

PSR Dispatch

PACIFIC SOUTHWEST REGION

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From the Hot Seat!

Don Fowler, PSR President president@psrnmra.org



Welcome to spring and the great model railroading activities that come with it. I hope that you're able to take advantage of some of the excellent activities going on in

your division and throughout the Region.

We were able to attend Los Angeles Division's annual membership dinner on March 24th and enjoyed a great evening of food, fellowship and fun.

We also attended Cajon Division's annual Temecula Meet on March 30-31 which was very well attended and enjoyed by all. There was bingo, clinics, contests, layout tours, dinner and a Hobo Auction. At this event, we also held our mid-year PSR Board Meeting. In addition to regular business, the following items were shared;

- Exciting update on our upcoming PSR Convention in September
- Model railroading education outreach program being piloted by San Diego Division
- Approved revisions to the PSR Contest Rules
- Railette Chair (Janet Spooner) announced that she would be resigning after the September PSR Convention

Highlights from National's Mid-Year Board Meeting (Las Vegas-2/08-09/12):

Financially, the

NMRA ended 2011 in very good standing and is rebuilding some of its funds from which it had borrowed in the past. In addition, there is currently enough money in the budget to hire an IT professional to repair, maintain and update the NMRA website.

- The NMRA has announced an agreement of cooperation between itself and the Hasea.com Model Railroad Association (HRMA) of China, a community of over 100,000 railfans and model railroaders.
- The Board is in the initial stages of studying electronic balloting as a way of saving on postage and encouraging additional member participation.
- The Grand Rails 2012 website www.gr2012.org has several new features to check out.
- The NMRA has a new Development Department Manager (Alan Anderson) who is charged with seeking out new donation sources, methods, and developing ways to expand fundraising potential.
- The Cruise Convention idea was officially declared not popular enough to pursue.

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- The NMRA is in the final stages of selecting a volunteer Marketing Department Manager to identify ways to retain and re-rail members as well as recruit new ones.
- NMRA Administration Director Jenny Hendricks reported that the number of RailPass members who convert to regular members has reached the 80% mark.
- The Celebration of Models in Grand Rapids will introduce

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Division Director

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Summer is here and it is warming up in Southern Arizona. Are you hiding out in your train room building those models for the PSR Convention in September in Oxnard/Venture, CA? If not you should be, let's get going, we want to fill that contest room with models. I know that there are a lot of great modelers in our Region; we just need that old shoe in the rear to get those models ready.

Region conventions are like Division meets on steroids, with more to see and do than offer at the Division level. The Los Angeles Division is working hard, planning a full week of activities for us to enjoy. The facilities at the Marriott Courtyard are superb, with large comfortable rooms. You can learn more about the PSR convention by going to the Region website and click on conventions or look at the PSR Dispatch Volume 30 Issue 1. Let us show our support for the Los Angeles Division and the Pacific Southwest Region by attending the convention. Venture will be a new area for us as we have never been this far Northwest for a Region convention. That means that we will have a lot of new layouts to see and new hobby shops to explore not to mention new train watching spots to check out. The area offers plenty opportunities for our families to do and see while we are in the clinic rooms.

Speaking of great conventions or meets, were you at the Arizona Division Spring Meet in Sun City this past March 2012? The Sun City Club hosted a great meet in a super facilities. We had 125 in attendance, 4 clinics, 11 layouts open, the ever famous Railette room, a packed swap meet and of course the contest room. The models entered in the contest were superb, some of the best that I have seen in any contest. We had 19 models entered and 13 models earned merit awards. The points were close but the 14 judges did a superb job sorting out the first, second and third places. They worked hard and it took a lot longer than usual to get the results, but the judges were a determined crew and worked very diligent at their duties. My hat goes off to both the people who entered models and the judges for a job well done. If you missed the meet but want to see the models entered in

My thanks go out to all of you who attended the Temecula 2012 event. Once again this was also the location of the Mid-year Board meeting of the PSR. This year we had eighty-seven attendees with almost seventy attending the dinner and Chinese Auction. I believe this has been our highest attendance since we started this event five years ago.

Recently we held the first membership get-together in Las Vegas in about a year. I would like to see at least two more this year. Volunteers to host one of the events at their home can contact Joe Dorner in Las Vegas via email at joe@joetheprogrammer.com. It is you, the members, which make these events possible when you volunteer to host them, give mini-clinics, and volunteer to assist the host. So let's hear from you soon as these events need to be planned several months in advance.

Our Barstow event is currently scheduled sometime in October. However, we are trying to get it moved back to November which was the original month the event was held when it was first started. Last year the attendance was down; possibly because of so many other events happening on the same day within the area.

I am in the final planning stages of a small "club size" layout at my home in Wildomar. The room is 20 x 35. If there are any of you in the local area that would like to be involved with the construction of this layout you can contact me at 951-440-9729. The layout takes place during the steam era and is a freelance railroad. Feel free to call me anytime for more details.

We are just getting started on the details for the 2013 PSR convention and will be ready to launch the web-site once the Ventura 2011 PSR convention is underway. I hope to see all of you there. They have a great convention planned with some layouts you will not want to miss.

Once again I am calling for volunteers. We really need an Order Board editor. This is not a position that requires a great deal of time, but is very important to keep the membership involved. Under the Bylaws, I have appointed Tom Boyles as the Assistant Superintendent until such time as he can be formally

Cajon - Continued on page 5

Activity Reports





San Diego Gary Robinson director@sandiegodivision.org

The Los Angeles Divisions "SPRINGRAIL" event went over better than I expected. Had several new vendors', and all seemed please with their sales. We had approximately 65 Railroaders attending, with 25 staying for a excellent BBQ Dinner and HOBO Auction. We had many donated items in the auction and think everybody saw several items they could not live without, and bid heavily on these items. We had fifteen manufactures contribute over sixty items with major contributors being Athearn, Railmaster Hobbies, Rex Products, Intermountain and Micro-Trains, among many others.

We had clinics on Scenery, making trees, painting backdrops, Improving your cars, Two on DCC and the Los Angeles Junction Railway. All were great and had great attendance.

We are proposing to make several changes for next year. First on having lunch, with the HOBO auction following. This will allow more modelers to participate in the Auction. Several comments were made, that some would have stayed for the Auction, but had evening commitments. We will still have clinics in the morning and following the auction. This will allow us to close SPRINGRAIL by 6 PM, instead of having it run into the evening. This will also make it more affordable.

We will move the Registration table to the entrance to SPRINGRAIL and Swap Meet. Will have separate badges, in order to indentify who is here for Swap Meet, and who is here for the Clinics and Hobo Auction. Also possibly a small charge for the SWAP MEET, as we had several people come in and help themselves to items, without paying for them.

Several "Ventura Flyer" committee members made a trip to Ventura, to recheck and reconfirm arrangements with the "Courtyard by Marriott" the Convention Hotel and visit several sites for modelers to visit, including the new SEABEE Museum in Port Hueneme. All is going well.

The PSR Regional Convention "Ventura Flyer" is fast approaching, three months and counting. With the election of new officers', the bank has had us redo our

Los Angeles - Continued on page 8

We're having a great time in San Diego! Our Fall Meet in November and the Holiday Party in December were well-attended. We've had almost fifty people attending our layout tours, on the second Saturday. January was Don Ham's Central Coast and March was the San Diego S Gaugers in their new home in Liberty Station. February we had our Winter Meet at Short Track Railroad at the Antique Gas & Steam Engine Museum and almost fifty people were at that as well. Clinics by Jimmy Simmons, on weathering with powders, and Paul Schmitt, MMR, Division AP Chair, on the AP paperwork, entertained and educated all who attended. Add to that operating the Donner Pass Exhibit (DPE) at Short Track, and it was a fun day.

Our April layout tour was at Jim O'Connell's HO scale Pinnacle Creek Mining & Timber Company in Santee. This was Jim's first HO layout, but he's built several Z and N scale layouts in the past, making frequent contributions to the model railroading press regarding his scenery techniques. Once he completes a layout, he usually tears it down and starts over. This may have been the only opportunity to see this particular layout. It was a great tour.

In May our Spring Meet and Swap Meet was in Clairemont. This was in a new venue for us, and we think that may have contributed to a less than optimum turnout.. The swap meet was in the morning, then lunch, and a couple of clinics.

We're working on putting together an education program in the Division. The objective of the program will be to focus on newer model railroaders, but more experienced modelers who want to improve skills in a particular area will also be welcome. We have a tentative class outline, but we're still refining it, and we need to locate an appropriate venue. We'll be happy to share our program with other Division that may be interested. Short Track Railroad has started to conduct an education program at the behest of museum management, and we're trying to ride their coattails. The second of four classes will be held at Short Track the morning of April7, beginning at 9:00am. The Division hopes to present its

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Secretary's

Report

Bob Libby, PSR Secretary secretary@psrnmra.org

Our Pacific Southwest Region Board of Directors Meeting was held March 31, 2012 at the Mary Phillips Senior Center in Temecula, CA.

In his Presidents Report, Don Fowler highlighted (1) that financially there is enough money to hire an IT professional to repair, maintain and update the NMRA website, (2) the new Hasea.com Model Railroad Association of China, (3) a study of electronic balloting is underway, (4) the www.gr2012.org website has new features to check out, (5) the NMRA has a new Developmental Department Manager, Alan Anderson, who is charged with seeking fundraising possibilities, (6) the Cruise Convention is officially declared not popular enough to pursue, (7) the NMRA's Marketing Department Manager availability, (8) that the Administration Director, Jenny Hendricks reported that the number of Railpass members who convert to regular members has reached the 80% mark, (9) the Celebration of Models in Grand Rapids will introduce a new contest award in memory of Dean Freytag, (10) White River Productions has announced that it has purchased Model Railroad News and will continue to publish it and an updated version of the Executive Handbook is now posted on nmra.org and can be downloaded.

In his report the Vice-President, Carl Heimberger spoke about traveling to each of the 4 PSR Divisions to promote the 2012 PSR Ventura Flyer Convention and to compare similarities and difference in the way each Division puts on their events. He highlighted the point that we need to provide meaningful programs for our membership and we need to open up the programs to the public so potential new members will see we do more than just collect membership dues.

The PSR Treasurer, Tom Draper presented a detailed report on the financial stability of the PSR. As of this date the PSR is financially sound operating as a profit. President Fowler called for discussion and then a motion was made to accept the Treasurers report by Bob DeMoss, Los Angeles Division. The motion was seconded by Gary Robinson, San Diego Division Director. The vote was unanimous. President Don Fowler acknowledged the motion as approved and accepted.

Dave Irick's Arizona Division Director Report was read by Proxy by Bob Libbey, PSR Secretary.

In the report Dave Irick, Director, reported that two successful meets had taken place since the last Board Meeting and that the prospects are looking good. The only major concern stems from past successes. The Division has outgrown all current meeting facilities and new locations are being scouted. Phoenix secured the Sun City facilities for 2013 while in Flagstaff the current location is at capacity. Tucson also is scouting a new location.

Bob Mitchell, Cajon Division Director, highlighted Barstow event challenges and scheduling conflicts of Division meets and Narrow Gauge Convention meets, et al. Discussion on moving meeting dates to relieve conflicts with other groups meeting the same weekend. President Fowler suggested having the Division Meet mid to late September. Bob Mitchell introduced Tom Boyles who has accepted the Cajon Division Superintendent duties.

Bob DeMoss, Los Angeles Director, welcomed and thanked re-elected Superintendent, Carl Heimberger, elected Chief Clerk and Paymaster, Greg Francis, new L.A. Coupler editor, Andy Jackson, and new Achievement Chairman, Lloyd Lehrer. Bob also highlighted the upcoming Springrail, April 21st.

Gary Robinson, San Diego Division Director, reports that the Fall and Winter meet, along with the Holiday party, was well attended and that the Spring Meet will be held in a new venue this year. Gary reported an education program is being put together focusing on newer model railroaders and more experienced modelers who want to improve their skills. A tentative class outline is being refined and a venue is being scouted. Gary reports that the division has a full schedule of activities planned for the remainder of the year.

Tom Draper reported by Proxy that Region Membership counts is 1230 members continuing the downward trend from past years. The last 11 year average is 1311. It was also reported that the Average Non-Life Member Age is 66.9 Years.

Tom Draper, Nominations Chair, reported that the next PSR election will be for the offices of PSR President and PSR Vice-President and that we have one candidate for each of these two offices to date.

Janet Spooner, Railette Chairwoman, reported that she is reluctantly resigning as Railette Chair due to ongoing health problems. Janet reported that she will continue to plan the Oxnard Convention but it will be her last as Railette Chair.

Lowell Spooner, PSR Historian, reported and discussed the pros and cons of multiple people maintaining all the PSR information.

Don Stewart, Achievement Program Manager, reported that 14 AP Certificates were awarded since the

Mid-Year Meeting in March 2011 and 3 more have been submitted and are awaiting approval by the National AP Chairman. Don also reported that a number of PSR members are close to getting their MMR Certificates including President, Don Fowler, and Secretary, Bob Libbey.

Bill Jacobs, Contest Chair, reported that participation in models entered continues to decline. Bill thanked all judges at the Flagstaff PSR Convention and highlighted proposed changes to contest rules.

Ben Sevier, Communications Chair, reported that the current PSR web site hosting company's contract was renewed. Ben highlighted a revamping of the PSR web site and would welcome ideas or suggestions. Ben highlighted services that will allow the PSR to send out PSR emails to members or created lists for members.

Dave Nash, Co-Chairman, 2011 PSR Rails to Rims Convention sent their report, with the understanding that they were generally disappointed in the overall support from the AZ Division. The report stated that 88 Rails & 18 Railettes attended with 5 One-Day registrations were taken at the door. The report states that the convention was evaluated as a very successful one based on feedback received.

Carl Heimberger, PSR Vice-President, gave a report on the 2012 PSR Convention and reported that they are a little behind but are making progress. Website issues have presented a hurdle and clinicians are needed. Carl reported that, thanks to the efforts of two newer members, Michael Gross, TV and Movie Actor and accomplished modeler himself, has agreed to be the guest speaker. Carl added that a backup plan has been implemented just in case Michael Gross cannot attend due to potential scheduling conflicts. Carl reports that both HO and N scale cars will be available and had an example to show and tell. 60 people have signed up so far and the convention is designed for 150 so there is plenty of room.

Gary Robinson, San Diego Director, reported on the Education Program stating that a text book is being developed based on current curriculum. Gary stated they are currently evaluating who to focus the textbook on; beginners, experts, novices, lone wolf modelers, experienced modelers, etc. When final curriculum is achieved it will be posted on the PSR Website. Additionally, communications with existing programs across the divisions are underway. Gary stated that they are looking at offering monthly clinics at club meetings to build up skills at their clubs but also making it available to all people. Options for getting the NMRA and club involvement up are being discussed.

Bill Jacobs, Contest Chair, reported that due to the number of RTR kits that National has started going to popular vote for favorite model. While this doesn't apply to merit judging items the consensus is to stay with National guidelines. A few changes are being suggested based on open and kit classification. The trend is that members don't want to fill out the paperwork required to enter a model and this way they only have to sign their name to one piece of paper. Photos will go to popular vote and will not be judged

President Don Fowler reported that he will be sending out requests for suggestions for Member of the Year award. The question was asked about keeping with the award, the bell, or do we want to look for alternate awards, i.e. a plaque, a shadow box, etc. The plan is to stay with the bell unless other alternatives arise. Additionally all Directors will receive a list of winners back to 1983. Consider any and all candidates.

Railette Chair Nomination: President Don Fowler thanked Janet Spooner for years of service as Railette Chair and is looking for new Railette lead as dedicated as Janet.

President Don Fowler reported that John Stevens, National Boy Scout Coordinator, wrote a letter to him regarding the lack of PSR Boy Scout Coordinator. As the PSR has no such designation at this time he asked for discussion. As a Boy Scout coordinator in Phoenix, Bob Libbey, PSR Secretary, volunteered to take on the responsibility. After weighing the pros and cons it was decided that involvement with the BSA at the PSR level is not warranted and it will remain in the division hands. The next PSR Board of Directors meeting will be September 5th, 2012 at 1pm at the PSR Convention in Oxnard, CA.

Reports - Continued

Cajon

voted into office as the official Superintendent. As such, he now takes on the responsibilities of the Superintendent.

The Cajon Division by-laws are being looked over for a future "face lift" to bring them more in line with the electronic communication age. Along with that we are working on a Manual of Operations to more clearly define the way and means with which the everyday operations of the Division are handled. These changes will be put out to the membership once the By-laws are updated.

Any suggestions or volunteers from the membership would be greatly appreciated. You can contact me via email at cajondivision@coastinet.com.

San Diego

classes in the Fall, beginning after the PSR Convention. For more details of San Diego Events, please check our website, or the Mail Hook.

Fireman's Seat

Carl Heimberger, PSR Vice President vp@psrnmra.org

After attending the Mid Year BOD Meeting in Temecula this last March it has become apparent that on a whole the membership of NMRA has been and is continuing to decline. Why? Well as great as computers are and as much as we all depend on information technology at our finger tips it has also taken the younger generations away from arts, crafts and building models. As a kid I remember our phone was 3 rings on the party line, TV in 1951 had all of 6 channels and not every household had a TV. So how did kids entertain themselves other than maybe an occasional orange fight in the groves that surrounded my parent's home or sand lot baseball game with the neighbor kids who lived a quarter mile way. I spent my time in my dad's machine shop doing what I enjoyed the most building models. Today kids walk down the street texting the person they are walking with on some new fangled electronic device that will be obsolete by tomorrow.

Our charge if the NMRA is to survive beyond the current generation of modelers is to do more outreach to today's youth. We cannot count on commercial train shows such as GTE to provide the vehicle to hook today's youth on the model railroading hobby. They can spark the interest but it is up to us to kindle the fire. Each division should do at least one event a year that is geared to the general public and more specifically to the youth. After all if you get a kid involved with the hobby you will also most likely bring in the dad. Wow two members for the price of one! After attending meets in each of the Divisions this past year I have noticed that clinics that actually have hands on verses a Power Point hold more interest and create a fellowship bond between the participants. A growing segment of today's modelers have never actually done any real modeling, they tend to be collectors of ready to run.

At the Los Angeles Divisions "SpringRail" meet this last April three of the ten clinics where hands on and participants actually got to built something they could to keep and take home. For several of them this was their first experience at actually building something and they where amazed at how simple modeling can be. Jimmy Simmons who provided 2 clinics at "SpringRail" also brought his son along and his son attended all 3 of the hands on clinics where he built a pine tree, canopy type tree and was able to paint a rock casting. These are the simple types of things that can grab someone's interest and spark the modeling bug within them. So let's start thinking outside the box and develop creative ways to

Reports - Continued

President

a new contest award in memory of Dean Freytag, the "Dean of Styrene" and former National Contest Chair.

In other news:

- White River Productions (printer for NMRA Magazine) has announced that it has purchased Model Railroad News and will continue to publish it.
- The updated version of the Executive Handbook is now posted on www.nmra.org and can be downloaded.

VP

introduce the fun of Model Railroading to today's youth, and model railroader collectors as this is the future of the NMRA.

Arizona

the Arizona Division March Meet go to the Arizona Division website and then click on the Spur Line for a full lineup of photos from the contest room.

On June 23 the Flagstaff Model Railroad Club will be hosting the Arizona Division Summer Meet in Flagstaff. Here in Arizona we head north where it's cool for our summer meet, again we have a fun packed day planned and I will have more on that meet in my next column. Head North, cool off, watch the trains pass through town and spend a day with your fellow modelers. For more information and details on the summer meet check the Arizona Division website.

Our fall meet will be getting here before you know it and it's not too early for you to be planning on joining us in Tucson on the second Saturday in November. We are only in the beginning stages of planning, but you can be assured that we will have another fun packed day with plenty to do and see. Check the Arizona Division website in August for additional information.

In this issue of the Dispatch you will be asked to vote on two positions, the President and Vice-President of the Pacific Southwest Region. This is important for all of us; we are deciding who will lead us during the next two years. Remember that your vote does count. Historically our election have been decided by a very small portion of our membership, so don't be left out, take the time to vote. Just remember that you should not complain about the election outcome if you do not vote.

Los Angeles

accounts, which has in turn caused us a delay in getting "Paypal" set up, to take credit cards. This will be in place shortly for those wishing to pay by Credit card.

Candidate for President



Don Fowler

I have really enjoyed serving our membership as Region President for the past two years. Prior to that, I served on the Board as the San Diego Division Director and was also appointed as the Convention Chair to assist

our Divisions with their preparations for our annual conventions. Locally, I have served in the past as our Division Clerk/Paymaster and currently serve as Division Superintendent.

I have been fortunate to work with a very effective Region Board and with their support, guidance and hard work, we have accomplished the following;

 Revision/update of our Manual of Operations & By-Laws

- Successful Region Conventions
- Enhanced electronic newsletter publications & web sites
- Support & guidance for our respective Division activities
- Fiscal management of our financial resources
- Open communication with our National Board
- Development of new strategies for growing our membership

Given the opportunity, I would be proud to continue working with our Board to build on what we have accomplished to date and explore new opportunities to better serve our members. We must renew some of our existing methods of growth and explore new strategies that will strengthen our organization and the wonderful hobby of model railroading. Thank you for providing me with the opportunity to serve you.

Candidate for Vice President



Carl Heimberger

For the past two years I have served as the PSR Vice President, and have been ask to run for a second two year term and I am

asking for your support and vote. During my current term I was fortunate to be able to attend at least one event/meet in each of the 4 PSR Divisions, Arizona, Cajon, Los Angeles and San Diego and where there are some marked different in how each Division runs their meets/events. There are also similarities. During my next term I would like to work on the sharing of successful ideas and programs between the four PSR Divisions so each Division can have successful meets

and hopefully increase the NMRA Membership. This is becoming more critical as the membership of NMRA in general is declining so if your division has found a way to encourage new membership this information needs to be shared with the other Divisions. My plan is to work with each Division and document what worked well and what was not as successful then share that information with the other Division. It needs to be our common goal as a Region to increase NMRA membership and bring in new members who can take on leadership roles in the future.

I am asking for your support by voting for me, and if elected will be asking for your support to help unify the Region and provide more quality events for the membership.

Temecula 2012

Attending Another Division's Event by Bob Libby, Arizona Division

So how many of you have been to a Division Meet outside of your own division? Not many? I totally understand given that our Pacific Southwest Region is so spread out. Of the 4 divisions that make up the PSR – AZ, Cajon, LA and San Diego – no two are closer than a 4-5 hour trip one way. That means an overnight stay and more money taken from the train-budget.



Winning at Bingo

In the case of the Cajon Meet, Temecula 2012, that took place March 30th and 31st, 2012 then it means two nights spent in a hotel. Don't get me wrong, I'm not complaining. In fact I am so used to the AZ Division having one-day meets that I forgot how much fun a two-day meet can actually be.

First there was the fun of car-pooling. I'm used to being the one to volunteer to drive so being a passenger allowed me to see scenery and take pictures of scenery I rarely get to see. Four people traveling together, all on the PSR BOD, do tend to have extra baggage so having a van was a plus. Having Don Stewart drive.... not so much: If there's a jet flying overhead or a train whizzing by you might as well plan on taking up lots of highway room. Thankfully there were no accidents and I'm sure more of those California drivers are used to people driving all over the road. Buy Hey! I'm just kidding about Don's driving. We made it in one piece and had a blast in the process so, again, I'm not complaining.

Secondly it is always fun to see how the other Division's Meets are set up and what activities take place. The Cajon Division surprised me from the get-go as Friday night started with "Cajon Country Bingo." There were 14 Bingo games and train items

were the prizes. You'll see from the photos there were a lot of winners. Unfortunately I wasn't one of them. The evening was great way to get

caught up with old friends and make new ones without the stress of keeping up with clinics, contest and judging.

The Saturday part of the meet was jam-packed with NINE different clinics. Let me tell you, keeping up with 9, 30 minute clinics is a challenge. Thankfully the Mary Phillip's Senior Center provided plenty of room for the bingo, clinics and the Board of Directors meeting. With the clinics divided in to three rooms you had to pick and choose where to go but all provided ample space. Room A clinics were on Powder

Tips & Techniques by Jimmy Simmons, Hands-On Rock Painting by Carl Heimberger and My Favorite Tricks & Tips by Bob Mitchell. Room B clinics were on Well-Behaved 'S' Curves by Jim Fuhrman, Electronic Frogs by Duncan McRee and "N"Ovations in "N" Scale by Don Fowler. Room C had clinics on Battery Power Your Locomotive by Justin Rasas, Decoder Installation in an SW7 by Joe Villaryo and Stucco & Lighting Made Easy by Doug Archer.

As you can see, if you attended you got to see some great and varied clinics and all of them by noon. If any of these clinics sound like they interest you contact your Division Director and let him know. Another nice surprise was the BBQ lunch



Jim in his element

that the Cajon Division cooked up for only \$5.00. It included chips and soda and was held right there at the Center so it was very convenient. I'd love to see the AZ Division try something like that only with a grill that

cooks more than 6 burgers at a time.

The afternoon offered 3 choices: (1) Self-guided layout tours with car-pools leaving at 1pm, (2) A Wine Country Luncheon for those who didn't want to do the layout tours and (3) A self-guided tour through the antique and craft stores in Old Town Temecula, which just happened to be right next to the Center.

Whichever afternoon option you chose, everyone gathered at Pat & Oscar's by the Pond for a catered



Judging is intense

only did we get to participate in numerous great activities – along with getting our Mid-Year BOD Meeting out of the way – but we got to spend the weekend visiting a Division Meet other than our own. Living in the AZ Division I know it is challenging to branch out to other areas but it is worth it, especially if you go with a bunch of

This type of article is one that I wish more members would submit. We're all interested in happenings arount the Region, and enjoy seeing what people are up to. When you go to a layout tour, Division Meet, or other model railroading activity, why don't you take some pictures, do a write up (don't worry about format, spelling or such - I'll clean up whatever needs to be), and send it to me at psrdispatch@ psrnmra.org. Or, if you'd like, send it all on paper (and photos) by US Mail, and I'll scan it in, no problem. AND, you get to accumulate AP Author points in the process. So, what are you waiting for? - ed.

dinner followed by the award announcements and a Chinese Auction. The salad and choice of pizza, ribs or pasta was good but the brownies made the meal worthwhile. You couldn't eat just one.

The Chinese Auction was very well stocked with many great items for we model railroaders to get excited over. There absolutely was something for everyone. Personally, seeing an InterMountain USRA Alton Gon available made the whole Auction worthwhile. Let's face it, when you model the Gulf, Mobile and Ohio and the Alton AND you live in AZ you don't see a lot of them anywhere. Needless to say most of my tickets went toward that one car. What made the whole weekend worthwhile was actually winning the Alton Gon. I'm glad I did too because I was afraid I was going to have to bribe someone for it if I didn't win it.

You know, normally at a Meet like this once the Chinese Auction is over the weekend is over, too. Not in this case though. Sunday morning the fun continued with a special layout tour in Corona.

As you can see the Cajon bunch really put forth a great effort to make this a fun-filled, jam-packed weekend. Not



Contest Winner!



Signed up for the Convention yet? No?! Why Not?

PSR/NMRA 2012 Convention, the "Ventura Flyer"



Planning is well underway for the 2012 PSR/NMRA Convention to be held in Oxnard, California, September 6th to 9th, 2012. As the convention Chair I would like to highlight some of the Convention activities with the hope you will attend.

The Ventura Flyer will feature over 60 hours of clinics that will range from basic how to get started in the hobby including how to build bench work, designing your track plan and installing track work, wiring, buildings, scenery, tuning up locomotives and rolling stock for flawless performance, and programming DCC.

We will also have clinics tailored to hold the interest of the most experienced modelers as well. Here is a sample of clinics;

Joe Villaryo - A three part clinic on how to install DCC sound in any locomotive; DCC Camp where you can bring your locomotive and the Orange County Module Railroader Club will show you with hands on how to program address, speed settings, sound and lighting;

Todd Scott – 3 D backdrops, and a series of clinic still in the planning stage presented by Jimmy Simons and Scotty Mason that will captivate you for most of the convention.

And not to leave out the Railettes, a full schedule of clinics and special luncheon will be available for them to enjoy.

A convention is not just about clinics however, and we have already lined up some spectacular layouts to tour; Mike Murphy's 26' X 30' transition era railroad featuring Santa Fe Southern Pacific/Union Pacific operations, Santa Susana Model Railroad Club representing Southern Pacific's Coast Line in mid 1950's. South Coast Museum housed in a 1901 Southern Pacific Depot with steam/early diesel era Southern Pacific; And no visit to Ventura – Santa Barbra would not be complete without visiting Gary Siegel's HO L&N were it is 1971 and 1st and 2nd generation diesel rule.

We will also have a full series of social events including the Wednesday welcome reception, Friday night Hobo Auction, and the Saturday am will bring a swap meet followed in the evening with the Awards Banquet.

A convention is only as good as the Convention Facility and the Courtyard by Marriott Oxnard is a class act. The hotel room rate is \$109.00 + local taxes and fees, and includes free parking and breakfast for two per room.

The Los Angeles Division looks forward to seeing you at the "2012 Ventura Flyer". For additional information visit the NMRA/Pacific Southwest Region Convention web site (http://www.psrconvention.org/ventura12/index.htm) or contact.

Carl Heimberger - cjheimberger@gmail.com Mike Allee – rmallee@me.com



Courtyard by Marriott Oxnard Welcomes the friends and family of the "Los Angeles Division of the Pacific Southwest Region - NMRA" September 5 - 9, 2012

Enjoy our convenient location, spacious guest rooms, and full service Courtyard amenities.

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For reservations please call 800-321-2211 and ask for the "Los Angeles Division of the Pacific Southwest Region NMRA" rate or "NMR" group code. www.oxnardcourtyard.com

A limited number of rooms have been set aside as a courtesy block and does not guarantee availability. Please reserve your room by August 8, 2012 to secure the special group rate. After the Reservation due date, reservations and rates will be subject to availability.

Courtyard by Marriott Oxnard 600 East Esplanade Drive, Oxnard, California 93036 Hotel (805) 988-3600

NMRA Infonet - News from NMRA National

At Grand Rails 2012, there will be a drawing for four cab rides from among the participants in the Little River Railroad tour. The cab rides will be in the railroad's #110, a 4-6-2 Pacific built by Baldwin, during its trip to Quincy and back. The train's consist will contain a WWII troop car, two converted stock cars, and three cabooses. In addition, the Little River RR's two other locomotives will be on display for photographs. In fact, you can even climb on them!

More convention news: The Grand Rapids Model Railroad Historical Society is producing an HO-scale model of a true local railroad landmark: the Bridge Street Signal Tower. The prototype, still standing near the convention hotel, was built by the Grand Rapids & Indiana Railroad to stand guard over the railroad's crossing of five streets. Only 100 of these craftsman laser-cut kits will be available at a special Grand Rails 2012 Convention price of \$65. Members can see photos and get a brief history of the crossing tower at www.gr2012.org/towerkit.htm.

The 4th Division of the Pacific Northwest Region has signed on as a co-sponsor of this year's Narrow Gauge Convention in Seattle. The 4th Division will be signing up members for the NMRA throughout the event.

Because the NMRA's Online Archives has been such a rousing success, several prominent photographers and collectors have begun to donate portions of their collections to the NMRA. The first is noted author/photographer Louis A. Marre, who's donated hundreds of large-format negatives of many subjects. Gregory Sommers has also donated a large collection of freight car slides, and David Lange has donated a large number of scanned images from the collection of the late Jim Morris. Watch for these exciting additions to the NMRA Online Archives in the near future. Hopefully continued donations to The Diamond Club will cover the cost of scanning and preparing the images.

And an important repeat from last month:

Grand Rails 2012 is looking for volunteers who'd be willing to donate an hour or two of their time at the convention doing things like contest room security, helping with registration check-in, silent auction set-up and tear-down, and bus loading. If you're interested and have an hour or two you'd like to donate, contact Mark Baldwin, Vice Chair of Volunteers, at gr2012volunteers@gmail.com for more details.

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 or in NMRA Magazine.

Ms. Kara Yanacheck, PR and Advertising Specialist at Walthers, has contacted me looking for photos of (to use her words), "people enjoying model railroading, whether they are modelers themselves, or just observing." Walthers plans to put these photos into a new section of the upcoming 2013 Walthers Catalog which will encourage new modelers to get into the hobby. Specifically, they'd like to see NMRA-sanctioned events. These can be from anywhere in the world, and must have been open to the public. The deadline for sending her photos is June 15. Not much time, but hopefully your members have some shots from events in the past that they can share. The photos must be clear, focused, well-lit, and at least 2 megabytes in size. The larger the better. And please have your members be mindful of her time and only send her their good ones, not everything in their collection! Photos should be sent to Kara at: karab@walthers.com. This is a great public relations opportunity for the NMRA and your Region or Division! So dig deep... but dig quickly!

Gerry Leone, MMR, National Communications Director

PSR Dispatch Subscriptions

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Send an e-mail to PSROnline-subscribe@yahoogroups.com with your name, e-mail address, NMRA number and division. Use "Electronic Delivery Subscription" as the subject of your e-mail. Or, if you are reporting a change of e-mail address, use "E-Mail Address Change" as the subject of your e-mail. You will be notified when the new issue is available as a PDF download on the PSR website.

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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 and follow the instructions to become a member.

Flag Stops

Lindsay Smith, PSR Member Aid wlindsays@adelphia.net

July

- TTOS Southwestern Division Train Meet. Masonic Lodge, 50 Duarte Rd., Arcadia, CA, 91007. \$5.00 per person, children under 12 free. 818-848-2653 http://www.ttos-sw.org/activities.htm
- 4 Old-Fashioned Fourth of July, Poway Park. 0900 – 1600. 14134 Midland Rd, Poway, CA 92064 (between Aubrey and Temple) Poway, CA http://www.powaymidlandrr.org/ songfest2.htm
- 8 Fairplex Garden Railway Open to the Public. 1100 to 1600. See http://fgrr.org/calendar. html
- 12 Short Track Railroad Operation. 7pm Open to all:, Short Track Section House, Antique Gas & Steam Engine Museum, 2040 N. Santa Fe Ave, Vista. http://www.shorttrackrr.org/
- 13 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/
- 14 San Diego Division Layout Tour, TBA. Contact Don Ham layouts@sandiegodivision. org
- 14, 15 Southern California Railroad Locomotive and Historical Society Open House. 10 a.m. until 3 p.m., Los Angeles County Fairgrounds (FAIRPLEX) Pomona. http://www.railgiants.org/special-events.htm#rail
- 20 ERHA Monthly Meeting. 1930 (7:30 PM) to 2130. Community Room of the South Pasadena Library, 1059 El Centro Street in the city of South Pasadena. (between Diamond & Fairview Avenues) http://www.erha.org/erhainfo.htm
- 21 PSR Dispatch Issue #30/3 Deadline. PSR 2012 Ventura Convention Issue
- 24 Poway Station Clinic (TBA). 7pm 9pm. Open to all. Porter House, Old Poway Park, 14134 Midland Road, Poway, CA. Info: president@powaystation.org
- 26 Short Track Railroad Clinic TBA. 7pm, Short Track Section House, Antique Gas & Steam Engine Museum, 2040 N. Santa Fe Ave, Vista. http://www.shorttrackrr.org/

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

August

- 4 TTOS Southwestern Division Membership Picnic. LA Live Steamers 818-848-2653 http://www.ttos-sw.org/activities.htm
- 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/
- 11, 12 Southern California Railroad Locomotive and Historical Society Open House. 10 a.m. until 3 p.m., Los Angeles County Fairgrounds (FAIRPLEX) Pomona. http://www.railgiants. org/special-events.htm#rail
- 17 ERHA Monthly Meeting. 1930 (7:30 PM) to 2130. Community Room of the South Pasadena Library, 1059 El Centro Street in the city of South Pasadena. (between Diamond & Fairview Avenues) http://www.erha.org/erhainfo.htm
- 25 Santa Susana RR Historical Society Swap Meet. 0700 to 1000. in the Santa Susana Park Pavilion, 6503 Katherine Rd., Simi Valley. Admission \$2.00 for adults, children under 12 free. For table and space information please visit our website: http://www.santasusannadepot.org/swapmeet.htm or call Dave Putnam (661) 753-6006.
- August 31 to September 30 Los Angeles County Fair.
 Southern California Railroad Locomotive and
 Historical Society Museum
 Garden Railroad

September

- 5-9 NMRA, Pacific Southwest Region Convention "The Ventura Flyer". Ventura, CA. LA Division hosts. Carl Heimberger cjheimberger@gmail.com Mike Allee rmallee@me.com
- 7 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/
- 8 San Diego Division Layout Tour. TBA. Contact Don Ham layouts@sandiegodivision. org



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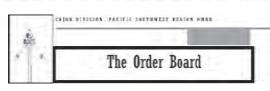
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Editor — Vacant

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San Diego Division

Topics

http://www.sandiegodivision.org

National Model Railroad Association http://www.nmra.org webmaster@psrnmra.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 2012

Conventions

4 - Directory of PSR Officers and Volunteers

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Submission Schedule and Planned Topics

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Deadline</u>
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
31/4	21 October 2013
32/1	19 Juanuary 2014

PSR 2012 Ventura Convention Issue Convention Reports, Contest Results PSR 2012 Convention info Director Elections, 2013 Convention updates

PSR 2013 Convention Issue

Convention Reports, Contest Results

PSR 2014 Convention Info

NMRA Membership Application - PSR

Please accept my application for membership renewal in the National Model Railroad Association, which includes the Pacific Southwest Region and my local PSR Division.

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