



# MAIL HOOK

SAN DIEGO DIVISION, PSR-NMRA

3RD QUARTER, 2010

## **SUPERINTENDENTS REPORT**

*By Don Fowler*

As I write this, we are less than two months away from hosting the annual PSR Convention right here in San Diego. Things are coming together quite nicely and its promising to be a great event. If you haven't signed up yet, please do, so that we can plan appropriately. Even if you can't attend the entire event, remember that you can sign up for one day if you prefer. There will also be a large swap meet open to the general public on Saturday September 18<sup>th</sup> at our Convention headquarters, the Handlery Hotel & Resort in Fashion Valley.

Time flies when you're having fun. PSR President Ben Sevier and I both attended the Pacific Coast Region's annual convention in April to advertise our convention and see how they ran theirs. We had a great time and they made us feel very welcome. Our hotel room overlooked the Sparks UP freight yard and provided one of the laziest rail fanning opportunities I've ever had. Their convention committee did a great job and hosted a very successful event. We also picked up some great ideas for our convention as well.

On May 8<sup>th</sup>, we held our Spring Division Meet at the Peace Lutheran Church in San Diego. We enjoyed a great pot luck, a short business meeting

*Continued on Page 3*

## **SPRING MEET WRAP UP and CONVENTION PREVIEW**

The Spring Meet was held May 8 at Peace Lutheran Church. Thanks to Rodger Gredvig, MMR, for making the facility available to us. There was the usual pot luck, and a short business meeting. Gordon Miller received his Member of the Year award from Superintendent Don Fowler, and Paymaster and PSR President Ben Sevier. Paul Schmitt, MMR, the Division AP Chair, handed out a few well-deserved AP



certificates to Don Fowler and Don Ham (*See the pictures elsewhere in this issue. Ed*), as well as Dick

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Roberts, shown here.

Dick Roberts then gave a presentation on how he planned and built the Kidder Mansion on his Nevada County Railroad. Eric Bradford followed that up with a demonstration and discussion of how he built a DCC speed matching table (left - all photos this article Pete Steinmetz). Jim Campbell gave an impromptu electronics clinic as well. In case you missed Dick's and Eric's clinics, they will be repeated at the Pacific Southwest Region Annual Convention, coming up in September, right here in San Diego.



Because everyone is involved in preparations for the convention, we will not hold our traditional Summer Meet in August. Instead, Ben Sevier will open his HO layout on the 14th, and we'll have a layout tour and picnic at his place. This will be the first time Ben has shown his layout, having only recently completed the main line. He's made a lot of progress in the past year or so, by hosting a work group the fourth

Saturday of every month. There's still work to be done, but trains are running! He's got some cool things going on, you shouldn't miss this opportunity. He also invites you to bring your bathing suit, if you're so inclined. Watch for more information.

As the convention approaches, the committee is hard at work putting the finishing touches in place. We'll also need the help of some volunteers to be successful. Volunteers will work about four hours on the day they volunteer, but they should be registered for the convention. We need everything from help at the Registration Desk and Company Store, to help with directions, and everything in between. You'll have plenty of time to enjoy the clinics, layout and prototype tours, and other events.

If you haven't registered, there's still time to get a reduced rate. Full registration is still only \$70 until August 1st, when it goes up to \$80. If you can only attend one or two days, the single day registration is only \$30 per day. For that small fee, you get 16 clinics each day, by locally and nationally known clinicians. You get the opportunity to sign up for prototype tours to the Pacific Southwest Railway Museum; the San Diego Trolley Museum; PASHA, the auto trans-loading facility in the South Bay; or San Juan Capistrano via Amtrak. You get the Company Store, where you can purchase convention-related items, You get the banquet, with guest speaker Tony Koester. You get to tour some of the best layouts in Southern California. Your significant other can register for the Non-Rail program. Seriously, you need to register! This is going to be one great time! Registration is available using the form included, or on the web page. If you register on line, you can pay with a credit card via PayPal. There's no reason NOT to do this. Here's the web site:

<http://www.psrconvention.org/2010/index.html>

Check it out. There's more information there, or you can contact anyone on the Division staff. You can find the staff contact listing later in this issue. While we're on the subject of conventions, here's a press release about the 2011 NMRA National, which will be held in Sacramento next summer.

### **EXTRA 2011 WEST NMRA CONVENTION**

The 2011 NMRA Convention in Sacramento is being billed as the "Unconventional Convention," and one of the reasons is that the registration fee is only \$99! But, that low \$99 rate will be available only until September 1, 2010, at which time it will definitely increase. Register now to take advantage of this low rate at the Convention's website - [www.x2011west.org](http://www.x2011west.org)

EXTRA 2011 WEST

**X2011**  
2011 NMRA CONVENTION  
SACRAMENTO, CA

**The Unconventional Convention!**

**The current registration fee for the 2011 NMRA Convention in Sacramento is a very cheap \$99! But this low rate will be only available until September 1, 2010.**

**Register now! Go to [www.x2011west.org](http://www.x2011west.org)**

## **Superintendent's Report** *from Page 1*

with NMRA achievement awards presented, and three excellent clinics on scratch building structures, electrical projects and DCC speed matching. Thanks to all who helped to make this a great event.

We had an excellent turn out for Max Schwanda's "O" scale model railroad tour on June 12th. His layout looked fantastic and ran great! Several of us were fortunate enough to participate in his operating session.

On June 13th, PSR President Ben Sevier and I attended Cajon Division's Meet at Hunter Park which happens to be the home of the Riverside Live Steamers. We enjoyed a great steak barbeque, toured the railroad shops, rode their trains, and advertised our upcoming convention. If you've never been there, I highly recommend that you visit with your entire family.

Ray Inbody hosted the July 10th open house featuring his beautiful "O" scale model railroad. His scenery, backdrops and lighting are second to none. We had a great time visiting with Ray and enjoying his railroad.

Our next open house will be on August 14th at Ben Sevier's home featuring his HO Scale model railroad. If you're curious about bench work, DCC wiring, track work or lighting, you won't want to miss it. We're also hosting a barbeque for attendees so come hungry!

That brings us to our PSR Convention right here in San Diego that runs from September 15-19. To learn more about the many activities, visit our website at [www.psrconvention.org/2010](http://www.psrconvention.org/2010) See you there!

Don

*Don't forget, the registration fee for Clear to San Diego 2010 goes up \$10 August 1st. Get your check in the mail today. Also, the NMRA National Convention, Extra 2011 West, (see press release elsewhere in this publication) will be in Sacramento next July. There's a discounted registration available for that as well, but only until September 1st. Don't miss this great opportunity to save money while getting the best the NMRA has to offer, right here in our own back yard.*

Ed.

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# **Clear To San Diego 2010 Model Railroad Convention**

**PACIFIC SOUTHWEST REGION ~ NMRA®**

**September 15th – 19th, 2010**

**Handlery Hotel & Resort, 950 Hotel Circle North  
San Diego, CA 92108**



**Clinics ~ Auctions ~ Layout Tours**

**Prototype Tours and Activities ~ Model Railroad Operations**

**Model & Photography Contest ~ Public Swap Meet**

**Railroad Prototype Modelers (RPM) Meet ~ Family Activities**

Visit The "Clear to San Diego 2010" Website For Details, Registration And Up To Date Information

<http://www.psrconvention.org/2010>

Convention & Swap Meet hosted by the San Diego Division, PSR, NMRA – [www.sandiegodivision.org](http://www.sandiegodivision.org)

This year's annual Pacific Southwest Regional convention will be held right here in San Diego. It will feature many instructional clinics on a wide variety of topics, including this year's emphasis on railroad operations, model and prototype. Clinics will run all day Thursday and Friday, and Saturday morning. At press time clinicians include nationally known names such as (in the order scheduled) Scott Mason, Dick Roberts, Steve Harris, Tony Koester, Duncan McRee, Burton Maxwell, Don Mitchell, and Bill Kaufman. Local luminaries include Bill Jacobs, Ed Hall, John Sigurdson, Gary Robinson, Chuck Nauman, Ben Sevier, Bob Chaparro, Bob Mitchell, Gordon Miller, and Carl Heimberger, among others. Two notes to keep in mind: 1) there is an extra materials charge for the "Backdrop Painting" clinic, and it's limited to 24 students; and 2) Burton Maxwell's "Buildings from Wood" clinic is limited to 24 students. Pre-registration is required for these clinics, so be sure to contact the Registrar to enroll in either. There's a complete clinic list on the web page, <http://www.psrconvention.org/2010/index.html> and click on the Events tab.

While you're on the web page, be sure to check out the Extra Fare items. You'll find the Extra Fare items are shown, including the Company Store items and the prototype tours. Tours are generally limited by the capacity of the bus, so you'll want to sign up for these soon. Note that this year, convention shirts are available in both men's and women's styles. Contact the Registrar for Extra Fare items as well.

If you know someone who hasn't registered (including you!), be sure to tell them to get on it! Fees go up August 1, so save some bucks and register now. While you're looking at the clinics and Extra Fare items, you can register and pay on-line, using your credit card, with PayPal. You should send in the form as well, but registering on-line will hold your place.

You should also think about making your hotel reservations, if you haven't already. The current rate, \$105 per night plus tax, is good only until August 26. After that it isn't guaranteed. There are still rooms available at the group rate, but don't wait and be left out in the cold, or in the "No-tell Motel." We encourage you to stay in the convention hotel, since you get a break on parking that way, and it helps us meet our room guarantee, which translates into more resources available for us to show you a good time. Make your reservations directly with the hotel, on-line at <https://www.reservations-page.com/C00180/H00189/be.ashx?pc=nmra> or call (619) 298-0511 and use the group code NMRA-Pacific Southwest Region or National Model Railroad Association.

Don't forget to bring something for the Swap meet, or one of the auctions. The swap meet will allow you to haggle directly with the buyer and get a price you agree to, and the auction will result in the best price you can get, less our commission of course. It's your choice which way you want to go, but if you don't bring anything, you can't go either way.

For those of you who have never been to a Railroad Prototype Modeler's (RPM) meet, you're in for a real treat! These guys do some of the best modeling you'll ever see, and you get to talk with them about how they do it. Who knows, you might find a kindred spirit who's been lurking just off your radar. Admission to the RPM meet is included in your convention registration. If you just want to attend the RPM meet, you can do that, for a separate admission charge. There is a discount from the "RPM only" admission if you bring a model to display. But then you'll miss out on all the other great things going on. You can register for the convention for a single day, and get the best of both. Information is on the web page.

Finally, if you're interested in attending an operating session, please contact Dick Roberts via e-mail at [rlroberts44@cox.net](mailto:rlroberts44@cox.net). We have a number of operating sessions lined up on some great layouts, at different days and times. But many hosts have limited space to accommodate visiting crew, and reservations are on a first come, first served basis. We also need to know if you'll have transportation, or if you'll need it. You must be registered for the convention before you can register for your choice of operating session (you can register at the same time, if you'd like).

What are you waiting for? You won't find a better model railroad event in Southern California this year! Get on the web page, complete the registration form, and send it in. Time's a-wastin'!



# NMRA NEWS

The 75th Annual NMRA National Convention has just wrapped up in Milwaukee, and some big news was announced. The most visible to all of us will be the new logo, shown at right. This logo replaces the old driver and coupler logo, and is one step in an effort to improve the NMRA brand recognition by the public. It represents a portion of a truck, showing the wheel, and the "nmra.org" represents the truck sideframe. This is intended to represent a more modern, forward-thinking organization.



The new logo will tie in with a name change in Scale Rails, to "NMRA Magazine" that you will soon see, and several other efforts currently underway. More information is, or will be, available on the NMRA web page, [www.NMRA.org](http://www.NMRA.org). (As far as I know, you may continue to use your return address labels with the old logo. 8^D Ed.)

The second big change is that current Vice President Allen Pollock will resign, and the Vice Presidency will be split into two positions. This will require a change to the Regulations, but that is in progress. One VP position will handle budgets, finances, and headquarters operations. This position, Vice President of Administration, will be held by Dave Thornton. The second VP position will handle coordination with Regions, Divisions, and Special Interest Groups (SIGs). This position, vice President of Special Projects, will be held by Bill Kaufman. Good luck to both men in their new positions. Watch for more information in future issues of NMRA Magazine.

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## ***Model Railroad Publication Index No Longer Available***

On a subject relating to Bill Kaufman's new responsibilities, Kalmbach has announced it will no longer support the Trains Index of Model Railroad Publications. This is sad news for those of us who use this index regularly. Reasons given by Kalmbach include outdated software, that drives an inability to secure the index from viruses and other malware that permeates the Internet. Apparently the data itself is not in a condition that can be easily exported to another format. The NMRA Board has asked Bill to explore whether and how this valuable resource can be salvaged. Bill will be reporting on this as he develops information. Anyone who may be interested in assisting with this project can contact the Editor, who will put you in contact with Bill.

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## ***NMRA 75TH ANNIVERSARY PHOTO CONTEST***

*Win a cab ride in a Union Pacific steam locomotive!*

The National Model Railroad Association and the Union Pacific Railroad are pleased to announce a model photography contest to help celebrate the 75th anniversary of the NMRA. The NMRA will pick one photograph submitted by an NMRA member in good standing depicting one or more models of UP equipment and/or structures in a realistic scene. The photograph will be judged for prototype fidelity of the modeling and scene as well as for photographic art.

**The member submitting the photograph will win a cab ride in one of the mainline steam locomotives operated by the Union Pacific on the Kansas City to Jefferson City leg of the Missouri River Eagle Excursion. To be eligible, the photograph must be in an envelope postmarked (or originated in transit by a third-party service such as FedEx or UPS) by August 31, 2010, and received no later than September 7, 2010. (This deadline has been extended from April 15, 2010.)**

Please send all photographs to Robert J. Amsler, Jr., 514 Dover Place, St. Louis MO 63111. Be sure to protect photographs from bending or mishandling in the mail.

For additional information, see [www.nmra.org](http://www.nmra.org).

*More...*

## Matching Funds Donation

It was announced at the Board meeting that an anonymous donor has pledged \$250,000 to be used as a matching grant for the model railroad display at the California State Railroad Museum. Remember that no NMRA dues or funds will be used to build the display, which will be seen by over 600,000 museum visitors a year, so this is a great start to an important project.

\* \* \*

## LAYOUT TOURS

First of all, here are a couple of pictures I didn't run last issue, from the March and April tours. Dan Conway's Amador, Truckee, & South Fork was in March (Lise Conway Photo, left), and Bruce Deck's Olive & Homer was in April (Gary Robinson photo, below).



In June we visited Max Schwanda's O scale Pennsylvania & Reading Seashore Lines. This is a point to point switching layout evocative of the New Jersey shore area. Almost all of Max's buildings are scratch built, to represent buildings he remembers from his early days on the Jersey shore. Business names similarly reflect businesses



that existed in the area. There is an emphasis on steam power, both Pennsy and Reading (the Seashore Lines was a joint venture). The layout supports three operators, and Max holds operating sessions every Friday night. Below, Pennsy power waits to move some varnish. (Gary Robinson photo)



On July 10th, due to a last minute work commitment, Frank Tepedino wasn't able to host the July layout tour as planned, so Ray Inbody stepped in to share his layout. He models the LA Belt Railway in O scale housed in a dedicated out building. As can be seen in the accompanying photo (below), Ray, with the help of Max Schwanda, has created a very convincing slice of urban railroading. Ray's layout is an O scale point to point switching layout, but with a Southwest

See "Layout Tours" on Page 12

## August 2010

## San Diego Division - Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> Poway Station @ San Rafael	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> SD Div Planning Meeting	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> SD Division Layout Tour
<b>15</b> SD Div Planning Meeting	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> SD Div Planning Meeting	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> SD Div Planning Meeting	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>				

## September 2010

			<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> SD Div Planning Meeting	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> OREM Swap Meet
<b>12</b> SD Div Planning Meeting	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> PSR Board Meeting	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> PSR Mmbrshp Meeting	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> SD Div Planning Meeting	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>		

## October 2010

					<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> Multiple Events
<b>10</b> SD Div Planning Meeting	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>31</b>						

## SCHEDULE OF PSR-NMRA EVENTS

## OTHER EVENTS OF INTEREST

Assembled from various sources. Events may have been submitted by sponsors. Send corrections, additions, and future events to the editor at [mailhook@sandiegodivision.org](mailto:mailhook@sandiegodivision.org). Events should be of interest to San Diego Division members. Division-sponsored events are listed in **bold** typeface.

2010

### August

- 8 **Division Planning Meeting**, Peace Lutheran Church, 6749 Tait St, San Diego, CA. 3pm – 5pm Contact: Don Fowler, [superintendent@sandiegodivision.org](mailto:superintendent@sandiegodivision.org)
- 14 **Layout Tour and Picnic**, Ben Sevier, HO scale, Noon - 3pm. Contact Don Ham, [layouts@sandiegodivision.org](mailto:layouts@sandiegodivision.org)
- 15 **Division Planning Meeting**, See above, August 8. Contact: Don Fowler, [superintendent@sandiegodivision.org](mailto:superintendent@sandiegodivision.org)
- 22 **Division Planning Meeting**, See above, Aug 8. Contact: Don Fowler, [superintendent@sandiegodivision.org](mailto:superintendent@sandiegodivision.org)
- 29 **Division Planning Meeting**, See above, Aug 8. Contact: Don Fowler, [superintendent@sandiegodivision.org](mailto:superintendent@sandiegodivision.org)

### September

- 5 **Division Planning Meeting**, See above, Aug 8. Contact: Don Fowler, [superintendent@sandiegodivision.org](mailto:superintendent@sandiegodivision.org)
- 12 **Division Planning Meeting**, See above, Aug 8. Contact: Don Fowler, [superintendent@sandiegodivision.org](mailto:superintendent@sandiegodivision.org)
- 15 **PSR Board Meeting**, 1pm - 4pm, The Handlery Hotel, 950 Hotel Circle N, San Diego, CA 92108. Contact Ben Sevier, [president@psrnmra.org](mailto:president@psrnmra.org)
- 15-19 **PSR Convention, "Clear to San Deigo 2010,"** The Handlery Hotel, 950 Hotel Circle N, San Diego, CA 92108. Clinics, prototype tours, layout tours, **SWAP MEET (18th)**, RPM Meet. See <http://www.psrconvention.org/2010/index.html> or contact Gary Robinson, [director@sandiegodivision.org](mailto:director@sandiegodivision.org)
- 19 **PSR Membership Meeting**, 8am -10am, The Handlery Hotel, 950 Hotel Circle N, San Diego, CA 92108. Contact Ben Sevier, [president@psrnmra.org](mailto:president@psrnmra.org)

2010

### July

- 31 San Diego Model Railroad Museum 30th Anniversary Celebration, 11am - 3pm, 1649 El Prado, San Diego, CA. Behind the scenes tour (requires prior sign up), cake, other activities. See web page for admission prices and sign up <http://www.sdmodelrailroadm.com/>
- 31 - **Aug 1** Annual Poway Station show, with San Diego S Gaugers and Z Scale ModelerZ of Southern California, 10am - 7pm Sat, 8am - 4pm Sun, Ice Cream Social Sat, coffee & donuts Sun. Free admission, donations accepted. San Rafael Catholic Church, 17252 Bernardo Center Drive, San Diego, CA 92128. See [www.powystation.org](http://www.powystation.org) or contact [president@powystation.org](mailto:president@powystation.org)

### August

- 14-15 Chula Vista Live Steamers public run day, noon - 2:30pm. Rohr Park, 4548 Sweetwater Road, Chula Vista, CA. More info at <http://www.chulavistalivesteamers.com/>
- 28 Santa Susana RR Historical Soc Swap Meet and Open House, 7am - 4pm, SP Depot, 6503 Katherine Rd. Simi Valley CA. Swap Meet 7-11, open house 11-4.. Admission \$2.00 for adults. Sellers contact Richard Parshall at [events@santasuannadepot.org](mailto:events@santasuannadepot.org) or 805-526-0371

### September

- 2-6 Chula Vista Live Steamers Fall Meet. Rohr Park, 4548 Sweetwater Road, Chula Vista, CA. More info at <http://www.chulavistalivesteamers.com/>
- 3-6 San Diego S Gaugers modular layout at San Diego Model Railroad Museum 10am - 4pm each day. Museum admission applies.
- 11 Orange Empire Railway Museum Fall Swap Meet, 9am - 2pm, 2201 S. "A" Street, Perris, CA 92570 Adm \$5, or \$8/15 (mbr/non-mbr) for exhibitors. Gates open at 7am for exhibitors. <http://www.oerm.org/>.
- 29-10/2 Southern Pacific Historical and Technical Society 2010 Conference, 10:30am Wed to 3:30pm Sat, Doubletree Hotel, 2001 Point West Way, Sacramento, CA. <http://www.sphts.org/convention/>

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



- 26 **Division Planning Meeting**, See above, Aug 8.  
Contact: Don Fowler,  
[superintendent@sandiegodivision.org](mailto:superintendent@sandiegodivision.org)

## October

- 9 **Layout Tour**, North County Model Railroad Society, Noon - 3pm. Contact Don Ham,  
[layouts@sandiegodivision.org](mailto:layouts@sandiegodivision.org)
- 10 **Division Planning Meeting**, See above, May 8.  
Contact: Don Fowler,  
[superintendent@sandiegodivision.org](mailto:superintendent@sandiegodivision.org)

## November

- 13 **San Diego Division Fall Meet**, San Diego Model Railroad Museum, 1649 El Prado, San Diego, 11:30 am - 3pm. Contact: Don Fowler,  
[superintendent@sandiegodivision.org](mailto:superintendent@sandiegodivision.org)

## December

- 13 **San Diego Division Holiday Party and Open House**, Don & Kim Fowler, Santee. Hours TBA

## January 2011

- 8 **San Diego Division Layout Tour**, TBA
- 9 **Division Planning Meeting**, See above, Aug 8, 2010. Contact: Don Fowler,  
[superintendent@sandiegodivision.org](mailto:superintendent@sandiegodivision.org)

## February 2011

- 12 **San Diego Division Winter Meet**, Antique Gas & Steam Engine Museum, Vista (tentative)
- 13 **Division Planning Meeting**, See above, Aug 8, 2010. Contact: Don Fowler,  
[superintendent@sandiegodivision.org](mailto:superintendent@sandiegodivision.org)

## March 2011

- 12 **San Diego Division Layout Tour**, TBA
- 13 **Division Planning Meeting**, See above, Aug 8, 2010. Contact: Don Fowler,  
[superintendent@sandiegodivision.org](mailto:superintendent@sandiegodivision.org)

## April 2011

- 9 **San Diego Division Layout Tour**, TBA
- 10 **Division Planning Meeting**, See above, Aug 8, 2010. Contact: Don Fowler,  
[superintendent@sandiegodivision.org](mailto:superintendent@sandiegodivision.org)

## May 2011

- 8 **Division Planning Meeting**, See above, Aug 8, 2010. Contact: Don Fowler,  
[superintendent@sandiegodivision.org](mailto:superintendent@sandiegodivision.org)
- 14 **San Diego Division Spring Meet and Annual Business Meeting w/Elections**, Location TBA

## October

- 2-3 Los Angeles Live Steamers Fall Meet, 8am - 4pm, Griffith Park, 5202 Zoo Drive, Los Angeles, CA  
<http://www.lals.org/>
- 9 Train Song Festival 10am - 4pm. Train song singers, crafts, Poway Station HO modular layout. Free admission. Old Poway Park, 14134 Midland Road, Poway CA. Festival Saturday only, layout Saturday and Sunday.  
<http://poway.org/index.aspx?page=110> or  
<http://www.powystation.org/>
- 16 Roundhouse Gang Swap Meet, Janet Goeske Senior Center 5257 Sierra St. (Corner of Streeter and Sierra), Riverside, 7:30 - noon. \$3 buyers, \$10 sellers in advance or \$12 at door. Contact Larry Kucharski, [larryk@dslextreme.com](mailto:larryk@dslextreme.com) or (951) 686-7890
- 23 Santa Susana RR Historical Society Swap Meet, Santa Susana Park Pavilion 6503 Katherine Rd. Simi Valley, 7am - 11am, Admission \$2.00 adults. E-mail: [events@santasuannadepot.org](mailto:events@santasuannadepot.org) or call Richard parshall at 805-526-0371
- 23-24 LA Division South Coast Botanic Garden Train Show, Rancho Palos Verdes.
- 23-24 High Desert Modular Model Railroad Club Cal City Train Show. 10am - 5pm Sat, 10am - 4pm Sunday. Free admission. For more information see <http://hdmmrc.com/directory/>

## November

- 3, 6-7 Highland Pacific RR Open House, Highland Park Society of Model Railroad Engineers, Inc. 854 E. Broadway San Gabriel, 7pm - 10pm 11/3, noon - 5pm 11/6, 7. call (626) 285-1031 or see the web page at <http://highlandpacificrr.com/>
- 6-7, 9, 13-14 Pasadena Model Railroad Club Open House, 5458 Alhambra Ave., Los Angeles. Adults \$3, Children \$1 (under 7 free w/adult) . 1pm - 5pm and 7pm - 10pm 11/6 and 11/13, 1pm - 5pm 11/7 and 11/14, 7:30pm - 10pm 11/9. (323) 222-1718 or E-mail: [Webmaster@pmrrc.org](mailto:Webmaster@pmrrc.org)
- 19-21 TTOS Southwestern Division Cal-Stewart Meet. <http://www.ttos-sw.org/activities.htm/> or call 818-848-2653 .

## December

- ??-?? The Great Train Expo normally has a show in Del Mar the first weekend in December, but it did not appear on their web schedule at press time.
- 18-19 Great Train Expo, Fairplex, Pomona For info see <http://www.trainexpoinc.com/schedule.html>

# 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.*



Preparations are well under way for July 31st, when we'll be holding our 30th Anniversary Celebration! That's right, we've been running trains in Balboa Park for 30 years. Time flies when you're having fun. We'll have "birthday" cake, activities for the kids, and behind the scenes tours (require advance sign up via the web) for your enjoyment. There's always something new at the SDMRM!

We also have space left in our summer camp. Our first session is sold out, but space remains for subsequent sessions. See the web page, which has been updated recently, for more information.

<http://www.sdmodelrailroadm.com/#/home/4533421363>

\* \* \*

On May 1, 2010, members of the San Diego S Gaugers (SDSG) participated in the S Fest West, hosted by the Southern California S Gaugers Club (SCSGC) in Arcadia, California. Four modules from the Powell Yard were selected to represent SDSG's layout and temporary wings were constructed and clamped on the ends to



gain about 24-inches of "mainline" track beyond the switch points.



Club members Peter Gagnon, Bob Graves, Mike Forsys and Al Keil set up the modules and demonstrated the improved control of multiple trains moving into and out of the yard which is designed to accommodate all three of the common wheel profiles and gauging found in S scale, high rail, and original Gilbert American Flyer. The yard is seven tracks wide, counting the two mains, and has a passing siding and one-or-more stub tracks connected to each main. All of the turnouts are motorized and are centrally controlled from the DCC system. A DCC throttle on the AC control panel provides turnout control to the AC side operators. For this one special event, we isolated the innermost track and powered it with TMCC, thereby demonstrating all three power systems at

once. A Union Pacific Mikado with freight consist ran on that track. Additional photos of the yard can be viewed at

<http://sites.google.com/site/sdsgaugers/Home/may-2010-s-fest-west>

(Photo by Robert Graves, SDSG Webmaster. Used by permission.)

A wireless DCC throttle was available for visitors who wanted to try their hand at operating the DCC equipment and to practice switching the outer main portion of the yard. Using the AC controls on the back side, the same options were available on the inner main for visitors who were more traditionally inclined. The event was well attended and there was a lot of new and used S equipment available from a number of vendors.

The San Diego S Gaugers were well and generously hosted by SCSGC and its many friendly members. We thank them for their hospitality to us, and congratulate them on the success of the first S Fest West to be held in Southern California.

We are happy to announce that the club has been invited to show with Poway Station July 31 and August 1 at the San Rafael Catholic Church in Rancho Bernardo, as well as back to display our modular layout at the San Diego Model Railroad Museum in Balboa Park, San Diego this Labor Day Weekend.



Our club is making great progress with the scenery on the Donner Pass Exhibit (DPE). Visitors remark how far we have come in such a short time. There are some major projects running including scenery, buildings, and bridges. We have 3 major bridge projects in various stages of construction. Ken Allen is constructing a roundhouse and turntable that will be a very accurate reproduction of the actual roundhouse in Roseville, CA. Snow sheds are nearing completion. We are busy checking clearances to make sure our equipment will operate without a snag.

The

Antique Gas & Steam Engine Museum (AGSEM) Spring Tractor Show, held the last two weekends in June was a great success. Attendance at both the show and our section house was up over last year. Visitors to the section house were treated to many trains running on both our NTrak (modular) layout and our Donner Pass permanent layout. We had a treasure hunt for children. They were required to find certain items or scenes on the NTrak modules and turn in a correctly filled out sheet in order to win a prize. Railroad movies and videos ran constantly on a big screen.

Operation Sessions at Short Track get better every month. The June session lasted until almost 10:30. Some crewmembers wanted to run,

"Just one more job." One of the nice things about the organization is operators can run one job and stop, or go back for more jobs. Typically a job lasts around 1 hour. Tim Woodard has done a bang up job of scheduling



and tweaking sessions based on experiences with the previous sessions. Operating sessions are held the second Thursday of the month. Guest operators are always welcome. No experience necessary. A guest will be teamed with an experienced operator. It will all be fun. Trains start promptly at 7:00PM. Arrive between 6:30 and 7:00 to get briefed and pick up a job.

We have a few members working on their Master Model Railroader (MMR) through the NMRA Achievement Program (AP). All are in various stages of completion, from just starting and having no certificates (like me), to almost complete with 6 or 7 certificates. Above, Short Track members Don Ham (bottom) and Don Fowler (top) receive AP



certificates from Short Track member Paul Schmitt, MMR. (Pete Steinmetz photos) Paul is the AP chair for the

San Diego Division. The AP helps modelers improve and refine their skills. One thing that has appeared as a common thread in the process is the help that modelers give others.

\* \* \*

Poway Station had a fun time showing our N scale layout at the Old Fashioned Fourth of July at Old Poway Park. Visitors enjoyed the trains, and were intrigued by the way we're building a mountain to create a tunnel at one end. The first course of foam is fastened to the module top, to provide clearance for trains under the rest of the mountain, which is being built on a base so the whole mountain will lift off to service the track in the tunnel. It's still in progress, so you'll be able to see how we're doing it at San Rafael.



Our next show is our biggest of the year, at San Rafael Catholic Church in Rancho Bernardo. Since our current membership isn't large enough to run the four scales we've shown in the past, we've invited some friends to help us out. This year, both the San Diego S Gaugers (SDSG) and the Z Scale modelerZ of Southern California (Zo-Cal) will display with us. We're looking forward to sharing these great layouts with our friends at the church.

Zo-Cal has been around a few years, and is growing. Their modules features two tracks down each side of the module, generally with a scenic divide down the center, so you can only see one side at a time. Modules can be assembled in a wide array of designs, with special return loop modules used at each end of a peninsula. The small size of the trains allows the scenery to appear majestic. The larger group just showed at the GTE in Pomona, and only the San Diego contingent will be joining us. I think you'll really enjoy their layout!

SDSG has been around about two years, and they've shown successfully at the GTE, the WGH, and the San Diego Model Railroad Museum. This is a small, but dedicated group that does good work. They're going to be at the SDMRM again this year over Labor Day weekend.

The Knights of Columbus will be sponsoring their famous Ice Cream Social Saturday. This is always a big hit with families. Then there will be coffee and donuts on Sunday. We hope you'll stop by and see us.

Our next show will be Train Song Festival at Old Poway Park, the second Saturday in October. This event combines live steam (1907 Baldwin 0-4-0), songs about trains, and model railroads, as well as various crafts and activities for the kids. We'll have a portion of our HO layout set up, and possibly some of the N scale as well, depending on the space they have available for us.

Membership is always open. We meet every week, mostly on Wednesdays, except for the last week of the month. The last week of the month is our business meeting, held the last Tuesday at Old Poway Park. Other meeting nights may be at members' homes, or at the storage unit where we keep our modules between shows. Check our web page calendar, or contact [president@powaystation.org](mailto:president@powaystation.org) to check on the meeting location.

\* \* \*

### **Layout Tours** *from Page 6*

theme. Also, there are many more diesels on Ray's layout, in UP, AT&SF, and SP livery.

Both layouts are highly detailed, with period-appropriate vehicles, signs, and people. It was a real treat to see them! At right, Burns Texaco is doing a land office business on Ray's layout, while Helms Bakery in the background awaits a delivery of flour. (Rodger Gredvig photo)

\* \* \*



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Publicity:	<b>(vacant)</b>		

### **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.

**Subscriptions:** The "Mail Hook" is available in hard copy (paper) by subscription at the following rates: \$6/year for NMRA® members, \$10/year for non-NMRA® members, and is mailed First Class.

**Delivery:** The "Mail Hook" is available in hard copy (paper) format through paid subscription and at San Diego Division events. Normal distribution is through email delivery or on the Division and PSR websites.

**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...***

July is almost gone!?!? How did that happen? There are way too many things I was supposed to do in July for me to finish up in a week! Not to mention the unexpected Honey-Do's that got thrown my way. But then, that's why we like model railroading so much - it lets us escape from the everyday world into our own little universe, where everything is just how we want it. Right? Of Course!

We had a great Spring Meet, and I was out of town. But I got good reports from my stringers, and you'll find a nice write-up in this issue. Let me know if I missed anything or anyone (apologies, if so). Thanks to Pete Steinmetz for the photos.

We also have the PSR convention coming up in September. You need to register, if you haven't, as the fee goes up August 1. We'll also need volunteers, and they should be registered for the convention. We'll try to limit your commitment to 4 hours, but it really depends on how many volunteers we get. I think you get more out of a thing when you put something into it, so why not give it a try? Mark your registration form that you'll be glad to help out, and the Registrar will hook you up with the Volunteer Coordinator.

On a sad note, I got word just as we went to press that the Division has lost a good friend. Bob Moore, a long time member of the Division, and a member of Poway Station All Scale Model Railroad Club, passed from this Earth Saturday morning. Details regarding a memorial service, flowers, or donations were not available at press time, but I'll try to get them out when they're set. In the meantime, you can contact me with your questions. I'll run a suitable tribute next issue.

Gary

## **Model Railroad Clubs in San Diego**

### **San Diego Model Railroad Museum**

Balboa Park, San Diego

Info: [www.sdmodelrailroadm.com](http://www.sdmodelrailroadm.com)

### **La Mesa Model Railroad Club (HO)**

Info: [LaMesaClub@att.net](mailto:LaMesaClub@att.net)

### **San Diego 3-Railers (O)**

Info: (858) 538-0930

### **San Diego Model Railroad Club (HO & O)**

Info: [www.sdmrrc.org](http://www.sdmrrc.org)

### **San Diego Society of N Scale (N)**

Info: [www.sdsons.org](http://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](http://www.ncmrs.org)

### **Poway Station All Scale Modular Club**

Info: [www.powystation.org](http://www.powystation.org)

### **Short Track Railroad Club (N)**

Antique Gas & Steam Engine Museum, Vista

Info: [www.shorttrackrr.org](http://www.shorttrackrr.org)

### **San Diego Garden Railway Society**

Info: [www.sdgrs.com](http://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](http://www.nmra.org)

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

NMRA National Convention <http://www.x2011west.org/>

San Diego Division: <http://www.sandiegodivision.org/>

Arizona Division: [www.azdiv-nmra.org](http://www.azdiv-nmra.org)

Cajon Division: [www.cajondiv.org](http://www.cajondiv.org)

Los Angeles Division: [www.ladiv-nmra.org/](http://www.ladiv-nmra.org/)

San Diego Model Railroad Museum: [www.sdmodelrailroadm.com](http://www.sdmodelrailroadm.com)

San Diego Rail: [www.sandiegorail.com](http://www.sandiegorail.com)



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### September 15-19, 2010

**Presented by the San Diego Division, PSR, NMRA®  
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Name(s)\*(1) \_\_\_\_\_ (2) \_\_\_\_\_

*\*As you want it to appear on your badge*

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Would you be interested in helping out while at the convention?  Yes  No, thanks

Would you be willing to give a clinic? Topic: \_\_\_\_\_  Yes  No, thanks

Operating session interest?  Yes  No, thanks

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Gary Robinson, PSR 2010 Registrar, 2319 Conway Drive, Escondido, CA 92026

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**Reservations:** 619.298.0511 <https://www.reservations-page.com/C00180/H00189/be.ashx?> - Room Rate \$109.00

Registrar's Use Only: Cash \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Check \$ \_\_\_\_\_ # \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

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**Cancellation policy: Full refund, less \$5.00 fee per registrant, when requested in writing (or email) before September 1, 2010**