



# MAIL HOOK

SAN DIEGO DIVISION, PSR-NMRA

1st Quarter, 2020 Edition

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## San Diego Division Winter Meet

Saturday, February 8, 2020

11:30pm to 3:00pm

Location: Clairemont Christian Fellowship Church  
4570 Mt. Herbert Ave. , San Diego, CA 92117

### Activities:

**Potluck Lunch:** Please bring food to share:

MAIN DISH: Last names starting in letters A through M

SIDE or DESERT: Last names starting in letters N through Z

### Clinic: Introduction to the NMRA Website

Clinician: Mike Hampson

Mike Hampson is a California native and newest member of the PSR. He is currently a webmaster, graphic designer, writer and a small business owner with one employee. Mike will review the NMRA website and how it benefits its members, including but not limited to: Logging on to the NMRA website, forums, 100% clubs, Special Interest Groups, President's Message, NMRA Bulletin, NMRA eBulletin, Turntable, Finding layouts of NMRA members anywhere in the world, NMRA vendor discounts listings, benefits, and more

**Dick Roberts, our Clinics Chair, will distribute a survey questionnaire** about clinic preferences for future meets. Come with your ideas and suggestions!

**Hobo Auction:** Please bring items to donate to the Hobo Auction and cash for Hobo Tickets. The more participation, the more fun! \$5 per sheet, 5 sheets for \$20. Proceeds benefit the San Diego Division.

**Show & Tell:** Please bring projects you have been working on and tell us your good work and tips. It is fun to see what you have been working on. If you wish to have your model evaluated for AP points, we will have folks on hand who can help you with that.

## Superintendent's Report



### Of Service

Happy New Year! Making a new year's resolutions? How about being of service? Volunteer to help take on an active role in the Division.

Rudy Spano has done just that. This past fall, Rudy has taken on the "Membership Services" role for the SD Division. He brings positive energy and new ideas to the tasks of membership recruitment and retention. Thank you, Rudy, for volunteering!

There are also some role changes that have taken place over the past few months. Dick Roberts has agreed to take on the "Clinics Chair". He will be sending out a member survey soon to solicit ideas about what topics members would like to see for future clinics. When you receive the survey, please respond so we can make the clinic experience at our upcoming meets relevant, interesting, and fun.

Don Fowler has agreed to be the "Meet Coordinator," sharing his experience, and knowledge of running events for the Division. I very much appreciate his support and dedication.

As a Division, we are increasing our focus on the Achievement Program (AP). We are grateful to Rodger Gredvig for recently taking on the AP Chair responsibilities, in addition his current role as "Contest Chair". Please contact Rodger for help, guidance, and support for your involvement in the AP program. We acknowledge and thank Paul Schmitt, our previous AP Chair for his years of service in this role.

As the now not-so-new Superintendent, I am grateful to all the Division Volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering, please ask me or any of the committee volunteers how you can help.

The upcoming Winter Meet on February 8th is shaping up to be a good time. In addition to a great clinic, we are having a potluck lunch, Hobo Auction, and Show and Tell. Please help by bringing a donation for the Hobo Auction, along with a project to share with the group.

Also, at the Winter Meet, we will be taking order for name tags. The cost is \$12. If you do not already have a name tag, I encourage you to get one.

Looking forward to seeing you at the Winter Meet!

Ryan

Happy Modeling!

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

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## Director's Report

By: Pete Steinmetz

Cajon Spring meet will be at La Quinta. March 27-29 Titled "Desert Rails:

Details at [www.cajondivision.org](http://www.cajondivision.org)

Think about coming for Saturday.

Spring Meet May 9 – Short Track Railroad in Vista. Details to follow. Always a good time and an opportunity to visit the Donner Pass layout.

The NMRA has many partners that have agreed to give NMRA members a discount on their products. Partners can be found a [www.nmra.org](http://www.nmra.org). There are enough money saving discounts to pay for a membership for a year.re to create a user name and password. Look inside. There is also lots of helpful information for members.

There are very active NMRA Groups on Facebook. The main group has over 12,000 members. There is an excellent NMRA AP page. There are also leadership pages where Regional and Division officers and national personnel exchange ideas and information.

The San Diego Division is planning a very active 2020 for our members.

The whole PSR will become a 501C3 in 2020. This will help in many ways members will not notice but will benefit from. This has been planned for many years. It is finally becoming reality.

By: Pete Steinmetz

### 4th Quarter events wrap-up:

#### North County Model Railroad Society (NCMRS), (October, 2019)



We attended the NCMRS Fall Swap meet and Train Show at Heritage Park in Oceanside. In addition to the swap meet, they had a clinic on DCC put on by Arnie's Trains of Westminster and 5 celebrity modelers who displayed and discussed their creations. Ryan and Trudy monitored the club table for the day. They sold some donated cars and kits from

the storage unit and got 1 new member to sign up. NCMRS's big 1950s-era HO scale layout was on display at it's permanent location at Heritqage Park. You can see a video of the layout at: <https://youtu.be/7cQ-sfnQ1lo>



1NCMRS layout



2Ryan at SD Div table



**100th anniversary of the San Diego & Arizona Railway**  
In November many of us attended the Pacific Southwest Railway Museum in Campo where they celebrated the 100th anniversary of the San Diego & Arizona Railway. Rodger Gredvig took his Boy Scout modules for display and we set up a table with information on the NMRA.

Bruce Deck got us tickets on a train ride in a special club car that we paid a nominal fee for and bought us a delicious barbeque lunch. Thank you so much for your hospitality Bruce!

There was a formal driving of the spike ceremony with actors, a live orchestra and dignitaries from the area, including members of the Spreckels family. Sugar magnate, John D. Spreckels, was the founder of the Impossible Railroad, The San Diego and Arizona Eastern Railway Company (founded in 1906), that built the line from San Diego to the Imperial Valley and on to Yuma.



There are some great train specimens out at Campo if you haven't been there already. Ryan and I got a free tour of the shops by a guy who was working on one of their latest projects, the restoration of a Mikado saddle tank engine. I had never seen a saddle tank engine that large. For more info on the Pacific Southwest Railway Museum go to <https://www.psrn.org/>



### Holiday Party



Ryan was kind enough to offer his house to host the December Holiday Party. The food was excellent, catered by Phil's Barbeque. There was a knockdown dragout gift exchange, but everyone seemed to enjoy it, nevertheless. It was a great party. Don't miss it next year.

## Articles:

### Trails and Rails in Alaska The Chilkoot Trail and the White Pass & Yukon Railroad By Rudy Spano



In 2000, my wife Tracy and I fulfilled one of our bucket list items which was to backpack the Chilkoot Trail in Alaska and ride the White Pass and Yukon Railroad. This article is mainly about what might be the ultimate rail fanning adventure, the hike and the railroad.

The Chilkoot Trail is the route that the Gold Miners took in 1897-1898 from Skagway and Dyea to the Yukon Territory in Canada in search of their fortunes. This trail includes the famous Chilkoot Pass which climbs to 3501 feet at a 45 degree angle. The total miles from the trailhead in Dyea to Lake Bennett is 33 miles. The trail

crosses from the U.S. into Canada at the top of the pass which is about halfway to Lake Bennett. The Canadian Park Service controls the trail and they only allow 50 backpackers a day. If you miss your day, you must reapply for a pass.



Baldwin Locomotive Works Engine #40 on loan from the Georgetown Loop railroad in Colorado. Pulling the Centennial Train into Lake Bennett.

When we made our plane reservations for the flight from Juneau to Skagway, they didn't give us a confirmation number. I thought this was odd, but they said to just show up. Well, we did and then I found out why no confirmation number. The weather is unpredictable and the planes fly by visual not instruments. On the day we arrived the visibility level was so low that the planes couldn't fly and there was no way of knowing when the weather would lift. And, we had to be in on the trail in two days. That's when a couple behind us asked if we would like to join them and split the cost as they had chartered a helicopter. Thus began a great adventure, flying low up the inland passage from Juneau to Skagway.

After spending the night in Skagway, Dyea Dave, the local transportation from Skagway to Dyea, drove us the nine miles to the trailhead. And so, we began our trek. Needless to say, the scenery is spectacular and crossing the pass was truly a once in a lifetime experience. Unlike the miners of 1898, we neither had to summit Chilkoot Pass via snow stairs in mid-winter, nor did we have to arrive at the top of the pass with two full years of provisions as was required by the Canadian government. Even so, the 3000 foot ascent with a 40 pound backpack was a challenge. After five days of trekking, we arrived in Lake Bennett.

Lake Bennett was the jumping off point for the miners to take boats, rafts or anything that floats to follow the Yukon River to the Gold fields. A side note, the Yukon River flows through Lake Laberge for all of you R.W. Service fans. Lake Bennett is now the location of the train station for the White Pass and Yukon Railroad. This railroad was completed in 1900 and saved the miners a lot of time and heartache making their way to the Gold Fields. Today, the line is mainly a day excursion for the cruise ships that dock at Skagway. We used the



Flatcar #489 built in 1969 by the National Steel  
And Car Company. Carrying Backpacks to Skagway.

WP&Y for our return trip to Skagway after five days on the trail. As we waited for the train to arrive, we found out that we were at Lake Bennett on the exact day of the Centennial Celebration of the WP&Y railroad. I wish I could say that I planned that, but alas it was just serendipity. We got to watch the celebration train bring dignitaries past the Lake Bennett station on their way to Carcross. The train was pulled by locomotive #40 on loan from the Georgetown Loop RR in Colorado. Our return train was pulled by the famous yellow and green diesels

of the WP&Y. The amusing thing about riding the train was that there was a special flat car to carry the backpackers' camping gear and a special passenger car to carry the unbathed backpackers so that we didn't disturb the cruise passengers who were out for a scenic and not an aromatic excursion. The train ride was wonderful and a real feat of engineering.

We have gone on many hikes since this one and ridden many railroads, but this trip will always have a special place in our travel memories as the great backpack and rail fanning adventure of a lifetime.

### **NEW San Diego Division Logo!**

Trudy Seeley  
Clerk/Paymaster

It's not too different (as you can see) – but much clearer (higher resolution and with a bit more accurate sketch of the Santa Fe Depot!

While we were moving files and transferring responsibilities to new officers, we realized we didn't have a high resolution rendition of our Division logo. Here is the best we had – compared to those of the other Divisions (and published in the Region newsletter,



If it's online, you hardly notice how much fuzzier it is than the others, but it's pretty bad if you try to use it on a flyer or poster to be printed. Also, we noticed that the new logo created for the Regional Meet [Beach Ops

2018] was not only higher resolution, but it had a much more accurate representation of the Santa Fe Depot. So we started with that one, and had a graphic artist (VERY kindly supplied by Mona from the Los Angeles Division!) create a new high res logo. And here it is!



Hopefully you all like it! We'll talk about new patches, pins, etc. at coming meetings. I hope to see you all at our **Winter Meet** at Clairmont Christian Fellowship Church on Feb. 8th (bring a current project to share....at whatever stage you are at!)

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## EVENTS CALENDAR

Please notify Tim Foote if you want to show your layout or know someone who does, or if you have suggestions for layout or prototype tours.

**February: Winter Meet 2/8** (See p.1)

**March: Layout Tour at Grossmont Center in La Mesa, 3/14, San Diego S-Gaugers**

**April: Layout Tour, 4/11, TBA**

**May: Spring Meet, Short Track Club, Vista, 5/9,**

**Model Railroading events in the Region**, and by local clubs can be found on the following links. 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>

**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>

**From the Editor**

The Mail Hook needs interesting articles and features. Please consider writing and submitting an article on a model railroading or railroading topic to share your knowledge with other modelers. It can be a how-to article or highlighting a project you are working on or any special knowledge you may have about a railroad. 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 April fools day, 2020.

If you are a member of another 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 hope you enjoy reading the Mail Hook, and please consider contributing.

Tim Foote

Acting Mail Hook Editor

mailhook@sandiegodivision.org

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

**The following are the quarterly deadlines for submitting to the Mail Hook Editor:**

First Qtr.-January 2; Second Qtr.-April 1, Third Qtr.- July 1, Fourth Qtr.-October 1

**San Diego Division Officers**

Director: Pete Steinmetz	Superintendent: Ryan Di Fede	Chief Clerk/Paymaster: Trudy Seeley
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**San Diego Division Chairs**

Membership Services: Rudy Spano	Layout Tours: Tim Foote
Contests: Dick Roberts, MMR	Meet Coordinator: Don Fowler, MMR
Clinics: Vacant	Member Aid: Vacant

Publicity/Club Liaison: Vacant	Webmaster: Ben Sevier
Achievement Program: Rodger Gredvig, MMR	Past Superintendent: Don Fowler, MMR
"Mail Hook" Editor: Vacant	

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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

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/>

