPIKES	SPIKES	Micro Engineering - Small	60
GUARDRAIL	GUARDRAIL	Code 70 16'	2
RAIL	RAIL	Code 70 33'	2

- The first two steps after doing the plans and parts list is to stain the wood and paint the rails. I used Varathane Stain – Dark Walnut for the wood and Floquil Rust for the rails. It is important to stain the wood prior to any construction since glue seals the wood and prevents stain from sinking in.
- After staining the wood and painting the rails, the parts need to be cut to length. It's easiest to use a chopper (with fresh single side razor blade) and add a "stop block". When cutting the 15 crossties it is easier to make them all the same length with a "stop block". Even when cutting just one piece, the block will help hold the piece into the rail and ensure a square cutoff. I used the plans to measure the correct sizes to cut. The rail cuts just need to be done carefully to cut them to the correct lengths.
- Once the wood and rails are cut to size, touch up the stain at each end of the wood pieces and paint the ends of the rails.
- Making an assembly jig isn't hard. Just cut up a copy of the plans (carefully as the lines count), and trace them onto styrene sheet. Next add small strips of 1/8<sup>th</sup> inch x 1/8<sup>th</sup> inch styrene as holders. One jig is needed to space the stringers the correct distance apart. This jig can also be used to assist in placing the crossties.
- Glue two sets of three stringers (C) and let dry. The middle stringer of each of the two sets will sit directly under the rail. I used Aliphatic Resin Wood Glue.
- Glue two Bulkhead pieces (D) onto the Bulkhead Base and let dry. Next repeat and glue the other bulkhead together, letting it dry as well.
- Glue the 15 crossties on the stringers. I used the photograph to space these crossties because some of them had shifted slightly. (I forgot to mention this on the grading sheet for the evaluation and got dinged for them not being evenly spaced.) Set this aside to dry.
- The outside guardrail board (A) is added next. One guardrail board goes on each side of the crossties. See the plan above.
- Since everything needs to dry, now is a good time to drill the bolt holes in the 33' rails. Using a twist drill with a very small bit will take some time to drill the 8 holes needed. Take your time. Touch up the shiny metal with "rust" paint.

Continued on Page 26



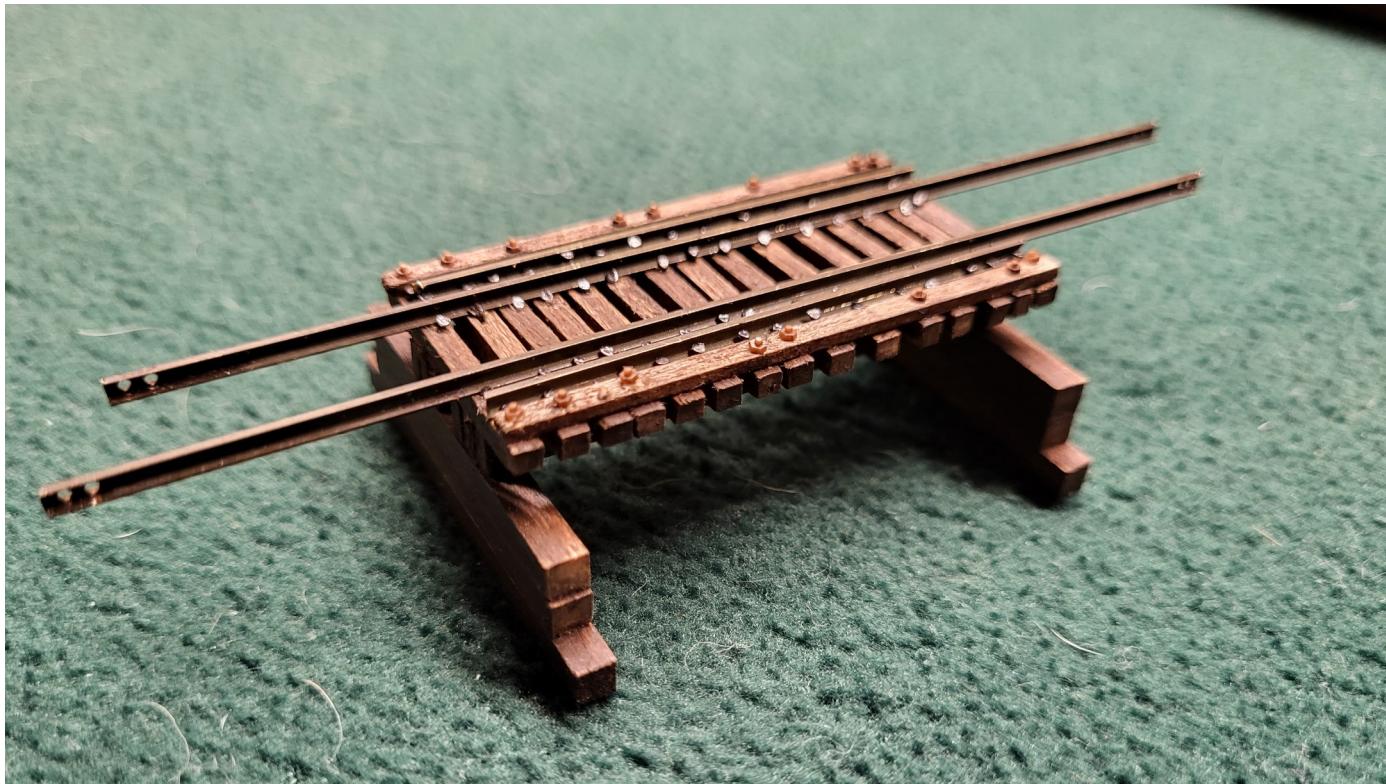


- This is a narrow gauge bridge, and quite small, so it's easy to use a piece of HOn3 track to gauge the rail placement over the stringers. The secret is to drill a very small pilot hole for each spike. Then spike it in. Do this individually for each spike. That way the rails stay in the correct alignment. I ran into a little problem as the spikes, even though the smallest I could get, were too long. This was judged accordingly, where too long spikes poked through. Note the Bulkheads are not part of the assembly at this point. This part of the modelling takes a bit of time so settle in and be patient.
- After you finish the rail portion of the bridge, it's time to do the guardrails. The guardrails are a scale 16' in length and, by RGS design, go on the outside of the stock rails. I place the guardrails as close as possible to the running rails. The spike heads need to fit between the guardrail and the stock rail.
- Last step is to drill small holes in the guardrail wood and install bolt and washer detail. Use the photograph to see where they go.
- Almost done. Now glue the bulkhead assemblies to each end of the bridge. Looks pretty good doesn't it?

Congratulations on constructing a bridge. If you took your time and followed these steps you've now created a bridge. In order to earn the Achievement Program Certificate for Master Builder – Structures, you need a bridge model and you've just done it!

This model was entered in a Cajon Division "Celebrations of Models" and took first place and earned a "Merit Award." I was amazed as this model was a test bed for another more complex model. You never know until you try.

So, give it a try!





# Nov 15, 2025



10:30am ~ Round Trip Pass ~ 1:30pm

## EAST VALLEY LINES MODEL RAILROAD OPEN HOUSE

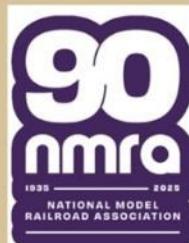


The LA Division invites [NMRA MEMBERS AND THEIR GUESTS](#) to join us for a day of Railfanning on the incredible East Valley Lines N Scale Layout. Located at the Travel Town Museum in Griffith Park, the layout has been in operation since 1979. The layout covers approximately 2,000 square feet, featuring stunning California scenery.

RSVP is Required

NMRAPSRLAJohnMc@gmail.com

5200 Zoo Dr., Los Angeles CA 90027





## Upcoming Model Railroad and Prototype Events

Area Covered: the PSR's Arizona, Cajon, Los Angeles, and San Diego Divisions; the PCR's Daylight Division, plus selected Regional/National Conventions. All events located in California unless otherwise noted.

Updated 9/16/2025

### Reoccurring

Tuesday & Saturdays – San Diego S-Gaugers' Open House, Grossmont Shopping Center, La Mesa, noon – 6:00 pm

Saturdays – Corona Model Railroad Society Open House, Corona Heritage Park, Corona, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

1st Tuesday of each month – L.A. Division Sponsored “*Sand House Chat*”, starts at 7:00 p.m.

1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of each month – Gold Coast Modular Railroad Club Open House, Camarillo, 10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.

3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of each month (except October) – Arizona Division Monthly Zoom Meet, starts at 10:00 a.m.

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month – Pasadena Model Railroad Open House, Los Angeles, 1:00-5:00 p.m. Admission charged.

Last Saturday of each month – Railmaster Hobbies' Model Railroad Fellowship Get-Together, Bellflower

### 2025

October 3-5 – Central Coast Railroad Festival, San Luis Obispo

October 4 – Los Angeles Model Railroad Society Open House and Swap Meet, Harbor City

October 4-5 – Belmont Shores Model Railroad Open House and Swap Meet (Sat. Only), San Pedro

October 4-5 – Great Train Show, Del Mar Fairgrounds, Del Mar

October 11 – Los Angeles Area Prototype Modelers' (and Swap) Meet, Imago Dei Church, Bellflower

October 11 – Layouts of San Diego Division – Gene Forbes Layout, San Diego County

October 12 – Depot Day at the Travel Town Museum, Griffith Park, Los Angeles





## Upcoming Model Railroad and Prototype Events

October 15-18 – Southern Pacific Historical & Technical Society 2025 Convention, Doubletree by Hilton – Reid Park, Tucson AZ

October 18 – Arizona Division Meet, Scottsdale Congregational United Church of Christ, Scottsdale, AZ

October 18 – Roundhouse Gang Model Railroad Club Swap Meet, San Bernardino

October 25 – San Bernardino History & Railroad Museum's Railroad Memorabilia Show, San Bernardino

November 1 – Santa Susana Railroad Historical Society Swap Meet & Open House, Santa Susana Park, Simi

November 8 – Arizona Railroad Historical Society Swap Meet, Glendale Christian Church, Glendale, AZ

November 8 – San Diego Division Fall Meet, San Diego Model Railroad Museum, San Diego

November 8-9 – Great Train Show, San Bernardino County Fairgrounds, Victorville

November 8, 9 & 11 – California Southern Model Railroad Club Open House, Norwalk

November 9 – All Gauges Tucson Model Trains Swap Meet, Gadsden Pacific Division Toy Train Operating Museum, Tucson, AZ

November 15-16 – “Cactus Crawl” Layout Tours, AZ (state-wide)

December 13 – San Diego Division Model Railroad Tour, Dinner & Holiday Party, Santee

### 2026

January 31-February 1 – Great Train Show, Ventura County Fairgrounds, Ventura

February 14-15 – Great Train Show, Orange County Fair & Events Center, Costa Mesa

February 28 – Roundhouse Gang Model Railroad Club Swap Meet, San Bernardino

April 30-May 3 – PCR Convention “*Extra 2026 North Limited*”, Rohnert Park





## Upcoming Model Railroad and Prototype Events

July 25 – Roundhouse Gang Model Railroad Club Swap Meet, San Bernardino

September 9-13 – PSR Annual Convention "All Aboard for 2026", Double Tree Hotel - San Diego/Mission Valley, San Diego

October 17 – Roundhouse Gang Model Railroad Club Swap Meet, San Bernardino

**Please send announcements at least 3 months in advance to:**

**[VicCavalli@comcast.net](mailto:VicCavalli@comcast.net)**

## Keeping Your Membership Info Up To Date.

By keeping your NMRA Membership Info current, you guarantee that you will receive all email correspondence, Newsletters, etc., from the NMRA National Office, the Pacific Southwest Region and your local Division. Adding your phone number if you haven't already done so, allows for a more personal outreach by the Division Membership Chairs.

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In order to change your Membership Information, log on to the NMRA.org website with your username or email address and your unique password.

On the home page on the blue Navigation Bar, click on Membership. Scroll down to the last menu choice, Request for Membership Info Changes, click on that choice. Complete and submit the form to request changes to your Membership Info.

If you have trouble completing and submitting the Change form, please contact your Division Membership Chair for help.





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Kevin Spady, AIA, Editor  
NMRA Pacific Southwest Region

