

3RD QUARTER, 2013

SUPERINTENDENTS REPORT

By Don Fowler

In case you hadn't noticed, we're more than halfway through 2013, and the best is yet to come, as we gear up for more model railroading fun in the San Diego Division and the Pacific Southwest Region. On the home front, I've been bitten by the "operations" bug and am currently playing with operating schedules and fast clocks. This is just one more aspect of our hobby that's fun to explore. Many clubs in our Division are currently using operating systems, and several individual members host regularly scheduled operating sessions on their home layouts. There are many variations on how operations might work on your railroad. You can find a wide variety of informational sources in books, DVDs, and on the Internet. One of the best ways to get acquainted with operations is to contact one of our local members and give it a try. You just might like it!

The San Diego Division's Spring Meet was held on May 11th at the Short Track Railroad Club in Vista. We had a very good turnout and enjoyed some great clinics. The first clinic was on LED

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San Diego Division Staff
From the Editor

SUMMER MEET PREVIEW

The Summer Meet will be held August 10, in Templar's Hall, Old Poway Park, 14134 Midland Road, in Poway. We've got some great clinics lined up, Division management will provide hamburgers and hot dogs, and we encourage you to bring sides or dessert to share. Enjoy a silent auction, where you can buy or sell model railroad equipment (also, bring things to auction or donate for auction). You'll also have an opportunity to ride the Poway Midland Railroad trolley, for a small fee.

Robin Becker's clinic on smart phone/tablet throttles will be a good one! Robin has been one of the programmers for the Java Model Railroad Interface (JMRI) program "Engine Driver" for the past few years. He will demonstrate the program and discuss some upcoming enhancements that have been in the works.

Mike Pfulb will represent the *Dead Rail Society*, talking about running trains without track power. Battery-powered operation has been available for some time in the larger scales, but improvements in battery technology have allowed

Continued on Page 2

SPRING MEET WRAP-UP

We had a great Spring Meet at Short Track Railroad! There were two excellent clinics, lots of good food, and we got to see a great layout. What more can you ask?

Paul Schmitt, MMR, showed us how to ballast track, and although he demonstrated in N scale, the techniques he used will be applicable to any scale. Then Pete Steinmetz and Bill Ewing showed us how to use LEDs to light the buildings and vehicles on our

Superintendent's Report from Page 1

lighting for structures and vehicles by Pete Steinmetz and Bill Ewing. A second clinic was presented by Paul Schmitt, MMR, on track ballasting that included some excellent tips and advice. We also enjoyed a great pot luck, show & tell, and a tour of Short Track's layout and ongoing progress. Very impressive!

Our June layout tour was hosted by Jack Byers and featured his HO B & O West End Railroad in Escondido. Located in its own building, Jack has modeled the 1950's transition era in central West Virginia that includes a 300' mainline consisting of mountain grades, long viaducts, several coal mines and a lumber mill spread over two levels connected by a helix. Quite a project!

In July, we'll visit brothers Tom & Don Heiser's "2 Brothers Railroad", a 9' x 14' three tiered O-27 scale layout. In addition to multi-train operations, they have amassed a very large collection of vintage and newer operating Lionel trains and accessories. Visiting this layout takes us back to our boyhood days when we could only dream of a 3 rail empire like this one!

On August 10th, we'll hold our Division Summer Meet at Templar's Hall in Old Poway Park from 9 am to 3 pm. We'll have some great clinics on Smartphone Throttles (Robin Becker), Battery/RC Loco Control (Mike Pfulb) and Weathering Structures (Jimmy Simmons). There will also be a hosted barbeque, silent auction, and train rides. Come join us for a great time!

It's not too late to register for the PSR's Annual Convention which will be hosted by the Cajon Division and take place in San Bernardino, September 25-29. A lot of your traditional favorites will be offered along with some new options as well. Check their website at www.psrconvention.org/sb13 for more details and save money by registering early.

We have initiated planning meetings for the 2014 PSR Convention that will be held right here in San Diego September 3 -7 of that year. This convention will celebrate and highlight the large number of model and prototype railroad organizations in our Division. We'd like to have everyone take part in the preparations and presentation of this event in some way. Please let us know how you'd like to contribute as soon as possible so that you have plenty of time to prepare. With all of us involved, it will be a great event.

I hope to see you soon at one of our upcoming events. Don't miss out on some great model railroading fun!

Don

Summer Meet Preview (cont'd from Pg 1)

this method to be expanded to HO scale. This solves some of the problems many of us experience, including cleaning the track and worrying about correct polarity at reversing loops.

Finally, Jimmy Simmons will present one of his inimitable clinics, on weathering structures this time. Jimmy is a great modeler, and he loves to share his techniques.

We'll have a Show & Tell, and judging will be available for those who want or need it. Bring what ever you're working on to share with the rest of us.

After lunch, we'll conclude with a silent auction. This is a good opportunity to get rid of those items you no longer want or need. You can donate the item(s) to the Division, or retain title and the Division will take a small commission on the auction. Turned those unused items into cash for your next project!

All this takes place, beginning at 9am, in the bucolic setting of Old Poway Park. You won't want to miss this meet! Keep your eye on the PSR San Diego Yahoo group for directions to the park.

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Spring Meet Wrap-Up (cont'd from Pg 1)

layouts.

We got to visit the Short Track Donner Pass Exhibit (DPE), which depicts the Southern Pacific route between Roseville, California, and Reno/Sparks, Nevada. The DPE is still under construction, but the work that has been

Spring Meet Wrap-Up (cont'd from Pg 2)

done is top notch. The town of Colfax is re-created as it appeared in photographs from the 1960 era. Buildings in town were cut out with Short Track's laser cutter, and assembled by members. Sidings and businesses are appropriately located along the right of way. All in all, a very realistic depiction.

* * *

Welcome New Members

New members keep our organization vital by brining new ideas and enthusiasm to our group. Each month, we list the new members since the last issue, and run a short background on those who are willing. This may help both the new members and exisiting members identify those in the group with similar interests. To submit background, contact me or Ray Inbody, Membership Chair. Ed.

Les Smith Mira Mesa Crescencia Treanor San Marcos Colin Campbell La Jolla

Please introduce yourselves to these new members at our next event, and make them feel welcome.

* * *

Clinic News!

As stated elsewhere in the Mail Hook, our Division Summer Meet will be held Saturday August 10 at Templer's Hall, Old Poway Park in Poway The clinic line up will be as follows:

"Using Smart Phones and Tablets for Throttles with JMRI" by Robin Becker: Prices for smart phones and tablets are coming down. If you have been thinking of getting one or have one, Robin will show you how to use one as a full featured throttle using JMRI.

"Converting and Using Battery Power and Radio Control to Run Trains" by Mike Pfulb: Mike will show how to convert Locos to run on battery power and radio control. People can use current DCC systems to run their trains on battery power. No more cleaning track. Minimal or no wiring of the layout. Battery Power is really catching on with operators. Come find out why.

"Weathering Structures" by Jimmy Simmons: Jimmy will show modelers his techniques for realistic weathering of structures. Jimmie's clinics are always entertaining and educational.

The Fall Meet will be held Saturday November 9, at the Model Railroad Museum in Balboa Park. For this meet I'm working on the theme "Operations". We have a very active groups of operators in the San Diego Division, and many of them are excellent clinicians.

Clinics are about sharing and teaching. My goal is to bring interesting clinics with top presenters to the Division. Stay tuned.

Pete Steinmetz Clinic Coordinator PSR San Diego Division

North County Model Railroad Society on Haitus

North County Model Railroad Society will be closed for the enxt few months. The building in which their layout is housed is being remodeled by the new owners, and there will be no access to the layout during the remodeling. They expect to re-open, but there is currently no target date for this. An announcement will be made in these pages when re-opening is imminent.

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LAYOUT TOURS

September – Bob Treat, Fn3

Bob Treat's Snow Creek Railroad is one of the finest model railroads you'll ever see in any scale. Fn3 railroading is 1:20.3 scale, using LGB or similar track. The railroad has been partially rebuilt since we saw it last, due to a washout in a big rainstorm. Battery powered locomotives operated by radio control eliminate the need for Bob to spend a lot of time cleaning track, allowing him to concentrate on scenery and operations. Be sure to ask Bob about the advertising board he uses for most of his buildings and retaining walls. It stands up well outside, is easy to work with, and results in realistic appearance. **October – Ben Sevier, HO**

Ben models a division of the Missouri Pacific that ran through Texas. His staging yard is in his laundry room (ask him how he got the property rights) and the mainline forms a "W" in his garage. He's still working out some minor kinks in his operating scheme, so he hasn't gotten a lot of scenery down, but this is a fun railroad to operate, and you'll be interested to see some of the techniques he used to make the railroad seem larger.

Pacific Southwest Region Convention September 25-29, 2013

The Pacific Southwest Region Convention will be held in San Bernardino, California, September 25-29, 2013. The convention hotel will be the Hilton, with a rate of just \$89.95 per night, plus tax. Located along the 10 freeway, it's just a short drive from the San Bernardino Depot and Museum. Room reservations are now being accepted.

The convention features more than 50 different clinics, by some of the top pros from 5 different states. Joe Warren, of Showcase Miniatures, is scheduled to host Modeling with the Manufacturer. Clinics begin Wednesday evening, and continue through Friday

afternoon. Carl Heimberger will give a hands-on clinic on trestle building, and Gary Robinson will help you build your own Flockinator. these three clinics are extra fare, but youwon't want to miss them!

Layout tours will run Thursday afternoon and all day Friday. There will be an operating session Wednesday afternoon and Thursday afternoon on a superb layout that has never been opened before!

HO and Z scale modular layouts will be running Wednesday night through Saturday afternoon at the hotel. Friday night is the famous Hobo (formerly Chinese) Auction, where you can find many treasures in the more than 200 items that will be available. The Roundhouse Gang and the Railroad Prototype Modelers will co-sponsor a Saturday morning swap meet, if you still haven't gotten what you wanted.

There will be prototype tours to the Union Pacific hump yard, and the Victorville CEMEX plant, and a car pool to the Orange Empire Railway Museum. In addition, the banquet, contest, and layout tours you've come to expect will be available. Don't forget the annual membership meeting Sunday morning. All this for the low, low registration rate of \$65, which INCLUDES the banquet!

The guest speaker for the banquet will be Stuart Forsythe, a perfect choice to complement the theme of this convention, "Gateway to Cajon Pass." Stuart has been researching the Cajon Pass since 1959, and there may not be a more expert individualon the subject. Stuart helped to create the California State Railroad Museum, and serves on the Archives Oversight Committee of the Santa Fe Railway Historical and Modeling Society's Western Archives.

How can you go wrong? Sign up today, at http://www.psrconvention.org/sb13/index.html. Contact Bob Mitchell at CajonDivision@coastinet.com if you need more information.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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11	12 San Dieg	13 o Model Railroa	14 ad Museum Rai	15 ilroad Camp	16	17
18	19	20	21	22 Short Track Clinic, AGSEM	23	24 Santa Susana Swap Meet
25 Santa Susana Swap Meet	26	27	28 National	29 Narrow Guage (30 Convention	31 Pasadena
Septembe	r 2013					
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October 2013

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13	14	15	16	17	18	19 Multiple Events
20 Multiple Events	21	22	23	24 Short Track Clinic, AGSEM	25	26 Fall Show, AGSEM
27 Fall Show, AGSEM	28	29	30	31		

SCHEDULE OF PSR-NMRA EVENTS

OTHER EVENTS OF INTEREST

From various sources. Events may have been submitted by sponsors. Send corrections, additions, and future events to the editor at mailhook@sandiegodivision.org. Events should be of interest to San Diego Division members. List not all-inclusive. Division-sponsored events are listed in **bold** typeface.

2013

August

10 San Diego Division Summer Meet Templar's Hall, Old Poway Park. Details TBA. meets@sandiegodivision.org

September

- **14** San Diego Division Layout Tour. Bob Treat, Fn3, North Park. Contact Don Ham, layouts@sandiegodivision.org
- 25-29 Pacific Southwest Regional Convention, San Bernardino, CA. www.psrconvention.org

October

12 San Diego Division Layout Tour. Ben Sevier, HO scale, Rancho Penasquitos. Contact Contact Don Ham, layouts@sandiegodivision.org

November

9 Fall Meet, San Diego Model Railroad Museum, Balboa Park. Details TBA. meets@sandiegodivision.org

December

14 Holiday Party, Don & Kim Fowler's. Contact superintendent@sandiegodivision.org

January

11 **San Diego Division Layout Tour**. TBA Contact Don Ham, layouts@sandiegodivision.org

February

8 **Winter Meet**, Details TBA. meets@sandiegodivision.org

March

8 **San Diego Division Layout Tour**. TBA Contact Don Ham, layouts@sandiegodivision.org

April

12 San Diego Division Layout Tour. TBA Contact Don Ham, layouts@sandiegodivision.org

May

10 **Winter Meet,** TBA Details TBA. meets@sandiegodivision.org

2013

August

- California Express (Summer) Railroadiana & Transportation Show. 0900 to 1500. UFCW Hall, 8550 Stanton Ave. Buena Park, CA www.californiaexpress.net
- 5 Glendale MRC Open House 1930 2200 http://

www.gmrrc.org

- 10 San Diego Model Railroad Museum Circus Day, 11am-3pm. See http://www.sdmrm.org/#
- 24, 25 Santa Susana Depot Swap Meet and Open House 7am to 10am. Santa Susana Railroad Historical Society Adults \$2.00, kids free. See http://www.santasusannadepot.org/ swapmeet.htm
- 28-31 33rd National Narrow Gauge Convention, Pasadena, CA. http://www.33rdnngc.com/
- 30-9/2 San Diego S Gaugers at San Diego Model Railroad Museum. Regular museum hours and admission. See http://www.sdmrm.org/# or https://sites.google.com/site/sdsgaugers/

September

12-16 San Diego Model Railroad Museum Railroad Camp. Details can be found at http:// www.sdmrm.org/#/model-rr-camp/ 4533422272 or 619-696-0199.

October

- 12 Swap Meet, San Diego Model Railroad Museum, 7am-11am Details can be found at http://www.sdmrm.org/
- 19-20 Banning Centennial Train Festival, 10am-5pm Sat, 10am-4pm Sun. 789 North San Gorgonio Ave, Banning, CA. Admission \$5 for 12 and over. http://banning100birthday.com/ 2012/11/26/centennial-train-fest/
- 19-20, 26-27 Short Track Railroad Open House at the Fall Tractor Show, Anitque Gas & Steam Engine Museum, 2040 N Sant Fe Ave, Vista, CA. 9am-4:30pm all days. Antique truck and tractor parade each day at 1pm. Railroad open house included in admission to museum. http://www.agsem.com or http:// www.shorttrackrr.org

See the San Diego Division web page calendar for Other Events of Interest for other dates. Ed.

CLUB CAR

This feature will run every issue that I receive input from the clubs. Use this space to keep us up to date on your current activities. Submit announcements to the editor at any time for the next edition.



We at Short Track RR just finished another successful Spring Tractor Show. The Antique Gas & Steam Engine Museum, our parent organization, holds a tractor show twice each year. This one was held the third and fourth weekends in June.

Short Track members ran many trains for our guests. There was a new treasure hunt for the children, along with a layout run by kids. We had a BBQ for members and guests.

The next tractor show is the third and fourth weekends in October.

Our next big event is the Bluegrass Festival August 16-18. We'll be open to the public both Saturday and Sunday.

We continue to have operating sessions the second Thursday of the month. Our clinics are the 4th Thursday of the month except for November and December. Current schedules are posted on our web site at <u>www.shorttrackrr.org</u>, or visit our Facebook page, at <u>http://www.Facebook.com/ShortTrackRR</u>.

Visitors are always welcome. Officially, we are open on Saturday from 9-1. There are usually members around on Thursday afternoon and into the evening. Stop by and see what we are doing.

Pete Steinmetz

* * *

We ended up with a 40' x 26' layout at the Big Train Show which was held, June 1-2. We used our two new inside corners for the first time at this show, which allows us to make left hand turns. We also had Hugh's new 4×6 loop and Jim's new $2' \times 4'$ modules on display for the first time.

We are off to the National Narrow Gauge Convention in Late August 2013. The 33rd National Narrow Gauge Convention is coming to Pasadena in 2013, August 28 – 31 at the Pasadena Hilton hotel. For more info go to http://www.33rdnngc.com/.

We will be hooking up with other groups to form a 44 x 44 layout with over 60 modules. Modules from 6 groups and multiple states will make up the On30 layout.

At this time, our next show after NNGC is the GTE Del Mar Show in early December.

If you are in the area during any of the shows, stop by and see us and say hi and come run your On30 DCC trains with us.

The group is still free to join and there are no dues. So, want to join in and build a module or just run trains? Module standards are posted on the Yahoo site. See you at the show, the train show.

We are one narrow minded group, and we are looking for a few good men, and women, and young people..... and in no set order!

Join us on our Yahoo site! http://groups.yahoo.com/group/CSCModOn30/

Dain Leese

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Cont'd...

Club Car (cont'd)



As summer progresses, we are again looking forward to our display at the Model Railroad Museum, over the Labor Day Weekend. This display has become very popular with club members and the general public in the past few years.

We are designing and testing a method for aligning our modules during set up, with an eye to decreasing the time requirement and improving stability. The first test modules have been created, and we will begin converting legacy modules shortly.

A lift bridge module has been developed to facilitate entry and exit into the layout for those of us beginning to have difficulty with the duck under. It works well without the need to be pushed down into place.

Students from High Tech High have been assisting us to operate our layout for the public. Some of them have offered to design new backdrops for some of our modules, to make them appear more realistic. We're looking forward to this interaction.

In the year since we've had the activity counter on our window layout, we've recorded about twelve thousand hits. In the most recent month, we has over 1,300! Someone out there likes us.

We have a couple of new members, including Don Briggs and Les Smith. We love to expand our membership. Drop in for a visit and you'll be hooked!

Poway Station's most recent event was the Old Fashioned Fourth of July, at Old Poway Park. We set up some of our HO scale modules for this event, and it went well. This experiment allows us to use the HO scale modules more frequently, since we can now set up in smaller spaces than previously.

One disappointment was, for the past several years, we've been setting up multiple layouts, and inviting other clubs to join us, at a church in Rancho Bernardo. Unfortunately, we no longer have the use of this venue. We will continue to investigate alternatives for the future.

Members are designing new modules, in both Free-Mo and (modified) NMRA standard styles, that we look forward to including in layouts in the future. This provides versatility, so the public doesn't see the same modules over and over. We've also been trying to set up some part of our layout every month This allows us to have some fun running trains, and provides an opportunity to test new modules before we include them in a public show.

Our next showing will be in conjunction with the San Diego Division Summer Meet, August 10, in Old Poway Park. Come on out and see some of the interesting things we've been doing. Membership is always open.

National Narrow Gauge Convention Comes to Pasadena

The National Narrow Gauge Convention comes to Pasadena, CA, on August 28-31, 2013. This is a great opportunity to see unbelievable modeling, and meet the modelers who created it. Registration is now \$110. Spouse's registration is complimentary.

There will also be prototype tours, layout tours, clinics, and events of general interest. There is a full list of vendors who will be in attendance, on the web page, http://www.33rdnngc.com, .

The convention hotel is the Pasadena Hilton, with a rate of \$159.00 per night, plus tax. Other accommodations are a little farther away.

The clinic and tour schedules are up on the web page. Judging from the quality of the modeling, the clinics are sure to be top notch.

If you, like me, have been hearing about how great the National Narrow Gauge Convention is, this is your chance to see for yourself. You'll be able to see the model contest, that always has a lot of fantastic models. Judging from the work you see in the Narrow Gauge & Shortline Gazette, I can easily believe it. Ed.





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Mail Hook

The "Mail Hook" is the official publication of the San Diego Division, Pacific Southwest Region, National Model Railroad Association (NMRA®), and is published quarterly in San Diego, California. The "Mail Hook" is available to all members of the NMRA® who live in San Diego and Imperial Counties.

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Submissions: Contributions of articles on any railroad or model railroading topic of interest to the membership are welcome. There is no compensation, but published articles can be credited to the NMRA[®] Author Achievement Certificate. If you are interested in submitting articles, event information, or other information of interest to members of the Division, please follow these guidelines:

1. Preferred method is by email to the editor, with the submission attached as a text document. Also accepted are: text document on diskette, printout from laser or ink jet printer, or typed using new ribbon.

2. Keep in mind that submissions may be edited for length or formatting, or not used, at the discretion of the editor.

3. Submission deadlines for publication: January 2, April 1, July 1, and October 1.

4. If you wish submission materials returned (i.e., photos), please include a stamped, self-addressed envelope with your submission.

From the Editor...

What a great Spring and Summer it's been! Many opportunities to participate in our favorite hobby, with more coming up.

I've just returned from the NMRA National Convention and Train Show in Atlanta, and I have to tell you, it was great! The hotel was great, the clinics were great, and the Train Show was the best I've seen in years. I heard many positive comments about the layout and prototyped tours, as well. Next year, in Cleveland.

If you couldn't make it out to Atlanta (you didn't miss the humidity), there are a couple of other opportunitites coming up to get some education, see some trains (both model and prototype) and have fun with other model railroaders.

The San Diego Division Summer Meet is August 10, in Poway. We'll have three clinics, free lunch, and a silent auction. Don't miss this one.

The National Narrow Guage Convention will be held in Pasadena, August 28-31. You'll see some great modeling, hear some great clinincs, and go on some great tours.

Then, September 25-29 will be the Pacific Southwest Regional Convention in San Bernardino. This will be another opportunity to participate in great clinics, layout and prototype tours, model contest, a Hobo Auction, and more.

The San Diego Division Fall Meet will be held November 9 at the San Diego Model Railroad Museum. This meet will feature clinics and a Hobo Auction.

Try to attend some of these events, and bring a friend. Introduce yourself to new members you see there. I'll be looking forward to seeing you.

Gary

Model Railroad Clubs in San Diego

San Diego Model Railroad Museum Balboa Park, San Diego Info: www.sdmodelrailroadm.com La Mesa Model Railroad Club (HO) Info: LaMesaClub@att.net San Diego 3-Railers (O) Info: (858) 538-0930 San Diego Model Railroad Club (HO & O) Info: www.sdmrrc.org San Diego Society of N Scale (N) Info: www.sdsons.org North County Model Railroad Society (HO)

If you would like your club listed, contact the Club Liason, San Diego Division

Oceanside. Info: (760) 722-7366 www.ncmrs.org **Poway Station All Scale Modular Club** Info: www.powaystation.org **San Diego Free-Mo (HO)** http://sdfreemo.org/ **San Diego Garden Railway Society** Info: www.sdgrs.com **San Diego S-Gaugers** Info: http://sites.google.com/site/sdsgaugers/Home **Short Track Railroad Club** (N) Antique Gas & Steam Engine Museum, Vista Info: www.shorttrackrr.org

ZoCal Group (Z) Info: http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ZoCal

Online - Web Sites of Interest NMRA: www.nmra.org PSR: www.psrnmra.org NMRA National Convention http://www.2014cleveland.org/ San Diego Division: http://www.sandiegodivision.org/ Arizona Division: www.azdiv-nmra.org Cajon Division: www.cajondiv.org Los Angeles Division: www.ladiv-nmra.org/ San Diego Model Railroad Museum: www.sdmodelrailroadm.com San Diego Rail: www.sandiegorail.com REED'S HOBBY SHOP MONS ER model&laserworks Exclusively Trains • Steve Bovee, Owner www.reeds-hobbies.com E-mail: reeds@abac.com The Monster is in the Details 8039 La Mesa Blvd. La Mesa, CA 91941 http://monstermodelworks.com/ Fax (619) 464-6087 (619) 464-1672







LOOK INSIDE FOR THE LATEST NEWS!

- National Narrow Guage Convention
 - Upcoming Layout Tours!
 - Meets, Meets, Meets and Clinics!

Look Inside!



c/o Gary Robinson, Editor 2319 Conway Drive Escondido, CA 92026



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