

PACIFIC SOUTHWEST REGION DISPATCH

NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION



ARIZONA
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SAN DIEGO



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Convention Snapshots 2022



Convention Website

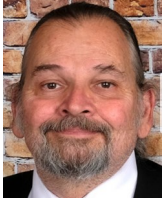
Link (control-click)

“Back on Track in 2022” is only a few weeks away!!

Come Join us!

September 7—11, 2022.





FROM THE WAYCAR

Pat Raymer—President

Greetings PSR members!

Jackie Gleason used to open his show with that classic phrase. For some reason, that phrase popped into my mind as I sat down to write my column. If you aren't old enough to recall that, let's try this: you know when you get on the roller coaster and you hear that clicking sound as you look up at the sky, pressed back in your seat, knowing that a thrilling ride is just a moment away? I'm getting that kind of feeling as we launch into hosting our NMRA National Convention.

When last I wrote to you, I announced that the PSR was hosting the 2024 NMRA National Convention and National Train Show in Long Beach, CA. A lot has happened since then, so allow me to bring you up to speed.

Our convention now has a name: **SurfLiner 2024!** We also have a great logo, which can be found elsewhere in this issue. Our convention venue is The Westin, a beautiful resort hotel only 2 blocks from the Long Beach Convention Center, the site for the National Train Show. The dates are August 4th-11th, 2024.

We sent a small expeditionary force to the Gateway 2022 National Convention in St. Louis, consisting of my wife Mona, myself, and CFO Joel Morse. We, along with our Contest Chair Mike Allee and Marion Rice from the PCR, manned a SurfLiner 2024 promotional table with 2 inflatable palm trees and our teaser video playing on an electronic picture frame. Marion was not there in any official capacity and volunteered to help out at the table, my thanks to him for the assist. Our primary goals in this visit were to get exposure for and promote the SurfLiner 2024 convention and get a peek behind the curtain to see what went into the production of their National Convention (did I mention that I am the chairman for the SurfLiner 2024convention?). A secondary goal was to offer pre-

registration to the attendees and we did well at that, reaching 150% of our goal!

We are assembling an outstanding group of people for our convention committee, and there are a few positions still available. If you would like an opportunity to be involved with the fun and excitement of planning a NMRA National Convention, please contact me at president@psrnmra.org. There are some definite perks to being on the convention team, but you will have to contact me for further information!

While in St. Louis, NMRA President Gordy Robinson announced the formation of a new SIG (Special Interest Group), Women in Model Railroading. The purpose of this new SIG is encouraging and promoting the activities of women in model railroading and railfanning. Their SIG page is now available on the NMRA website. More information is also available elsewhere in this issue of The Dispatch.

I picked up some other bits of news while in St. Louis: Those nifty return address labels that you receive every year will not be sent in 2022 due to supply chain issues, but will be back in 2023. There will be a new messaging app announced in the coming months that may have you giving up your Zoom account! Stay tuned...

In Regional news, the "Back on Track in 2022" PSR Regional convention, hosted by the San Diego Division, is just weeks away, and it's not too late to register. Their convention team has done an outstanding job producing this convention, and you don't want to miss it! They really are "On Track"!

While you are at the convention in San Diego, don't forget to sign up for the 2023 PSR convention, hosted by the Arizona Division. The convention is returning to Flagstaff, the first time back since 2011. It is a beautiful area of the state, and the Arizona convention team is making special arrangements with the Grand Canyon Railway for an unforgettable ride. More information will be coming very soon.

Until next time, see you down the line!



THE PSR BACKSHOP

Gary Butts, MMR
Vice President

I have not heard the results of the PSR Election yet (you did vote, didn't you?) but from the lack of candidates and barring a major write-in push, it is likely that Pat and myself will be heading up our PSR Region for one more term and I look forward to it. Going through the early stages of the 2024 NMRA National Convention planning has been a great learning experience, very interesting and a lot of fun. Having the different cities and hotels vying for our convention is an experience I had never seen or even knew would happen. Being able to influence the various decisions to ensure the best possible hobby experience for our members is very mentally rewarding. If you want to add a big chunk of hobby enjoyment for yourself, consider volunteering or running for one of the Region or your Division Board of Director committee or officer positions. It is not a lot of work and it is a lot of fun.

Speaking of Conventions, we are just a couple of weeks away from our own PSR "Back on Track" 2022 Convention in San Diego. This promises to be a great convention with lots of great tours, great layouts to visit, great Clinics and all the other neat stuff that happens at these conventions. Judging by the sold-out room situation at the convention hotel, everyone should be there and I am looking forward to seeing all of our friends from our sister divisions that we typically only see once a year. It's not too late to register if you haven't already, just head over to the San Diego Division web site and "follow your nose". I'll see you there!

Again, Speaking of Conventions- back to the 2024 National.... I'm sure that you have heard by now that the PSR is sponsoring the 2024 National convention and it will be held in Long Beach. The name of the convention is "SurfLiner 2024" and since it will be in Southern California, it will likely draw a relatively

large crowd from all of our Nation looking for "Fun in the Sun" and Disneyland. There are still several committee leadership and member positions open on the various committees that are needed to make this convention a success so we are looking for members from all of our divisions to help out during the critical planning stage next year.

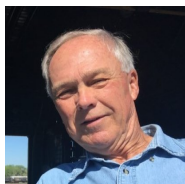
A small group of our Region's members attended this year's St. Louis National Convention to man a Q&A table promoting our 2024 convention to get the ball rolling and possibly pick up a registration or two. I have already heard from one National committee member that I work with, that he had a good conversation with our guys in St. Louis and has the registration form to fill out.

The Region needs your help with this project. Contact myself, Pat Raymer or any of the Region or Division Board of Directors to offer your support and we will work with you to maximize your impact on the outcome of this future Convention.

Oh, yea, if you are into the NMRA Achievement Program, Convention committee members collect AP Volunteer points every month during the planning process- good stuff!

See you in San Diego!





Cajon

Harold Helland, Director

The focus for the Cajon Division has been the Cajon Connection meetings held via Zoom on the last Thursday of every month. The Cajon Connection provides members with the opportunity to discuss areas of interest with fellow modelers. The intent is to allow modelers to ask questions, share experiences, and knowledge with other members. These events are held via Zoom which has the capacity to allow everyone to attend the general meeting and then split into breakout rooms for a more detailed discussion in their area of interest. The Cajon Connection has covered various subjects including electronics, operations, and scenery.

The Cajon Division Fall Meet will be held on Saturday, October 22, so please mark your calendars and be sure to attend that event. The current program for the Fall Meet includes a swap meet, several clinics, show room, lunch, membership meeting with awards and Hobo Auction. We would like to see more models in the show room. Models can be displayed in the show room for several reasons. You can provide a model that is one of your favorites for show and tell. You can enter a model for popular vote. Finally, you can enter a model for evaluation toward completion of an Achievement Certificate. Join in the fun and bring a model to the show room.

Have you heard that the Pacific Southwest Region is hosting the 2024 National Model Railroad Association Convention? SurfLiner 2024 will be held at the Long Beach Convention Center August 4 through August 11, 2024, with the base operation at the Westin Hotel. We will be needing numerous volunteers to make this successful, so consider joining the SurfLiner Convention Team and contributing to the success of the NMRA National Convention.



Historian's Report

Per Harwe, Historian

A while back, (well over a year ago actually), I found a note regarding the formation of the Cajon Division. It stated that the division was formed as Division 8 of the Pacific Coast Region on June 9, 1973. It was named the Cajon Division most likely at that same time. That has led me to wonder if this was the only division that was formed at that time, or were other divisions (in present PSR) also formed at that time. This could be a nice little research project in the lazy days of summer and I invite all of you to contribute with what you know about this. Please send me an email to history@psrnmra.org with anything you can remember from those ancient days before PSR was even formed.

I did get one offer to contribute pictures and I will pick those up at the PSR Convention in September. I am sure more of you have pictures sitting around, so please take a look and step forward. My offer still stands: I will scan the pictures for you if you desire and return them to you.

Besides that, I'm afraid all I can do is to paraphrase *Er-ich Maria Remarque*: "Nothing new in the west".

NMRA YouTube Channel

If you have access to the internet take a minute to check out the NMRA YouTube Channel at

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLBbDHVLodgxn8otpnudMsHdQMucCzcTWD>

While it is challenging to watch videos live during the week if you are a working person, these video recordings of the presentations give you access to many events you might not otherwise get to see.



Arizona

Terry Fearn, Director

Hello to all the PSR members from the NMRA Arizona Division.

We are continuing our regular schedule of meets and events in the summer and fall. On June 18th, our summer meet was held in the cool mountain air of Prescott. We had about 40 members attending, including NMRA members from as far away as Yuma. An NMRA member from San Diego attended whose SPNG HOn3 train won the Best of Show award. We also added two new Rail Pass members to our chapter. Three clinics were presented including a history of the Santa Fe, Prescott and Phoenix Railroad, Why Model Trains Derail (And what to do about it) and Modeling Railroad Fire Trains. Our latest monthly Zoom meeting was conducted on August 20th. Bruce Petrarca, our Division AP manager gave a presentation on the AP program and how to complete the AP paperwork. Our fall meet is scheduled for Saturday, November 19th in Tucson.

Our chapter members continue to earn points towards their MMR designation. With Bruce's help and encouragement, I recently submitted my application for the Golden Spike Award. I'm not sure I have the time to work towards the MMR designation, but I clearly understand how going through the program sharpens your modeling skills.

Planning is well along for the 2023 PSR convention, hosted by the Arizona Division. The Grand Canyon Special will be held in Flagstaff, AZ on June 7-11, 2023. Please visit our table at the PSR convention in San Diego on September 7-11 for more information and to register. Flagstaff is in northern Arizona at an elevation of 6,910 feet. The surrounding Coconino National Forest is the largest contiguous ponderosa pine forest in North America. Nearby scenic highlights are Sunset Crater, the San Francisco mountains and of course, the Grand Canyon. The host hotel is

the Drury Inn and Suites with the convention activities in the adjacent High County Conference Center on the campus of Northern Arizona University.

We are planning a full schedule of clinics on model railroad and non-model railroad topics plus layout tours. We have arranged with the Grand Canyon Railway to host a tour of their shops on Friday of the convention and run a special excursion train on Saturday behind steam locomotive #4960 for NMRA members and guests. The excursion train will offer four classes of service, with a two-hour layover at the Grand Canyon and photo run-by on the return trip. We hope to see you in Flagstaff next June.



Los Angeles

Vic Cavalli, Director

Greetings from the Los Angeles (LA) Division. Hope this report finds you, and yours, doing well.

Last quarter, I shared L.A. was about to initiate Division sponsored bi-monthly home layout visits. We actually had two (2) owners/layouts well into the planning phase when another surge of COVID-19 AB.4 and AB.5 detected cases and hospitalizations quickly put a freeze to our efforts. Another opportunity to share, maybe even expand, our hobby was temporarily lost again. The Division's Advisory Board still believes this to be a great event idea, so we will try again in 2023.

That's not to say there haven't been chances to do some "outdoors" model railroading in Los Angeles or Ventura Counties however. Several privately sponsored swap meets continue to be held monthly, and most area-local clubs have re-opened their "doors" to visitors once again.

Save the Date: October 1, 2022 definitely needs to be on your calendar! The L.A. Division co-sponsored annual *Los Angeles Area Prototype Modelers' Meet* will be held at the Encounter Christian Church, 10012 Ramona St., Bellflower, CA beginning at 9:00 am. Bring your models; finished or not. Enjoy clinics.

Continued on next page



Los Angeles

Vic Cavalli, Director

Continued:

Possibly win a raffle prize or two! Additionally, there will be an on-site Swap Meet starting at 7:30 am.

Cost: \$20.00 at the door; \$15.00 if you bring a model (s) for display.

In support of National Model Railroad Month, the LA Division plans to hold a *virtual* FallRail-like event in November. That is, a couple of live 30-40 minutes-long clinics, hopefully a video-based layout tour; a period for “show-and-tell” presentations, and, if time permits, maybe even a *NMRA Library* video or two. Total time: 3-4 hours. When: a Saturday or Sunday early in the month. If you would like to present, have an idea or two, or just want to help in the planning, please contact me directly; my contact information is listed in the front of each *PSR Dispatch* issue.

Looking a bit further into the future, the Great Train Show is scheduled to return to the Ventura County Fairgrounds and Event Center February 18th and 19th 2023. Look for us to be manning our NMRA recruitment table, offering subsidized (50% off) *Rail Pass* memberships to one and all.

For a complete listing of all happening within the L.A. Division, consult our quarterly newsletter, the *LA Coupler*, www.ladiv-nmra.org/index.php/news-and-information/la-coupler-newsletter/current-edition (area-centric events are listed towards the rear of each issue) or the *Events* page on our website, www.ladiv-nmra.org.

So there you have it; all that’s new within the L.A. Division. Drop me a line should you have questions or comments. Or, if attending our PSR Annual Convention, September 7th – 10th, in San Diego and you “see” me, stop for a minute so we might say “hi.”

Until next quarter’s report, happy model railroading to you!



San Diego

Pete Steinmetz, Director

Most of our time in the San Diego Division has been spent on the 2022 PSR Convention preparations. We are going to have an outstanding convention. All of the various committees are very pleased and feel the convention attendees will have a great time. We will have many outstanding Layout Tours. Our prototype tour is the Pasha Autorack Loading Facility. We will get a behind the scenes tour of how automobiles arrive by ship and are transferred to rail cars. Clinics will feature in person presentations along with remote presenters on Zoom. This allows us to present excellent clinics by clinicians that are unable to attend in person.

Preparations are underway for the PSR to host the 2024 NMRA National Convention in Long Beach. We are eager to start booking events, but facilities don’t want to commit until one year out.

We are looking for volunteers to help. If anyone is interested, contact Pat Raymer. There are plenty of jobs. Nothing overwhelming.

San Diego continues to have our monthly events. We just completed a successful Summer Meet. September is the PSR Convention. October is our Layout Tour and swap meet at the North County Model Railroad Society NCMRS. It will be held Saturday October 8 in Oceanside. There will be a swap meet starting at 8AM. We are expecting a lot of vendors and attendees. There will be prizes. There will be food available. (www.ncmrs.org)

Membership in our division has grown over the past two years. Our events have offered members and guests the opportunity to socialize in a setting with other modelers. The San Diego Division will continue to offer monthly events for all PSR members and guests.



Awards Program

Carl Heimberger, AP Chairman

Unfortunately very little activity took place over the last three months in the Awards Program. Hopefully this trend will change, my guess is most of us are glad to be out of Covid restrictions and are doing stuff we could not do for some time. Anyway, I hope that is the case. We did have some activity however and the following members have earned awards.

Golden Spike Awards

Mike Guinn – Arizona

Jim Phillips – Cajon

Award Program Certificates

Jeffery Cauthen – San Diego, Author

Mona Raymer – Los Angeles, Official

Jeffery Smith – Los Angeles, Author

I know from visiting numerous home and club layout over the years and various meets and PSR conventions that we have some excellent modelers out there who are not involved in the NMRA Awards Program. And yes I realize for some of us that is not why we are in the hobby. We just enjoy building and running our layout.

That being said, I really cannot argue with that view. However, in most cases if you have an operating layout you probably have done most of the work to receive some of the AP Certificates, such as Structures, Cars, maybe Motive Power, Civil Engineer, Electrical Engineer, and Scenery. Yes there is paperwork involved, but you are only looking at a few hours to fill it out compared to the hundreds or thousands of hours you spent building your layout.

You do not need to make this harder than it is we are not looking for the great American Novel but just a brief description of what you did and how you did it. In addition, each Division has an Awards Manager who is there to assist you and answer any questions you may have, just email, or call them.

Have some stuff you have been working on over the past months and want it evaluated for Merit Award?

Just fill out the contest forms consisting of the entry form and the evaluation form, Remember, we do not need a book just a brief description of what you used and how you built it. Yes my first time entering something was challenging, but the Contest Manager and AP Manager in the show room will work with you and help you finalize your paperwork if you need help. And remember you ARE NOT competing against other entries in the room but just against yourself and the evaluation criteria.

So. Dust off some of the projects you have been working on and bring them to San Diego.



PSR Treasurer

Joel Morse, Treasurer

During the period May 1, 2022 through July 31, 2022, with the exception of one payment of \$25.00 California State registration fee and a \$31.00 stop payment fee, all other transactions were related to the initial funding of the work for the NMRA National Convention which will be hosted by PSR in 2024. The PSR Board of Directors voted to provide \$10,000.00 in “seed” money to the 2024 Convention Committee. A portion of these funds (\$4,117.99) were disbursed via the PSR checking account for immediate needs prior to the creation of a separate National Convention bank account. The balance of the \$10,000.00 “seed” money (\$5,882.01) was transferred directly into the new Convention Account as the initial account deposit.

There was one deposit of \$9.62 during this period, reflecting the proceeds from Amazon Smile.

The July 31, 2022 Bank Statement indicates that the Region has \$22,228.91 (compared to \$32,463.29 on May 1, 2022) in the Region Checking Account.

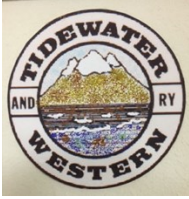
Additionally, the Bank Account paperwork was updated to remove and replace a number of signers and authorized individuals, as directed by the Board of Directors.

PSR Wells Fargo Checking Account:

Region Assets as of May 1, 2022: \$32,463.29

Region Assets as of July 31, 2022: \$22,228.91

Net Change this period: -\$10,234.38



A Fallen Flag

Carl Heimberger, AP Chairman

A Fallen Flag

“The Tidewater and Western Railway”

After almost thirty five years “The Tidewater and Western Railway” is now just a memory, but for those fortunate to have visited it the memory will last forever.

Not to worry, Robert Olds is still well but due to mobility issues he had to move out of his condominium in Newport Beach which housed “The Tidewater and Western Railway.” This once thriving railroad empire is now just an empty basement room with the layout filling two trash dumpsters. Through Bobs generosity all the structures, locomotives and cars were salvaged by the Cajon Division and will be used as Hobo Auction items at future meets, Thank you Bob.

A brief history of the Tidewater and Western Railway, construction started shortly after Bob moved to Newport Beach in 1978 with the digging of a basement under the condominium. The majority of the mainline completed by May 1992 and the majority of the layout completed in December 1998. But like any railroad they are never finished, and Bob continued to add details. The layout has been on numerous tours by various groups over the years and for a full description of how the layout was built see an article in the Summer 2018 edition of the Cajon Division Order Board on the Cajon website. Well worth reading and some great photos.

Over the years I have visited the layout and enjoyed talking about the layout with Bob. But never had hours of time to really look at the intricate details on Tidewater and Western Railroad. I was one of several members from the Cajon Division who assisted Bob in the removal of the layout, and what I found uniquely interesting was the insight Bob had in making each scene on the layout tell a story. On one of the branch lines there was an orange grove with a small farmhouse, people in the process of picking oranges for shipment from the nearby packing house. In the city there was a street of houses and each one of them told a story, a family having a backyard BBQ, another doing yard work and one with kids playing in the front yard and an old woman chasing them off with an umbrella. At City Hall what appeared to be a Fourth of July celebration, with a crowd of people and of course a politician making a speech. In a back corner of the layout was a work train with a section crew getting ready to do some track maintenance, and a little farther down the track a cattle ranch with a corral and loading ramp. On the river a dad with his boys fishing, hikers in the woods, and passengers at the station looking for the next train. No matter where you look you saw some type of human activity.

Bob understood that a model railroad is far more than just watching a train run around the tracks, and his interpretation of the real world on the “Tidewater and Western Railway” was uniquely refreshing.

Bob, thank you for sharing your unique talents with the model railroad community for all those years, the “Tidewater and Western Railway” will be missed by all, and I was one of the many blessed by being introduced to your rare talents.





2024 NATIONAL CONVENTION

SURFLINER

LONG BEACH, CA

AUGUST 4 - 11

WWW.PSRNMRA.ORG





Cajon Division Fall Festival

Save the Date October 22, 2022

At

**Messiah Lutheran Church
6625 Dale St. Buena Park**

**Swap Meet
Contest Show Room
Clinics
Lunch
Cajon Connection
Membership Meeting and
Awards
Hobo Auction**



The NMRA has a new SIG - “Women in Model Railroading”

We are excited to offer the opportunity to women around the world to become members of this new Special Interest Group - [Women in Model Railroading](#)! As a recognized SIG within the NMRA, we expect this group to be vibrant in the world of model railroading. The purpose of the Women in Model Railroading (WIMRR) SIG is to introduce, encourage and connect women in or interested in the hobby of model railroading. The SIG is designed for education, enrichment, social interactions, and all-around fun. This group is meant to be inclusive and supportive of all women in the hobby and railfan world. We plan to host a few social meetings per year including online and at train shows/conventions around the country. The SIG will provide women in their local NMRA regions the support needed to create activities or gatherings, in order to grow the hobby and remove perceived barriers for women modelers.

Join our Facebook Pages:

["Women in Model Railroading"](#) is for women in the model railroad hobby to share their world.

["The Steam Sisters Group"](#) is for women railfans to share their photos of steam AND diesel trains.

Visit the SIG page: <https://www.nmra.org/sigs/women-in-model-railroading>

Join: Please use this link to join the SIG: <https://forms.gle/aKPhcXU1sthKW1MQ8>



Random Photos from the Cumbres & Toltec and Durango & Silverton Railroads. If you have photos you would like to see published in the Dispatch, send them to me and I will see if I can use them. - Kevin Spady

Your purchasing power can help our NMRA Region!

Do you shop through Amazon? Did you know that every time you have something delivered to your doorstep by Amazon, that non-profit 501c(3) organizations like the PSR NMRA could receive a donation from Amazon?

Amazon has a special program called “AmazonSmile”. AmazonSmile is a simple way for you to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop with AmazonSmile, you’ll find the exact same shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added benefit that **AmazonSmile will donate 0.5% of your eligible purchases to the charitable organization of your choice**. 100% of the donation amount generated from your eligible purchase on AmazonSmile will be donated.

To use AmazonSmile, simply go to smile.amazon.com on your web browser or activate AmazonSmile in the Amazon Shopping app on your smart phone, and your purchases of eligible products (marked “eligible for AmazonSmile donation” on the detail pages) will result in donations. The PSR charity designation to look for is “Pacific Southwest Region Nmra” (note the capitalization error, but yes, that’s us)! It sounds far more complicated than it really is!

Some purchases, such as those made through a Kindle store, Amazon physical stores, or Alexa-enabled devices are not eligible for any donation. The donations made by Amazon are not tax deductible by you as the donations are made by Amazon. One nice feature is that if you are currently purchasing from Amazon, your account is the same for AmazonSmile as well. Your shopping cart, wish list, registries and other account settings are identical, **and all this doesn’t cost you a nickel!**

How Does the Pacific Southwest Region benefit?

Each quarter the PSR NMRA will receive an electronic funds transfer from Amazon for the total of the donations during the prior period. I personally do quite a bit of shopping online and I just recently switched my contribution over to the PSR NMRA once we achieved our 501 c (3) designation. Last year my contributions totaled over \$20.00. If just half of our regional membership contributed at that level, we would be contributing over \$10,000 annually to the PSR. Imagine what could be done with that amount of funding to give back quality content, events, and benefits to you, our members!

Give it a try!

This program generated almost \$10 in the last financial period for the Region! This may not seem like a lot, but imagine how this could add up over time!





Kevin Spady, AIA, Editor
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