



PACIFIC SOUTHWEST REGION DISPATCH

NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION



ARIZONA
CAJON
LOS ANGELES
SAN DIEGO



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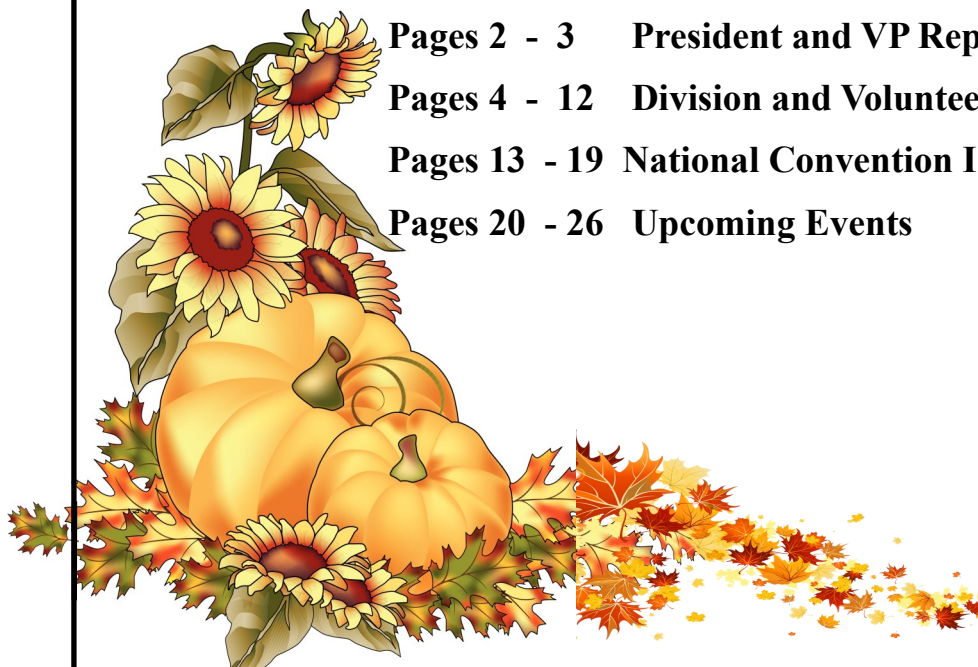
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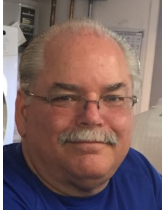
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Fall is here and I hope everyone had a great time at the NMRA National Convention in Long Beach! This Issue is chock full of great information. Check it out!

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PSR President

Joel Morse, President

From the Brass Hat

This is my first Brass Hat column as President of the Pacific Southwest Region of the NMRA, and I want to thank the membership for allowing me to serve the organization in this way. I appreciate the importance of this position and hope to serve effectively as your President. I also want to thank Pat Raymer for his terrific leadership over his term as President, along with outgoing Vice President, Gary Butts, MMR. We have some big shoes to fill. Let me welcome our new newly elected Vice President, Frank Kenny and our newly appointed Treasurer, John McGreevy, as well as newly appointed Karie Neely as Plus -One Chair and Brian Neely as newly appointed Region Historian, to the Board and thank the PSR Board of Directors and Committee Chairs for their ongoing commitment. I have asked all the current Committee Chairs to continue their service that began under Pat.

I've been using "From the Brass Hat" column name since I began serving as the Cajon Division about 5 years ago, so I thought I would continue using it here. This column provides me with the opportunity to reach the entire PSR membership and as you'll learn, my columns tend to be about many different topics, ranging from my current modeling efforts to ideas about membership and service to the organization.

Over the years, I have met quite a few of the PSR members in all four Divisions, but I suspect that I'm not a household name in the Region, so I want to use this first column to tell you a little bit about me, my model railroading journey, and my goals as PSR President.

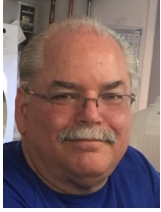
I arrived in southern California in June of 1982 after driving cross-country in my packed 1977 Pontiac Ventura, with a college degree in Geography and Environmental Studies, a short work history in various sales jobs and a 5-string banjo. There were no trains in the car (I had abandoned the hobby after high school). My dad and I began model railroading together in my early teens, when we purchased an N scale Atlas train set in 1971 (I still have the 0-4-0 with slope back

tender). I mention this because I've come to recognize that a lot of my enjoyment of model railroading is the social aspect is due to the pleasant memories of hanging out doing trains with my dad working on the railroad. Don't get me wrong, I can sit for hours and work on a structure, scenery or whatever, alone, but I really enjoy sharing the hobby with others who have the same passion for model railroading.

I had lost interest in model railroading and trains during my college years, even though I went to college in Oneonta, NY (D&H Division Point) and Buffalo (railroad heaven). In fact, I may never have gotten back into the hobby if it wasn't for a serendipitously placed copy of Model Railroader Magazine, which I stumbled onto in 1984 while I was working as an in-home salesman. While waiting for the prospect to bring in his wife, I noticed a copy of the magazine on the coffee table next to the sofa. I looked at the cover and said to myself, "I used to be interested in that". I picked it up, leafed through it and said to myself, "Hmm, I'm still interested in this!" (I'd like to thank that prospect!) A few days later, I went to Arnie's Trains, bought the Campbell Ten Stamp Mill kit (N-scale), bought some foam and scenery materials and built a small diorama. I was hooked again! It was during this period that I met my future wife Dee, and my step-daughters Stephanie and Denise. While not particularly interested in the hobby, Dee and the family have been dealing with my commitment to the hobby ever since.

Over the next few years we moved several times, and I built (but never completed) several layouts, while working as a County Land Development Planner, partnering with Dee in her small business called Dee's Windshield Repair, and in late 1999, beginning my career with T&B Planning, Inc., as a land planning and development consultant. I've now been with T&B for 24 years (as a Principal and partner for 20 years) and will be fully retiring in December 2024.

In 1995, we purchased a beautifully finished 2-car garage with an attached house in West Garden Grove and I started the design and construction of my current 125-square foot N-scale operations-oriented New York, Ontario and Western Railway, California Division layout. We have been operating every other month since 2013, with the layout evolving all the time thanks to



PSR President

Joel Morse, President

the assistance of the regular operating crew (with special thanks to the new PSR VP). You may have seen the layout featured in the January 2024 edition of the NMRA Magazine or visited during any of the open houses or the most recent Layout Tours associated with the SurfLiner2024 National Convention. If you would like to get a private tour of the layout or attend an operating session, please email me to arrange it. In addition to model railroading, I also play bluegrass banjo and am a voracious reader of techno-thrillers, mysteries of all kinds and military history. Dee and I are still married, the girls are married, and both live nearby. We also have one 16-year-old grand-daughter, Kodi.

I've been an adult member of the NMRA since 2011 and my commitment to the NMRA grew over the next few years. I accepted the appointment as the Cajon Division Paymaster/Chief Clerk in December 2016 and served in that position until elected Cajon Division Superintendent in December 2019 (I will continue as Superintendent until December 2024). Also in 2019, I was appointed CFO/Treasurer of the PSR and have been serving in that position until becoming PSR President in August of 2024. Additionally, I have been serving as Treasurer and Co-Chairman of the SurfLiner2024 National Convention since 2022 and will continue to serve as Treasurer until the books are closed in a couple of months. Finally, I served on the 2017 and 2021 PSR Regional Convention Committees, presented clinics in both (as well as at the SurfLiner2024) and attended the National Conventions in Kansas City in 2018 and in St. Louis in 2022.

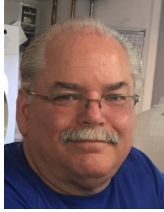
So that's my story, and I'm sticking to it. But why do I feel it was important to tell you all this? There are several reasons.

First, the recitation of my positions within the NMRA is not to infer that I'm anything special in this organization; you probably know other members with a much longer list of accomplishments and contributions to their Division, PSR and the NMRA than mine. Instead, I tell you about it to demonstrate one of

the primary messages of my tenure as Cajon Superintendent, and a message I will continue to send as President of the PSR: my belief that you will get out of this organization in direct proportion to what you put into the organization. The more involved you are with an organization, the more benefits you will enjoy from that organization, and the more valuable your membership becomes. I guarantee that if you ask the members, you know who have served as officers, committee chairs or otherwise made a strong commitment to the organization, if they felt doing so enhanced their enjoyment and value of their membership, they will say that it did.

Therefore, I strongly encourage each of you to make a personal commitment to increase your participation to the greatest extent possible, make participating in Division and Regional events a priority, not an after-thought. Plan to attend the on-line and live events by putting them on your calendar, write a few articles, host an open house, or simply show up in support of those members organizing the events. The more you do, the greater the value you will get from your membership. If you do nothing, you will get nothing. I recognize that not everyone wants the responsibility of, or can make the commitment needed to be an officer or committee chair of a Division or the PSR. It's certainly easier to sit on the sidelines and participate in the events that they make possible. But if you have the skill set needed to take on one of the leadership positions effectively, I urge you to make the commitment to take on that important role. If not you, who?

Second, I believe my background of family, work and other interests illustrates the wonderful reality that we all come to this hobby with different stories, skills and interests, yet we share a passion for model railroading and enjoy sharing that passion with each other. Those of you who have met me know that soon after we meet, I will ask what you do/did for a living (I'm always fascinated with the variety) and what you are interested in within the hobby, to see where our interests intersect. And I've never met a model railroader or NMRA member who wasn't happy to help with me in any way they could. What a fantastic resource we all can be to each other!



PSR President

Joel Morse, President

Finally, as I indicated in my Statement for Election, my primary goals are to:

- 1) Increase the value of membership by working with each Division to identify, share, and coordinate the implementation of their successful Division membership engagement efforts throughout the Region.
- 2) Encourage and support the Divisions in their efforts to increase opportunities for members to share their passion for model railroading and obtain additional educational opportunities by ensuring that Division events, particularly on-line events, are consistently publicized Regionwide.
- 2) Increase membership and membership retention efforts in all Divisions by identifying, sharing and coordinating successful efforts of each Division across the Region.

I look forward to meeting those of you I don't know yet and sharing our interests in model railroading.

If you have any suggestions about how to improve our Region, please don't hesitate to reach out to me by emailing me at President@psrnmra.org, or by phone at 714-614-5401.



PSR Vice President

Frank Kenny, Vice President

Ramblings from the Caboose

Hello, my name is Frank Kenny and I've recently been elected as the Region Vice President. I'm sure everything you need to know about what has gone on, and what is going to occur in the Region will be posted throughout this issue so instead of a recap, I'll introduce myself.

I've been a model railroader since the early 70's but was a train-a-holic from birth according to my parents. I was born in San Bernardino and we lived in Hesperia when I was a young child but made regular trips to the San Bernardino depot as my grandmother didn't like to fly and would only travel by train.

My first train set was actually an American Flyer Santa Fe set for Christmas when I was about 7 years old and my fascination with Santa Fe continues to this day. I still have the original locomotives.

In 1973 I was introduced to model trains via Chuck Short and the Belmont Shore Model Railroad Club which was located in Long Beach at the time. Ben Davis took me under his wing and as a result, I was loosely involved in NTRAK as well. I also joined the NMRA at that time and have been a member ever since, over 50 years and I still can't believe it! I served on the LA Division board, during what I believe was in the 1990's along with Mary Barstow, whom you may remember. As you can see I've had some great mentors!

Over the years I never strayed from model railroading and even jumped into prototype railroads back in the late 70's. I tried to get on the CNW but ended up as an on-board service attendant for Amtrak based out of Chicago. I got to see the country in what I call style and I got paid too! Lots of crazy stories there for another time!

Fast forward to today, I am still in N scale and have a large model railroad of just under 500sf. It's double-decked and represents the area from Mojave to Fresno in 1978 (including Santa Fe) and we



PSR Vice President

Frank Kenny, Vice President

operate the railroad about every other month. After 25 years the layout is still not finished and you can probably relate to that. I mean, why rush! HAHA But I thoroughly enjoy my railroad and hosting operating sessions. The layout was designed for operator enjoyment! If you would like to operate sometime please reach out.

As far as my volunteerism to the Region now, I look forward to helping out “the boss”, Joel Morse, and doing the duties of the VP. By the way, Joel and I are both N scalers so all you N scalers out there...say hi! N scale is fully represented in the PSR!

As I write this the Cajon Division just held an event at the Orange County Model Engineers facility in Costa Mesa. We got a behind-the-scenes tour of the maintenance facility and also received several trips around the whole layout! It was an awesome event and we in the NMRA are all invited back! They have a fall meet coming up at the end of September that you may want to attend and numerous trains will be running. Membership is only \$45/year and once you are trained you can run trains pretty much anytime you want! They are a very friendly, open and inviting club and I’d recommend you check it out.

Speaking of events, we are planning many more so if you have something in mind that you feel others would enjoy too, please reach out to me and let’s talk! In fact, we have a “Run Trains” event coming up at the Pasadena Model Railroad Club toward the end of the year so watch your email for coming events! Feel free to reach me at VicePresident@PSRNMRA.org or at 310-344-9145.



Membership

Rudy Spano, Membership Chair

Our membership continues to remain strong, totaling 985 members for the Region as of August, 2024.

Our August 2023 membership totaled 931 members, so as you can see, we have shown real growth over the year. Thank you to the Division Membership Chairs as well as any of you who have promoted the NMRA at Train Shows, Swap Meets or other events.

If you attended the NMRA Membership Meeting at the Convention in August, you are aware of some new promotional materials being produced by National. They will be available soon, so keep your eyes out for those.

You also heard about a great partnership that the NMRA has entered into with Grouper. This benefit can reimburse you for your membership if you qualify through your health plan. You should have received emails from the Region and National about the program in the last few weeks, and a flyer is included in this issue.. When I returned from the Convention, I applied online, which was simple and easy. Within two days I received an email that I was covered by my insurance plan. Two and a half weeks later, I received a check reimbursing me for my membership fee. I highly recommend that you take advantage of this program.



Southern Pacific Depot Museum—Canby, Oregon



Cajon

Harold Helland, MMR, Director

Wow, what a great National Convention. SurfLiner 2024 went pretty smoothly from my perspective, and everyone had a great time. I was responsible for the Prototype Tours for the convention and was able to find some super bus captains to handle the tours. My thanks to Kurt Matthews, Denni Baumer, Craig Carnell, and David Carnell for being bus captains. Of course, Chris Thompson did a great job of notifying us of any last-minute changes and who was eating which type of sandwich. In case you did not attend the SurfLiner Convention, the registrants toured Southern California Railway Museum, Los Angeles Union Station, Travel Town Museum, Rail Giants Museum, Metro Rail Fleet Services and Union Pacific Gemco Freight Yard. The Company Store offered shirts, hats, mugs, pins, and freight cars lettered for the convention. The HO box cars and the N scale covered hoppers looked great and were purchased by many attendees. There were more clinics than any one person could attend and had many registrants trying to decide which clinic they would attend every day. All this came about under the leadership of Pat Raymer and Joel Morse. Thanks for their countless hours to make this a success.

The Cajon Division sponsored a day at the Orange County Model Engineers. The event included a behind the scenes tour where they store the engines, freight cars and the passenger cars they use for events and when they are open to the public. Since they are an outdoor ride on model railroad, they experience all the issues a real railroad encounters. This was both a workday and a fun day for those invited. Besides our group, there was a birthday party planned which included riding the trains and lunch in the picnic area. The OCME members were replacing the track at a crossover and cleaning brush away from the rails. A great time was had by everyone who visited the Orange County Model Engineers.

The NMRA Cajon Fall Meet will be held at the Messiah Lutheran Church in Buena Park on Saturday, October 19, 2024. This event will start with a Swap Meet followed by clinics, lunch, the Cajon Division Meeting and the Hobo Auction. We always include the Celebration of Models and recognize the members who submit models for display or evaluation.

The Cajon Division is responsible for the 2025 Pacific Southwest Region Annual Convention which will be held at the Hilton Irvine - John Wayne Airport. The Pacific Southwest Express is scheduled from September 3 through September 6, 2025, and will feature modular railroads, home layout tours, prototype tours, operating sessions, and numerous clinics. There will be opportunities to find something new for your home model railroad from Silent Auction, Swap Meet, or Hobo Auction. We are planning four days packed with model railroad fun. Register NOW!

<http://www.pacificswexpress.org>

SO, YOU KNOW SOMETHING YOU THINK OTHERS MIGHT LIKE TO KNOW?

Is there a subject that is near and dear to your heart that you would like to share with others? Would you like to help advance the knowledge of our members?

Share your knowledge with your fellow modelers by presenting a clinic at local chat events, Division meets, Regional Conventions, or even at National events!

Clinic subjects can range from prototype railroads, railroad history, modeling techniques, electronics, scenery, layout design, operations, non-rail subjects, and more than can be listed here.

Don't be shy-your subject may be just what we are looking for! By the way, if you are participating in the Achievement Program, your clinic, with a handout included, is one of the highest possible author points available!



Arizona

Chris Thompson, Director

As part of the SurfLiner 2024 National Convention Committee, I spent the bulk of the summer working with convention team to get all the final pieces together for the convention. We had a great team organizing this event, and it was quite successful despite a number of significant hurdles that were thrown in our way. I want to thank all of the volunteers who helped me work the registration area, and especially Jack Howland, who anchored the team and made sure all of the attendees got their packets in a short amount of time and could get to the fun. Everyone who attended said they had a great time at the convention, enjoying the clinics, prototype tours, layout tours, and other activities. The National Train Show had a much smaller footprint than normal, but there were still a significant number of vendors and manufacturers in attendance. I personally left with a bag full of train goodies, so I thought it was a pretty good show. There were some modular layouts on display as well as a good sized Free-Mo N layout. They did some Op Sessions on the Free-Mo layout, but I was sadly not able to work that into my schedule.

On the home front here in the Arizona Division, our summer meet was held in the Prescott area as usual. It's always a nice getaway for the members here in the Valley of the Sun to go up to the high country to get a break from the summer temps and enjoy some model railroading fun. We had a couple great clinics at the meet. One was about building a prototype railroad bridge that one of our members was involved with in his professional career. There were lots of great photos about the process, which can help us more realistically translate a scene like that to our model railroads. The pictures of the large construction equipment in action were awesome! Our second clinic was on operations, primarily how to get started in operations if you have not previously done that on your railroad. This can add a lot of interest to your model railroading, as it adds something additional to do besides just model

railfanning. A lot of us like to just watch the trains run, but I also have really enjoyed being involved in operations since I started participating in that activity a few years ago.

The West Valley Sub-Division had a mini-meet in July with lunch and socializing before touring the Thunderbird Model Railroad Club layout. The Thunderbird Club is the oldest club in Arizona, its roots go back to its start in 1949. They have had several layout locations over the years, and the current layout was built starting in 1972 in a space on the Arizona State Fairgrounds. One wall of the layout space is lined with windows, and during the State Fair every year in late September and October, we have the layout operating as an exhibit for the fair. If anyone visits the fair this year be sure to come and see it under the grandstands.

We had our summer 3rd Saturday Zoom meet in mid-August with a talk by the new National Achievement Program Chairman Ray Persing. He discussed the changes to the AP program already approved by the National BOD, and some of the other updates being planned to enhance the AP experience. I thought they have a lot of good ideas and are looking forward to seeing some of the new ideas rolled out.

The Arizona Division is into the planning for our first (hopefully) annual Cactus Crawl event. This is a layout open house event scheduled for November 16 – 17 to promote the hobby of model railroading and celebrate National Model Railroad Month. Any Arizona Division members who are interested in participating can contact me for more information. There are a lot of great model railroads in Arizona and we are excited about showcasing them.



PCC Streetcar 4607—Arizona Railway Museum



Los Angeles

Vic Cavalli, Director

Greetings from the Los Angeles Division (L.A.). Trust this report finds you happy, healthy and doing well.

Did you enjoy the National Model Railroad Association's annual convention, *SurfLiner 2024*, as much as I did? What an outstanding show! So much to do yet so little time to fit it all in. Boy, did time seem to fly! Thank goodness most clinics were offered twice throughout the week.

One of the best moments for me was when I had the honor to present the L.A. Division's *Member of the Year* award to **John McGreevy**. John has been a major contributor to our Division for a number of years: Membership Committee Chair, Recruitment lead, Nominations and Elections Chair, event organizer, volunteer, and (most importantly to me) friend.

To all the volunteers and planning committee members involved, "*Thank You! Job well done.*"

Now with the convention behind us, let's look at events and activities, whether NMRA-sponsored or not, scheduled within L.A.'s boundary for the remainder of 2024.

The *Los Angeles Area Prototype Modelers & Swap Meet* will be held **October 5th** at the Encounter Christian Church, 10012 Ramona St., Bellflower, CA. We'll be there with our recruitment table; possibly also performing Achievement Program (AP) evaluations of locomotive, railroad rolling stock, and/or structures. Contact me at director@ladirv-nmra.org should you need AP forms and/or have questions.

Operating Sessions will be conducted on *Frank Kenny's CPRX home layout* (Torrance, CA) on **October 12th** and **December 14th**. Contact Frank directly, CPRXmodelRR@gmail.com, to RSVP.

The Division's next quarterly sponsored Open House shall be **October 26** (10:00 am – 2:00 pm) at Sean Williams' *Wandering Spruce Railroad* 5x10' On30 layout in Claremont, CA. RSVPs are required by October 10th to kspady@att.net as lunch will be provided.

On **November 2nd** the *Santa Susana Railroad Historical Society* will be holding their quarterly swap meet and club open house, located at Santa Susana Park in Simi, CA. The Division will be in attendance with our recruitment table.

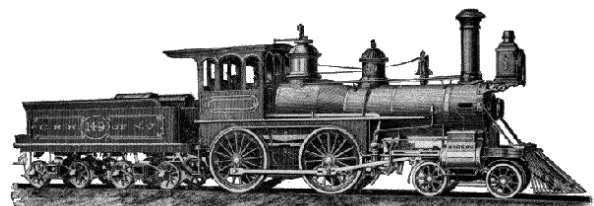
Last, but certainly not least, the *California Southern Model Railroad Club* will be holding open houses **November 9th** (10:00 am – 5:00 pm), **10th** (noon – 5:00 pm) and the evening of the **12th** (7:00 pm – 9:00 pm). The club is located at 12140 E. Firestone Blvd., Norwalk, CA.

Hope to see you at one or more of these events. Give me a "Howdy" if you see me first!

Historian's Report

Brian Neely, Historian

Cajon Member and co-owner of Model Train Solutions, Brian Neely accepted the position of PSR Historian at the PSR Annual Meeting during the SurfLiner 2024 Convention and is still getting oriented and up to speed. If you have any historical items or questions for Brian, you can reach him at brianneely@att.net





San Diego

Tim Foote, Director

MEMBERS: The San Diego Division of the National Model Railroad Association has 147 members.

ACTIVITIES OF THE SAN DIEGO DIVISION:



Saturday, September 14, 2024 - Chuck Molnar will be providing a model railroad layout tour of his prototypical narrow-gauge line, the Rio Grande Southern Railroad. Chuck is an excellent modeler and his layout is a detailed masterpiece. The railroad models the towns from Ridgway to Rico, in Colorado, USA. The scale of the layout is HOn3. The era of the layout is between 1890-1953. (Picture by Mike Hampson)



The Era, Cities and the Railroad: The part of the Rio Grande Southern that Chuck models includes the towns of Ridgway, Placerville, Ophir and Rico, Colorado. There are multiple types of structures and these structures are based on prototype pictures from railroad history books. There are also mountain ranges, rivers, creeks, lakes, trestles, trees and other scenery on the model railroad.

NMRA NATIONAL SURFLINER CONVENTION

I had the pleasure of attending the Surfliner Convention in August. It was my first National Convention. I primarily worked with the audio visual team for the clinics. This also gave me an opportunity to attend a lot of clinics. I also gave a clinic myself regarding rebuilding an old engine such as an Athearn Blue Box. I demonstrated how to do a stall test on the motor of the engine with a recommendation to replace any open face motors with a new can motor. I also provided tips on cleaning and lubing the engine and installation of a DCC decoder. I have noticed that there are a lot of model railroaders that don't work on their own engines which is a part of the hobby that I find to be quite rewarding. It was fun to do a clinic and I also learned things from suggestions provided by the attendees.



San Diego

Tim Foote, Director



Of the clinics that I attended, one of the most notable was on how to present a clinic. One of the important tips provided was to limit the amount of text on your power point slides. It is not important to get every concept regarding a topic onto one slide. Too much text can be distracting to the viewer. It is better to add another slide rather than make your audience read and try to pay attention to you at the same time.

Another clinic/presentation that I liked was a live zoom conference with the repair crew of the Durango and Silverton Tourist Railroad. The presentation started with a movie that provided an overview of the Durango and Silverton shops. After that we were able to ask questions of the crew regarding the railroad and the repair projects. It was

an aspect of this world famous tourist railroad that none of us had ever experienced before.

I also enjoyed a clinic given by an engineer who formerly worked for the Southern Pacific. He was an excellent speaker and he provided a lot of details of the daily tasks he performed shunting cars around the L.A. Basin. He used yard diagrams to demonstrate the tasks of moving cars to a yard and putting a train together to deliver cars throughout the L.A. area. It appears that the work requires one to be available at all hours of the day.

I recommend that you attend a national convention and take advantage of the rich selection of clinics offered. The experience will give you further background in model railroading and provide inspiration for your work on your own layout.



2024 SurfLiner Convention Clinic



Awards Program

Carl Heimberger, AP Chairman

2024 Awards Third Quarter

Of course, the big event this past quarter was the NMRA National SurfLiner Convention in Long Beach. There were many awards from the Models Celebration Room, but first here are some of the AP certificates earned by PSR Members this past quarter.

- Stephen Dress - MMR
- Patrick Rogan - Volunteer
- Paul Buhrke - Volunteer

As mentioned above, members of the PSR did very well in the SurfLiner Model Celebration room and the following members all received Merit Awards for their models.

Diesel or others Scratch Built

- Gary Butts MMR - HO Mack Railbus #176

Structures Scratch Built

- Carl Heimberger – HO - Kelsey Silver Mine
- Carl Heimberger – HOn3 - V&T Passenger Car Shed
- Allen Gross – HO - 1905 RR Car Ferry Lansdowne
- Larry Tidball – HO - West Side Lumber Co. Car Shed
- Nick Lisica – O - ATSF Olive Depot
- Dan Kamikubo – N - Western Pacific Las Plumas Car Ferry.
- Lorelee Paige-Ortiz HOn3- Coaling Tower

Diorama Scratch Built

- Andrew Arney – HO -Saw Mill
- Earl Girbovan MMR – HO - Thornberger Ore Unloader

Steam Kit Class

- Kevin Spady – On30 - Climax #8

Freight Cars Kit Class

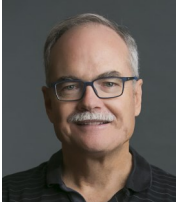
- David Fritsche – O - WSLC Tank Car #2

Structures Kit Class

- Nick Lisica – O - Logging Tug “Alexandria”
- David Fritsche – O - Saw Mill
- Earl Girbovan MMR - HO - Piledriver Barge.

Congratulation to all who entered and received Merit. And thanks to Kevin Spady for the great photos of the entries into the Celebration Room in this newsletter.





PSR Treasurer

John McGreevy, Treasurer

PACIFIC SOUTHWEST REGION 37

TREASURERS FALL DISPATCH REPORT

John McGreevy/Joel Morse - Treasurers

SUMMARY:

John McGreevy is now PSR Treasurer, however, the transition from Joel Morse to John McGreevy is still incomplete, and this report is a combined effort to provide this information during the transition period.

During the period June 30, 2024, through August 31, 2024, there were several PSR financial transactions this period, consisting only of expenses.

With the Board's approval, the Region engaged Cabrillo Compliance to assist in preparing tax returns for 2023 and setting up the PSR's Chart of Accounts for future tax years with a deposit of \$3,000.00 of the total agreement amount of \$5,590.00. The need for this service arises from the consolidation of the finances as a single corporation, which resulted in the need to file more complex Federal tax forms than previously required. Payment of the full agreement amount will be split between the Divisions and the Region by holding back three National Division Membership Rebates (to assure contribution in proportion to membership), with the Region paying the balance. Additional expenses included payments made to InMotion Web Hosting in the amount of \$35.97 for Division hosting, \$99.00 for Election Buddy reimbursement cashed in this period, \$86.62 for Hobo Breakfast prizes at the SurfLiner2024 and \$65.14 for the purchase of two collapsible PA speaker stands, one for the Region and one for the Cajon Division. The Cajon Division will be reimbursing the Region for their cost (\$32.57).

No deposits were made during this period. Total expenses this period: \$3,286.73

The on-line Bank Statement indicates that the Region had \$27,336.96 on 8/21/2024.

PSR Wells Fargo Checking Account:

Region Only Assets as of June 30, 2024: \$ 30,623.69

Region Only Assets as of August 30, 2024: \$27,336.96

Net Change this period: \$3,286.73



California & Western #26 at Campo, California



The Show Room

PSR Contest Chair

PSR is looking for a new Contest Chair! If you are interested please let one of our Board members know.

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>



A participants thoughts on the 2024 NMRA National Convention

By Kevin Spady

I felt compelled to offer my personal thoughts about the National NMRA Convention in Long Beach. First, I would like to say, I had a great time. The event appeared to go very smoothly, was well managed and had lots to offer. Looking at it strictly in terms of attendance it was a smaller than usual event, but there were good reasons for that, that I don't think its my place to go into here. Suffice it to say that, for an event that almost never happened, this one was well done and I applaud the volunteer team that took on an almost impossible task and made it happen.

So why did I enjoy the event so much? I did much more than "attend" the convention. In addition to attending many clinics until late into the night, I put on two clinics twice each. I volunteered two full mornings in the Contest Room, and then as a model judge on an additional afternoon. These are things that I find very enjoyable and help make the event a positive one. If you feel even a little bit inclined I encourage you to volunteer at conventions and to share your knowledge with others through clinics. It's not hard to do, but does take a bit of fortitude the first time you stand up in front of your peers!

Could the convention have been better? Certainly! The National Train Show being shifted into the hotel (no fault of the convention committee) by the way) reduced the show to something much smaller than normal. I heard complaints from some of the vendors, but in general I heard positive things from the general public. Being an O scale narrow gauge modeler, I personally didn't find much to my taste, but that doesn't mean the show was lacking!

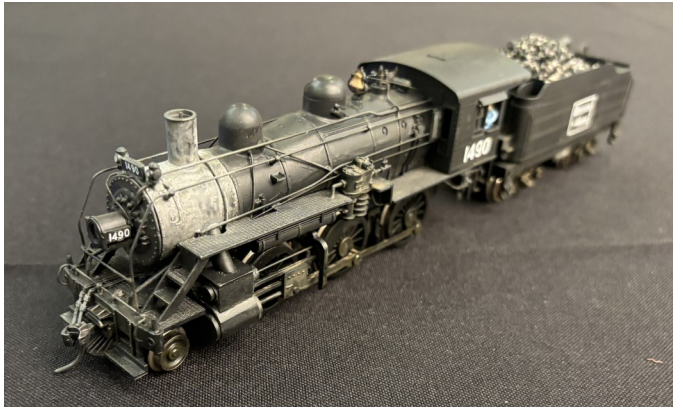
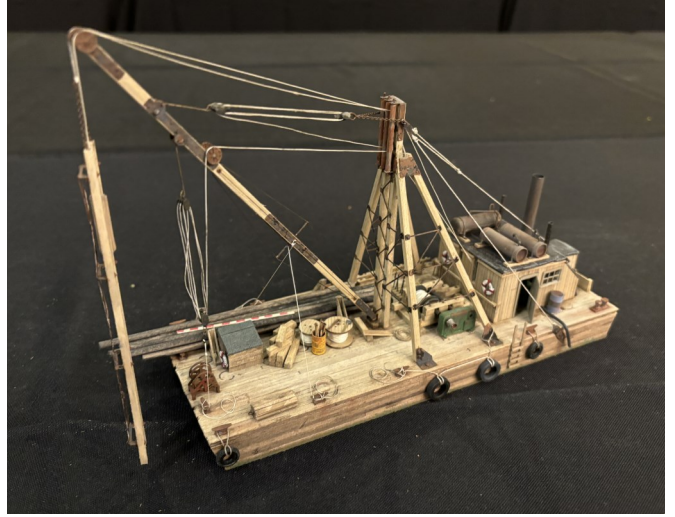
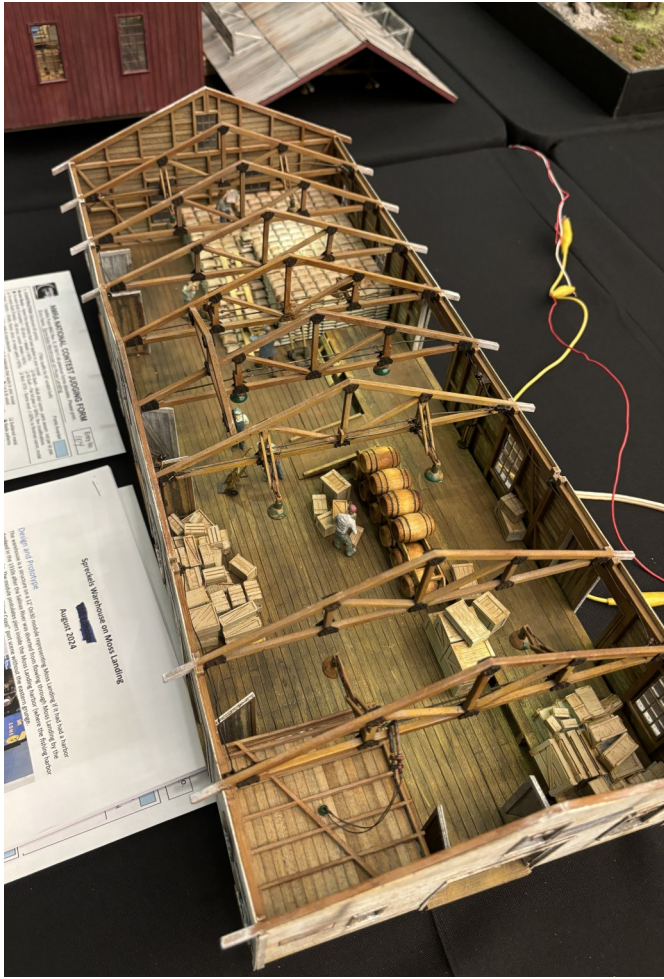
When I arrived on Monday I was a bit dismayed by the lack of models in the Celebration Room. By the end of the day I thought to myself "I need to grab a couple of my models and bring them" just to fill up space on the sea of the empty tables I saw. Gradually, over the next day, several other people brought in models that helped make the Celebration Room a better representation of the caliber of models that a national show warrants.

It was incredibly fun to review the models with the evaluation teams. The leadership group guiding the judging teams was very well managed and knew exactly what to do and how to clearly delineate judging criteria for the review teams. I think the scoring was very well balanced and there were a lot of merit awards.

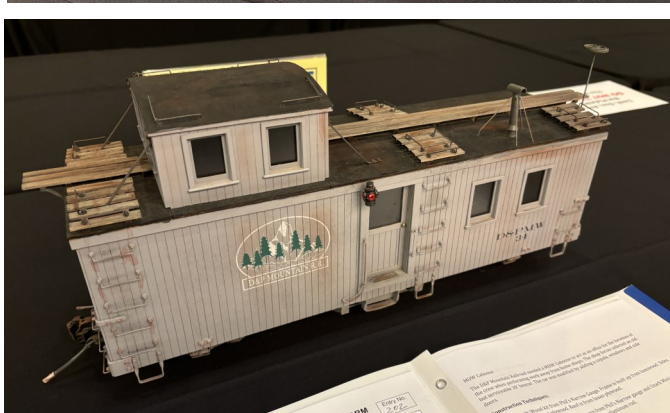
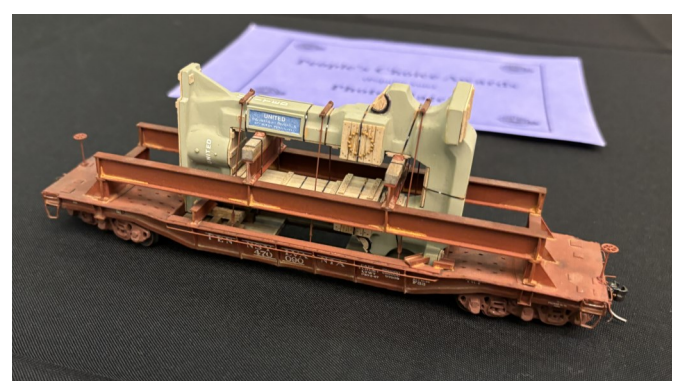
Really my only true dissatisfaction with the way the event was set up was the fact that my volunteer and clinic obligations prevented me from doing any of the tour events. In future I hope consideration is given by convention teams to separating clinic hours from tour hours, so that there is opportunity to participate more broadly in all activities.

I met a lot of new friends and re-engaged with many old friends, which to me is one of the highlights of the event. I am looking forward to the next NMRA convention in 2025. It will be different, very interesting and fun. Hope to see some of you there!

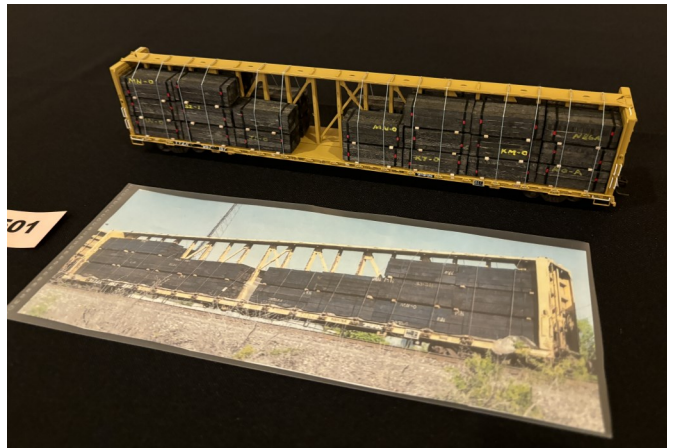
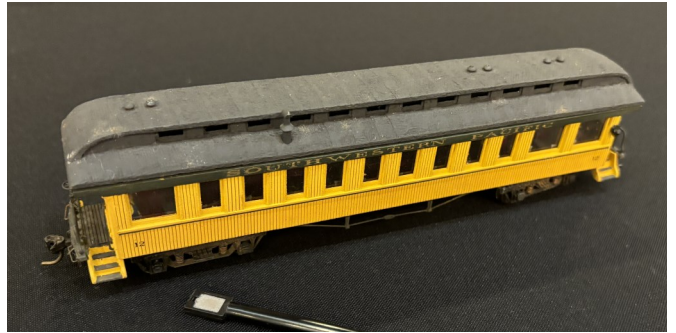
The following pages are a series of photos I took from the Convention for your viewing pleasure!

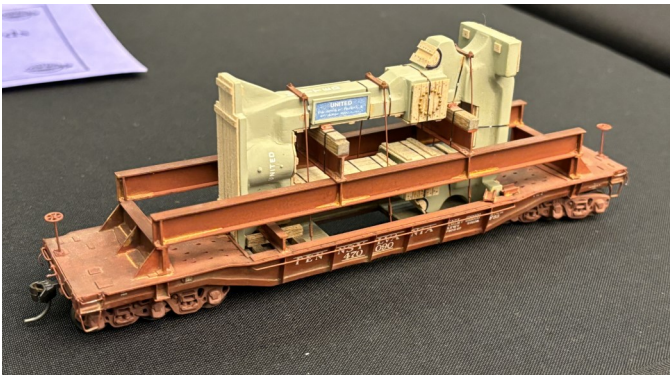
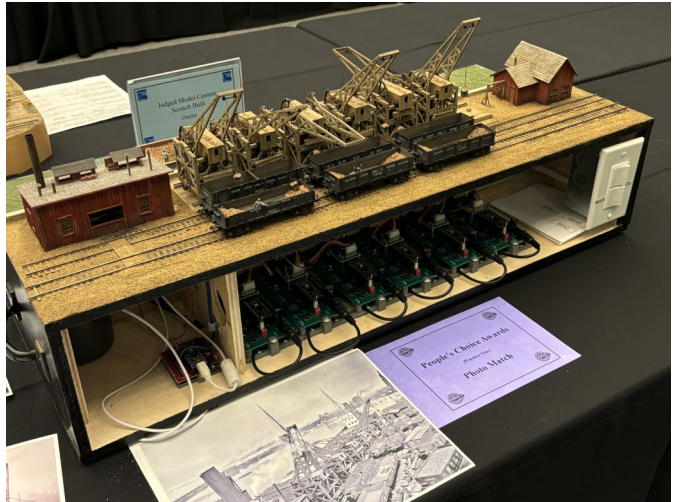
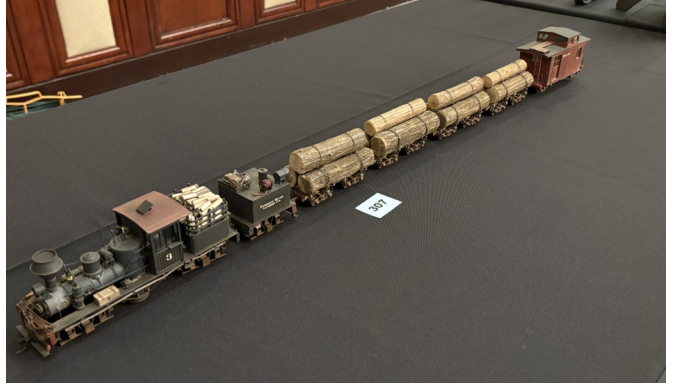
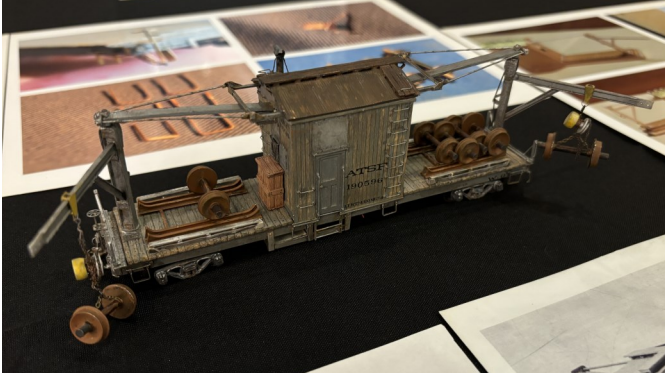


Photos by Kevin Spady



Photos by Kevin Spady





Photos by Kevin Spady



Photos by Kevin Spady



This is healthcare?

Your passion for model railroad is healthcare. **Really.**

Research shows that participating in groups like the **National Model Railroad Association** improves our mental, physical, and social health. It's called "Social Fitness," and it's the perfect replica of your favorite track.



Get Paid for Having Fun

MEMBERSHIP DUES? WE COVER 'EM FOR ELIGIBLE MEMBERS OVER 65!

Grouper works with Medicare Advantage and Medicare Supplement plans to cover membership dues, so you can focus on what you love to do. Don't worry about the membership cost - **it's on your health plan.**



To see if your plan covers the Grouper social fitness benefit, visit  hellogrouper.com/NMRA

Grouper
Call (833) 519-1078
Email nmra@hellogrouper.com

Exclusive benefit for current NMRA members in the U.S. with an eligible Medicare Advantage or Medicare Supplement plan.





Cajon

Division- NMRA

FALL - 2024

Saturday

October 19, 2024



8:30 AM-4:30 PM

SAVE THE DATE!

Clinics

Swap Meet

Hobo Auction

Modelers - Show & Tell

Celebration of Model Railroading

General Membership Meeting

Awards Ceremony

TARIFF

Event Registration

- NMRA Member: \$10.00
- Non-Members: \$15.00
- 18 and Under Free *with Parent/Guardian Only*

Pizza and soft-drink lunch provided

Swap Meet Space:

- Free for NMRA Members
- Others: \$5.00 / 6' space
- Bring your own tables, chairs, shade

MODELS: Bring a model for contest, AP judging or Show & Tell and get one free Hobo Auction ticket sheet!

Messiah Lutheran Church

Courtyard

6625 Dale St, Buena Park

Near the 5 and 91

Free parking



Daylight Limited
**PACIFIC COAST REGION
CONVENTION**

**MARCH
27-30
2025**



Call for Clinicians: PCR 2025 Daylight Limited Convention

The Pacific Coast Region of the National Model Railroad Association is happy to announce its annual regional convention, *The Daylight Limited*, taking place March 27-30, 2025, at the Embassy Suites Hotel in San Luis Obispo, California.

We are excited to invite individuals to present clinics or presentations on any railroad-related topic, whether it's model railroading or prototype railroading. Given San Luis Obispo's rich Southern Pacific Railroad history, we would especially welcome presentations related to the Southern Pacific.

Clinic Opportunities:

- **Presentation Clinics:** Share your knowledge on any railroad topic. Presentations typically last 40-45 minutes, though we can accommodate longer sessions if needed.
- **Make-and-Take Clinics:** Engage attendees with hands-on workshops where they can build and complete a model kit during the clinic. Participants can purchase the kit and follow along with your guidance over two or three sessions.

Why Present?

- **Share Your Expertise:** Whether you're a seasoned presenter or new to clinics, this is a fantastic opportunity to share your passion and knowledge.
- **No Membership Required:** You do not need to be a member of the National Model Railroad Association to present.
- **Support and Resources:** If you're new to presenting, we provide resources to help you prepare. Visit our guide on [How to Give a Clinic](#).

How to Register:

To register your clinic, please visit the [Daylight Limited 2025 Clinician Registration Form](#) at [Daylight Limited Clinic Registration Online Form](#). If you have any questions or need further information, feel free to contact the Daylight Limited Clinic Chairperson, Doug Wagner, at clinics@pcr2025.org.

We hope you'll consider presenting at the PCR 2025 Daylight Limited and contributing to an enriching and educational experience for all attendees. Thank you for your time, and we look forward to your participation!



PSR 2025 Convention

Pacific Southwest Express

September 3 thru 6, 2025

Hilton Irvine – John Wayne Airport

www.pacificswexpress.org

Welcome Reception

Reunite with Friends

Model Railroads

Modular Railroads
Home Model Railroads
Operating Sessions
John Allen Timesaver

Add to Your Model Railroad

Swap Meet
Silent Auction
Hobo Auction

Celebration of Models

Display
Evaluation
One Square Foot Model

General Interest

Activities for All

Prototype Railroads

So Cal Railway Museum
Los Angeles Union Station

Clinics

Educational
Hands On

Awards Banquet

Delicious Dinner
Keynote Speaker
Awards

Registration is available for the Convention and to reserve a Hotel Room

www.pacificswexpress.org



Upcoming Model Railroad and Prototype Events

Area Covered: Counties of Imperial, Inyo, Kern, Mono, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Ventura plus the PSR's Arizona Division; also including selected Regional/National Conventions

Updated 9/17/2024

Reoccurring

- **Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays – Los Angeles Model Railroad Society “work” sessions, Harbor City**
- **Tuesday & Saturdays – San Diego S-Gaugers’ Open House, Grossmont Shopping Center, La Mesa, noon – 6:00 pm**
- **Saturdays – Corona Model Railroad Society Open House, Corona**
- **Saturdays, July-May – Belmont Shore Model Railroad Club Visitation, San Pedro**
- **1st Thursday of each month – Los Angeles Division Sponsored “Sand House Chat” Zoom Session, 7:00 p.m.**
- **3rd Saturday of each month (except October) – Arizona Division Monthly Zoom Meet, 10:00 a.m.**
- **Last Saturday of each month – Railmaster Hobbies’ Model Railroad Fellowship Get-Together, Bellflower**

2024

- **September 11-14 – National Narrow Gauge Convention, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania**
- **September 14 – Chuck Molar’s “Rio Grande Southern” Layout Open House, San Diego area**
- **September 22 – TTOS – SP Division Swap Meet, Brookhurst Community Center, Anaheim**
- **September 28 – Cactus Fall Train Swap Meet, North Phoenix Baptist Church, Phoenix, AZ, 9:00 a.m.**
- **October 3-6 – Central Coast Railroad Festival & Layout Tours, San Luis Obispo**
- **October 5 – Los Angeles Area Prototype Modelers & Swap Meets, Encounter Christian Church, Bellflower**
- **October 5-6 – Great Train Show, Del Mar Fairgrounds, Del Mar**

To be included, please send announcements at least 3 months in advance to: VicCavalli@comcast.net



Upcoming Model Railroad and Prototype Events

2024 (continued)

- October 12 – Trains & Coffee Swap Meet, Placentia, 9:00 a.m.
- October 12 – Ryan DiFede’s “*Southern Pacific Railroad Cascade Line*” Layout Open House, San Diego area
- October 12 – Ops Session on the CPRX, Torrance (Contact Frank Kenny at cprxmodelrr@gmail.com)
- October 19 – Cajon Division Fall Meet, Messiah Lutheran Church, Buena Park
- October 19 – Roundhouse Gang Model Railroad Swap Meet, Old Santa Fe Station, San Bernardino
- October 26 – L.A. Division Sponsored Open House, the Wandering Spruce Railroad - On30, Claremont (NMRA Members Only, RSVP by October 10th)
- November 2 – Santa Susana Railroad Historical Society Swap Meet & Open House, Simi Valley
- November 9 – San Diego Division Fall Meet at the San Diego Model Railroad Museum, Balboa Park, San Diego
- November 9, 10 & 12 – California Southern Model Railroad Club Open House, Norwalk (Times vary by day)
- December 14 – Ops Session on the CPRX, Torrance (Contact Frank Kenny at cprxmodelrr@gmail.com)

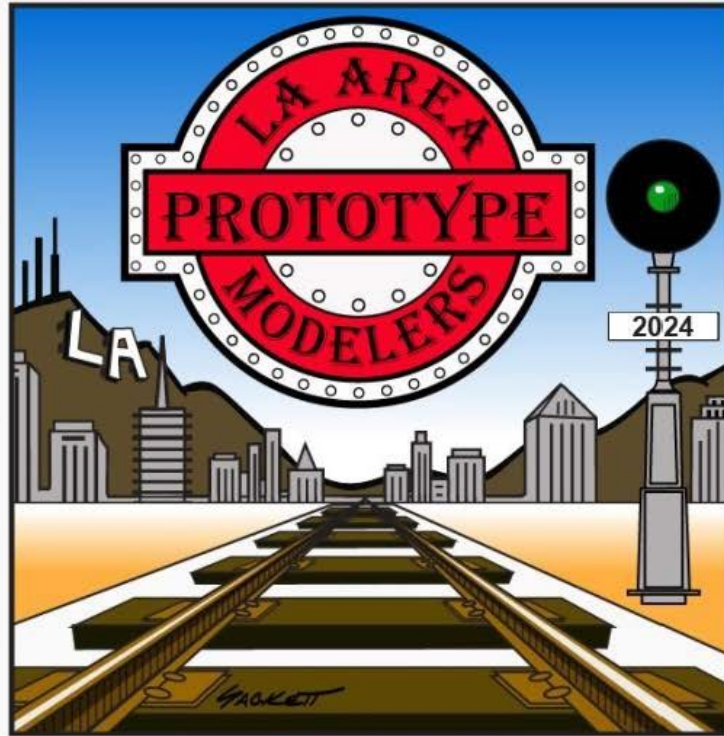
2025

- February 15-16 – Great Train Show & World’s Greatest Hobby, Orange County Fair & Event Center, Costa Mesa
- February 23 – California Express Railroadiana & Transportation Show, Buena Park
- March 1-2 – GEHAM Model Train Show, Bakersfield
- March 8-9 – Great Train Show, Ventura County Fairgrounds, Ventura
- March 27-30 – PCR Annual Convention, *Daylight Limited*, San Luis Obispo
- July 14-19 – NMRA National Convention, “*Station No. VI*”, Novi, MI
- September 3-6 – PSR 2025 Convention, Hilton Irvine – John Wayne Airport, Irvine

2026

- September 8-13 – PSR Annual Convention, Double Tree Hotel, San Diego/Mission Valley

To be included, please send announcements at least 3 months in advance to: VicCaval-li@comcast.net



LA AREA PROTOTYPE MODELERS MEET 2024

Saturday – Oct 5th, 2024 9am - 4pm

Encounter Christian Church

10012 Ramona St. Bellflower, CA 90706

\$20 at the door - \$15 with a model to display

SWAP MEET 7:30AM - 4:00PM

Bring your models (Finished or unfinished)

BRING A FRIEND

All scales and all vehicles welcome

Great Clinics! Fantastic Raffle!

Contact: Jeff Smith at info@laapm.org (562)867-5627
Web: LAAPM.org FaceBook: Los Angeles Prototype Modelers



Kevin Spady, AIA, Editor
NMRA Pacific Southwest Region
727 Luton Drive
Glendale, CA. 91206

