

MAIL HOOK

SAN DIEGO DIVISION, PSR-NMRA

4TH QUARTER, 2011

SUPERINTENDENTS REPORT

By Don Fowler

It's gotten a little cooler in the evening, you can smell fireplaces in the air, and Halloween is right around the corner. Time to enjoy some great model railroading and get started on your Christmas wish list. It's never too early to provide some railroad related gift ideas, provided that you've been good and expect to receive some.

The Division's Summer Meet at Ben Sevier's home was a big hit with great attendance. We enjoyed some great clinics by Jimmy Simmons and Ben himself. Ben's layout is coming along quite nicely and the trains ran very well. There was also a fun silent auction and a tasty barbecue lunch (I heard that the grilling chef was pretty good – no unintended burns).

I wasn't able to attend Dave Balser's layout tour of his Onion Valley On30 layout in Encinitas but heard that he has made some impressive progress and that all in attendance had a great time.

Our Division was very well represented at the Region's Annual Convention in Flagstaff. We had a great time with our usual activities; clinics, tours, contests, auction, swap meet, hobo breakfast, banquet

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FALL MEET PREVIEW

The Fall Meet will be held Saturday, November 12, at the San Diego Model Railroad Museum (SDMRM). We're starting the meet at 9:00 am, hoping that parking will be easier to find in the morning than it has been when we've started at noon. As always, use the back door.

We'll begin with coffee and donuts, progress to Show & Tell, then move into a couple of clinics. One will be "Decoder Pro for Dummies," by Duncan McRee. With the increase in the number of models and modelers moving to DCC, this will be a clinic you won't want to miss. Decoder Pro (part of the free JMRI software package) can really simplify setting your CVs to the values that give you the performance you want, rather than the performance the manufacturer thinks you should have. The second clinic will be "Scratchbuilding the Kidder Mansion," by Dick Roberts. Dick will share some of the techniques he used to construct this gem.

Lunch will be pizza. For a mere \$5, the Division will supply pizza and fixings. What a deal! But you MUST RSVP to Dave Balser, the meet chair, to take advantage of it. You can contact Dave at meets@sandiegodivision.org.

After everyone has stuffed themselves, we'll have a Hobo (formerly Chinese) Auction, an always popular event. If you have a railroad-related piece you no longer need, please bring it along to donate to the auction. We can always use more "stuff!" The more, the merrier!

Hope to see you all there!



Jack Byers at 2009 Hobo Auction

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Superintendent's Report from Page 1

and meetings. The Convention Committee provided an excellent event and we are very grateful for their hard work. The reception was held at the Flagstaff Train Station with food, tours, an historic re-enactment of a train robbery and other neat features. The ghosts at the Station were on their best behavior as well. Charlie Getz, HLM (At Large North America Director) was our guest speaker at the banquet and did his usual great job, although I'm not sure that I'll ever touch a "Grassinator" again. Next year's convention will be hosted by the Los Angeles Division in Ventura, so plan now so that you don't miss out.

Back at home, we visited Ray Dunakin's 1/24th scale In-Ko-Pah Railroad on October 8th. Inspired by SD&AE's Carrizo Gorge, this incredible railroad is built into the steep hillside at the rear of the property with about 300' of mainline measuring 50' across and about 30' in height. Ray's creation is a beautiful and realistic example of scale desert mountain railroading that includes many tunnels, bridges and trestles. The trains ran great and no lizards were injured during the event.

Our next big event will be the Division Fall Meet at the San Diego Model Railroad Museum on Saturday, November 12th at 9 am. We'll start off with some coffee and donuts and enjoy some clinics, show and tell, contest judging, lunch and close with a "Hobo Auction". Please be sure to go through your train room and bring some things to donate for the auction. We are also encouraging everyone to bring an item for "Show & Tell". It doesn't even need to be finished, just show us what you're currently working on. Join us for a great time and of course, a tour of impressive recent work on the Museum railroads.

On December 10th, the Fowler's will be hosting the Division's Annual Holiday Party, complete with running trains, great food, and exciting games with prizes. You won't want to miss this year's gift exchange because you just never know what might turn up!

See you soon,

Don

SUMMER MEET WRAP UP

The San Diego Division Summer Meet got off to an early start, at 9:00am on August 13th. Bruce Deck brought the donuts (Thanks, Bruce!) and Jimmy Simmons got things started with his clinic on scratch-building. He talked about some of the things you need to get started in this aspect of the hobby, showed us some tips he uses, and described how he scratch-built a chimney for a small building. It looked so easy, I'll let you know how mine comes out! People continued to drift in until lunchtime, by which time we had 43 model railroaders and their guests!

Next up, host Ben Sevier gave an overview of the Java Model Railroad Interface (JMRI) suite of programs. JMRI is an open source software program that helps model railroaders get more fun out of the hobby. Programs are written by groups of people who are interested in that aspect, and reviewed by others. Programs in the suite include Decoder Pro, Panel Pro, a program for keeping track of your equipment inventory, and a program that uses that inventory to create switch lists. It's a very powerful suite, and Ben only had enough time for a basic introduction. Since it's free, you can download a copy and play around with it yourself. You may also need to download Java, the programming language in which the suite is written, and ensure the security settings in your browser are set to allow the programs in the suite to run.

We had a Show & Tell while Chef Don (Fowler, Division Superintendent) fired up the grill. Josh Baakko shared some HO freight cars he's working on, Joe D'Elia showed some handy little products he's developed to solve some pesky modeling projects, Steve Bradley shared his old time HO passenger cars behind his Shay locomotive, and Dave Balsler showed his O scale shed that he built. Dave's presentation was instructive as well as humorous, as he related all the things he had done wrong during construction, and how he corrected or otherwise mitigated them.

Lunch was served, with hot dogs, hamburgers, and sausages provided by the Division, and desserts provided by those in attendance. There was more food than we could eat, and many of us carried things home. During lunch we perused the items in the silent auction, and decided which ones we would bid on.

Continued on Page 3

Summer Meet Wrap Up *from Page 2*

When everyone was well sated, we returned to the meeting area, where four Golden Spike awards that had been given at the National Convention were announced in front of the group, and Don Ham received his Association Volunteer Certificate and a couple of merit awards for buildings, from Paul Schmitt, MMR, Division AP Chair. Don is on his way to his Master Model Railroader certificate (right).

The final official event of the day was wrapping up the silent auction, and of course, door prizes. A few stayed to run trains on Ben's layout, where it was good to see the progress he's made since our visit last summer. Most of the wiring is complete, the fascia is installed and painted, and trains are running. There is still some track work to do, and most of the scenery and buildings, but Ben's fourth Saturday work group is on the job.



Bob Graves Photo

* * *

Welcome New Members

New members keep our organization vital by bringing 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 existing members identify those in the group with similar interests. To submit background, contact me or Ray Inbody, Membership Chair. Ed.

Dale Minard

Oakley Warren

Andrew Weldy, Short Track (N)

Ryan Di Fede

I am almost a native San Diegan; I was born in New York on Long Island and moved to the area with my family when I was three. I currently live in San Diego, near La Mesa, with my wife of 18 years Molly, and my 16-year-old daughter Sarah. At my day job, I am a special education teacher.

My dad and I built an N-scale loop on a hollow core door when I was about 10. Then we got distracted. I still had some of the rolling stock and code 80 Atlas track in 2008. I had wanted to get into the hobby again for some time, so I built a simple double loop by adapting track plans I found online and bench work plans from an old Atlas track plan book. It included a turntable, a small 3 track yard, and an industry spur. As I learned more about the hobby I attended an ops session held by the SDSLONS club at the SD Model Railroad Museum and joined the club. The other thing that happened is that we got cats... they landed on the layout and the turntable railing was in more pieces than it was when it originally came out of the box! Then my wife said, "Why don't you move the trains to the shed?" We have a tall 6' X 12' wood stud framed out-building, which over the past 2 years or so has evolved into my train room, including a small workbench area. I have been working on insulation, electricity, and double deck bench work. I am planning to model the SP from Eugene to the Cascade summit in 1954.

I do not have an expertise in a particular area, but I am developing skills as I go. I am enjoying membership in SDSLONS and the local NMRA, which has given me the opportunity to meet others in hobby and learn from them.

Steve Bradley

As a young boy I begged my parents to get me a train set for Christmas, and I guess my persistence worked. At about 10 years old, one Christmas, I found one of those HO over & under figure 8 train sets, with a Santa Fe engine & caboose & about 3 cars, under the Christmas tree. Since another boy on our block also had model trains handed down to him from his father, we became fast friends over the hobby. From that early time in my life, I have continually found great interest in model trains, and enjoy the building & detailing of HO miniature train cars & structure models.

I joined the local chapter of the NMRA about a year ago and continually ask myself why I did not do it much earlier in my modeling career. Some of us just take longer to learn, I guess, even at 55! Within the past couple of years, I have met various train modelers, who have inadvertently and actively helped me to grow in the hobby. My thanks to Steve Harris and Dave Balsler for not only getting me inspired, but helping me get over some of the hurdles in the hobby.

I model the San Diego, Cuyamaca & Eastern (SDC&E) railway in HO & Hon3, in DC. I was always interested in what is now the eastern trolley rail line to El Cajon/Santee, CA, wondering why would they build a rail line there? Originally, in the late 1800's, this was the SDC&E. Created by the owner of the Stonewall

Welcome New Members *(cont'd from Page 3)*

(gold) Mine outside Cuyamaca, CA, this rail line was originally intended to connect the mine in the mountains, with the preparation of ore in the coastal community of San Diego. Unfortunately, it never made it farther than about Lakeside, CA, to a terminus at Foster's Ranch. All traffic then went by buggy or wagon (later gas powered busses) to the mountain mine. In my world, the line changes gauge at Foster's, from standard to narrow (with some dual gauge) so that all traffic in the mountain region is on narrow gauge track. I also have a sawmill, in addition to some mining cars. All are pulled by geared locomotives on steeper grades. I have not completed the scenery on this shelf type layout, but focused on, you guessed it, train cars and structure models. Dave has helped a lot with the wiring, which is complete. Additionally, I am designing a portion of the old San Diego Flume, which paralleled the SDC&E in the El Cajon valley. This redwood trestle type structure seems very complimentary to the adjacent railroad and original to our local area.

I look forward to seeing more of our members and finding out the solutions you have found for your railroading problems.

* * *

LAYOUT TOURS

In September we visited the Onion Valley Mining and Lumber Company railroad of Dave Balser in Encinitas. The current layout is the third rendition of a small shortline set in the Sierras circa 1934. The first two layouts were HO scale, and were featured in the May 1996 issue of Model Railroading and the June



2006 issue of Model Railroader. This was our first look at the On30 layout.

After Dave attended the 2004 Narrow Gauge convention, the narrow gauge bug took over, and the HO layout was torn down and the current On30 railroad was started. The new layout uses the same basic track plan as the HO version, and includes handlaid track and turnouts using FastTracks jigs. The control is CVP-EASY DCC with wireless throttles and Tortoise machines switched by stationary decoders, eliminating any toggles on the fascia. The benchwork construction utilizes the "Shadow Box" design, with a black valance and fascia framing the scene illuminated by hidden lights behind the valance. The black curtains under the fascia complete the floor to ceiling effect highlighting the railroad. Also, in places where you can see over the scenery, the reverse side of the valance on the other aisle is painted with a sky motif. This really adds to the feeling that you're looking at a real railroad.

More...

Layout Tours from Page 4

The original shelf style benchwork, backdrop, and mountain scenery have been retained, and, although a few trees have been planted and buildings are under construction, the scenery is far from complete. The motive power and rolling stock all have a "home built" feel about them and size of the equipment has been kept small to be proportionate to the surroundings. Geared locomotives and 20' freight cars are the norm. Dave uses a transfer table (left) to interchange trains on the railroad.



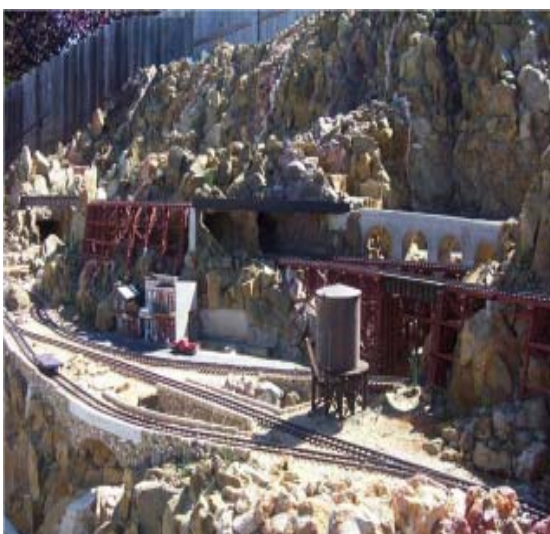
Like most model railroads, much help in design and construction by friends has been greatly appreciated. Bob Schimmel, Joe D'Elia, Phil Hermsmeyer, and others have contributed their talents. Dave is very grateful to have such a great bunch of guys in his operating group.

* * *

The October layout tour was at the In-Ko-Pah Railroad of Ray Dunakin. This G scale railroad is very impressive, with scenery rising from about knee high to fifteen feet in the air, built on the back slope of the property. It is a desert mining theme, and the rock work looks real. That's because it is real. All the rock work is real rock, hand-laid in mortar, with appropriately different shades, including some "quartz" seams! The track plan loops back over itself to gain elevation, rising about five feet above the lowest level. The railroad ran flawlessly, and Ray's modeling was a



sight to behold. Particularly amazing was the way he made styrene look like



sight to behold. Particularly amazing was the way he made styrene look like



aged wood (left).

All In-Ko_Pah photos by
Rodger Gredvig, MMR

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November 2011

San Diego Division - Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5 Multiple Events
6 Multiple Events	7 GMRRC Open House	8 Multiple Events	9	10 Short Track Ops Session, AGSEM	11 OERM Day Out w/Thomas	12 Multiple Events
13 Multiple Events	14	15	16	17 UP #844 and Joel Shenk's RGS	18 Train to Work Day	19 Toy Train Meet
10 Toy Train Meet	21	22	23	24 Thanksgiving	25	26
27	28	29	30			

December 2011

				1	2 December Nights	3 Multiple Events
4 GTE, Del Mar	5	6	7	8 Short Track Ops Session, AGSEM	9	10 Multiple Events
11 Multiple Events	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

January 2012

1	2	3	4	5	6	7 GTE, Anaheim
8 GTE, Anaheim	9	10	11	12 Short Track Ops Session, AGSEM	13	14 SD Division Layout Tour
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26 Short Track Clinic, AGSEM	27	28
29	30	31				

SCHEDULE OF PSR-NMRA EVENTS

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.

2011

Division events are normally scheduled for the second Saturday of each month, except dates noted due to layout owners' or venues' schedules.

November

12 San Diego Division Fall Meet, San Diego Model Railroad Museum, 9:00 - 12:00 Contact D. Balser meets@sandiegodivision.org

December

10 San Diego Division Holiday Party, Don & Kim Fowler 3:00 - 10:00pm White elephant gift exchange. Contact layouts@sandiegodivision.org

2012

January

14 San Diego Division Layout Tour, Central Coast RR, Don Ham, Escondido. Contact layouts@sandiegodivision.org

February

11 San Diego Division Winter Meet, Antique Gas & Steam Engine Museum, Vista, CA. Short Track Railroad clubhouse, 11:30-3:00. Contact D. Balser meets@sandiegodivision.org

March

10 San Diego Division Layout Tour, San Diego S Gaugers, Suite 106, 2445 Truxton Road, San Diego. Contact layouts@sandiegodivision.org

April

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

May

San Diego Division Spring Meet and Swap Meet, TBA Contact D. Balser meets@sandiegodivision.org

June

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

July

29-Aug 4 Grand Rails 2012. NMRA National Convention, Grand Rapids, MI. More info at: <http://www.gr2012.org/>

OTHER EVENTS OF INTEREST

2011

November (Model Railroad Month!)

2, 5-6 Highland Park Society of Model Railroad Engineers, Inc. open house. 854 E. Broadway, San Gabriel, CA 91776. Call 626.285.1031 or see <http://highlandpacificrr.com/>. See web page for daily hours.

5-7 Open House, Glendale Model Railroad Club, 619 Hahn Ave., Glendale, Sat 10-4, Sun 1-4, Mon 7:30-10. Info: <http://www.gmrrc.org/>

5-6, 8, 12-13 Pasadena Model Railroad Club Open House. See daily hours posted on web page: <http://www.pmrrc.org/>. Donation \$3 adults, \$1 children 7 and over, under 7 free. Pasadena Model Railroad Club, 5458 Alhambra Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90032. (323) 222-1718

5,6, 11-13 Orange Empire Railway Museum *Day Out with Thomas*. Information: 951-943-3020 or 951-657-2605 or <http://www.oerm.org/>

5-6 Southwest Garden Railroad Show, LA Fairplex, 1101 W. McKinley Ave., Pomona, CA 91768, 9 am - 4 pm both days. Info: <http://www.swgrs.com/#/home>.

5-6 Timberlane & Cody Railroad Open House, 10 am - 6 pm both days. 2808 S. Ashmont Avenue, Arcadia, Info: Joe Enos 626-975-6571.

6, 8 Slim Gauge Guild MRC Open House. 300 S. Raymond Ave (Basement), Pasadena, CA 91105 Sun 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM, Tue. 6:00 PM to 10:00 PM. Info: Jeff Smith (818) 590-1729 jeff@slimgaugeguild.com or www.slimgaugeguild.com

10 Operating Session, Short Track Railroad (N), Antique Gas & Steam Engine Museum, Vista, CA. 7:00pm. Info: <http://www.shorttrackrr.org/>

13 San Diego Garden Railway Society monthly meeting, 1 - 4 pm. Andrew & Barbara Kann. More info: www.sdgrs.com

17 UP #844 in Niland, Joel Shenk's RGS open. See pg 9.

18 Take a Train to Work Day!

18-20 Cal-Stewart Toy Train Southern California Meet at the Pasadena Convention Center \$30 per person or per family. The Friday night "Welcoming Party/Dinner" carries an additional
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See the San Diego Division web page calendar for Other Events of Interest for other dates. Ed.

OTHER EVENTS OF INTEREST

cont'd from page 7

charge, which is listed in the final brochure. One day of trading will be available Sunday only, beginning at 9:00 am, for \$15. The Cal-Stewart meet is located at the Pasadena Convention Center, 300 East Green St., Pasadena, CA, 91101, Halls A & B. <http://www.ttos-sw.org/cal-stewart.htm>

19-Jan 14 LEGO Modular Railroad at San Diego Model Railroad Museum, Balboa Park, San Diego. Regular hours. <http://www.sdmodelrailroadm.com/>

December

2-3 December Nights in Balboa Park, Free Admission to all exhibits, including San Diego Model Railroad Museum. 5-9pm both days. Info: <http://www.balboapark.org/decemberevents>

3-4 Great Train Expo Del Mar, 10am to 4pm, Sat and Sun. For more info: <http://trainexpoinc.com/> Adults: \$7.00, Kids Under 12: FREE! Admission covers both days.

8 Operating Session, Short Track Railroad (N), Antique Gas & Steam Engine Museum, Vista, CA. 7:00pm. Info: <http://www.shorttrackrr.org/>

10-11 Great Train Expo Pomona Fairplex, 10am to 4pm, Sat and Sun. For more info: <http://trainexpoinc.com/> Adults: \$7.00, Kids Under 12: FREE! Admission covers both days.

10-11 San Diego Garden Railway Society Christmas Open House, Ross & Sue Piper, 3 – 7 pm both days. More info at www.sdgrs.com.

10 Holiday Family Day (Polar Express), San Diego Model Railroad Museum, Balboa Park, San Diego, 11-3. Admission. Info: <http://www.sdmrm.org/>

10 Christmas in the Park, including Poway Station N scale and Poway Midland Railroad steam train. 3:30 - 8:30pm, Old Poway Park, 14134 Midland Rd, Poway. Info: <http://www.poway.org/Index.aspx?page=110>, or e-mail President@Powaystation.org

11 Los Angeles Model Railroad Society Open House, 10am – 4pm. Limited accessibility. Swap meet, 10 – 2. Info: Lloyd 310 951-9097, or www.lamrs.org.

22 Clinic (TBA), Short Track Railroad (N), Antique Gas & Steam Engine Museum, Vista, CA. 7:00pm. Info: <http://www.shorttrackrr.org/>

2012

January

7-8 Great Train Expo Anaheim, 10am to 4pm Sat and Sun. For more info: <http://trainexpoinc.com/> Adults: \$7.00, Kids Under 12: FREE!

12 Operating Session, Short Track Railroad (N), Antique Gas & Steam Engine Museum, Vista, CA. 7:00pm. Info: <http://www.shorttrackrr.org/>

26 Clinic (TBA), Short Track Railroad (N), Antique Gas & Steam Engine Museum, Vista, CA. 7:00pm. Info: <http://www.shorttrackrr.org/>

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NMRA NEWS

The Howell Day Museum is issuing a new release of its highly successful Gorre and Daphetid bobber cabooses. Two new bobbers, numbered 3 and 5, are available from Headquarters immediately. A single car is US \$19.95 + \$4 shipping and handling, and the set of two is US \$34.95 + \$4 shipping and handling. The new cars are available in HO scale only, and are ready to run. They feature operating magnetic knuckle couplers and free-rolling metal wheels. Watch for the ad running in NMRA Magazine. To order, call HQ at 423-892-2846.

Registrations for Grand Rails 2012, next year's national convention in Grand Rapids, Mich., are taking off. Half of the available Furniture City Flyers Club memberships are already sold. Details about this club can be found on the convention's website at www.gr2012.org. In addition almost 90 clinic slots have been filled, with topics ranging from geared



Cont'd...

locomotives to timetable/train order operation. If one of your members is interested in presenting a clinic, have them fill out an application form on the website. They're especially looking forward to clinics covering prototype modeling and operations.

One more convention note: there has been a change in the visitation procedure for Bruce and Janet Chubb's Sunset Valley Oregon System. The SVOS will now be open a portion of every day from Sunday, July 29, through Saturday August 4, for self-guided tours. Special commemorative tickets will be available each day exclusively for the SVOS, so attendees can choose to visit any time during any open day.

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.

-Gerry Leone, MMR
NMRA Communications Director

New Yahoo! Group for the Division

The San Diego Division will be transitioning communications to a Yahoo! group over the next few months. This transition is in Beta testing now, and should be ready for implementation by the first of the year. If you want to be included in the Beta test, contact Pete Steinmetz, the group moderator, at

psrsandiego-owner@yahogroups.com

The transition to the new Yahoo! Group has several advantages over other forms of communication we've historically been using.

- The NMRA has a new privacy policy designed to protect the identity of its members. The Yahoo! group allows us to comply with the new policy.
- Postage costs will be reduced or eliminated saving the division money.
- Communications of upcoming events will be more streamlined and easier to follow.
- Members will have a safe and secure method of communicating with all other division members, or just individual members.
- No SPAM will come out of this list.

There are 2 levels of participation, members of the group, and guests. Members will need a Yahoo! ID and will have access to all features of the group. Guests will not need a Yahoo! ID, but will not have access to all the features.

Your "In Box" will not be swamped with E Mail. There is a setting so only one E Mail a day is generated. People that already have a Yahoo! ID will use their current ID.

As we roll out the group, there will be plenty of help available for those that need it.

Pete Steinmetz
Group Moderator

* * *

An Unlikely, But Irrestible Combination: UP #844 and Joel Shenk's RGS

Many of you know that Union Pacific FEF-3 #844, a 4-8-4 type, will be visiting Southern California during November. The route is published in a number of places. What you may not know, is that Joel Shank, in Brawley, California, has agreed to open his marvelous Rio Grande Southern Sn3 layout to the public in conjunction with the visit by #844 to Niland, California, on November 17th (a Thursday). You will be able to visit Joel's layout (about thirty miles from Niland) after seeing #844, from about 9:30 am. Carpool, and be sure to call, to verify Joel is back from his photo flight. If you've never seen Joel's layout, you're in for a real treat! Housed in a separate building including a lounge and work area, the layout is a walk-in design, and depicts prototype scenes from the real railroad. The modeling is so good, you'll be hard-pressed to tell the real thing from the layout when you review your pictures later. **Please RSVP to Joel at (760) 891-8300 if you expect to attend.**

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.



Short Track Railroad has had a busy summer. A number of our members attended the NMRA National in Sacramento. Most were there for the whole week of activities. A few made it for the National Train Show. Attending were Ken Allen, Pete Steinmetz, Don Fowler, Gary Robinson, Rodney Ziebol, and Don Ham.

Our Operating Sessions have been going strong. We have a different operation every session. Sessions are the 2nd Thursday of the month at 7:00PM. Operating sessions are open to the public.

Construction has picked up. More buildings are being placed on the layout at Colfax. The Greenies (Our scenery crew) are starting to have their eyes on other parts of the layout. The last 6 months they've been focusing on the town of Colfax. Streets have been laid out, and buildings have been placed in the correct spots.

The laser crew is now looking at new buildings to start working on.

The 4th Thursday of the month we have started giving clinics for our members. We have done model engine tune-up, photography, weathering, and others. We decided to open our clinics to other modelers. Since October 27, our clinics are open to the public. Clinics start at 7:00PM. Our October topic was "Proper Cleaning of Kato, Atlas, and Intermountain Diesel Locomotives". Paul Schmitt, MMR, conducted the clinic.

There will be no clinics in November or December, due to the holidays. Clinics will resume in January. The clinic schedule will be posted at www.shorttrackrr.org.

We installed a G Scale oval in front of our building. It has been a great draw for guests. People see the train running outside and come to investigate. Here is a photo of one of our guests.



Pete Steinmetz Photo

STRR participated in the Fall Harvest Fair at the Museum. We operated trains on Saturday and Sunday during the third and fourth weekends in October, October 15 - 16 & 22 - 23.

We are planning an exhibit at the Great Train Expo at the Del Mar Fairgrounds December 3 & 4.

By: Pete Steinmetz

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We will be attending the Great Train Expo (GTE) in Del Mar again this year. We will begin to tear down and pack the layout on Thursday, December 1st for the GTE show, and we will transport and setup the layout at GTE on Friday.

The main layout has been moved towards the back in the clubhouse to allow space for our window display. The window display is in place and ready for application of roadbed and track. We have received the 30-degree crossover and the American Models Flex Track.

Cont'd...

Club Car (cont'd)

Standards for construction of switches used in the Powell Yard are being developed. We have received a tool to pre-bend track, and this removes some of the guesswork during switch construction, which then reduces construction time.

An art teacher has visited us from High Tech High, and they may be interested in painting our walls or backgrounds. The time frame will be sometime after GTE.

We have been contacted by a Boy Scout troop that would like to visit. We discussed using the clubhouse for birthday parties, bridal showers and bar mitzvahs, but there are some issues including liability insurance, Liberty Station approval, and member participation.

The clubhouse is usually open on Wednesday and Sunday afternoons, for anyone who would like to stop in and see what we're up to.

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North County Model Railroad Society



The club has been very active during the last quarter. Work continues in the new expansion area. This new section of our layout includes a large classification yard, a passenger terminal with multiple platform tracks and passenger car servicing. In addition, the new area

includes a complete engine servicing facility, a turning wye, and six freight car storage tracks.

The six control panels for this area are installed and operational. The electrical team is currently performing final check out and testing. With a little bit of luck we will be operational in the next few weeks. This new addition will allow for more prototypical operation during our monthly formal operating session.

Again this December we will take our 8 ft by 16 ft modular demonstration layout to the Great Train Expo (GTE) at Del Mar. This layout, which has a four track mainline, is set up specifically for young engineers. We are always a hit with the kids.

We are located upstairs over Earthgrown Market (formally Boney's) in Oceanside. We are open for visitors Thursday afternoon from 3:00 to 7:00pm, and Sat from 9:30am to 4:00pm. Visit our website at www.ncmrs.org

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Wow, the summer is over, but it started with a bang. The California South Coast On30 Modular group (CSC) traveled to the National Train show just after July 4th. CSC and three other On30 groups formed the largest On30 modular layout ever in California, and according to some, the largest in the USA. The layout filled a 58 x 40 foot area with over 50 modules. CSC alone had 25 modules in the layout. Our new dual corner with the 6 foot wooden bridge was on display for the first time. Josef had an interview with the local TV station. Everyone heading up with modules had put in a lot of time to update scenery on their modules.

July was sure busy; we had our second show in July, this time in Pomona. The Pomona Great Train Expo (GTE) show was on Local channel 5 TV Station, Saturday, around 6 am. We will be back again in Pomona in December, 2011.

Some of us traveled to Bakersfield in October for the 2nd Golden Empire Train & Home show. Our next Southern California shows will be in early December. GTE Del Mar, December 3-4th and the very next week GTE Pomona, December 10-11th. Stop by and see us and say hi, or, better yet, come run your On30 DCC trains with us. You might see the new Porters with sound. See you at the show, the train show.

The group is free to join and there are no dues. If you want to join in and build a module, our standards are posted on the Yahoo site. You just have to follow the hook up standard and get the module checked out before the first 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/>

Cont'd...

Club Car *(cont'd)*



Poway Station just completed a very successful show at the Antique Gas & Steam Engine Museum (AGSEM) in Vista. For this show we used two new modules built by member Steve Studer for use at his home. The AGSEM could only give us a long, narrow space, and we were fortunate that Steve had built two loops for use with his own modules, to turn trains back from one track to the other. By including these modules, we were able to put together a 42 x 10 foot layout to fit the space. The layout ran well, and members had a great

time running trains and meeting the public.

We recently obtained two rolling racks from Short Track Railroad, and have already put them to good use in our storage unit. We can store modules and materials on them, then roll them out of the unit to give us room to work. Rolling them back in when we're done is a piece of cake. We hope to adapt our trailer so we'll be able to roll them right on when we travel to show locations.

We recently picked up a new member, Terry Roberts, an HO scale modeler. Terry is excited to be with us, and we're happy to have him. Two more new members may be waiting in the wings, but we can never have too many. There's always room for more.

Our next public show will be December 10, 2011, in Old Poway Park. The Christmas in the Park event recreates a civic Christmas celebration as it would have been 100 years ago, but they let us use electricity to run our trains. We'll be in the Porter House Great Room, Old Poway Park, 14134 Midland Road, Poway, from 3:30 - 8:30pm. Be sure to stop in.

We meet Tuesday nights, at various locations. The last Tuesday of each month (except December) we meet for dinner at the Hamburger Factory at 6pm, then hold our monthly business meeting in Templar's Hall, in Old Poway Park, at 7pm. Check www.powaystation.org or e-mail president@powaystation.org for information about where we'll be. Then come join the fun!

* * *

LA Division to Host 2012 PSR Convention

The LA Division is preparing to host the 2012 Pacific Southwest Region (PSR) annual convention, September 6-9, 2012. Carl Heimberger recently transferred to the LA Division from Cajon, and Cajon's loss is LA's gain. Carl is currently serving as the Division Superintendent, and with Mike Allee is co-chair of the 2012 convention, "The Ventura Flyer." They've contracted with a Marriott Courtyard hotel in Oxnard, and are busy putting together the program. They're looking for clinicians at this point, so if you have something you could present, they'd be happy to hear from you. Clinics will be organized into "tracks," which you can mix and match, or specialize in one area. You can contact Carl and Mike at these addresses to offer your services:

Carl: cjheimberger@gmail.com

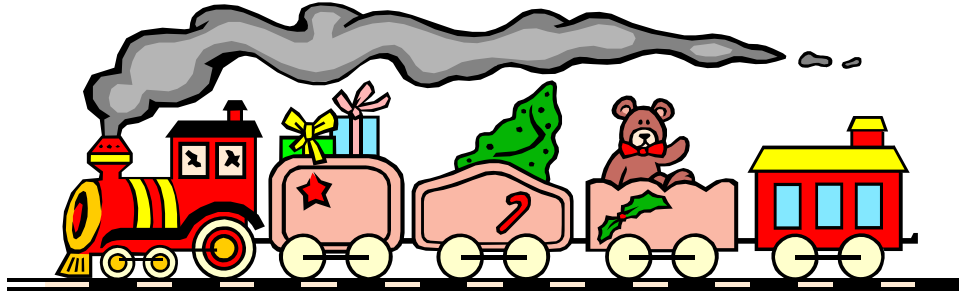
Mike: rmallee@me.com

Mike and Carl already have several layouts set up to tour, including Mike Murphy, the Santa Susana Model Railroad Club, the South Coast Museum, and Gary Siegel. I'm sure there will be plenty of others by the time the convention rolls around. Some of the layout tours will be by bus if demand warrants.

Then there will be the usual features of a PSR convention, such as the welcoming reception Wednesday evening, a hobo auction, the contest room, and the awards banquet. A hobo breakfast will probably be in the mix, and of course, prototype tours will be scheduled.

You won't want to miss this event. Contact Carl or Mike and get your registration in, and we'll see you in Oxnard! All aboard!

* * *



San Diego Division Holiday Party
December 10, 2011
3 to 10 p.m.
Dinner at 5:00 pm
At the home of Don & Kim Fowler
10768 Sayers Court
Santee

- **Please bring a side dish for the potluck dinner**
- **Men, please bring a wrapped, non-scale specific railroad item for gift exchange- \$10.00 limit**
- **Ladies, please bring holiday cookies with recipes for exchange, and a wrapped gift for exchange— \$10.00 limit**

Please join us for holiday food, fun and fellowship!

R.S.V.P. (619) 258-3529

Directions: Hwy 52 east to Mast Blvd. Turn left & proceed east for 3 miles. Turn left/north on Magnolia for 2 blocks to Second St., turn right/east. Continue past the high school to Cleary and turn left/north. Turn left/west on Holborn and continue 2 blocks to Sayers Court. Turn right/east and proceed to the end of the cul-de-sac.

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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.

Responsibility: Except for official reports, all opinions expressed are those of the authors, and do not necessarily represent those of the San Diego Division or its parent organizations.

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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...

Well, here it is, Fall already. That means November, also known as Model Railroad Month, is hard upon us. Our Division has its Fall Meet on November 12, at the San Diego Model Railroad Museum (SDMRM). We'll have clinics, a Show & Tell, the Hobo Auction, and pizza for lunch. Couple that with the chance to see the progress on the various layouts in the Museum, and it sounds like a perfect day of model railroading to me. Model Railroad Month would be a great time to introduce a child, grandchild, friend, or neighbor to our great hobby. There's no shortage of opportunities at which to do so, either. Many clubs will have open houses or other special events that show off the best they have to offer. This level of activity continues into December, then, of course, who doesn't have a train under the Christmas tree?

December also brings the Great Train Expo to town, along with several community celebrations featuring model railroads in one way or another. One of the best is December Nights in Balboa Park, which finds the SDMRM open free of charge from 5pm to 9pm Friday and Saturday nights, December 2-3.

Naturally, we all hope Santa will have us on his "nice" list, and bring us lots of cool train stuff. I know I have my wish list made out. Some web sites, including Walthers.com, allow you to create an on-line wish list for your gift givers. Don't miss out on that DCC loco with sound you've had your eye on!

January is the time for resolutions. This year, be sure to include something you've been putting off around the layout. Also, be sure to resolve to get a friend interested in model railroading, and support our local Division by asking how you can get involved. We have a lot of fun, but it's a lot of work getting everything organized, and we can use all the help we can get!

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

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

North County Model Railroad Society (HO)

Oceanside. Info: (760) 722-7366 www.ncmrs.org

Poway Station All Scale Modular Club

Info: www.powaystation.org

Short Track Railroad Club (N)

Antique Gas & Steam Engine Museum, Vista

Info: www.shorttrackrr.org

San Diego Garden Railway Society

Info: www.sdgrs.com

ZoCal Group (Z)

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ZoCal>

San Diego S-Gaugers

<http://sites.google.com/site/sdsgaugers/Home>

Online - Web Sites of Interest

NMRA: www.nmra.org

PSR: www.psrnmra.org

NMRA National Convention <http://www.gr2012.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



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Military \$2.50, Tuesdays free to all