



MAIL HOOK

SAN DIEGO DIVISION, PSR-NMRA

OCTOBER 2002

Mission Possible 2002 - Chairman's Report

By Chuck Hart

Well, the San Diego Division made it through another PSR convention and it was a good one. We had terrific weather, beautiful locations both at the Mission and Marty's Valley Inn and great people to work with for our activities.

I can't say enough about the committee members. Every one pulled together and did their part to make sure the conventioners had plenty to do. The committee consisted of: Ken Allen - convention oversight, George Boggs - outside displays, John Sigurdson and Dave Cobbe - train show, Sam Dale - publicity/advertising/silent auction/company store, Gene Forbes - prototype tours, Bob Moore and Don Fowler - Clinics, Jim Krater and Rodger Gredvig - Layout tours, Ed Hatch - contest room, Gordon Miller - transportation, Jim Nemitz - live auction, Milt Perkins - door prizes, Ken Allen and Walt Schmalgameier - Security, Paul Schmitt -Treasurer, Connie Schmitt - adult non-rail, Ben Sevier - registration. Sam and Dee Dale - banquet. In addition to the committee we had many others

Continued on page 3

Superintendent's Report

By Ken Allen

Hello everyone, I hope this finds you all well and happy!

Did you miss the Convention? If so, you missed a good one! The San Diego Division put on one of the best and financially successful Conventions in the past eight years, and we were the ones who had the 1994 Convention at the Town & Country Hotel. Which makes us the CHAMPS! Of course, these things don't put themselves on. It takes a lot of work from the Division Membership (meaning you). We had a great team headed by Chuck Hart with Sam Dale (Division Member of the Year), John Sigurdson and Ben Sevier doing the lions share of the work. There were 15 members involved with all of the different tasks. Thanks to all of you for your hard work!

Our November Fall Meet will be held on Saturday the 9th at the San Diego Model Railroad Museum. Starting time is 5pm. Dinner will be a potluck, and we will be able to run on the HO Layout (and perhaps the O gauge as well). Bring your own trains or run one of the Club's. We will also have a Model Contest, a Favorite Model Contest and a door prize drawing. At this meeting we will honor the Division members who worked so hard on the Convention. This is a definite MUST COME event!

Now to the coming year. We will hold a Meet EVERY MONTH at a member's layout. This will give us a chance to have some fun and get to know each other better. The dates are set but as we don't have all the locations yet we will get the word to you later. Just be sure to mark your calendar with these dates. (Look for the "pull out" Calendar in this issue of the Mail Hook). At each meet we will have door prizes, and will raffle off NICE prizes as well. We plan to offer

Continued on page 2

In This Issue

Convention Report	1
Superintendent's Report	1
BSA at the Convention	2
Modeling Tip - Lighting	3
Modeling Tip - Clean Wheels	4
Education Request	4
Fall Meet Flyer	5
Events Wall Calendar	6
Summer Meet Report	7
Achievement Program Report	7
Events Schedules	8



Boy Scouts at the Convention

by Rodger Gredvig, MMR

At the PSR Mission Possible 2002 Convention in Oceanside the Boy Scout's Ntrak display generated interest with young and old alike (see photos). Four modules being built by local scouts were set up as a stand alone layout, with return loops for the Ntrak branch (blue) line and

Mountain Division (green line).

Trains ran continuously for the 3 day convention, as was an operating mine skip on the

layout. Scouts and scout leaders manned the display, answered questions about construction techniques, and discussed the Railroading Merit Badge program.

Flyers were distributed promoting the hobby of Model Railroading, such as "World's Greatest Hobby", Kalmbach's "Introduction to Model Railroading", NMRA pamphlets, "Operation Lifesaver" information, and Boy Scout literature.

Additional photos can be seen on the Web at:

<http://www.geocities.com/stnsinr/Ntrak3b.html>. Be sure to right-click on images and choose "view image" to see enlarged versions of each photo. We thank Charles Nauman of Las Vegas for providing the pictures and allowing them to be published.



Appreciative Fans of the BSA Exhibit



Scout and Scoutmaster



Continued from page 1

refreshments for a nominal charge to help support the Division.

Election Time! Our Bylaws state that Paul Schmitt (Paymaster) and I can't hold the same office for a third term, so why not get into the game. Contact Ed Hatch (Nominations Chairman) at 858-274-2283 and let him know that you would like to help the Division, and in which capacity. We will start a new Convention Committee for the 2006 Convention in January. If you want to be on a winning team, call Ed and let him know.

Well, that's all for now. I expect to see you all at the Fall Meet on November 9th!

See you down the track! Ken



Thank you all for the 2001 "Member of the Year" award - particularly Tom Mohr - who's in a place where there are no derailments and the tracks never get dirty. The picture is magnificent!

I was quite surprised and somewhat humbled by the award.

Thank you again.

Frank Tepedino

Submissions

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 floppy disk, 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 2003/2004: January 18, 2003; April 19, 2003; July 19, 2003; October 18, 2003, January 17, 2004

helping during the convention period. Thanks to all of you for your hard work over the last 2 years of preparation.

The highlights during the banquet included our guest speaker Hal Carstens. Hal presented a slide show outlining a 50 year time line of the history of model railroading. It sure was interesting to see the progress that has been made in this short time period and to listen to the experience and influence that Mr. Carstens has made to the hobby. Also included during the banquet was the presentation of the many awards received from the contest room entries. I won't try to cover those here as most of this information will be in the next "Dispatch" and in this and future issues of the "Mail Hook".

Here are some statistics and information from some of the committee members. Registration indicates 136 full rail and 21 full non-rail attendees with another 14 single day attendees. There were 90 people attending the banquet. 31 people attended the prototype tours. States represented included Arizona, California, Colorado, New Jersey, Nevada, and Wisconsin. We received about 100 door prizes to pass out during the convention and we also held door prize drawings during the train show for the public. The train show had over 1400 paid admissions and at least that many kids under 12 (admitted free) also attended.

The budget was kept in line in most cases and we have a pretty good idea of the remaining costs to pay out. It looks like the division stands to put about \$5000.00 into the bank as a result of the success of the convention and we should be able to turn over about \$2000.00 to the Region. Again I want to thank all those people who attended the convention and all of the committee members, volunteers, and organizations who worked very hard to give us all a fun time.

MODELING TIP - LIGHTING

By Jim Hanna

Many modelers would like to replace the headlight in their locomotives with a nice bright white LED. However, when the white LED is installed and turned on, it's BLUE!! This has been a real source of frustration for modelers and the manufacturers don't seem to be in any hurry to change it. Therefore, we must take things into our own hands and this little tip will show you an economical and effective way to overcome the "BLUES".

There are several ways to accomplish this, but we will talk about only one of them here at this time. The easiest and most economical method is the use of a product manufactured by a company named PLAID. Their product is called GALLERY GLASS WINDOW COLOR and it's product number is Amber 16020. It is supplied in a 2 oz. bottle and is available at Michael's craft stores for about \$2.50. It is a product used by stained glass crafters to color their glass. The stuff is a thick mixture that you squeeze from the tip of the dispenser bottle. Simply cover the White LED with a generous (you can't use too much) glob of this stuff and set it aside to dry for several hours. It will shrink-dry down over the LED and will look as if it came that way from the factory.

When illuminated, the white LED is now a white LED and the blue is gone.

For those of you who are interested, I buy ultra bright White LED manufactured by Sloan and available thru Allied Electronics at \$3.06 each for quantities of 1 to 24. Try www.alliedelec.com or 1-800-433-5700, part #265-9054. Have Fun!!

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Clean Wheels!

by Frank Tepedino

At the last PSR meeting a discussion ensued regarding the importance, methods and various advantages of cleaning track. That got me thinking. Spending lots of time and attention on clean track is important, but if you don't keep the rolling stock wheels clean, it won't be of much benefit.

I determined to get back to my layout and clean wheels, starting with my cars. Here are some comments on how I did it.

Using a previously shaped foam cradle to lay the cars in, top down, I got out some old toothbrushes I keep for this purpose. Dipping the brush in denatured or rubbing alcohol, I pressed the brush in a somewhat careful back and forth motion across the rolling surface of the wheels. Don't ask me what the concentration of the alcohol was - I used what I had and didn't pay any attention. (Maybe someone can tell me what the differences and advantages might be between 85% or 95%, etc.). While brushing with one hand I tried to rotate the wheels with my thumb on the other hand. It seemed to work most of the time. I found using my headset magnifying glasses worked well to closely see what I was doing. Also, think about using gloves. The first few hours I did not, and found that it took two days of hand washing to get the grime out from under my fingernails.

As I worked I noticed that the plastic wheels on various cars seemed very pitted. Could it be that the petroleum based track cleaners I use, (sometimes a cloth soaked in alcohol and sometimes Goo Gone), are dissolving or adversely affecting the plastic wheels? (Do we have a chemist in our club?). To dry and finish cleaning the wheels, I carefully (most of the time), rolled the car back and forth on its wheels on flat nonfluffy towel. Use a towel with a flat nap. Otherwise you're going to break off delicate parts such as glad hands and uncoupling levers (ask me how I know about this).

In addition to cleaning the wheels I wanted to retest the "Roll Rate" of each car. In the past I've heard the term "free rolling" cars but no one explained what that meant. Therefore I decided to establish my own standard for my pike. I took a 36 inch piece of Atlas flex track and glued it to a somewhat straight, 3 1/2" by 3/4" by 36 inch long board. Then I propped up one end of the board by fiddling with some scrap pieces of wood. I got the

Education

by Walter Schmalgemeier

Some time ago I introduced myself, and asked for your cooperation in collecting information on educational and outreach activities in the division. I've received little input to date. I know that our lives and schedules are hectic these days, but with the increasing use of email in scheduling and coordination of activities you could keep me informed by adding my address to your distribution. My email address is wschmalgemeier@cox.net. I don't need all the details about what is being done, just information as to who (person, club or organization) will be putting on the event, where it will be held, and what audience is being targeted. You might also consider an article in the Mail Hook, describing both your successes and failures, to give others ideas for future activities. And Mail Hook articles will help you qualify for the AP Program's Author Certificate, and put you on the road to your MMR!

board on a slight incline: 2 1/2 degree on the high end; and 1/2 degree on the low end. I used a gauge I have, (#36 Magnetic Polycast Protractor), to make the measurements. I have no idea what the rate or percent of incline it is, but it seemed OK for my purposes. After putting several of my cleaned wheel cars on the track for testing, I determined that if the cars placed on the "high" end of the track rolled swiftly off the "low" end of the track they would be classified as "HIGH ROLL RATE CARS".

Wow! Some cars that were previously listed in my inventory as "Hi Rollers", now tested "MEDIUM" and worse some even tested "LOW". How could that be? Could it be that my present test procedure was flawed? Could it be that the

Continued on page 7

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SAN DIEGO DIVISION PSR-NMRA

FALL MEET

Saturday, November 9th - 5:00 pm

San Diego Model Railroad Museum, Balboa Park, San Diego

DOOR PRIZES!

*FAVORITE MODEL
CONTEST!*

TIPS & TECHNIQUES!

*BRING YOUR OWN
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HAVE MORE FUN -
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A TO E: APPETIZERS OR SNACKS

F TO L: SALAD OR MAIN DISH

M TO R: MAIN DISH

S TO Z: DESSERT

Bring your own serving utensils - drinks, plates & eating utensils supplied

San Diego Division - Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9 Fall Meet SD MRRM 5:00pm
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
<i>National Model Railroading Month</i>						
17	18	19	20	21	22	23 Layout Meet Don Fowler 12:00 Noon
24	25	26	27	28 <i>Thanksgiving Day</i>	29 <i>Hanukkah</i>	30

November 2002

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
<i>No Events Planned for December</i>						
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25 <i>Christmas Day</i>	26	27	28
29	30	31				

December 2002

			1 <i>New Years Day</i>	2	3	4
5	6 Div Business Meeting Short Trak 'N'	7	8	9	10	11 Layout Meet Short Trak 'N' 12:00 noon
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

January 2003

prior test procedure, which was different, was flawed? Could it be I did a lousy job cleaning the wheels? Could it be the pitted, marred plastic wheel surfaces? (See the comment above on dissolving plastic wheels). I determined that all my cars would be HIGH roll rate cars. Thus I purchased about 35 sets of KATO wheel sets. I've tried a number of different wheel set manufacturers, but to me KATO seems the best a little costly but the best.

Starting in May, and substantially finishing in early June, I proceeded, car by car, (some 239 cars), with the cleaning, roll rate testing and wheel set replacements and retesting. To meet my HIGH roll rate requirement, some cars needed both wheel sets replaced, some only one set. A number of cars already had KATO wheel sets, and did not need any wheel sets replacements.

A few other benefits came out of all this work. I found some of my cars had loose internal weights, which in most cases was easily fixed. I also found that my old inventory number of different types of cars was incorrect as was the total number of all cars. Also a few of the cars had incorrect car numbers listed on the inventory. Some cars, after cleaning, new trucks and reweighing, were diverted to the RIP track for missing parts: (brake handwheels, etc.) or for more major repairs such as truck overhauls to accept the KATO wheel sets.

Something I wish I had done was check coupler height, and operational testing. If I had to start over I would have included this step in the process. It would have been easy to check each car's couplers at the same time as cleaning the wheels, roll testing, and weighing. I suggest you consider this step.

Now on to the Engines UGH!

SUMMER MEET REPORT

by Ed Hatch, Meet Chairman

The Family Picnic at Rohr Park with the Chula Vista Live Steamers was another fun event, an opportunity for Division members to meet old friends, make new ones, and relax in a "railroady" environment. In all, about 20 people attended this year, and all had a great time!

We shared Swiss Turkey Roll sandwiches, salad, and other goodies. As in years past, we had a great "Bocce Ball" tournament, with trophies awarded to the winners, Steve Ulmer and David

Schmidt. Steve is familiar to many for his railfan events, and Dave has become a Bocce Ball champion at our meets.

Mark your calendar now for next year's Summer Meet and Family Picnic, at the same great place, on August 9th, 2003. See you there!



ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

by Ed Hatch

The year started off with Gordon Miller receiving his "Golden Spike" award. He made some lighting and other detail changes and applied for the "Master Builder - Scenery" award, which he received at the Convention Banquet.

Michael Butler's "Golden Spike" award arrived in the mail, and I forwarded it to his new home in Arizona (after a search on the Internet). He was glad to finally receive it.

Paul Schmitt received his "Association Volunteer" award, earned through much work for the Division. He is currently the Division Paymaster, and was treasurer for the Convention. He just keeps on working!

William Brooks earned his "Golden Spike" award with his modules, which are truly "works of art". He received the award at the Convention.

If you haven't looked into the achievement program, and the recognition you can receive for all the work you do in this hobby, you should!

*(Link to "Golden Spike Award" on NMRA:
<http://www.nmra.org/achievement/gold.html>)*

MONTHLY LAYOUT MEET

As mentioned in Ken's message, the Division is starting a new event, a monthly Meet at the home of a Division member (volunteer, natch). These will normally be on a Saturday afternoon. The Division will provide lunch fixin's for a small fee, but you may bring something if you like. At these meets you will have a chance to view (maybe operate) a fellow member's layout, have lunch, participate in a raffle, maybe win a door prize, and enjoy the company of others who enjoy the hobby just like you do.

The first Meet will be at the house of Don Fowler, who lives in Santee. Don has a 'N' scale layout in his garage with scenery, sound and lots of operation. Don has offered his outdoor grill for those who would like to bring something to cook. Don's address is: 10768 Sayers Court, Santee. If you plan to attend, email Ben Sevier at bwsevier@sbcglobal.net, or phone 858-538-9863.

SCHEDULE OF PSR-NMRA EVENTS

November 2002

- Nov 9 - Sat 5:00 pm - **S.D. Division Fall Meet** -
San Diego Model Railroad Museum
Nov 23 - Sat 12:00 noon - **Monthly Layout Meet** -
Don Fowler, 10768 Sayers CT, Santee

December 2002

No events planned

January 2003

- Jan 6 - Mon 7:00 pm - **S.D. Division Business Meeting** - SDMRRM
Jan 11 - Sat 12:00 noon - **Monthly Layout Meet** -
Short Trak 'N' Club, Escondido

February 2003

- Feb 8 - Sat 11:00 am - **S.D. Division Winter Meet** -
Peace Lutheran Church, Linda Vista

March 2003

- Mar 8 - Sat 12:00 noon - **Monthly Layout Meet** -
TBA

April 2003

- Apr 12 - Sat 12:00 noon - **Monthly Layout Meet** -
TBA

May 2003

- May 10 - Sat 10:00 am - 12:00 noon - **S.D. Division Annual Swap Meet** - Poway
May 10 - Sat 12:00 noon - **S.D. Division Spring Meet** - Poway

June 2003

- Jun 14 - Sat 12:00 noon - **Monthly Layout Meet** -
TBA

July 2003

- Jul 12 - Sat 12:00 noon - **Monthly Layout Meet** -
TBA

August 2003

- Aug 9 - Sat 11:00 am - **S.D. Division Summer Meet & Family Picnic** - Rohr Park, Chula Vista

September 2003

- Sep 20 - Sat 12:00 noon - **Monthly Layout Meet** -
TBA

October 2003

- Oct 11 - Sat 12:00 noon - **Monthly Layout Meet** -
TBA

November 2003

- Nov 8 - Sat 12:00 noon - **S.D. Division Fall Meet** -
TBA

OTHER EVENTS OF INTEREST

November 2002

- Nov 9, 10, 11 - 7:30 am to 5:00 pm - **A Day With Thomas** - Orange Empire Railroad Museum, Perris, CA
Nov 16, 17 - 7:30 am to 5:00 pm - **A Day With Thomas** - Orange Empire Railroad Museum, Perris, CA

January 2003

- Jan 4 - 7:00 am to 11:00 am - **San Diego Model Railroad Museum Swap Meet** - SDMRRM, Balboa Park. Contact: Pete Munoz, 619-293-0162

March 2003

- Mar 1 - 9:00 am to 2:00 pm - **Spring 2003 Railroadiana Swap Meet** - Orange Empire Railroad Museum, Perris, CA

May 2003

- May 3 - 7:00 am to 11:00 am - **San Diego Model Railroad Museum Swap Meet** - SDMRRM, Balboa Park. Contact: Pete Munoz, 619-293-0162

October 2003

- Oct 18 - 7:00 am to 11:00 am - **San Diego Model Railroad Museum Swap Meet** - SDMRRM, Balboa Park. Contact: Pete Munoz, 619-293-0162

Volunteers Needed!

Looking for a way to help your division? There are many openings for volunteers to help put on Division events and activities. If you would like to help, contact any of the division staff.



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Youth (under 20)	\$30.00 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$2.00 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$32.00 <input type="checkbox"/>
Affiliate (no bulletin or local publications)	\$23.00 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$4.00 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$27.00 <input type="checkbox"/>
Family	\$ 9.00 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$1.00 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$10.00 <input type="checkbox"/>

* You **MUST** be a member of the NMRA to be a PSR member

For information on NMRA activities, contact the San Diego Division membership Chairman:
Ben Sevier, (858) 538-9863

Please send this application and your check or money order made payable to "Pacific Southwest Region, NMRA. Mail to: PSR-NMRA Membership, Ben Sevier, 12793 Warhorse Street, San Diego, CA 92129

Cut along this line, and mail to the above adress with your payment

Online - Web Sites of Interest

Train Net: www.trainnet.org

NMRA: www.nmra.org

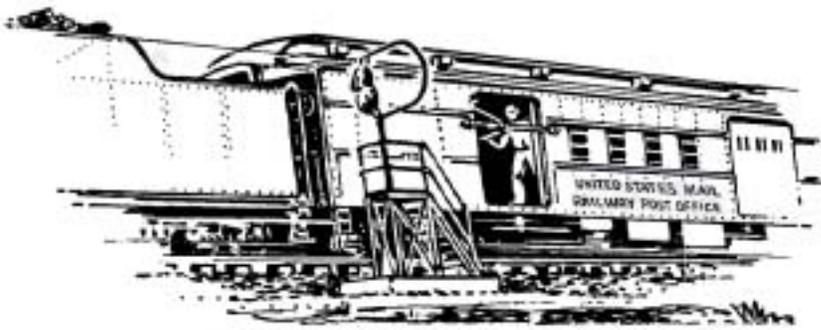
PSR: www.getnet.net/~dickg/nmra/psr/psr.html

Arizona Express 2003 Convention: http://www.trainnet.org/documents/az_express1.htm

San Diego Division: www.getnet.net/~dickg/nmra/sdiego/sdiego.html

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MAIL HOOK

LOOK INSIDE FOR THE LATEST NEWS!

- Superintendent's Report
- Convention Reports!
- Fall Meet details!
- Interesting Articles!

Details in this issue!



MAIL HOOK

c/o Ben Sevier, Editor
12793 War Horse Street
San Diego, CA 92129

A quarterly publication of the **San Diego Division**
of the **Pacific Southwest Region**
of the **National Model Railroad Association**

