

**From:** PSR San Diego <publicity@sandiegodivision.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, July 5, 2019 11:27 AM  
**To:** Timothy Foote  
**Subject:** Q3 2019 Mail Hook

San Diego Division

[View this email in your browser](#)



## 3RD Quarter 2019

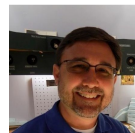
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### Upcoming Division Events



### Superintendent's Report

Ryan Di Fede

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### The end of an Era

I feel much appreciation and respect toward my good friends and mentors Don Fowler and Ben Sevier for their leadership in the SD Division over the past 16 years. They have filled the elected positions of

Held Every 2nd Saturday

**Layout Tour**

July 13, Saturday

Noon to 3pm

Tim Foote's Desert Highland RR

**Summer Meet**

August 10, Saturday

11:30am to 4pm

Located at Peace Lutheran  
Church in Linda Vista

Annual Swap Meet, BBQ,  
Clinics, Contest Judging, Show  
& Tell

**Layout Tour**

September 14, Saturday

Dick Trotter's Coyote Pass &  
Northern

**Layout Tour**

October 12, Saturday

Duncan McRee's Donner Pass

**Fall Meet**

Nov. 16, Saturday, 9am to 4pm

at the **Pacific Southwest  
Railway Museum** in Campo,  
celebrating the 100th  
anniversary of the San Diego &  
Arizona Railway.

Look for announcements about  
carpools or possible van  
transportation to Campo.

Clinics, Lunch, Bingo, Contest

Superintendent and Clerk/Paymaster  
(alternately), and organized and ran  
4 PSR conventions in San Diego.

Thankfully, they are not leaving us  
as they step down from their long  
held roles. I, for one, will rely on  
them for their knowledge and help as  
I learn how to do this job. Don will  
remain on the planning committee as  
the Past Superintendent. Ben will  
remain as our Webmaster. Thank  
you both for all your contributions to  
the Division, Region, and National  
NMRA.

So a little about me... My appetite  
for trains was whet at age 10 when  
my dad and I built a N-scale loop  
(with passing and spur tracks) on a  
door. That lasted for a year or two.  
More recently, I have been involved  
in the hobby of Model Railroading for  
about 10 years. I started at the San  
Diego Model Railroad Museum and  
shortly after that joined the NMRA,  
just prior to 2010 PSR Convention  
being held here in San Diego. For the  
past 5 or 6 years I have been more  
involved in the SD Division as Club  
Liaison, Membership Chair, and Mail  
Hook Editor.

Since Trudy Seeley has been elected  
as Clerk/Paymaster, she has stepped  
down as Division Director. In her

Judging, Show & Tell, Museum  
Tour, Train Ride

### **Layout Tour**

December 14. Saturday  
Don Fowler's SP Mojave District

Look for upcoming information  
about the Annual Division  
Christmas Party

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## **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](mailto:mailhook@sandiegodivision.org)

### **LA Division events:**

*click the link for more information*  
[https://www.ladiv-  
nmra.org/events.html](https://www.ladiv-nmra.org/events.html)

### **Cajon Division events:**

*click the link for more information*  
<http://www.cajondivision.org>

### **Arizona Division events:**

Fall Meet, Saturday, Nov. 9th  
9am to 4pm  
*click the link for more information*  
[http://www.azdiv-  
nmra.org/index.shtml](http://www.azdiv-nmra.org/index.shtml)

place I have appointed Pete  
Steinmetz as Interim Director, and  
he has accepted the appointment. He  
will be running for SD Division  
Director in the PSR election later this  
year. See the sidebar of this Mail  
Hook for his candidate statement.

This Division runs on volunteers. The  
more volunteers we have committed  
to growing the division and hobby,  
the more fun and good fellowship we  
will enjoy. I am asking for such  
volunteers to serve on the planning  
committee for Division events.  
Posted on the side bar of this Mail  
Hook are the volunteer chairman  
positions, as I understand them. You  
can see there are some vacancies.  
Some have been vacant, some are  
positions Trudy and I have held  
recently (and may still be doing e.g.,  
this Mail Hook!). We would like to  
see others join up to help make this  
Division successful and attractive to  
members who will want to  
participate. Please consider taking on  
a role on the Division planning  
committee. We cannot do it without  
you! We will be holding a committee  
meeting the hour before the  
upcoming 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday Layout Tour  
at Tim Foote's home. Feel free to sit  
in on the meeting, and I encourage  
you to volunteer to help.

## **PSR 2019 Regional Convention**

Arizona Junction

September 25 through 29

*click the link for more information*

<https://www.azdiv-nmra.org/psr2019convention/>



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### **From the Editor**

The Mail Hook needs interesting articles and features. Please consider writing and submitting an article on a Model Railroading topic to share your knowledge with other modelers. A how-to article or highlighting a project you are working on. Maybe you could write an article about your layout progress, including pictures. Earn AP points or just make it a fun challenge. Start thinking now because the next Mail Hook deadline is October 1.

If you are a member of a club in the division and would like to

Even if you are not able to volunteer, be sure to check out Tim's layout on Saturday, July 13, 2019, Noon to 3pm.

A word on upcoming Division Meets: I want to encourage you to bring to Division Meets your models for judging (particularly if you are interested in the Golden Spike Award and/or the Achievement Program). The forms and judges are available at every meet. If you do not desire judging, bring something for show and tell. It is fun to show off your work and others enjoy seeing and being inspired.

The Summer Meet & Swap Meet will once again be held at Peace Lutheran Church in Linda Vista on the second Saturday in August. Thanks to Rodger Gredvig who has been working to keep this venue available to us. Please help make the Swap Meet a success by bringing your items to sell, or bringing your money to purchase! Of course there is the BBQ and clinics!

For the Fall Meet something different has been planned. The Pacific Southwest Railway Museum (PSRM) in Campo is celebrating the 100th

see your club and club layout featured in the Mail Hook; please submit an article and pictures too!

I hope you enjoy reading the Mail Hook, and please consider contributing.

-Ryan Di Fede  
Mail Hook Editor  
[mailhook@sandiegodivision.org](mailto:mailhook@sandiegodivision.org)

**This issue's contributors of articles, information, and pictures:** Tim Foote, Pete Steinmetz, Trudy Seeley, Paul Schmitt, and Roger Gredvig

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#### **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. Please Submit by email to the Mail Hook Editor at [mailhook@sandiegodivision.org](mailto: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.

anniversary of the San Diego & Eastern Railway and has invited us to hold our Meet in conjunction with their event. In addition to our usual meet activities, we will have the opportunity to tour the museum and take a train ride. To make it easier to attend, we will be arranging carpooling, but we are also looking into the possibility of van transportation to Campo. Details are still being worked out and will be communicated, as the event gets closer. The day is also different. We will meet on the 3rd Saturday (November 16th) so as to coincide with the PSRM events.

Lastly, I wanted to point your attention to the article about the late Don Ham. I wish I had had a chance to get to know him better. I know he was a great friend and a great modeler. My thoughts and prayers go out to his family, the members of the Short Track RR club, and fellow NMRA members who miss him most.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with comment and suggestions.  
Thank you for your support!

Ryan Di Fede  
Superintendent

2. Keep in mind that 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

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#### FEEL LOW DIVISION MEMBERS LEND ME YOUR MODEL RR LAYOUT!

Since the beginning of this year I have been in charge of scheduling model railroad layout tours. Thanks to our members and one nonmember, we have had some excellent tours. You may have a layout that you would like to submit for a club tour. Please contact me. Or you may know of someone that has a layout that I could contact to request a tour. The layout does not have to be complete. It is instructive for us to see the layout under construction as well. Additionally, if you have any ideas about potential prototype tours, let me know. The layout tours are always on the second Saturday of the month from Noon to 3:00 pm, though we might be able to flex that time if necessary.

Tim Foote

[superintendent@sandiegodivision.org](mailto:superintendent@sandiegodivision.org)



#### **Directors's Report**

Trudy Seeley (past  
director)

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This will be my last article as your SD Division PSR Director. As I was elected Clerk/Paymaster at the Spring Meet held at Short Track RR, I have resigned the Director position to focus on our Division activities and support our new Superintendent, Ryan Di Fede.

At our mid-year PSR Director's Meeting in Huntington Beach in late April, we set about tackling several questions and projects. One that affects the various Divisions directly is the decision to pass back to each Division the small stipend from National (\$2/person/year) drawn from our dues. It has historically gone into the Region's coffers. Those amounts will now be passed through to the individual Divisions. We'll also be seeing a new projector for our clinics and presentations at quarterly Meets, provided by PSR!

The Region will also provide Golden Spike ***trophies*** to the Divisions. Previously, some Divisions

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### **2019 PSR San Diego Director Candidate Statement**

My name is Pete Steinmetz. I have been a model railroader since childhood. I currently model HO and On30. I have previously modeled N Scale.

I have been an NMRA member since 2001. I have previously served as your PSR San Diego Director for four years. I am also the PSR Membership chair. I have made a number of accomplishments within the division. I have updated and corrected the membership roster for the San Diego Division. All new members in the PSR are contacted, offered our services, and invited to division events. This helps make sure we can communicate effectively with all our members. I have worked hard to make sure the clinics presented at our conventions are first rate with interesting material being presented.

I have been working with NMRA HQ on some adjustments to the AP Program designed to get more modelers involved. I am a National contest Judge at the NMRA National convention. I am on the National Edu-Train Committee. We evaluate clinics and add them to the national library where other modelers can present them at NMRA Events. Our leadership in the San Diego Division works well together to add value to the NMRA memberships in our area.

did have a physical trophy (a gold spike, obviously) for those achieving that rank while other Divisions provided certificates. The Directors believed the added incentive of the golden spike trophy was worth the cost, and more importantly, as it is usually seen as the first step in the Achievement Program, it is well deserved by those who took up that challenge and persevered.

We in the San Diego Division have not been as active in the Achievement Program as some other Divisions. Many members who have layouts, whatever size or complexity, have already done much of the actual work that is required. It can often be documented (with help from one of our local members) and qualify for achievement awards. A little well-deserved recognition is good for the soul!

Those of us starting out in new positions in with the SD Division are hoping for your support and involvement. No one has unlimited time or energy, but the old 'many hands' maxim is so true. [It's also really fun to be a part of creating something with a group of model railroad friends!] Please think about how you might become a bit more involved in our SD Division – at just one meet or event...as a contact for technical questions...to investigate home layouts to create 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday layout tours...to help publicize Division events...to take on the Mail Hook editorship! Who knows! Please join us!

Trudy Seeley  
Chief Clerk/Paymaster

continue as PSR San Diego Division Director.

[paymaster@sandiegodivision.org](mailto:paymaster@sandiegodivision.org)

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### San Diego Division Officers

#### Interim Director:

Pete Steinmetz

#### Superintendent:

Ryan Di Fede

#### Chief Clerk/Paymaster:

Trudy Seeley

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### San Diego Division Chairs

#### Membership Services:

Vacant

#### Member Aid:

Vacant

#### Contests:

Rodger Gredvig, MMR

#### Clinics:

Vacant

#### Publicity/Club Liaison:

Vacant

#### Achievement Program:

Paul Schmitt, MMR

#### "Mail Hook" Editor:

Vacant

#### Layout Tours:

Tim Foote

#### Meet Coordinator:



**Don Ham, Rest in Peace**

Reprinted from:

### **SHORT TRACK TRAFFIC**

#### **– Special Edition**

Submitted by Paul Schmitt

Alas, we lost another great member. Don Ham passed away quietly early Wednesday morning (May 1). He had a pleasant evening with his brothers, eating Hagen Daz and watching the Padres. Don had three brothers, a sister, three children, and also left behind his beautiful wife, Teresa. He was laid to rest



Dick Roberts, MMR

**Webmaster:**

Ben Sevier

**Past Superintendent:**

Don Fowler, MMR

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### **Websites**

**San Diego Division**

[www.sandiegodivision.org](http://www.sandiegodivision.org)

**PSR**

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

**NMRA**

[www.nmra.org](http://www.nmra.org)

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**San Diego Division**

**Pacific Southwest Region**

**National Model Railroad Association**



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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

after a beautiful US Navy ceremony at Miramar National Cemetery complete with rifle shots, bugler and flag folding for the widow.

Don was a California boy. Born and raised. He earned Eagle Scout. He graduated from Chico State University and joined the Navy. He had guts. He went to flight school to fly helicopters in the Vietnam War and later in Antarctica. He made a career in the Naval Reserve and retired a Commander.

He was a man of many hobbies and interests. He managed to turn his love of woodworking into a successful cabinet shop in Escondido. He also loved classic cars. He rebuilt and customized many and you probably saw him “Cruisin’ Grand” on a Friday evening. He definitely had the “knack”! He could fix or model anything that interested him. He made beautiful models of every aircraft that he flew and built an incredible model train layout representing the California central valley farm country. His garage looked like a modeler’s museum, or better yet, a modeler’s paradise!

Don came to us because of his love of model trains. We were very lucky to get him. He fit right in at the Museum because he was a “take charge” kind of guy and he got things done, right now. He was a key mover and shaker at our Section House.

When he first came to Short Track he didn’t like our old yellow club shirts. So, in about two winks he designed new

railroaders!

Museum Web

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

green shirts and khaki hats with embroidered logos. (Green was his favorite color.) The shirts came with pockets for his aviator sunglasses, which caused a bit of ado, but he won that battle. (Notice the picture.)

Soon Don took over the reins of the exhibit construction committee as the Chief Engineer. His leadership, modeling example, prodding and pushing (I'm being nice.) over ten years resulted in the awesome Donner Pass Exhibit that you now see in the model train building. Off he would go with his family, driving and hiking around Northern California taking pictures of the railroad prototype and scenery so that our modeling would be just right and properly realistic. That is, "Museum quality." He was also the ramrod for beginning another exhibit depicting the Western Pacific route.

"Hambone" as only the brave among us called him, was always a happy warrior. He liked and was liked by everyone. He had a talent for including everyone in our layout construction program, especially the new guys. He would teach his modeling techniques and secrets to anyone interested. (And some that weren't.) Don made immeasurable contributions to the Short Track Railroad and the Museum. He spent many hours loading tourists at the Flower Fields.

Don was also an active member of the National Model Railroad Association (NMRA). He was a member in the San Diego division and managed their monthly activities and swap meets for years. Don loved swap meets. He could

magically make the proverbial “pig’s ear” produce cash. He was also a master of the “would-you-take” tactic that got him many good deals including a beautiful red corvette.

He learned of the NMRA’s Achievement Program and decided he could tackle that too. Don earned the coveted Master Model Railroader Award (MMR). The award recognizes great modeling skills but engineering and construction talents as well as service to the model-railroading hobby. To give you an idea of how difficult it is to achieve this award, Don was MMR #491. That means there were only 490 MMR’s awarded before him since the nineteen sixties! When Don was presented his award at a quarterly meeting the presenter hit him in the face with the traditional cream pie. Not a good idea. Don chased him with the pie remains and got even! But even after all his hobbies, Don’s primary focus was on his family. He was always talking about them and bragging. Meeting with his family and friends at his memorial service made it clear that Don was a man beloved by all who knew him; especially the boys at Short Track Railroad.

Don was a good pilot, a good modeler, a good leader, a good friend, a good family man, father and husband. He was an all-around good guy!

We will miss him!

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## Division News

### Spring Meet

Held May 11, 2019

### San Diego Division 2019 Spring Meet



May 11, 2019  
Short Track Club – Vista, CA



Don Fowler called the meeting to order, and promptly announced that nominations elections for Superintendent and Chief Clerk/Paymaster would be our next order of business – and that after 16 years, he and Ben Sevier would not be seeking re-election! At which point Trudy Seeley was elected as Clerk/Paymaster, and Ryan Di Fede as Superintendent.



Short Track President, Paul Schmitt, presents an AP Certificate for Author. Gene Forbes accepted the certificate on behalf of Steve Harris (in absentia).



Paul Schmitt then led a Tribute to Master Railroader, Don Hamm, who passed away after a long debilitating illness. Don, was not only a Vietnam era helicopter pilot, but a consummate modeler and a major worker & participant in the Short Track Club.



Bruce Semelsberger, the docent, historian, and main Librarian at the Pacific Southwest Museum, gave a clinic on the history of railroads in San Diego County, emphasizing the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the San Diego and Arizona Eastern RR, which will be celebrated in November. He encouraged us to help participate in this historic event. Bruce shared a PowerPoint of rare and not often seen photographs and maps of the development of shipping and railroads culminating in the present day, San Diego and Arizona Ry.



Bob Chaparro then led a hands-on clinic called "Chalking it Up!" In a PPT presentation he showed prototype examples of employee chalk marks and their meaning to facilitate switching and routing of cars. Participants were encouraged to bring a boxcar from home on which to apply the techniques. Bob demonstrated. It worked best with darkly painted cars that are HO and larger. However, there are some commercial decals and dry-transfer graphics that can be purchased and applied in all scales



There was also a silent auction and all enjoyed viewing the latest completed sections of Short Track's Donner Pass RR in N scale.





## June Layout Tour

Steve Seidensticker's G Scale

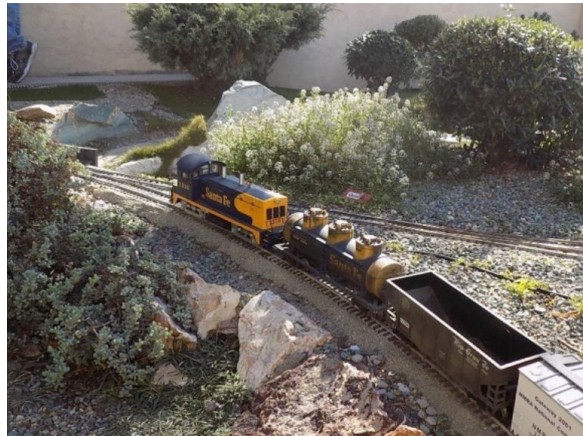
Gopher Canyon Lines





The Gopher Canyon Line is a G-scale outdoor point-to-point RR designed for operation. It extends from the backyard garage around the front of the house, along other side to the back yard in giant U shape. Steve has a crew operate every month. All engines run by “dead rail”, that is, there is no power on the rail. Engines have batteries and operate with various systems like CVP and Bluetooth technology. They can be controlled by wireless throttles, and even by smart phones.





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