



MAIL HOOK

SAN DIEGO DIVISION, PSR-NMRA

4th Quarter 2018/1st Quarter 2019

Convention Issue!

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Superintendent's Report

Don Fowler MMR

Upcoming Division Events

Layout Tour

January 12, Saturday
Noon to 3pm
Tom Kelly's Railroad
El Cajon

Winter Meet

February 9, Saturday
1pm to 5pm
Clairemont Christian
Fellowship Church
San Diego
HOBO Auction
Clinics
Fun & Fellowship

Layout Tour

San Diego Division had a great time hosting this year's Pacific Southwest Region's annual convention entitled "Beach Ops -2018" September 12-16 at the Courtyard Marriott in Fashion Valley.

One of the great benefits of membership is attending the annual PSR Convention. The week was filled with a wide variety of activities emphasizing learning opportunities for both new and experienced modelers. There were also numerous sites and events to explore that made attendee's visit to San Diego a memorable one. For those who attended, it was a perfect opportunity to renew old acquaintances, make new friends, learn more about model railroading and see some of the latest innovations in our great hobby.

Because of the number of high quality model railroads in the area, prototype and non-rail sites, the extensive clinic program, contests and other events offered, there was just not enough time to see and do everything. At the Annual Membership Meeting, we welcomed our new

March 9, Saturday
Tour TBD

Layout Tour

April 13, Saturday
Tour TBD

Other Upcoming Events

These are other Model Railroading events in the Division and Region, and by local clubs. If you want your event listed please contact mailhook@sandiegodivision.org

Los Angeles Division

February 23rd. 2019
Annual Membership Banquet
Details coming soon; check the LA Division Web Site.

April 13th. 2019
SpringRail
Details coming soon; check the LA Division Web Site.

Cajon Division

April 26 & 27
Cajon Division Spring Meet at OERM

From the Editor

Happy New Year! I apologize for the lateness of this issue of the Mail Hook. After the convention, life took over for me and zapped my time and energy (mostly from my day job!) This delivery of the Mail Hook covers Q4 2018 & Q1 2019. That will put me back on track for Q2 2019. The next Mail Hook deadline for submission is April 1. Please consider contributing an article

Region President Gary Butts and Vice-President Pat Raymer and found out about some exciting things they have planned for the coming year.

Thanks to all on this year's Committee who worked so hard to host and organize our convention. This event was in the works for more than two years and everyone's goal was to provide the very best experience for all attendees. From the feedback I received, I believe they accomplished their goal.

Next year's convention will be in Phoenix/Mesa, Arizona and promised to be another great one. I hope to see you there.

Don



Director's Report

Trudy Seeley

Hello SD Division, from your newbie Director! I had a great time, and I hope you all did too, at the Beach Ops Convention this fall. Although I was in the company store a great deal of the time, I was able to drop into parts of several clinics, and I checked out both the contest and layout rooms more than once!

In the Directors' meeting, I got a chance to interact and swap ideas with Directors from the other 3 division of the PSR. As you would expect, their issues and challenges are much like ours. We spent some time talking about which areas we might be most effective in to support our current members (transportation at conventions, types of awards, clinic assistance, events and tours with each other and interacting more with non-NMRA clubs or groups). On these topics, I would encourage you to contact me with what would benefit or interest you most. Shoot me an email any time with ideas or preferences – your participation matters!

We discussed ways to (1) retain current members and (2) gain new members. We all acknowledge that age and infirmity come into play. But in several discussions with my own circle of train friends and local clubs, I found that several folks quit various clubs/groups due to two major reasons. It wasn't cost; it wasn't lack of time or lack of interest. It was largely the presence of infighting, politics, or

on a model railroading topic so you can help share your knowledge with others! If you are a member of a club in the division and would like to see your club and club layout featured in the Mail Hook, please submit an article and pictures too!

I would like to welcome and acknowledge our **new members** who joined the NMRA and our local division in 2018:

January

Roy Davis

February

Jerry Shiller

March

Larry Harris
Stephen Downey
William Jones
Brenan Staples
Leo Staples

June

William Pope

August

Russell Smith
Laura Reese
Richard Bale

Please do all you can to welcome and encourage our newest members!

Speaking of members, the **2018 San Diego Division Member of the Year** was announced at the Convention Awards Banquet in September. See the announcement below:

"For the past ten years, this member of San Diego Division has been very generous with his time and energy in the planning and implementation of Division activities. He has never been shy about volunteering for a variety of assignments or sharing his enjoyment of model railroading with others. A few years ago, he became active with the PSR Board and

difficult personalities that made people quit a particular group. For many of us, this is a retirement (or semi-retirement) activity. We all worked hard in our previous professional lives, tried to stand up for what we believed in, but bit our tongues oh-so-often when sounding off would not have produced positive outcomes. Now we are involved in a passion, a hobby we love, and political infighting is the last thing we want to be dragged into.

On the other side, those who loved their clubs/groups rated the same things as most important to them: the camaraderie, the ready help of fellow modelers, the challenge of bettering their own skills, and the fun of sharing our successes (and failures, which we invariably identify and commiserate with) of their modeling endeavors.

Some of the ideas to reach out to new potential members had to do with where we might find them. One club had great success at swap meets. The folks at swap meets already have an interest in model railroading, but often do not belong to any groups. They may not be aware of the benefits or enjoyment that comes from the interactions with a group of modelers, even if they do not have major layouts. A couple groups interacted with local boy and girl scout groups, too.

One division focused on selling the 'Railpass' option to bring members in with only a \$20 fee – like a 9-month trial run. They would have access to all the benefits (except voting) for that limited time. The division stressed, however, the importance of personal follow-up with these new members to make sure they were connected to the activities and learning opportunities available. However, as an instant perk, they were given an NMRA box car kit and division patch when they signed up. They will be reporting back on the results of this program.

Other ideas to bring in new members and further engage current members included more opportunities for prototype and train-themed tours jointly with another Division. There are a lot of potential sites just beyond most of our normal distance/range that could be facilitated by that local division. It would give us a local guide to an area that we are not as familiar with. Also discussed were ways to involve those folks who loved trains or modeling in a former lifetime (when they were kids around the Christmas tree, teens, or prior to their own demands of parenthood). One doesn't need to have the space or discretionary funds to build a home layout. Maybe we need to highlight opportunities to run trains on a club layout; opportunities to learn how to create dioramas or mini-layouts or introduce them to the very accessible world of modular layouts. We often focus on retirees (because we finally have some time) or kids (scouts and other teens,) but I believe there are a significant number of middle aged men and women

accepted chair appointment that most others would not want. He not only fulfilled the position but also took on a special project that helps to preserve our Region history and adds to the enjoyment of every member. He has also been very involved with the last three Region conventions hosted by the San Diego Division. For these reasons and more, we are proud to present **BYRON DENSFORD** with the 2018 San Diego Division Member of the Year award."

Congratulations Byron!

I hope you enjoy reading the Mail Hook! Please consider contributing to the Q2 2019 edition.

-Ryan Di Fede
Mail Hook Editor
mailhook@sandiegodivision.org

This issue's contributors of articles, information, and pictures: Don Fowler, Trudy Seeley, and Roger Gredvig

Mail Hook Submission Guidelines:

Contributions of articles on any railroad or model-railroading topic of interest to the membership are welcome. There is no compensation. If you are interested in submitting articles, event information, or other information of interest to members of the Division, please follow these guidelines:

1. Submit by email to the Mail Hook editor at mailhook@sandiegodivision.org, with the submission attached as a text document or in the body of email message. Pictures can be attached separately to the same email.

2. Keep in mind that

(working, raising families) that have no idea there are ways to scratch their model railroading itch without a third income, 20 hours a week, and an empty basement or garage.

At any rate, I believe the future looks bright for model railroading. We can broaden our approach, embrace the new methods/processes, be they eBay or 3D printing, and carry on the amazing history and glory of railroading and railroading modeling. Again, PLEASE feel free to email me any ideas, hopes, or disgruntled thoughts – I promise to respond and carry your message forward.

Trudy Seeley
trudyseeley@gmail.com

Editorial

Come one, come all!

Haven't attended a division event in a while? Please come and help make our division events successful and a fun time for all. The division is a better place with your participation. Coming up are two great events we know you'll enjoy!

In January, the division will be hosting a tour of Tom "Shotgun" Kelly's layout. Come support and encourage Tom in his model railroading endeavors, and enjoy the camaraderie of fellow division members.

For February, the division will be hosting our "Winter Meet" at Clairemont Christian Fellowship Church. Come to participate and contribute to the fun.

Do you have a layout you would like to showcase? Contact a committee member and volunteer your layout for a future tour. And speaking of the division committee, we need you! Contact our Superintendent to find out how you can help. Currently the Layout Tour Coordinator position is open. Not your cup of tea? Don will know how you can help.

Have you ever given a clinic? We all have talents and skills we have learned in our journey as model railroaders. What better place to practice giving your clinic than a division meet! Contact Trudy if want give it a try, or are an old hand and already have clinic you can give.

We hope to see you soon!
-Mail Hook Editor

submissions may be edited for length or formatting, or not used, at the discretion of the editor.

Following are the quarterly deadlines for submitting to the Mail Hook:

January 2, April 1,
July 1, October 1

San Diego Division Officers

Director:

Trudy Seeley

Superintendent:

Don Fowler

Chief Clerk/Paymaster:

Ben Sevier

Websites

San Diego Division
www.sandiegodivision.org
PSR
www.psrnmra.org
NMRA
www.nmra.org

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PS: Here is a link to the contact information of your division committee volunteers
<http://www.sandiegodivision.org/index.php/directory>

Layout Tour January 12, 2019

12:00 to 3pm

You're invited to the home of "Shotgun" Tom Kelly for the unveiling of his HO Train layout. The 10 foot by 7 foot layout encompasses a downtown area (complete with a radio and television station), a residential area, industrial area and a full railroad yard.

The layout, designed by Tom, was constructed by Lloyd's Layouts in Paramount, California. The owners, Lloyd and Besty Kluesner are indeed Master Train Layout Builders and will be present at the open house to answer all of your questions.

If you would like a preview of Tom's layout please check it out on Youtube under "SHOTGUN TOM KELLY'S HO TRAIN LAYOUT" -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gDq3zp56Xkk&t=58s>

Location El Cajon, CA

Look for directions in an upcoming reminder email.

Division News

July Layout tour

Ryan Di Fede's

Cascade Line



Located in a backyard 6x12' shed, this N scale layout shows what can be accomplished in a small space



October Layout Tour

The Division October Layout Tour was at the North County Model Railroad Society (NCMRS). This to correspond with the club's fall swap meet. The weather was rainy, but there was still plenty to see at the swap meet. After enjoying the

swap meet and layout, the convention committee sat down to debrief a successful convention.

Click [HERE](#) to visit the NCMR's web site to see pictures of the event and learn more about the club.

August & November Meets

Attendance at our August and November meets was down, though with the Convention in September, it was understandable. Despite the lower turnout, we still had a good time, unfortunately there are no pictures to share. Our August meet was held at Peace Lutheran Church. We had a modest swap meet, BBQ lunch, and an informative clinic about passenger equipment by John Fiscella. As it is each year, the November meet was held at the San Diego Model Railroad Museum. We enjoyed a clinic by Don Fowler that he had developed for the convention. He gave a history of model railroading in San Diego. Many interesting vintage pictures were shown. Ben Sevier gave us a tour of the video library of clinics on the NMRA website, and we watched a couple of interesting videos. And a good time was had at Bingo for Trains!

December Division Holiday Party

Of course we cannot forget the the division Holiday Party. All the usual traditions were in full swing (sorry we were having so much fun we forgot to take pictures!) The evening began with a layout progress tour at Don Fowler's, followed by dinner at Jimmy's Restaurant. We played great reindeer games, a fun present exchange/game, had an ugly sweater contest, and enjoyed fellowship with model railroaders and their families for Christmas! If you missed this fun event, be sure to attend next year.

PSR Convention held in San Diego

this past September

Beach Ops 2018

A huge success!!



We had another very successful convention in San Diego, and we're not just tooting our own horn (or whistle!) As the Registrar, I received a lot of positive feedback from participants, both during and after the convention, and I know others on the committee have as well. There were many great clinics, layout tours, ops sessions, and prototype tours. The layout modular room displayed some great layouts from the San Diego S-Gagers (a double timesaver), ZoCal (Z-scale), Poway Club (HO), and the Boy Scout Layout (N-scale). A member even set up a table for testing locomotives. There were great models displayed in the Contest Room, and many were highlighted at the Awards Banquet. Enjoy the convention pictures below. Most, if not all were taken by Rodger Gredvig. Thank you Rodger!



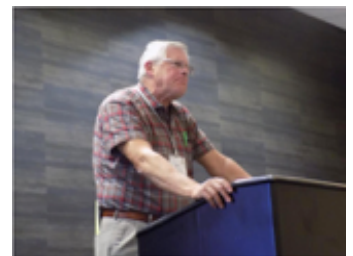
Modular Room



Contest Room



Banquet





Live Stemers



PSR Forums

The PSR member forums are now open on the PSR web site at: www.psrnmra.org

Click on the Forums tab, register your account, and participate in discussions, get up to date info on events, and ask questions of fellow members of the PSR and NMRA.

Do it TODAY!

Have you checked the San Diego Model Railroad Museum web site lately? There is a LOT going on there these days, and they can always use the support of all model railroaders!

Museum Web Site: <http://www.sdmmr.org/>

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