



# PSR Dispatch

## PACIFIC SOUTHWEST REGION

National Model Railroad Association®

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I can't believe how fast this year has gone by. Before we know it, we'll be ringing in 2012. I

hope that you had the opportunity to take advantage of some of the great events that the PSR and the NMRA have offered. Over the years, I have really come to appreciate all that is available to enhance my enjoyment of this great hobby. The friendships, training and support have been invaluable to me.

We had a great time at the PSR's Convention in Flagstaff, AZ in September. Larry Gibbs, Dave Nash and the other members of the Convention Committee did an outstanding job of planning and facilitating the event. Those who attended will attest that Charlie Getz, HML (At Large North America Director) was a great guest speaker and clinician. There's never a dull moment when he's around. We also enjoyed a wide variety of convention activities that were well planned and implemented.

While national conventions are great, I'm more partial to the friendliness and content of our annual PSR get togethers. But don't take my word for it. Visit both and draw your own conclusions. The next national convention will be held in Grand Rapids, MI and the next PSR convention will be in Ventura, CA. We're hoping to attract some of

## From the Hot Seat!

Don Fowler, PSR President  
president@psrnmra.org

those folks from PCR as well. Preparations are already underway and from what I hear, you'll want to attend both events.

During the convention, the PSR Board held its annual meeting. Please help me welcome new PSR Board members Dave Irick (AZ Director), Robert Demoss (LA Director) and Bob Libbey (Secretary). I would also like to thank our outgoing officers Rick Watson (AZ Director), Mary Barstow (LA Director) and Dave Irick (Secretary) as well for their service to our Region. Congratulations to our Member of the Year Award recipients that include Richard Dick (AZ), Lawrence Dewsnup (CJ), Michael Allee (LA), Donald Ham (SD) and Ben Sevier (Region). Dedicated folks like these are what make the PSR a success. If you would like to help, please let me know and we'll find a spot that's just right for you.

Here's some news from National...

- 2011 National Convention: Paid registrants at the Sacramento event exceeded the 2000 mark reflecting a continuing upward trend in attendance. Grand Rapids, MI will be the location for the 2012 National Convention.

- Diamond Club: \$100,000 has been donated resulting in 9,000 images being scanned. It is estimated that it will cost between \$300,000 and \$400,000 to complete the project.

- Communications: The Board continues to explore more effective ways to provide regular and

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# Division Director

## Arizona

Dave Irick

[Director@AzDiv-NMRA.org](mailto:Director@AzDiv-NMRA.org)



## Cajon

Bob Mitchell

[cajondivision@verizon.net](mailto:cajondivision@verizon.net)



This is the first column that I will be writing to you as the Director of the Arizona Division. I want to thank the members in Arizona for having the confidence in me, by electing me, to be your Director for the Arizona Division. I will do my best to serve you faithfully and work diligently for the betterment our Division and Region.

Among my goals is to visit the clubs and hobby shops in Arizona to spread the word about what your NMRA is doing for you and to encourage all members and non members to join us at our Division events. What better way to have a good time enjoying railroading then attending an event that is focused on trains, making new friends and visiting with old acquaintances. What is the NMRA but a bunch of friends, with like minded interests, that get together is discuss, show, talk about, look at and run trains. I would like to encourage all of you to think about and get active in the NMRA at your Division level. I think that too often we think of the NMRA as this big National origination that rules over us, but that is not the NMRA, the real NMRA is the Divisions and Regions events spread around the country.

On another note we had a great time at the PSR Convention in Flagstaff this past September. Larry Gibbs and his staff did a commendable job in hosting the Convention. I heard nothing but praise from my fellow attendees at the festivities. I personally enjoyed visiting with friends that I only have the opportunity to see once a year at the Regional Convention. Again; I encourage all of you to attend your Division and Region events.

In Flagstaff I spent most of the convention in the contest room and I must confess that I am disappointed in the number of models entered. Let's turn this downward trend around and fill the contest room with models next year in Ventura, CA. We have a lot of good modelers in the Arizona Division. Why were you not in Flagstaff? I have seen your work fill the contest rooms in Phoenix and Tucson. Let's buckle down and show the rest of the Region that Arizona has many talented

There are several administrative items to pass on. First, my email address for the Cajon Division has changed. It is now [cajondivision@verizon.net](mailto:cajondivision@verizon.net). Please do not use this email address when sending out mass emails with cartoons, jokes, or any business not related to the Cajon Division. If you are sending out an email to more than just the Cajon Division, please make sure my address is included as a BCC (blind carbon copy) only to help me prevent spam coming into this new address.

We now have a new Superintendent, Tom Boyles a member of the Orange County Modular RR Club. We also have an assistant Superintendent, David Pantoja who will be working with Tom to set up and coordinate all upcoming events and all questions should be directed to Tom first.

The editor of the Order Board is De Mell Skelton. Any articles or contributions for the publication you might have should be sent to him directly.

The new Membership Chair is Per Harve. You can contact him by email at [cajon\\_members@yahoo.com](mailto:cajon_members@yahoo.com). Our thanks go out to Larry Dewsnup who has been the membership chair for the last three years.

And sadly, longtime PSR and Cajon member Lynn Austin has passed away. Lynn was a Las Vegas native. He was well known throughout the country for his modeling skills. If anyone needed information Lynn was the man to ask, and was the Cajon Division Member Aid chairman. He will be missed.

The Temecula Meet is in planning for the end of March, 2012. Friday night is Bingo Night, and Oscar's is on tap for Saturday dinner and events. More details to come.



# Activity Reports



## Los Angeles

Bob DeMoss  
director@ladiv-nmra.org



## San Diego

Gary Robinson  
director@sandiegodivision.org

As newly elected Director for the Los Angeles Division, I look forward to the job. I will be looking to and seeking guidance from Mary Barstow, former director, as she has done a great job for the Division. Am also looking forward to working with Carl Heimberger, Division Superintendent and other members of the Los Angeles Division.

First order of business is our upcoming Regional Convention, "VENTURA FLYER" sponsored by the Los Angeles Division, so mark your Calendar, September 6 – 9th, 2012. It will be held at the "Courtyard by Marriott Oxnard/Ventura Hotel," 600 Esplanade Drive, Oxnard, Calif. 93036. Great Room rate, of \$109.00 plus state and local taxes, which includes free parking and breakfast for two.

For those of you who were able to attend this year's Regional Convention in Flagstaff, you received an information packet. We had 41 signups, which is a great start. A discounted rate was offered, but will increase as we get closer to Convention time, so best to sign up early. Present rate is \$105 until May 2012, after that it will increase. There are four well known layouts, along with many clinics already signed up. We hope to have the full list available, early next year. There are many great museums to visit, before, during or after the convention in the area. We plan on being at the Great Train Expo shows in December and January, and other local events with more information. We will also have Convention information on our Web Site, very soon. We are also planning our one day "SPRINGRAIL" event for midyear, in Alhambra.

Sadly, we lost one of our members in late September, Harold Graebner. He was a long time member of the L.A. Division, and was the By Law Chairman for the PSR, along with being a great fellow Model Railroader.



Summer has flown by in San Diego. It got off to a great start with a number of Division members attending the National Convention in Sacramento. I thought it was well done overall, but there were a couple of things that could have been improved, in my opinion. Although, since it was my first National, maybe I'm being too picky. But we do a better job in PSR! Three Division members won awards in the contest room. Pete Steinmetz won Best in Show and an Honorable Mention in the photography contest, Rodger Gredvig, MMR, won the Thumbs levity award for his reefer car, and Lise Conway won third place in People's Choice for her Gold Hill Station with scratch-built interior. We're very proud of all of them.

On returning from the National, we continued our monthly event schedule, with a layout tour at Duncan McRee's Tam Valley Railroad in July, where Duncan has started a dual-gauge railroad in an outbuilding. Next was the Summer Meet and Picnic at Paymaster Ben Sevier's home in August. Not only did we have a great picnic, we got to see Ben's MoPac/T&P railroad in its debut before the public. Ben still has a lot of scenery work to do, but trains are running! The meet was capped off by three clinics and a silent auction. Jimmy Simmons (Scratchbuilding 101), Joe D'Elia (Specialty Tools for Model Railroaders), and our host, Ben Sevier (Running Your Railroad with JMRI) were the clinic presenters. The September layout tour was at Dave Balser's Onion Valley, the first public viewing since Dave converted to On30.

We had a garden railway on tour for October, at Ray Dunakin's In-Ko-Pah RR, and we've been sharing layout tours with the San Diego Garden Railway Society (SDGRS) since the spring. This has proved to be a very successful endeavor. Quite a number of SDGRS folks have been attending our tours, and vice versa. We're hoping to turn this into increased membership, as very few SDGRS members are now also NMRA members.

November will bring our Fall Meet, at the San Diego Model Railroad Museum in Balboa Park. We will again start the meet in the morning, which will provide

Continued on page 5

# Fireman's Seat

Carl Heimberger, PSR Vice President  
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With the PSR Convention – Rails to Rims in Flagstaff just a memory, I would like to thank the Arizona Convention Team for a job well done. If for some reason you did not attend this convention you missed outstanding clinics, layouts, proto type tours, and great fellowship with other modelers. I was also pleased with the number of members from other Divisions and Regions who attended the convention and presented clinics. As I have stated before the annual PSR Convention is a Regional event so it is critical that members from other Divisions participate to make the event successful. So the next time you see a request from the host Division for members to help plan, present a clinic, or volunteer please consider joining the convention team ,it will only make the convention better for all who attend. I say this with tongue in cheek as I am the 2012 – Ventura Flyer Convention Chair, so you may be hearing from me in the near future.

While I am on the subject of volunteering, your local divisions are always looking for help from the membership and for most of the division this next year they will be looking for members to run for superintendent and paymaster. So please consider supporting your Division by taking on one of the leadership roles or one of the other division chairs such as membership, news letter editor, event planner, etc. You will be amazed at the new friendships you will make.

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were there and enjoyed it as much as I did. The next PSR convention is in Ventura, CA, September 2012 and we have already started planning for you ladies to have a fantastic time. Now to each of you girls who so graciously helped me out in Flagstaff, a big thank you, without each one of you the convention would not have been the success it was. So to Tatiana, Kim, Linda, and Anna thank you, thank you, thank you. I love each of you and look forward to working with you again.



# Railettes

Janet Spooner, Railette Chair  
railette@psrnmra.org

Hi Ladies,

Well, we had a great time in Flagstaff for the PSR convention. The weather was outstanding, sunny, cool and delightful. In the evenings, we needed sweaters and for us from Phoenix it was fun trying to find them. The Railette room was very well located and convenient, and once word got around on Thursday morning that there was food and coffee it is amazing how many of the boys dropped in. For our opening meeting we had 14 women stop by to find out what we would be doing for the days ahead. We had a high of 14 ladies at the various clinics.

We had a great time greeting old friends and meeting new ones. After we got a good bit of gossiping out of the way, we settled down to our clinics. Tatiana Gutierrez showed us how to make adorable owl change purses out of felt. The ladies had a great time picking their colors and sewing the pieces together to come up with the cute little change purses. Seems that several are going to be Christmas gifts for grand daughters. Linda Irick gave a fascinating talk of genealogy and showed us many of the sites available on the Internet, both free and subscription. She was able to find one of the attendees relatives in Sweden by putting in his name and city where he had lived. Technology is unbelievable. Linda also talked to us about re-cycling, re-using, and saving. There were some good tips that we all can easily follow. Finally Linda showed us how to make shopping bags out of old plastic bags. Even though, we were challenged by this, several got off to a good start on the bags and hopefully have finished them and are using them. Kim Fowler showed us how to make Santa napkin rings. They were easy and fun, but strangely challenging. She also showed us how to make flower pins out of material rounds. This craft was put together by Diane Forbes and presented by Kim. These pins came out very well and many of the ladies made a couple with an eye towards Christmas presents. I had the ladies folding paper to make greeting cards and in walks our resident origami expert, Anna Taylor, and she showed us how to make several wonderful folded items. I also had the ladies decorate candles for Halloween and work on Rainbow Crosses for me. We once again assembled shelter gifts. This time we put together 84 gifts that were taken to a local shelter. The luncheon was outdoors in a gazebo under towering pine trees. It was delightful and the sandwiches were great but the dessert tray was even better. All in all we had a fabulous time, hope you

## Reports - Continued

### President

timely communication with all members, taking into consideration those who don't subscribe to the NMRA Magazine or don't have Internet access. A detailed report is expected at the winter BOD meeting.

- **Dues Increase:** Dues in 2012 will increase by \$5 to \$44 and subscriptions by \$3 to \$22 to ensure the financial wellbeing of the Association.
- **NMRANET:** Presentations were made regarding two versions to define the physical layer of the DCC layout control bus called "NMRANET". The Board will review and approve final wording of the new S-9.6.1 standard.
- The "Carpet Cutting" ceremony at the CA State Railroad Museum in Sacramento marked the official start for fundraising for a scale model railroad exhibit in the Museum's gallery area. For more details, see the article in the May 2011 issue of NMRA Magazine.
- **Cruise Convention:** More information was presented about the "cruise convention" concept in the 2016-2017 timeframe. The proposal recommends buying out an entire cruise ship capacity for cruise embarking from Vancouver with stops in Seattle, San Francisco and San Diego. It was decided to poll the membership to determine if there is enough interest to move forward with the project.

For a complete summary of the Board of Director's meeting, visit the NMRA home page at [www.nmra.org](http://www.nmra.org) in the next few weeks. The report will also be published in a future issue of NMRA Magazine.

### Arizona

modelers.

Our next meet in Arizona will be in Tucson, AZ on November 12th. This will be a full one day event with three clinics, full contest, railettes room, sway meet and layout tours. Where are you going to find a deal like that? Come join us for a day of fun.

### San Diego

better opportunity to find a parking space. December will be our annual holiday party at the Fowlers' home, then January starts our new year of layout tours. We have been working on developing a "Model Railroading 101" program, aimed at children 10-15 and a parent or guardian, building off the Division's popular scenery clinic. We are also looking at what is being done in other Divisions, as noted on the Yahoo group devoted to NMRA Education. Some Divisions even have adult education classes going at local JC or HS enrichment programs, and Dave Balser is working on such a course for San Diego. We're now looking for a good text, and some qualified presenters, then we'll be working on finding a venue and doing some advertising. We'll keep you posted on our progress.

Finally, we've signed the contract for the hotel for the 2014 PSR convention. It will be held at the Marriott Courtyard on Hotel Circle South. This is across the freeway from the last location, and promises to be a great venue. Hope to see a lot of you there.

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Subscribe for one or two years when you join the NMRA or renew your membership. A one-year subscription is \$12.00; a two-year subscription is \$24.00. New and renewal membership forms are available in the Dispatch, from the membership chairman for your Division or from the NMRA website at <http://www.nmra.org/>. The website offers both online and mail-in options.

For more information about electronic delivery and regular mail subscriptions, visit the Pacific Southwest Region website at <http://www.psrnmra.org/>.

## PSR Online!

Join the PSR Online Yahoo group to get up to date news, announcements, and real time discussions of interest to members of the PSR. Go to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/psronline/> or send an email to [PSROnline-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:PSROnline-subscribe@yahoogroups.com) and follow the instructions to become a member.

# Secretary's Report



Dave Irick, PSR Secretary  
secretary@psrnmra.org

The semi-annual Board meeting of the PSR officers was held at the Radisson Woodlands Hotel, Flagstaff, AZ on Wednesday, September 21, 2011. PSR President Don Fowler presided over the meeting which began at 1pm.

**President's Report:** In his report President Fowler outlined highlights of the National convention in Sacramento, CA this past July. He emphasized that we must follow the new NMRA guidelines for Confidentiality Policy implemented by NMRA. President Fowler passed around a sample of the new plaque that will be used for Member of the Year Awards. The current plaques will no longer be available. Bob Demoss was appointed as the proxy Director for the Los Angeles Division.

Bill Jacobs was appointed as the proxy Director for the Cajon Division.

Bob Libbey was appointed as the new Secretary of the PSR effective Sunday, September 25, 2011.

**Vice-President's Report:** In his report VP Carl Heimberger stressed the importance of communication. His point is to let your member know you care about them, and personalize your communications.

**Treasurers Report:** Tom Draper reported that we are financially sound and are well within the budget as set for the fiscal year. Tom reported that the yearly audit of the books has been completed and the audit committee has signed off. The Budget for Fiscal Year 2011-2012 was presented and approved by the Board. A motion was made and approved to increase the budget item for Member of the year Awards to be increased to cover the cost associated with the new plaques.

## Division Reports:

Rick Watson – Arizona Division reported that the Arizona Division will no longer mail out copies of the Spur Line. The Spur Line will be available on the web only. The exception will be issues that contain election ballots.

Bill Jacobs – Cajon Division reported that Tom Boyles has accepted the position of Division Superintendent. The Division is looking for a venue for the 2013 PSR Convention.

Bob Demoss – Los Angeles Division reported that the Los Angeles Division will host the 2012 Region

Convention "The Venture Flyer 2012". Plans are well underway under the leadership of Carl Heimberger for a convention in Venture, CA.

Gary Robinson – San Diego Division reported that the pattern of layout, tours and quarterly meets have been successful and is the pattern that will be followed for the remainder of the year. The Division has contracted with a hotel for the PSR Convention in 2013.

**Raillette Program:** Janet Spooner reported on the successes and disappointments at the San Diego convention. Janet outlined the activities planned for this convention. She will re-evaluate the program and make recommendations for changes at the next Mid-Year meeting of the Board.

**Nominations:** Tom Draper reported on the results for the Elections for Directors for the Divisions. A discussion was held concerning the fact that we had 20 invalid ballots cast. It was decided that before the next elections we would run an article in the Dispatch on how to fill out a ballot.

**Membership:** Debbie Draper reported that we currently have 1,233 members slightly down from last years' total of 1,245 members and the 10 year average is 1,319 members.

**Achievement Program:** Don Stewart reported that 7 people have earned AP Certificates since the PSR Board Mid-Year meeting in March and that another 7 are in the system waiting on approval by the National AP Chairman.

**Contest:** Bill Jacob reported that participation in the contest room in falling off. We need to encourage more people to enter models in the contest room.

It was suggested that we try a popular vote, separate from the judged modeling, use a popular vote verses judged in the photo contest and add a display item only table.

**Communications:** Ben Sevier talked about adding a mission statement to the web site, changing hosting site, declining subscription to the Dispatch, and the future use of Yahoo groups and other types of web-sites for communication.

**Old Business:** In 2009 the Board had voted on the purchase of a projector for Regions use at conventions with the cost not to exceed \$600.00. The cost of the projector would be divided 1/5 Region and 1/5 each Division. The projector had been purchased at a cost of \$740.00 and paid for by the Region. A motion was made and passed to revise to purchase cost from \$600.00 to \$740.00 to reflect the actual cost. Another motion was passed to have the Region absorb the entire cost and release the Divisions from the burden of paying the 4/5 cost as originally proposed.

**2011 Regional Convention:** Larry Gibbs reported that everything was coming together and that he

expected a profit on the convention. He briefly outlined the convention agenda and attendance count.

2011 Regional Convention: Carl Heimberger gave a brief outline of the 2012 Convention in Ventura, CA and noted that a sign up table is available at this convention, The Contract between the La Division and the Region was signed by Carl Heimberger representing the LA Division and the PSR President Don Fowler.

No other business being placed before the Board the meeting was adjourned at 15:50 hrs. The date, time and location of the next Board meeting will be announced at a later date.

Respectfully Submitted  
Dave Irick  
Secretary - PSR

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## PSR GENERAL MEETING

Dave Irick –PSR Secretary

The annual meeting of the Pacific Southwest Region general membership was held in Flagstaff, AZ, September 25, 2011. PSR President Don Fowler presided over the meeting which was held at the Radisson Woodlands Hotel.

Meeting was called to order by President Don Fowler at 08:30AM with 48 members in attendance.

President Fowler thanked the Flagstaff crew for hosting a successful convention. He briefly outlined highlights from the National Convention and talked about where the future conventions will be held.

Vice President Carl Heimberger talked about how we all need to participate in and attend the Regional Conventions no matter what Divisions they are being held in. Carl stressed that the Region is all of us. Carl noted that the planning for next years' convention in Ventura, CA is proceeding well. We had 41 members register for the Ventura Convention during this Convention.

Tom Draper – Treasurer, gave an update on the financial condition of the region. Tom stated that the Region ended the Fiscal Year on a positive note with a net income of \$3,141.84. The Regions investments are returning an average of 4.88% and the Budget for Fiscal Year 2011/2012 has been approved by the Board. We currently have 1,233 members in the PSR which is slightly down from last year.

The result of the election was announced by Tom Draper – Chairman of the Nominations Committee.

David Irick – Director for Arizona, Bob Demoss Director for Los Angeles; Gary Robinson – San Diego; Bob Mitchell – Cajon.

Each of the outgoing Division Directors gave a 2 minute recap of activities for the past year in their respective Division and what is coming up in the near future.

Bob Libbey gave a brief pitch for “Model Railroad University Weekend in Phoenix” to be held on March 15, 2012 thru March 18, 2012 by Fran and Miles Hale. For further info contact Bob Libbey – Secretary of the PSR.

Railettes – Janet Spooner reported that 16 ladies attended the program this year and that everyone had fun. She noted that the Railette program for the Ventura Convention is set and ready to go.

Achievement Program – Don Stewart reported that the participation in the program is increasing. Don has sent 14 AP certificates to the National AP Chairman in the past six months.

Contest – Bill Jacobs talked briefly about the contest room and the 9 models entered. Bill and his committee will review the “Region Contest Rules” And make recommendations for changes to the Board at the Mid Year Meeting.

Communication – Ben Sevier will update the web-site. He needs more articles and pictures for the Dispatch, and the due date for submitting articles for the next Dispatch is Oct 21st.

Hobo – Ed Hall reported the 24 attended the breakfast this year. See Ed for patches and pins.

Larry Gibbs thanked all for attending the Convention and wished them a safe trip home.

President Fowler called for comments and the following was discussed:

1. new event, bring your photo/slides to an evening show and tell
2. have person in contest room to help fill out AP/ Contest forms.
3. need to encourage other railroads groups join us.

President Fowler seated the four new Directors and Bob Libbey who has been appointed the new PSR Secretary.

No other business being placed before the membership, President Fowler called for adjournment until the next Membership Meeting to be held in Ventura, CA on September 9th, 2012. The Motion to adjourn was entered by Ray Inbody and seconded by Ken Allen. The annual membership meeting of the Pacific Southwest Region was adjourned.

# Convention Report

Bob Libbey, PSR Secretary

Greetings Fellow Model Railroaders,

Now I realize as newly appointed PSR Secretary I am not yet obligated to write my first “official” report but after such a great time in Flagstaff I thought I would get an early start. Besides, having taken just short of 300



Charlie Getz

photos I wanted to share a few of them. I thought it might be fun. Some of my favorites were: Bob Holstein and his many door prizes; Janet Spooner, with an ear to ear grin, having just learned she earned Best in Show; and a personal favorite, our PSR AP Chairman, Don Stewart, spilling water on himself not once, not twice but three times during the banquet dinner. If there was an AP Award for “Biggest Mess” he would have accumulated many points. Thankfully his fiancée, Jill, was there to clean him up. But I digress.

My hat’s off to the Flagstaff folks. What a great Rails to Rims 2011 PSR Convention they put on. It was a great opportunity to make new friends, keep up

with old ones, swap stories, see some great layouts, learn from great clinics, accumulate those ever-needed AP points and just have a lot of fun. The amenities at the Radisson Woodlands Hotel were awesome, the facility itself was top-notch. The Timetable given out at registration listed all the important information and was

truly a must-carry-at-all-times item. It really showed you everything you needed to know for the entire event. Everything was very well organized down to the last detail. And let’s face it, when the person in charge of name tags managed to spell “Bruce Petrarca”,

“Carl Heimberger”, and Ted Ferkenhoff” correct the first time you are paying attention to detail.

One of the many highlights that stand out was listening to our key-note speaker, NMRA Director-at-Large, North America, Charlie Getz. What a hoot! His take on the past, present and future of the NMRA and the Model Railroading Hobby in general was entertaining, thought provoking and motivating. Looking at the hobby and our organization from the perspective of having fun was his mantra from the beginning and continued long after his introduction and speech. He commented that we as individuals and as an organization take ourselves too seriously. “We need to keep the fun in model railroading,” he said. He made a number of good points but my favorite one was, “This is just a hobby. It’s not congress. We tend to take ourselves way too seriously and it is keeping our clubs and our organization from growing.” When you think about it, would you rather spend time in a group having fun or in group of fuddy-duddies?

Of all the clinics I attending, the one that made me want to rush home and work on my layout was Gary Robinson’s Flockinator clinic. What he is able to do with static grass and some canopy glue was amazing. I have been itching to build my own Nock-type static grass tool for a couple years and this clinic just cemented the idea. Now if I can keep from electrocuting myself all will be well. But hey! Even If I do I will make sure I am having fun while doing it.



2011 Convention Crew

Bruce Petrarca and I had a fun time doing our DCC Clinics. Doing a basic and then advanced DCC installation seemed to work well from a presentational standpoint. We made sure to leave time for a question and answer session in between and after each clinic. Unfortunately we may have left a little too much time as someone managed to walk off

with my 30 yr old Gulf Mobile and Ohio Atlas RS-3 with a TCS M4 Decoder installed. It has no hand rails, looks great, and runs like a champ. If you happen to see someone having fun with it please let me know. I would like it back!







## IN MEMORIAM

### Harold Graebner 1932-2011

It is with deep sadness that I report the peaceful passing of Harold Graebner.

Harold, the son of Otto and Irene Graebner, was born January 31, 1932 in Cleveland, Ohio and died on September 30, 2011 in Rancho Palos Verdes, California. Harold is survived by Betty, his wife of 58 years, his daughter Virginia and her husband, James Byars. He also leaves three grandchildren and three greatgrand children.

Harold graduated from Willoughby High School in Cleveland. He received his BS degree from Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, and an MS degree in Mathematics from Ohio State. He was then employed by North American Aviation which later became Boeing.

The NMRA played an important part in his life. He was a life member of PCR and when the split occurred he also joined the PSR. He played important roles in the organization of national and regional conventions and lent his expertise to interpretations and revisions of both division and regional by-laws and manual of operations. He continued as a consultant in these areas. As Director and Superintendent, I relied on Harold for appropriate guidance when needed.

He was PSR Region Member of the Year in 1995 and 2004. In 2000 he was chosen LA Division Member of the Year. Harold's Sigma Lines ran faithfully each month and participants would also solve world problems. I was proud to be included. Harold was always cheerful, a true gentleman, and probably the most diplomatic person I have ever known. We all will miss him.

Los Angeles Division has made a donation to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society in Harold's memory.

Mary Barstow

# NMRA Infonet - News from NMRA National

Here's the November news:

The Winter NMRA Board Meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 8, and Thursday, February 9, 2012, beginning each day at 9:00 a.m.. All NMRA members are welcome to attend the open portions of this meeting. In order save as much money as possible on the meeting, it will again be held in Las Vegas at the Palace Station Hotel. The NMRA Budget and Operations meetings, which are not open to the public, will be held on Tuesday, February 7 at the same location. The Board is expecting a packed agenda, and details of that agenda will be included in an InfoNet News eblast when they're arranged.

Several members have asked about the current content of the NMRA's "Members-Only" section of the website, so here's some of what you'll find when you log on at [www.nmra.org/member](http://www.nmra.org/member) :

You'll find the latest reprints of the Division and Region newsletter articles Jim Zinser mentions in his "Division Business Car / NMRA@Home" column every other month in NMRA Magazine. All previously mentioned articles also remain in Members-Only, so it's a great resource to learn new tips and techniques. If your newsletter editor would like to reprint one of the articles, please have him/her contact the original newsletter's editor for an OK.

We've been adding "NMRA Magazine Classics" -- scans of articles from bygone issues of Scale Rails and The Bulletin that are truly classic articles. Our goal is eventually to have at least one article from every issue of the magazine posted. Obviously this takes a lot of man-hours, but you'll be surprised to find how many are already online. The articles may be a few years old, but if you haven't read them (or forgot about them), they're as fresh as today.

In the "NMRA Member Extras" section we've posted the 2011 NMRA Calendar screensaver -- a great, inspiring addition to your computer.

Each of the photos from the 2011 NMRA Calendar also resides in Members-Only as computer wallpaper. In addition, we asked each of the photographers to give us a brief description of how they took their shot. You'll find those descriptions posted as well. Both of these are also in the "Member Extras" section.

Our "Promotional Materials" section contains a wealth of items Divisions and Regions will find useful. We have the NMRA logo available in a wide variety of graphic formats and sizes. You'll also find a PDF of the NMRA Member Benefits chart and a new-member solicitation brochure (which you can print out and photocopy), along with a new-member sign-up sheet. Last, you'll find the National Model Railroad Month materials, which include National Model Railroad Month logos in various sizes and graphic formats, as well as a Word document, "A guide to promoting National Model Railroad Month," which can be a handy reference whenever you want to promote your Region or Division.

In case your members are looking for more information about the Grand Rapids convention, there are two great convention videos posted on the Grand Rails2012 website at [www.gr2012.org](http://www.gr2012.org). Also, remember that members who register before November 30 will have first dibs on hotel reservations, tour reservations, and merchandise. The Furniture City Flyers Club is nearly sold out, so if members want to experience dessert at sunset on Mirror Lake, they'll need to get their registration in soon. Register online at <http://www.gr2012.org/register.htm>.

If you have any questions or comments about any of the above, please send them directly to a Director or Officer. You'll find those addresses at [www.nmra.org](http://www.nmra.org) or in NMRA Magazine.

-Gerry Leone, MMR  
NMRA Communications Director



# Flag Stops

Lindsay Smith, PSR Member Aid  
wlindsays@adelphia.net

We have amassed this information from various sources. Some of the events have been submitted by sponsors. Please send corrections, additions and future events to me at wlindsays@roadrunner.com. I can also be reached at (909) 599-0182. I encourage the use of this list to promote the hobby and help others enjoy railroading and modeling. Notice we often use railroad time; i.e., "1300" is 1 PM PST.

## 2011

### December

- 10, 11 OERM Santa Train. See OERM.org Schedules.
- 10, 11 Great Train Expo Pomona Fairplex. 10am to 4pm Sat and Sun. Adults: \$7.00, Kids Under 12, free <http://trainexpoinc.com/>
- 11 Los Angeles Model Railroad Society Holiday Open House and Swap Meet. 1000 – 1600. [www.lamrs.org](http://www.lamrs.org) 14005 S. Crenshaw, Hawthorne, CA Lloyd 310 951-9097

## 2012

### January

- 7, 8 Great Train Expo. Anaheim Convention Center
- 21 Winter Train Show. Tucson, AZ
- 21, 22 San Bernardino Railroad Days. San Bernardino History and Railroad Museum, San Bernardino Depot, 1170 West 3rd Street, San Bernardino, CA 92410 (909) 888-3634 Admission and parking: Free [http://www.sbdepotmuseum.com//](http://www.sbdepotmuseum.com/)

### February

- 10 Pacific Railroad Society Monthly Meeting. 1930 (7:30 PM) to 2130. Joslyn Center (in Story Park) 210 North Chapel Ave. Alhambra, CA 91801 <http://www.pacificrailroadsociety.org/>
- 17 to 26 Coachella Valley Model Railroad Open House at Riverside County Fair. Riverside County Fairgrounds, 82-503 Highway 111, Indio CA 92201. 10 am - 2 pm. [www.cvmrr.com](http://www.cvmrr.com) Contact Jim Hundley at [jjim@cvmrr.com](mailto:jjim@cvmrr.com)
- 18 Santa Fe Railway Historical & Modeling Society Mini Meet. Amtrak/Santa Fe station in San Bernardino.

- 25 Calif. Layout Tour #29. High Desert Area. Bob Chaparro [chiefbobb@verizon.net](mailto:chiefbobb@verizon.net) Model Railroads Of Southern California
- 25 Roundhouse Gang Swap Meet. 0730 to noon. Janet Goeske Senior Center, 5257 Sierra Street (North of Sears), Corner of Streeter & Sierra, Riverside, CA. Gary Wintergerst, 909-794-3153 [gwinterg@verizon.net](mailto:gwinterg@verizon.net)

### March

- 10 Winterail Stockton, CA

### April

- 21 NMRA Los Angeles Spring Rail event. 0900 to 1700. First Christian Church, 220 South 5th Street, Alhambra, CA
- 21, 22 San Bernardino Railroad Days
- 28 Calif. Layout Tour #30. Primarily South Orange County. Bob Chaparro [chiefbobb@verizon.net](mailto:chiefbobb@verizon.net) Model Railroads Of Southern California

### May

- 13 Mothers Day
- 19 Calif. Layout Tour #32. Primarily West Orange County. Bob Chaparro [chiefbobb@verizon.net](mailto:chiefbobb@verizon.net) Model Railroads Of Southern California
- 19, 20 OERM Railfest

### June

- 2, 3 The Big Train Show. Ontario Convention Center

### July

- 28 Roundhouse Gang Swap Meet. 0730 to noon. Janet Goeske Senior Center, 5257 Sierra Street (North of Sears), Corner of Streeter & Sierra, Riverside, CA. Gary Wintergerst, 909-794-3153 [gwinterg@verizon.net](mailto:gwinterg@verizon.net)

- July 29 - August 4 NMRA Convention Grand Rapids, MI

### September

- 6-9 NMRA, Pacific Southwest Region Convention "The Ventura Flyer". Ventura, CA. LA Division hosts. Carl Heimberger [cjheimberger@gmail.com](mailto:cjheimberger@gmail.com) Mike Allee [rmallee@me.com](mailto:rmallee@me.com)





# Pacific Southwest Region

## ~ Directory ~

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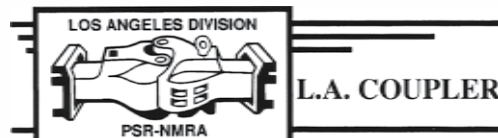


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Back issues for *PSR DISPATCH* and all four of the Division newsletters are available in PDF format from TrainNet.org at [www.trainnet.org](http://www.trainnet.org).

## ON THE WEB

### Home Page

[www.psrnmra.org](http://www.psrnmra.org)

[webmaster@psrnmra.org](mailto:webmaster@psrnmra.org)

### Arizona Division

<http://www.azdiv-nmra.org/>

### Cajon Division

<http://www.cajondiv.org/>

### Los Angeles Division

<http://www.ladiv-nmra.org>

### San Diego Division

<http://www.sandiegodivision.org>

### National Model Railroad Association

<http://www.nmra.org>

### On the PSR Homepage

- 1 - Current issues of the PSR DISPATCH and all four of the Division newsletters (in PDF format).
- 2 - PSR Governing Manuals
- 3 - Main Sites for the 2010 Conventions
- 4 - Directory of PSR Officers and Volunteers

To send email to anyone in this directory, go to the PSR Web Site [www.psrnmra.org](http://www.psrnmra.org) and click on their email address in the appropriate section.

### Submission Schedule and Planned Topics

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Deadline</u>
30/1	19 January 2012
30/2	21 April 2012
30/3	21 July 2012
30/4	21 October 2012
31/1	18 January 2013
31/2	20 April 2013
31/3	19 July 2013

<u>Topics</u>
PSR 2012 Convention (Ventura) info
Officer Elections, 2012 Convention Info, updates
PSR 2012 Ventura Convention Issue
Convention Reports, Contest Results
PSR 2012 Convention info
Director Elections, 2013 Convention updates
PSR 2013 Convention Issue

# NMRA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION - PSR

Please accept my application for membership renewal or new membership in the NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION, which includes the PACIFIC SOUTHWEST REGION and my local PSR Division.

New  Renewal  NMRA #  PSR #

Name				
Address				
City	State	Zip		
Phone	Birth Date	Scale		
Email	Occupation			

NMRA Membership Type - circle your choice of options	1 Year	2 Years	Total
Member - All rights and benefits - includes subscription to NMRA Scale Rails	\$58.00	\$116.00	
Member - All rights and benefits - without subscription to NMRA Scale Rails	\$39.00	\$78.00	
PSR Dispatch subscription - Must be NMRA member to subscribe	\$12.00	\$24.00	
Family - Spouse or minor child of above member in good standing. No NMRA Scale Rails or voting rights. Provide family members name and date of birth here: Name: _____ DOB: _____	\$7.00	\$14.00	
Student - any person 18 yrs and under or student between the ages of 19 - 25 yrs possessing valid student ID. All rights and benefits and NMRA Scale Rails	\$28.00	\$56.00	
Sustaining - Mandatory for group memberships (Clubs, Associations, Businesses). All rights and benefits and NMRA Scale Rails	\$97.00	\$194.00	
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