

PACIFIC SOUTHWEST REGION DISPATCH

NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION



ARIZONA
CAJON
LOS ANGELES
SAN DIEGO



VOLUME 37, NUMBER 3 3rd Quarter, 2019

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Pacific Southwest Regional

CONVENTION

September 25 - 29, 2019

Join Tony Koester and the Arizona Division convention team for a wonderful four days of scale and full size railroads in Arizona. Experience the Verde Canyon Railroad in Clarkdale; a welcome BBQ at Stillman McCormick Railroad Park; The "Wyoming Division" in Cornville; Ron Mei's "Sunset Route" and Frank Baker's "Morristown & Erie". Over 35 layouts in Tucson, Phoenix and Prescott. 40 plus clinics covering a wide range of topics, Hobo Auction with entertainment, and great Non-rail events.

www.azdiv-nmra.org/psr2019convention/ **"ARIZONA JUNCTION"**

If you are interested in publishing an article in the Dispatch, drop me a line. I am always interested in new content as long as it pertains to events or activities of interest to model railroaders in the region. Remember that publication of articles gives you credit towards your Authorship AP if you are attempting to achieve your MMR! Hope everyone had a great summer and I look forward to seeing many of you at the Convention in September!

Kevin Spady, Editor





The
**PSR
 BACKSHOP**
 Gary Butts, MMR, President



What a great time! We are just back from the NMRA National Convention and National Train Show held in Salt Lake City, Utah. It is always nice to see and spend some quality time with model train friends that we don't normally get to spend much time with, hurrying through one of our own PSR or Division conventions or meets. It was particularly relaxing in that I had no commitments at this convention, so I was able to just sit back, and enjoy the show(s).

The convention committee was particularly helpful with a couple of small registration problems and we were very pleasantly surprised by the quality of the Convention Hotel. The weather was warm (think Southern California in the summer) so what more could you ask for?

One of our first Clinics wasn't really a clinic at all but titled "Meet the President" and that we did. Pete Magoun is a very likeable and casual guy and answered everyone's questions as they came up, including a couple from yours truly. Since almost all of the National Board of Directors were present, I had a chance to discuss the 501c(3) effort (dead at National) and had a great direct discussion with Frank Koch, the head of the NMRA National Achievement Program. All of the NMRA Merit and Achievement awards are ultimately viewed and approved by Frank. I was particularly interested in the somewhat nebulous qualifications for the "Master Builder, Prototype Models" Achievement Award since I have never evaluated an application and have been asked about it recently by a couple of our members. Frank gave me some good references and, more importantly, a feel for the somewhat subjective evaluation.

Although Sandy and I did not have time to get to any of the layout tours, we did get out to Promontory to see the reenactment of the Golden Spike ceremony. They have full scale recreations of both 4-4-0's, CPs "Jupiter" and UPs #119. These engines have been built from the original engine plans right down to the type of fuel that they burn (Jupiter burns wood and smells like it, #119 burns coal and smokes like it). These engines are absolutely beautiful to look at and see operating. I liked the colors

on Jupiter, Sandy liked the wood cab and trim on #119. Unfortunately, we were not able to make it to Jim's clinic since both times he presented his clinic on Raspberry Pi's the room was completely filled with folks standing out in the hall listening to his presentation.

At the annual Awards Banquet, Don Vest from our Arizona Division was awarded the NMRA National President's award for outstanding contribution to his Division (see the August issue of the NMRA Magazine).

Pat and Mona Raymer (L.A.) joined us on our visit to the National Train Show which, as usual, was great. I know that the National Narrow Gauge show has a lot of the manufacturers and premier vendors, and I have not made it to one yet but The NMRA National has them all. All of the major suppliers are there. Meeting some of the smaller suppliers in person really gives you a chance to see their products, have them explained first hand and find out what they have coming down the line. I was particularly happy to see the "Tool Man" booth in that we have lost our tool man in our local LA, Orange County and San Diego shows. I really didn't need any tools to add to my collection but somehow ended up walking out of his booth with three bags of tools that I didn't know I needed. The layouts were great and we spent a good amount of time at the show before it was opened to the public. After the show, on a tip, we found a great little local hobby shop in Sandy City that had a good supply of train stuff.

They had one entire wall (maybe 30 feet long) with nothing but model paint from everywhere. Wow!

Since all of our PSR voting Board of Directors were present, minus one, we held our quarterly Director's meeting at the hotel and were able to move a couple of budget items along and agree on adding a couple more minor ones to it.

We are just a short few weeks away from holding our own Pacific Southwest Region "Arizona Junction" Convention in Mesa and it promises to be a really good one. The Arizona Division folks have gone over the top on advertising and even signed up some members at the National. If you haven't signed up yet take another look at the Convention web site and don't wait to the last minute to reserve your room at the convention hotel. I know that the committee has gone back for more room allocations at the reduced price but that will be cut off by the hotel at some point soon.

Bring your models to show and share, have a great time and I look forward to seeing (and meeting) you there.



From the **V.P.**

Pat Raymer, Vice President

Summer greetings to all!

I hope everyone is managing to stay cool in the record heat in the Pacific Southwest Region.

As I have mentioned before, writing for The Dispatch, especially from the V.P. seat, can be challenging. None of the contributors to The Dispatch are assigned subjects for their articles, other than having them be pertinent to their position on the board. As a result, when many of us share an experience, it is likely that more than one of us will report on that experience. In this case, that shared experience is the NMRA National Convention. I hope you will understand if I seem to tread a similar path to other contributors to The Dispatch.

In case you were not aware, the NMRA National Convention for 2019 was held in Salt Lake City this past July. My wife Mona and I had never been to Salt Lake City, and it was soooo close, and it's the National, so who could resist? We asked friends who had been to Salt Lake City how the weather would be in July. The universal answer: HOT! As it turned out, the weather was comfortable or at least tolerable for us. Yes, there were a few hot days, but also a few with an overcast and even a few raindrops.

We had a great time at the convention, and Salt Lake City was the perfect choice. 2019 is the 150th anniversary of the completion of the trans-continental railroad, and Promontory-the site of the meeting of the Union Pacific and Central Pacific railroads-is just a few miles northwest of the city. The location is a National Historical Park, and features replicas of the original 4-4-0 locomotives, which are used to re-enact the great event. The re-enactors are recruited from the people in attendance, and L.A. Division Chief Clerk/Paymaster / PSR Contest Chairman James Keena volunteered to play "railroad worker", which allowed him to



Jupiter and 119

"drive" a couple of the replica spikes. If you ever visit this location, I highly recommend that you take the drive on the southern loop road. There are 2 more historic sites along the way, The Last Cut and Chinese Arch. There is also an outstanding view to the south towards the Great Salt Lake.

There was plenty to do in and around Salt Lake City. We took a bus tour of the city, attended many excellent and informative clinics, saw old friends and made new ones. I was pleased to see so many PSR members attending the convention.

Then there is the National Train Show. This really is the candy store. At the show, you have a chance to meet representatives from the major manufacturers and see the latest products being introduced. You can also shop with vendors large and small, and see some outstanding modular layouts.

After the National Train Show we still had a little money left, so we also shopped the local train stores and hobby shops. Mona and I always try to support the independent brick and mortar shops. In these days of internet competition, these stalwart folks still provide a place where you can hold it in your hands before you buy it, and often some good advice thrown in for free. The railroad modelers in the Salt Lake City area are lucky to have these resources.

My congratulations to the Salt Lake City convention team, for taking on this huge challenge and making it all happen in such fine style!

So, if you have never attended a National Convention, you really should give it a try. As it turns out, you will have a great opportunity in 2021. Our friends to the north in the PCR are hosting the National Convention in Santa Clara, July 4th – July 10th 2021. I expect they will put on a spectacular show. Mona and I are already registered.

Maybe you would like to start a little smaller? Check out this year's PSR convention-"Arizona Junction"- hosted by the Arizona Division. Looks like they have a great convention line-up planned, and it's soooo close...

See you down the line!



James Keena looking dapper



Arizona

Frank Baker, Director

With the 2019 PSR Regional convention fast approaching, the Arizona division is putting the final touches on all the events. Now only weeks away, the team has been hard at work covering the myriad of details to insure that everyone will have a great time. Here are just a few items to consider:

BARBEQUE: The convention starts off with a meet and greet Barbeque at the Scottsdale McCormick Railroad Park with food, beverage and free train rides. All of the park layouts will be open for tours and an OPS session on the HO layout.



LAYOUT TOURS: There are 30 self drive tours in Tucson, Phoenix and Prescott. Make sure your phone has a map app on it to aid in finding your way around. Many of the layouts have not been seen before, will be open on selected days, as noted in the timetable. Several of the layouts have been in National publications this year. All are great. Remember to thank the layout owner or layout team members for the wonderful layout they have opened for you.

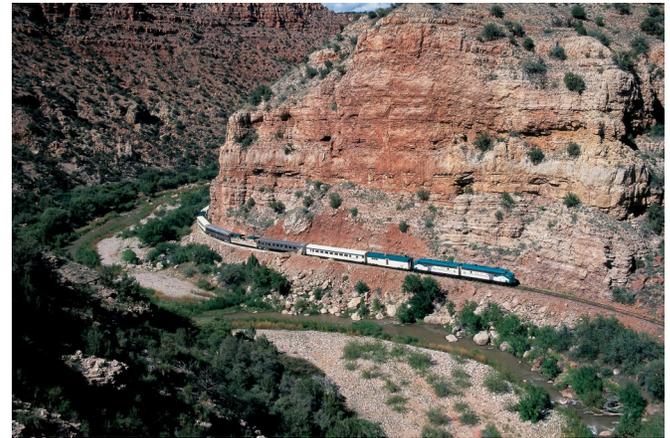
CLINICS: Richard Wehr, our clinic specialist, has assembled 60 clinics, no repeats. Several of the clinicians come from outside of our region. A wide variety of topics will make the selection process even more of a challenge. If clinics are your thing, Richard has found them. Check the website for more information.

NON RAIL: Headed by Candy Somers, The Non Rail Committee has been busy creating a variety of daily events to entertain the non rail members. These include a trip to the Heard Museum, Wine and Brush Bar Painting and much more. The Non Rail will have a large area at the swap meet on Saturday morning with many goodies. For relaxing, there are also three beautiful pools at the hotel if you just want to lounge around.



Convention Hotel—Sheraton Mesa @ Wrigleyville West

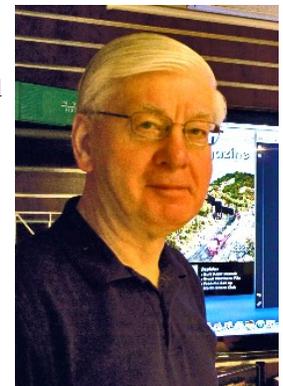
SPECIAL TRAIN RIDE: The rail special is an all day excursion and train ride on the Verde Canyon Railroad. This is a wonderful ride thru the vermilion cliffs and riparian area of Northern Arizona. An airconditioned bus will transport you to and from the train ride. Lunch will be



served. We have several large passenger cars to allow you to relax and enjoy the view.

SWAP MEET: Saturday morning starts off with a large indoor air conditioned swap meet with rail and non rail tables. The Arizona Division NMRA table will feature a wide variety of structures / modules for sale. These items were donated to the Arizona Division by Dick Shapiro / builder.

BANQUET SPEAKER: Our guest speaker is Tony Koester. There is still time to sign up. WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU HERE IN ARIZONA, SEPTEMBER 25-29TH Check out our website for more information and registration: <https://www.azdiv-nmra.org/psr2019convention/>





Los Angeles

Mona Raymer, Director

Hello PSR members,

Pat and I have been trying to keep cool during this hot weather we have been experiencing and hope you have been able to keep cool. Remember to stay hydrated!

Since my last article, Pat & I attended the NRMA National Convention and Train Show. It was held in Salt Lake City, Utah, July 8th through July 14th. We enjoyed the fellowship, clinics, prototype tours and layout tours. While there, we were able to register for the National Convention for 2021 that will be held in Santa Clara, CA. If you've never had the opportunity to attend a National Convention that may be the one you want to start with!

On August 10th and 11th, a group of Los Angeles Division Advisory Board members set up a membership table at the Great Train Show, in Pomona. We also had a few Cajon Division members, including our PSR President, Gary Butts and his lovely wife Sandy, volunteer to come and assist us at the table. Thank you Cajon, we appreciate all of the help you provided! We signed up two members and a third person said he would go on line to register. A good time was had by all.

As you are most likely aware, the Los Angeles Division is hosting the PSR Regional Convention next year. The Convention committee is working diligently to bring things together to ensure that everyone has a great time and is able to attend all of the clinics that interest them, attend the prototype tours, layout tours and op sessions.

****Yes, we WANT you to be able to do it all!****

Also in the works is an exciting non-rail program! So, please save the dates of September 9th through September 13th for the L.A. Division's "Van Nuys Local 2020"!

Many of the Los Angeles Division members are looking forward to attending the PSR Regional Convention being hosted by the Arizona Division. The Arizona Junction is being held September 25th through September 29th, in Mesa, Arizona. I hope that you are planning on attending also. It's not too late to register. There is a lot of fun to be had there!

The upcoming events for the Los Angeles Division this year are as follows:

Oct. 5th: L.A. Area Prototype Modelers Meet
Encounter Christian Church
10012 Ramona St.
Bellflower, CA 90706

Oct. 26th & 27th: Freight Fright
South Coast Botanic Gardens
26300 Crenshaw Blvd.
Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA 90274

****Please note DATE CHANGE AGAIN for Freight Fright. The venue has now reinstated our ORIGINAL DATE!**

I look forward to seeing you at some of these events ~ if we haven't met yet, please introduce yourself!

Until next time...Happy Modeling!



Convention attendees viewing Pelle Soeborg's layout on the ExactRail tour



Layouts on display at the National Train Show



San Diego

Pete Steinmetz, Interim Director

I'm back, as Director of the San Diego Division. With the retirement of Don Fowler and Ben Sevier from their leadership positions in San Diego, Ryan DeFede was elected Superintendent and Trudy Seeley was elected Clerk/Paymaster. Ryan appointed me to fill in for the vacant Director position. I will be running for the position in the next election. (For San Diego Division members, there will be a ballot sent in August).

Trudy has done a fine job during her time as Director in San Diego. I plan to pick up where she left off. Ryan, Trudy, and I have always worked well together and look forward to continuing. Our goal is to create value for the membership. We have 4 meets a year. February, May, August, and November. On the off months we have a layout tour. Our events take place on the second Saturday of the month. Tim Foote has been doing an excellent job of organizing the layout tours.

Our next meet will be October 12 in Oceanside at the North County Model Railroad Society located at Heritage Park. NCMRS will have a large swap meet, there will be door prizes, a raffle, food trucks, and a tour of their layout. Kevin Honda of Arnie's trains will give a clinic on DCC. This will be a very popular clinic. This has proven to be a popular and well attended event. NCMRS is located on the North end of Oceanside. An easy drive from Orange County. Our Fall Meet will be held at the Pacific Southwest Railway Museum in Campo, CA. We will help them celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the San Diego and Arizona Railway. The date is November 16, the third Saturday in November. We are still putting the details together, but we know there will be a train ride, museum tours, a NMRA display, and food.

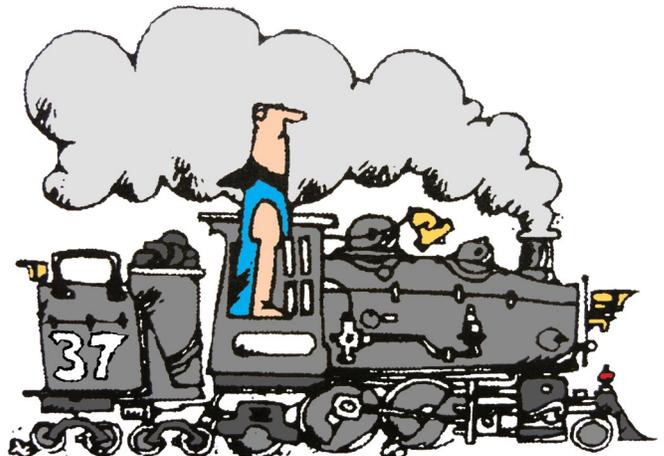
We are working on an Amtrak trip from LA to San Diego Old Town, with busses picking up the group

and taking them to Campo. The return would allow people time to visit San Diego old Town and enjoy some of the many fine Mexican restaurants. There is also an operating model train layout in Old Town. Then board Amtrak for your return to Los Angeles or any station in between. We are trying to find cost effective ways of transporting members to Campo and back.

Hopefully many of you will be able to attend. Announcements will be made through E Mail, web sites and Facebook.

Some of the future division activities we have planned will be hands on weathering, a car or structure build, many clinics, swap meets, group trips, and whatever else we can think of that will be of interest to our members.

The PSR communicates through E Mail, Web sites, and Social Media (Mostly Facebook). It important that we have a current E Mail on file so members don't miss communications about activities and events.





Cajon

Jeff Herrmann, Director

On Father's Day weekend, June 15-16, the Cajon Division held our Second Annual CIM3 event at the Irvine Ranch Outdoor Education Center in Orange, CA. CIM3 is an acronym for "Cajon Invitational Module Modelers Meet." This meet is becoming our largest and one of the most popular meets on our division calendar and a great way to kick off a summer of great model railroading events!

Thirty-eight NMRA members and a few guests gathered with five local modular clubs to run trains on their layouts in a single location and to share in a full weekend of exciting NMRA activities and fellowship. Each modular club was able to set up its layout in the expansive Harrison Hall on Friday afternoon and run trains until noon on Sunday. Additionally, we also had great participation in our traditional Cajon Division meet activities during the weekend.

Steve Philips presented a great clinic on the Colorado Narrow Gauge Circle. PSR President and Master Model Railroader, Gary Butts, led a great "kit build" session that was included in the fee for the meet. The kit was a "two-story outhouse" that is actually based on a Colorado prototype (no kidding!) and was available to build in 3 different scales. Cajon Division Superintendent Dennis Ivison (our division's latest MMR) did his usual superb job in leading a hobo auction. Cajon Division Board Member Carl Heimbarger did an outstanding job (with an assist from LA Division member James Keena) in coordinating our contest room. A record 20 models were submitted for Achievement Program evaluations and contest jud-

ging. Saturday night the Orange County Module Railroaders hosted an Operating Session that was great fun, and Sunday morning there were bargains to be found at our "members only" Swap Meet. As a special treat, The Irvine Park Railroad supplied tickets for our members to ride the rails in Irvine Regional Park.

For most of the NMRA members in attendance, the highlight of CIM3 was hosting 60 Scouts BSA youth on Saturday and helping them earn Railroading Merit Badge! The Scouts preregistered for the event and completed several of the merit badge's prerequisite requirements in advance of our meet. NMRA members helped each Scout build an HO scale box car (donated by Bowser) and run it on Cajon Division's new "Box Car Race Track." Feedback from the Scouts and their parents was very positive; everyone had a great time, learned a lot, and was really impressed with the modular layouts and the friendly and knowledgeable instructors!

Put the next CIM3 on your calendar; June 13-14, 2020. You won't want to miss it!

The Cajon Division Fall Meet will be held Saturday, October 19th from 8:00 AM until 5:00 PM at Messiah Lutheran Church, 6625 Dale Street in Buena Park, CA. The event will include clinics, Achievement Program Judging, Model Contests, Hobo Auction, lunch and a special Halloween Box Car Design Contest and race! N-Track Express Modular Club will have their club layout on display at the meet.



Cajon

Jeff Herrmann, Director

Cajon Division CIM3 Meet



California South Coast Modular Group display



N-Trak Express Group



Lovely venue and great weather for the event



Jeff Herrmann and Scouts



Cajon

Jeff Herrmann, Director



Orange County "N" Gineers Group



Mealtime at CIM3

CIM3 Continued



Race to the finish line! (Remember Pinewood Derbys?)



Working on Building a Boxcar..with a little bit of help.



Congratulations to Sandy Butts!



Construction Clinic



PSR Membership

Pete Steinmetz, Membership Chair

Membership

I have been Membership Chair of the PSR for the PSR since 2015. My goal has always been to have the division membership chairs be proactive with our members.

This takes a team willing to work each month to welcome new members, answer questions, and contact members that haven't renewed their membership. It takes people that are dedicated to making the calls and sending the emails.

If members have a change of email address, they can communicate it their division Membership Chair and it will be updated by HQ. To realize full value for a members hard earned dollars, it is important we have your email address to communicate all our fun activities.

Social Media

All Divisions have at least a Facebook page. Cajon is the most active page. There is a lot of excellent modeling content on Facebook. Many tutorials and links to YouTube videos by modelers and manufacturers. I have learned so much from modelers posts. I have made lots of friends all over the world through Facebook contacts.

I joking tell my wife that if we went to Poland, I would never have to buy a beer! The NMRA Facebook group has close to 13,000 members. There are many posts every day. The Facebook AP group has become a great resource for members sharing their AP modeling experiences and for people that have questions about the AP program. Helpful advice is always given.

Ed. Note: Here are links to several NMRA Facebook pages for the Region:

Los Angeles Division: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1960134804039677/>

Cajon Division: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/CajonDivisionPSRGroup/>

Arizona Division: <https://www.facebook.com/NMRAArizonaDivison/>

NMRA National: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/nmragroup/>

NMRA Achievement Program: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/897515100296978/>

NMRA Region and Division Resources and Communication: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/RegionandDivisionResourcesandCommunication/>
(Some good info on social media in the files section.)



PSR Treasurer

Joel Morse, Treasurer

The issues associated with opening a new Region bank account with Wells Fargo was successfully overcome (following much angst and hair pulling).

The Region received and distributed the annual Membership reimbursement to each of the Divisions, a total of \$996.00. This reimbursement is the portion of national dues that are shared with the local divisions, based on membership numbers; Arizona - \$328.00; Cajon -\$301.00; Los Angeles-\$122.00 and San Diego-\$209.00.

The July 31, 2019 Bank Statement indicates that the Region has \$40,658.37 in the Region Checking Account.

Region Assets as of July 31, 2019:

Wells Fargo Checking Account: \$40,658.37



Achievement Program

Carl Heimberger, AP Chairman

I am pleased to report another very active quarter within the Pacific Southwest Region NMRA Awards Program. Congratulations go out to all the members who have been actively working on their various certificates. The following is a list of the PSR member accomplishments.

Golden Spike,

Charles Fisher, Los Angeles
 Foster Rash, Los Angeles
 Mark Carnighan, Cajon
 Kenneth Hecker, Cajon
 David T. Okamura, Cajon

Merit Awards:

Gary Butts, Cajon (2 - Structures)
 Sandy Butts, Cajon (Cars)
 Morrie Fleishman, Cajon (Structure)
 Richard Hock, Cajon (Structure)
 Foster Rash, Los Angeles (2 - Structures)
 Foster Rash, Los Angeles (Cars)
 Foster Rash, Los Angeles (Motive Power)

All of the above Golden Spike and Merit Awards were earned at the Cajon Division CIM3 meet this past June, job well done.

Award Program Certificates:

Frank Baker, Arizona (Master Builder Cars)
 Robert Bridges, Arizona (Assoc. Volunteer)
 James Keena, Los Angeles (Author)
 James Keena, Los Angeles (Dispatcher)
 John King, Cajon (Assoc. Volunteer)
 Annette Palmer, Cajon (Assoc. Volunteer)
 Gordon Remala, Cajon (Master Builder Scenery)

Gordon's Scenery Certificate was also earned at CIM3.

What I found interesting was that of the 21 awards listed above, 15 of them were judged at one event, Cajon Divisions CIM3 Meet. So, is it worth your time and effort to bring something to enter into a contest room at one of your local division events? I think the above answers that question.

I know a lot of you are still skeptical and think the paperwork is way too hard to fill out. That is the first misconception. For the Golden Spike Award, all you need to do is fill in your name, NMRA number, and exp. date, address, submission date, and Region. The evaluators fill out the rest. Your time 5 minutes, evaluators time 15 minutes. Okay that is the easy one. Next!

Merit Awards, no you do not need to write a book. If you kept good notes while building the model it is relatively easy. Tell us how you built it and what you used, this should only take an hour or two. Heck you just spent 60 or more hours building it why not get some credit for your work. It is not that hard.

Certificate paperwork again not that difficult. For Master Builder Cars, Motive Power and Structures just list the Merit Awards you received along with some other models of equal quality on the forms. This may take an hour or two of effort to fill out compared to how many hours it took to build the models.

Author, Official, Volunteer are all just a matter of counting the articles you have written, and tracking time served. Yes, this may take you a year or two to complete. You just need to keep track of the time spent or articles written.

Scenery another simple one once you have spent the hundreds of hours building it. Like the Golden Spike fill out your name and other information along with a few paragraphs on how you built it and materials used, so we are looking at maybe 3 hours of time to be recognized for hundreds if not thousands of hours of work.

Civil, Electrical, and Dispatcher, yes these will take a little more effort, but then again what is a few days compared to the years you spent building the layout?

My point is you can complain about it and never get recognized for your work or spend a few hours and receive the recognition you deserve.

It's up to you.



The Show Room

James Keena, PSR Contest Chair

Hopefully you are getting your models, photos, arts and crafts ready for the upcoming Pacific Southwest Regional Convention that will be held in Mesa, Arizona. Make sure that you prepare your Entry and Merit Evaluation forms in advance in order to speed the registration of your entries into the Show Room at the Convention. The Contest Entry Form # 901 and the (Merit Evaluation) Model Contest Judging Score Sheet Form # 902 can be found NMRA website and are available to download from under the category of Education/Contest/Forms.

There will be forms # 901 and # 902 available for you to fill out at the Show Room if you did not have a chance to prepare them in advance. There will also be a Clinic given at the Convention as well on how to fill out the forms along with NMRA members willing to assist you in completing the forms.

In addition, we are always willing to train you on how the NMRA Merit Evaluation is performed. This provides modeling insights into the five different categories that Evaluators look at utilizing the standardized NMRA judging matrixes. These categories are Construction, Finish and Lettering, Detail, Conformity and Scratch Building. It will give you a better understanding of what constitutes a model that meets Merit with a score of 87.5 points or more out of a possible 125 points total.

If you are just submitting entries for display or Popular Vote, you only will need to provide the Entry Form # 901.

With all the activities going on at the Convention, entry of models, photos, arts and crafts will only be accepted until 6:00 P.M Friday afternoon. This is to allow sufficient time to perform the Merit Evaluations on Saturday morning between the hours of 9:00 A.M. and Noon. Likewise, all popular vote ballots will need to be cast prior to the closing of the Show Room on Friday. All entries would be available to reclaim after completion of Merit Evaluation around Noon. All entries should be claimed by 1:30 P.M. on Saturday afternoon. Contest and Popular Vote results will be presented at the Awards Banquet on Saturday evening.

Look forward to seeing you and your entries in Mesa, Arizona.

Ed. Note: Here are links to several NMRA pages related to contests:

General Contest Information: <https://www.nmra.org/contests-intro>

Contest Entry Form: https://www.nmra.org/sites/default/files/education/contest/nmra_contest_entry_form.pdf

Judges Score Sheet: https://www.nmra.org/sites/default/files/education/contest/nmra_model_contest_judges_score_sheet.pdf

Contest Rules: <https://www.nmra.org/celebration-contests-2>



The Show Room

James Keena, PSR Contest Chair

El Estrada de Ferro Oeste de Minas

30" Narrow Gauge is alive and well in Brazil!

Baldwin 30" 4-6-0 and 2-8-0 Narrow Gauge locomotives are still alive and well and in operation in Sao Joan de Rei (Saint John the King) in Brazil. This is an historic town in the southeast state of Minas Gerais is home of the Brazilian National Train Museum. This is also home of active tourist railroad the Maria Fumara (Smoking Mary) that provides a 13 KM 45 minute scenic journey through the Brazilian countryside between Sao Joan de Rei and Triadentes.

This railroad has been running continuously since inception in 1881 and operates as a heritage railway. It used to be part of a 602 KM long 30" Estrada de Ferro Oeste de Minas (EFOM) narrow gauge railroad that stretched across Minas Gerais. Majority of the railroad was abandoned in 1983 with the 13 KM between Sao Joan de Rei and Triadentes being retained to be operated as a tourist railway on weekends and holidays.

According to Wikipedia, the first two locomotives purchased by the company were from the Baldwin Locomotive Works of Philadelphia, and were described as being of the "Montezuma" type. They had a 4-4-0 wheel arrangement, and weighed about 13 tons, plus tender. Further 4-4-0's followed, and as the railway grew it also received 4-6-0's and 2-8-0's. Some of the larger locomotives were up to about 25 tons in weight. Initially the locomotives used wood

as a fuel, however later they were converted to oil. In all 58 locomotives were built for the railway. Baldwin built all but five, with three being built by American Locomotive Company (ALCo), and two in the railway's own workshops. These included the last locomotive acquired by the railway, a 2-8-0 constructed in 1920. Records indicate this locomotive was built for about half the cost of an imported locomotive from North America, but performed equally well.

Sixteen locomotives survived to the final closure of the railway, and were subsequently preserved, including 4-4-0 locomotive number 1, which is displayed in the museum. Fourteen of the locomotives are at the Museum with at least three of them in active service. I found another EFOM 4-4-0 outside frame locomotive # 20 on display in front of the AMF model railroad club in Belo Horizonte, Minas Gerais.

For On30 modelers, this is an excellent source of inspiration for modeling locomotives utilizing Bachmann's 4-4-0, 4-6-0 and 2-8-0 locomotives. Majority of the locomotives are North America built Baldwin's and most likely the possible prototypes for many of the Bachmann models.



EFOM #1



The Show Room

James Keena, PSR Contest Chair

El Estrada de Ferro Oeste de Minas

Continued from Page 13



EFOM #11



EFOM #60



EFOM Admin Car



EFOM Freight Cars



EFOM #68

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