

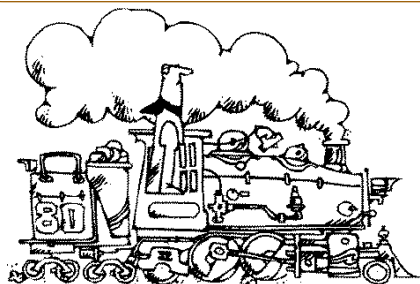
# PSR DISPATCH

## PACIFIC SOUTHWEST REGION

National Model Railroad Association®

VOLUME 20, ISSUE 3 — 3RD QUARTER, 2002

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## Shop Talk from the Roundhouse

**Robert Chaparro, PSR President**

Bob.Chaparro@pfrd.ocgov.com

I hope I see you at the PSR Convention this September. You are planning to go, right?

Of course you are going. You belong to the PSR because you enjoy model railroading and you enjoy the hobby fellowship. And is there a better way to experience both than by attending the convention? Probably not.

Consider all the value you get: modeling clinics, home layout tours, a company store, model and photo contests, displays, a banquet, door prizes, a train show and non-rail activities, too.

We enjoyed a great convention in 2001 in Las Vegas and this year will be no different. A seasoned and enthusiastic crew will be pushing themselves to the limit to bring you a great model railroading experience for very little cost. A full convention registration is less than \$55 and room rates also are very reasonable. Plus, the convention is an easy day's drive from anywhere in our Region.

And don't forget the fellowship. I've made many a life long friend in this hobby through attending conventions. In some cases, I met model railroaders from my own community for the first time at a convention. You may find someone who enjoys the same obscure short line or rail/industry combination right next to you in a clinic or on a layout tour.

And there is always seems to be people who can help you solve a modeling problem through their own experience if you bring this up in a conversation. Talking trains is always a big part of a convention. You'll have the benefit of literally hundreds of years of hobby experience all around you.

The convention is several days of concentrated model railroading. And when you return home you will find yourself inspired and enthusiastic about working on a model, adding more scenery and track to your layout, or maybe doing further research on some aspect of railroad history you discovered at the convention. Don't miss the train in 2002.

On another subject, this is my last column as your President. For eight years I have had the privilege of serving you as PSR Vice President and President. In those eight years the world inside and outside of model railroading has changed quite a bit.

But some things remain little changed. This is still a great, family-oriented hobby supported in no small part through the selfless efforts of a lot of fine, dedicated people in your NMRA® and your PSR. The NMRA® and PSR continue to provide opportunities for you to enjoy model railroading and develop as a modeler. The NMRA® and PSR really are fellow hobbyists who give back to the hobby. They need and merit your continued support.

My final appeal to you is that in the months and years to come you find a way to support the NMRA® and PSR in some meaningful manner to keep this little part of our world enduring, thriving and fulfilling. 🚂

## Official Election Returns

Ballots Received: 110 - Valid: 108, Invalid: 2

Votes cast for **President**

**Ed Hall: 107 (Elected)**

Votes cast for **Vice President**

**Chuck Hart: 104 (Elected)**

**Jan Wescott: 1 (Write In)**

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# Join the Staff of the Pacific Southwest Region

The Railettes Chair has been vacant for several years. If you're interested in volunteering for this interesting and fun job, please

contact PSR President Robert Chaparro at psrpres@cox.net or (949) 770-5158 or 22372 Canaveras, Mission Viejo, CA 92691-1608. ☎



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### MISSION POSSIBLE

### 2002 ANNUAL CONVENTION

[www.getnet.net/~dickg/nmra/psr/2002conv.html](http://www.getnet.net/~dickg/nmra/psr/2002conv.html)

This issue of the *PSA DISPATCH* and the latest editions of the newsletters from all four of the PSR Divisions are available in PDF format from **TrainNet.org** at [www.trainnet.org](http://www.trainnet.org).

The **free** Acrobat Reader, required to open and read PDF format files is available for all computer platforms from Adobe - click on the "Get Acrobat" graphic on the home page at **TrainNet.org**.

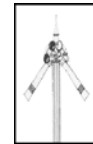
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# Division Director

## CAJON

JAN WESCOTT  
wescvegas@lvcn.com



Ever ride a runaway train? Neither have I but I sure feel like I may have been riding one the past six months. Well, at least it has finally come to a stop as the Division goes dark for the summer. My journey was filled with non-stop monthly activities being held in different areas of this massive Division. Some areas were 4-5 hours away.

Most rewarding was sharing the enthusiasm and excitement with the members. The attendance at each event brought new faces, new memberships and money for our coffers.

Our brag sheet is full of successes. To date we show a 100% increase in activity in our AP program, gained 28 new members and added new clinicians to our list. More importantly, everyone seems to be having fun.

The Division is really gearing for its **Model Railroad Month Celebration** to be held at the Barstow Ramada Inn, 1511 E. Main Street in Barstow, California, on November 2nd and 3rd. Don't forget you are invited! Ron Tucker, our Division Foreman, has done a tremendous job in revving up the Railroad Museum people for our arrival. Even the Mayor of Barstow has expressed his excitement that we chose his city to host this event.

There will be an FP45 locomotive, a caboose and a passenger car for you to crawl around and a handcar for you to try your hand. Modular groups will be operating their trains and eight clinicians are now confirmed. Also on tap for that weekend: a slide show, Chinese auction, a layout to visit and our diorama contest. Don't forget to bring your passes to exhibit on our **PASS BULLETIN BOARD!**

In the desert, summer is a good time to stay indoors where it's cool and get some modeling done. Here's hoping everyone is getting his or her contest models ready for our PSR "Mission Possible" convention (September 11-15) in Oceanside, California. I look forward to seeing all of you there. 🚂

## LOS ANGELES

MARY BARSTOW, MMR  
pvpacific@earthlink.net



Since my last report to the *PSR Dispatch*, Los Angeles Division had its Model Train Show at South Coast Botanic Garden. We all decided that the turn out was lighter than in previous years but nevertheless respectable. Both the attendees and the model railroaders that put on the show had a great time. What better indicator of a successful show!

Los Angeles Division also organized a layout tour in the West San Fernando Valley and Simi Valley. Maps were distributed at the Santa Susana Depot which is right beside the UP-Metrolink mainline. The depot has been restored to its original turn of the century authenticity complete with a ticket office that serves as an interactive museum. The Santa Susana Railroad Historical Society has its HO scale model railroad in a large section of the depot.

From the depot, NMRA members visited the home layouts of Eric Michaelson, Bill Gustafson, Dan Wexler, and Ken Josing. All layouts represented top quality craftsmanship. Those attending enjoyed a rewarding experience.

We are now in the initial phase of organizing a model train show at Descanso Gardens. This will be held the weekend of October 26-27 and will open the celebration of **National Model Railroad Month** officially designated for the month of November. We enjoyed a record turnout at our last show there. We are hoping for more of the same.

With September comes "Mission Possible 2002." The show promises a strong list of clinics and some great layout tours. Thus far I don't have an entry for the contest room unless a G Scale treehouse would be acceptable. It's tricky to divide oneself between two scales and grandchildren.

I do look forward to seeing everyone and hope for a mellow PSR Board of Directors Meeting. 🚂

# Activity Reports



## SAN DIEGO

**RODGER GREDVIG, MMR**  
pgredvig@nethere.net

From strictly a Division point of view, not too much has occurred since the last report. Most NMRA members have been involved in preparation for September's Convention in Oceanside. Lots of last minute details need to be coordinated.

Aside from the Convention, many members of the committee are also members of the Short'NTrak modular Club and have been busy participating in their annual display at the San Diego County Fair in Del Mar. This involves scheduling 3-4 operators per shift (three 4 hour shifts a day) for 21 days of the Fair. A daunting and wearisome task. The reward is that tens of thousands view an operating model railroad and receive hobby literature as well as information promoting the Convention in September at Mission San Luis Rey!

Other than that, there was a layout tour to some of the "not seen before" layouts which had been added to the Convention Layout Tours this year. This gives the committee members a chance to see these layouts which they won't have time to do during the convention.

As mentioned before, the annual Summer Meet in August will again be hosted by the Rohr Live Steam Club at Rohr Park which will include steam rides, a barbecue and a very competitive Boccie ball tournament.

Above all, the members of the Division are looking forward to hosting this year's PSR convention in Oceanside in September. 🚂



## ARIZONA

**JOHN F. DETERMAN**  
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No report received.



## NMRA® Trustee Election

The National Model Railway Association® is running a Board of Trustees election for 5 Regions, including the Pacific Southwest Region. The ballot was published on pages 9 & 10 in the June, 2002 issue of the *NMRA Bulletin*.

The candidates for PSR Trustee are **Robert Sherlock** (Arizona Division), currently serving as PSR Trustee, and **Ron Ustach** (Los Angeles Division), currently serving as Editor of the *L.A. Coupler*.

All members of the PSR are encouraged to vote for the candidate of their choice.

If you don't want to destroy your *NMRA Bulletin*, or don't have access to a copying machine, an Adobe Acrobat PDF version of the ballot is available.

Send an email request to the *PSR Dispatch* Editor at dorr@trainnet.org and you'll receive, via retrun email, a PDF that you can then print on any printer. You may then affix your *NMRA Bulletin* mailing label (to validate your ballot) and mail it to the Ballot Committee (address in the *NMRA Bulletin*). 🚂



## Mission Possible 2002

Presented by San Diego Division, PSR - NMRA  
**Model Railroad Convention & Train Show**  
September 11 - 15, 2002, Oceanside, California

See page 12 for the latest information as of the end of July.

Updated information can be found on the the convention web site at <http://www.getnet.net/~dickg/nmra/psr/2002conv.html>



# Mid-Year Board of Directors Meeting

**ROY W. EBERBACH, SECRETARY**

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**Pacific Southwest Region NMRA®  
2002 Mid-Year Board Of Directors Meeting  
(to be approved at the September 2002 meeting)  
Saturday March 16, 2002 -1:00 P. M.  
Mission San Luis Rey Conference Center  
Oceanside, CA**

Those in attendance were

Robert Chaparro - President  
Ed Hall, MMR - (acting) Vice President  
Roy Eberbach - Secretary  
Tom Draper - Treasurer / Nominations  
Duane E. Buck - Contests  
Jan Wescott - Cajon Director / Education  
Mary Barstow, MMR - Los Angeles Director  
Rodger Gredvig, MMR - San Diego Director  
Richard Dick - (acting) Arizona Director  
Harold Graebner - By-Laws & Operations Manual  
Sam Dale, Robert Wescott, Paul Cutter, Ron Ustach,  
Ben Sevier, George Boggs, Edward Hatch and Paul Schmitt.

Written reports from the following have been attached to the Official Minutes.

PSR President, PSR Trustee, PSR Treasurer, AZ Division Director, Cajon Division Director, LA Division Director and the Nominations Committee.

The meeting was called to order by President Robert Chaparro at 1:06 p.m. The minutes of the last board meeting were approved as corrected on a motion made by Jan Wescott. and seconded by Mary Barstow.

PSR Trustee Bob Sherlock was celebrating a very special birthday with his mother and was not present. Tom Draper reported that the Howell Day Project Trust Agreement at HQ is being reworked for legal reasons. A version of the NMRA® Bulletin will be sold in stores as "Scale Rails." For more information see Bob's report in the *PSR Dispatch*, Second Quarter.

Treasurer Tom Draper gave a full report on our finances and membership. While we had approved a negative budget for this year, so far we are staying in the black. Membership has declined but is within the projections made at the time of the dues increase. A

question was raised about our fed. tax number. The number for Federal purposes only is 86-0440-727. We are not a tax exempt group as that standing is accorded by the states and each division would have to apply according to their own state laws. Tom also reported that the NMRA® name and logo are in all forms a registered copyrighted trade mark. We are to use the little "R" in a circle when ever we use these logos and names. On behalf of the Nominations Committee, Tom reported that Ed Hall, MMR is nominated for president and Chuck Hart and Gordon Miller for vice president.

Richard Dick reported for AZ Division Director John F. Determan who was not in attendance. For the Cajon Division, Jan Wescott handed out her report, but wanted the board to know that there have been some major personnel changes within the division. In spite of this, Cajon Division with its revitalized leadership is well along in working on its goals for 2002. As for the 2001 convention, while it was hurt by 9-11, it still came out very well. Mary Barstow, MMR, reporting for the LA Division, said that Cajon Division deserves a big hand for the convention. Also LA Division and Cajon Division have shared an educational event that went very well. San Diego Division's new director Rodger Gredvig, MMR did not know that he was to bring a printed report. He reported that the division is hard at work with the BSA. Merit Badge Program. Also they plan four meetings a year at clubs. These may include clinics, lunch and swap meets. They are very busy working on the convention. He showed us patches and pins for the convention. The banquet will be held at the motel, not the mission. To encourage youngsters they will be admitted free to the train show.

Jan Wescott reporting for the Education Committee shared with us the education emphasis of the Cajon Division. They have put together an all scale and non-scale event designed for the public. They had great response. Also working on other educational events including working with the Scouts. The *PSR Dispatch* will focus on outstanding programs which can be shared. We need to remember that education for ourselves and for the general public is a key part of our purpose.



Rodger Gredvig, MMR shared with us the status of the 2002 Convention. The schedule for the fall board meeting and the general membership meeting needs to be worked on. At the break we will take a quick tour of the Mission Convention Center. The facility has been remodeled and should make a good place for the convention.

Richard Dick gave a complete report on the planning that has gone into the 2003 Convention in Tucson (dates, hotel and full slate of clinics, tours, etc.). (Sec. note. This is now moot as the convention bid has been taken away from the Tucson group and has been given to a group headed by Robert Sherlock and Tom Draper of Phoenix.)

Our Contest Chair, Duane Buck reported that he would be spending \$552.88 on a supply of awards. This purchase should keep us supplied for several years. There was discussion on the standards used in judging. Questions were raised about the old and new methods and about the differences between scratchbuilt models and kit-bashed models. There will be continuing discussions on these matters. However we must conform to the standards set by National. It was suggested that the board talk with Don Stewart, our AP Chair, and with National. For the present we will stay with the form that we have been using.

The board then took a ten minute break to visit the convention center.

The next matter under old business was the accounts of Ken Allen. He informed the board that the accounts had been closed and that the money had been sent to the proper person. We do not have a record of this yet. We need documentation to close the matter.

The President stated that our election procedures need to be reviewed. After brief discussion the matter was turned over to Harold Graebner.

Jan Wescott had requested that the issue of nonmember attendance at our conventions be placed on the agenda for discussion. She felt that we should put in place a policy that all four Divisions of the PSR region would follow. Currently some Divisions do not require NMRA® membership to attend the PSR regional convention while other Divisions do. She felt that it was important that all of the Divisions follow the same policy. It was stated that there is a policy at national that a surcharge equal to affiliate membership (\$23.00) be added to the cost of attending all conventions for nonmembers. Jan Wescott moved that, Following the San Diego Convention, it will be our policy that nonmembers attending any of our conventions be

charged a fee equal to the cost of affiliate membership. This refers only to the primary registrant. The motion was seconded by Rodger Gredvig, MMR. There was much discussion with strong feelings on both sides. The motion passed on a 4 (yes) and 1 (no) vote. The negative vote was cast by Richard Dick who was chair of the 2003 Convention. This policy should be added to our Manual of Operations.

By-Laws & Manual of Operation Chair Harold Graebner brought the matter of youth membership to the Board. We are now out of compliance with the National. They have a student membership not a youth membership. Jan Wescott moved that, We bring our membership classes into compliance with National. This would mean dropping youth membership and replacing it with student membership. Richard Dick seconded and the motion passed. The By-Laws and Manual of Operations need to be updated on membership. Tom Draper then brought up sustaining memberships. Harold Graebner will bring in new language to the next meeting on the classes of membership.

Under new business Tom Draper officially presented his Nominations report. (see above) Jan Wescott moved that, We accept the report of the Nomination Committee as presented by Tom Draper. Mary Barstow seconded and the motion was passed. The President reminded us that because of the untimely death of Tom Mohr we need an acting Vice President. Robert Chaparro moved and Mary Barstow seconded that we name Ed Hall, MMR acting Vice President until our next election. Motion passed. It was reported that our books should be audited every two years. This should be done by August 31st. Directors should each send a name of a qualified person to serve on the committee to Tom Draper. By general consensus the board agreed that our publications are looking good.

At 4:15 p.m. Jan Wescott Moved that, We adjourn the meeting. Mary Barstow, MMR seconded and the motion passed. ☐☐☐☐

### Editor's Note

The Pacific Southwest Region Board of Directors will hold their Annual Meeting during the Mission Possible convention (September 11-15, 2002) in San Diego. Any changes or corrections made to these minutes at that meeting will be published in the post-convention issue of the *PSR Dispatch*.

Comments about these minutes should be sent to your Division Director, the President or the Vice President (see page 2 for contact information).

# PSR Railway Post Office

## Letters to the Editor



Editor,

SanDiegoRail ([sandiegorail.com](http://sandiegorail.com)) announces a new era in the world of trains. With the help of wsRadio ([wsradio.com](http://wsradio.com)) the subject of trains will be discussed on a world wide basis anytime YOU want. How is this going to happen? Technology. We are going to merge the world of trains with the Internet and the medium of Talk Radio.

On Saturday, July 6, 2002, a new talk radio show began. Lets Talk Trains ([letstalktrains.us](http://letstalktrains.us)) premiered via wsRadio on the Internet from 10AM to noon pacific coast time, 1PM to 3PM east coast time. And, as was said above, any time you want to listen to it. That's right, the show will be available on a 24/7 basis at the wsRadio website in the archives.

This show will be discussing all forms of railroad related subjects: Freight, Passenger, Model Railroading, Historical, Museums, Excursions, Amtrak and much more!

Topics for discussion will be listed on the Lets Talk Trains website along with guests scheduled to visit the show. The show will also allow calls to be taken from listeners for topic discussion.

All active SanDiegoRail patrons are invited to make suggestions and submit ideas for the show. If you happen to know of some organization or person who we need to consider having as a guest on the show, hey, let us know. You can email suggestions for the show to [suggestions@letstalktrains.us](mailto:suggestions@letstalktrains.us). The website is up and has a lot more information including the hosts of the show. There is even information on advertising on the show. As the show gets closer to coming 'on the air' we will post the toll free number you can call to join the show. More information is available on the website.

In the meantime, we hope you will enjoy the show whenever you like.

Special Note: We now have an automated email list manager. The link to it can be found on the 'Where' page of the website. Please enter your email address and select the subject and frequency of emails you would like to receive from SanDiegoRail and Lets Talk Trains.

Richard Hamilton, Host of Lets Talk Trains  
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P.O. Box 1654, Chula Vista, CA 91912-1654

Editor,

I thought that some of you may be interested in this info from Henry Jordan. I think that making it easy for members to cross the border is a big help for those that have never done it. I put together some Manifest Sheets (see EDITOR'S NOTES below) and updated some of Henry's info from my

experiences over the last 10 years of attending conventions and shows in Canada.

Mike Langford  
Editor, NMRA® "Private Road Name Modelers" SIG  
NMRA Life Member #L05783  
[michael.langford@ae.ge.com](mailto:michael.langford@ae.ge.com)

### Toronto Convention/U.S. & Canadian Customs

The national convention in Canada in 2003 has some impact to our members and our events. We cannot just bring our displays and contest models in and out of the country without some preparation. I requested some information from the NFR as they go back and forth with some frequency. Below is their technique on how to do it. Please disseminate to your region members so that we can all bring the models and layouts across the border next year without any hassle.

1. First create a manifest sheet. On a plain sheet of paper make a list of the items you are taking into Canada and plan to return to the US. The list should include an item number, quantity, and brief description of each item. They like numbers, especially on rolling stock, even if they are not unique (hand written is OK). Number the sheets if more than one.

#### Example Manifest:

Name: John Q. Smith  
Address: 1234 Pleasant Valley Road  
City: Happyville  
State: Alabama  
Zip Code: 12345-6789

- A - (1) HO Scale SW-1500 Conrail Switcher #9611
- B - (3) 2' x 4' Model Railroad modules 1A, 1B, & 1C
- C - (1) 6" x 8" x 12" Toolbox containing misc. hand tools, (Screwdrivers, Pliers, etc.)
- D - (1) Contest Model (display only) - Grain Elevator

2. Take the manifest to the US Customs Office **before** leaving the US. They may ask for the total value. So have a number ready.

3. They will stamp the sheet after the last item and may cross out blank spaces where additional items could be written in. They sometimes attach a manifest registration form (3" x 3" sheet) and have you sign it. They sometimes make copies.

4. At Canadian Customs they will ask you if you are bringing in items to be left in Canada. You answer no, and if questioned about the model railroad equipment, the manifest is your indication of intent to return the equipment to the US. It works well if you meet at customs and do this as a



group. (As you can tell from the description, the procedure isn't always the same depending on the agent you get.)

5. Remember you are doing something they don't see every day so be patient and respect the officers.

6. It also helps if the Customs Office is notified by the sponsoring organization that a railroad show is going on and they can expect to see some model railroad equipment coming across the border.

Henry Jordan  
Director Meetings and Trade Shows  
National Model Railroad Association

#### EDITOR'S NOTES:

1. The Manifest Sheets (there are two in the document file) created by Mike Langford are available as a Microsoft Word DOC file. Send an email at [dorr@trainnet.org](mailto:dorr@trainnet.org).

2. Mike Langford's letter began as a message to the Train Editor's Syndicate, an email group hosted by Yahoo! Groups and moderated by Scott G. Perry (NMRA, NASG, NRHS, SER Piedmont Division). The Syndicate is a collection of model railroad newsletter editors, assistant editors, proofreaders, art directors, authors and advertising managers of non-profit club newsletters, NMRA publications and other types of volunteer model train related periodicals. If you are interested in joining the Syndicate (highly recommended!), send an email to Scott G. Perry at [traineditors-owner@yahoo.com](mailto:traineditors-owner@yahoo.com) and he will reply to you as soon as possible. ☺☺☺

#### Warning Labels on Model RR Products

I am sure you have noticed the following label starting to appear on the model railroad products you purchase: "WARNING: This product Contains chemicals which are known to the State of California to cause cancer, birth defects, or other reproductive harm."

Following is the story behind these labels, as printed in the Aristo-Craft Train Insider Newsletter.

In the State of California there exists what is referred to as "Proposition 65." Proposition 65 is the California Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986. Any company that operates in California, sells products in California, or manufactures products that may be sold in or brought into California is subject to Proposition 65. Since Digitrax, Atlas and most other model RR products are sold in California, Proposition 65 applies.

Proposition 65 requires warning labels on any product that may contain any of 600-plus elements that the California Air Resources Board considers a carcinogen or a reproductive toxicant. These elements include lead, brass, PVC and a multitude of other everyday elements.

Many of the elements listed under Proposition 65 are common everyday items. Many are commonly used in the model industry. Other elements are uncommon items and

are rarely used in the hobby industry if at all. The list of elements keeps changing and is periodically updated. Elements are added to the list, some elements are removed. It is excessively difficult to keep track of the changing list of elements. Therefore, it is easier to place warning labels on products even when they do not contain elements listed under Proposition 65.

There are penalties for not complying with Proposition 65. Failure to label products can result in a civil penalty of \$2,500 per day. The State of California allows private individuals to act as bounty hunters to seek products not having appropriate warning labels. These bounty hunters receive a percentage of whatever fine is imposed on the violator. The violator of Proposition 65 could be the manufacturer, distributor or retailer of the offending product.

A company can be served with a Proposition 65 violation even if they do not do business in California themselves. If their product is sold or is purchased outside the State of California and brought into California, the company may still be found in violation.

There have already been several model manufacturers, distributors, and retailers who have been embroiled in Proposition 65 litigation. This litigation has cost the companies a significant amount of money and time. This litigation risk not only comes from bounty hunters, but also from recovery suits. A retailer can sue a distributor to recover Proposition 65 related costs. A distributor can sue a manufacture to cover their Proposition 65 related costs.

Various trade organizations have issued notices to manufacturers warning of Proposition 65 and its implications. Included in the warnings were suggested methods of protection from Proposition 65 litigation and violations. Protection requires warning consumers about the possibility of dangers from products. Warning labels like the one you saw are apparently generally considered to comply with warning consumers.

The label by no means indicates that our (Aristo-Craft) products will cause you to contract cancer or reproductive harm. Used properly you will receive no harm from our products. The purpose of the label is to protect Aristo-Craft from litigation. It helps ensure our continued ability to provide models to our customers.

Proposition 65 info is at

[www.oehha.ca.gov/prop65.html](http://www.oehha.ca.gov/prop65.html)

List of elements under Proposition 65 at

[www.oehha.ca.gov/prop65/prop65\\_list/Newlist.html](http://www.oehha.ca.gov/prop65/prop65_list/Newlist.html)

John M. Wallis

[jwallis@nc.rr.com](mailto:jwallis@nc.rr.com)

NMRA® Headquarters, Division 13 of SER

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** This letter was forwarded to all NMRA® Regional Editors via email by Rick Shoup, MMR. Rick's email address is [nmra-ap@juno.com](mailto:nmra-ap@juno.com) and he is the NMRA® AP SOQ Approval List Distributor.

# PSR Education Department

JAN WESCOTT, PSR EDUCATION CHAIR

wescvegas@lvcn.com



## PSR Shines

In a recent message, Rich Coleman, National Education Director, wrote, "What you are doing in the PSR is great! I wish that I could find a way to duplicate that kind of grass-roots support; that's going to do more to further the cause of education and the hobby than the people at the National level ever will!" Rich wrote this statement with regard to the Pacific Southwest Region's speedy development of its Education Department. Much credit goes to our Division Directors who did the job necessary for its accomplishment.

In order to prepare for the July Board of Trustees meeting, Rich Coleman requested a six-month report of all educational activities held within the Region for the year 2002. Again, the Division Directors along with Division Education Chairs helped to fulfill this request. A big thank you to John Determan, Rodger Gredvig and John Oliver for assisting on such short notice. I was very proud to submit our report. Our collective effort shows our spirit and dedication to our hobby as a non profit education entity. It also provides reasons why the PSR shines among the other regions! 🚂

### REPORT SUBMITTED TO THE NMRA EDUCATION DEPARTMENT FOR JANUARY 2002 TO JUNE 2002

#### CLINICS

1. Don Ford, "Hand-Laid Turnouts" Feb. 16, 2002, Las Vegas (Cajon Division)
2. Dave Greenberg, "SF Diesel Paint Schemes" March 9, 2002 (Arizona Division)
3. Don Stewart, "Giving Clinics using Power Point" March 9, 2002 (Arizona Division)
4. Ken Rhoads, "How Diesels Work" March 9, 2002 (Arizona Division)
5. Carl Heimberger "Easy Tree Making" May 18, 2002 Anaheim (Cajon Division)
6. Jim Fuhrman "Improving Engine Performance" May 18, 2002 Anaheim (Cajon Division)
7. Todd Scott "Simplified Signaling" May 18, 2002 Anaheim (Cajon Division)
8. Chuck Hart and John Sigurdson, "Hair to Air", May 18, 2002 (San Diego Division)

#### EDUCATION PROGRAMS

1. San Diego Division participated in Boy Scout Merit Badge Midway and worked with 34 Boy Scouts towards receiving their Railroading Merit Badge, Del Mar Fair Grounds, April 13, 2002
2. NMRA® education promotion, GATS, January 5-6, 2002 (LA Division)
3. Two NMRA® education promotions, Sahuaro Central "Everything Railroad", February 16, 2002 and May 18, 2002 (Arizona Division)
4. NMRA® education promotion, Maricopa County Fair, April 10-14, 2002 (Arizona Division)
5. NMRA® education promotion, Model Train Show, South Coast Botanic Garden, April 20-21, 2002 (LA Division)
6. Boy Scouts (San Diego Division) exhibit three modules with 100% NMRA® ShortNtrak club at San Diego County Fair, June 15-17, 2002. Modules were built in conjunction with obtaining Railroading Merit Badge program.
7. World's Greatest Hobby Presentation, Las Vegas, June 16, 2002 (Cajon Division)

#### GUEST SPEAKER

LA Division Banquet Guest Speaker, Mr. Marc Hamilton from the Alameda Corridor, March 9, 2002

Topic: The New Alameda Corridor.

One fourth of all products arriving in the U.S. move through the ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles. Individually, they are the two busiest U.S. ports; however, together it makes up the world's third largest port. The 20-mile Alameda Corridor that begins operation April 15, 2002 will move trains off surface streets and eliminate UP, BNSF, AMTRAK and METROLINK train crossings. By separating the trains from traffic, train speeds will increase from 5 -20 mph to 30-40 mph.

#### NMRA® JUDGED CONTESTS

- 2 Entries, 2 Merit Awards, February 16, 2002 (Cajon Division)
- 18 Entries, 8 Merit Awards, March 10, 2002 (Arizona Division)

#### NMRA® ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

- 2 Merit Awards: Model Railroad – Civil Certificate (Arizona Division)
- 6 AP Certificates (4-Cajon Division, 2-SD Division)
- 6 Golden Spike Awards (Region total)



# PSR History Department

**BOB FALEY, PSR HISTORIAN**

bklynomad@cox.net

This quarter we want to bring to your attention, a proposed collection for the Region archives. This idea was suggested by Jan Wescott, Cajon Division Director, and we feel it has excellent merit.

We propose to put together a collection of Convention Rail Cars that have been issued for all past conventions. These cars would form an exhibit that would be displayed at all future conventions and special events. The cars would be stored and maintained by the Region Historian, the President, or whomever the Board seems appropriate.

We would have to appeal to our membership to cooperate with us in obtaining past cars by contributing convention cars in their possession. In the beginning we would only ask those members willing to contribute a Rail Car(s), to let us know which cars they would be willing to provide.

If we receive enough contributions to make up a collection, we would then collect the pledged cars. Hopefully, there will be enough members willing to participate in this project to make it a reality. If you have a car or cars you would be willing

to donate to the Region for this collection, please contact the Historian or any officer in the Region. If you want further information on this project, please contact the Historian.

We again request assistance from all in obtaining past issues of the Dispatch, pictures taken at Regional events, and any other material pertinent to the Region that we can add to our growing Region archive collection. We can't do this without help from our members.

Below is a listing of all past (and scheduled in the near future) PSR conventions starting with the first one in 1984.

**TRIVIA:** The first member to pay the newly formed PSR region in 1982 for a Life Membership was Wilmer Seaver (now in PNR region) and he is our Life Member #1. Wil was our second President and Trustee from 1986-90. Wil also holds Life Membership in NMRA®, PNR, PCR and NFR. He is still active as PNR Contest Chairman and is immediate Past President of PNR Region. Our congratulations to Wil for his dedication to model railroading and the NMRA®. 🚂

## Convention History, 1984-2003

Year	Dates	City	Hotel	Chairman	Slogan	Notes
1984	5/17-5/20	Phoenix	Sunburst	Bob Sherlock	PSR Numero Uno	1, 5
1985	9/26-9/29	Pasadena	Pasadena Hilton	Wil Seaver	Try LA in '85	7
1986	8/14-8/17	Ontario	Ontario Hilton	Tom Becker	Cajon Rails in '86	6
1987	9/14-9/27	Flagstaff	Little America	Bill & Carol Herron	Ride the High Country	5
1988	9/22-9/25	San Diego	Holiday Inn Embarcadero	SD MR Museum	Silver Gate in '88	2, 8
1989	9/17-10/1	Torrance	Torrance Marriott	Bill Hoadley	On Time in '89	7
1990	10/24-10/28	San Bernardino	Maruko	Tom Van Wormer	Doing '90 Down Cajon	6
1991	9/11-9/15	Tucson	Doubletree	Roger von Seeburg & John Lemon	Tucson's #1 in 91	5
1992	9/23-9/17	Laughlin	Riverside, et al	Danny McLean	It's Laughlin For You in '92	6
1993	9/16-9/19	Long Beach	Long Beach Hilton	Wil Seaver	Rails to the Sea in '93	7
1994	9/7-9/11	San Diego	Town/Country Mission Valley	John Sigurdson	PSR '94	8
1995	9/6-9/10	Phoenix	Fountain Suites	Roger von Seeburg	Cactus Charlie Alive in '95	5
1996	7/15-7/21	Long Beach	Long Beach Hilton	Bill & Irene Mergard	Long Beach Limited	3, 7
1997	10/9-10/12	Pomona	Sheraton	Ed Hall	Cajon Zephyr in '97	6
1998	9/9-9/13	San Diego	Doubletree	Ken Allen	San Diego's Great in '98	8
1999	9/15-9/19	Flagstaff	Little America	Matt Furze	In the Pines in '99	5
2000	9/13-9/17	Torrance	Torrance Marriott	David Cox	LA Extra 2000	7
2001	9/12-9/16	Las Vegas	Palace Station	Ed Hall	Las Vegas Limited	6
2002	9/11-9/15	Oceanside	BW Marty's Valley Inn	Chuck Hart	Mission Possible 2002	4, 8
2003	9/10-9/14	Phoenix	Gateway Lagoon	Bob Sherlock	Arizona Express 2003	5

### NOTES:

1. 1<sup>st</sup> PSR Convention.
2. Hosted by the San Diego Model Railroad Museum.
3. Joint with the NMRA National.
4. Activities at the Mission San Luis Rey.
5. Arizona Division.
6. Cajon Division.
7. Los Angeles Division.
8. San Diego Division.



# Mission Possible 2002

**Sam Dale, Publicity Chair**

elsyd@tfb.com

**Ben Sevier, Registrar**

bwsevier@sbcglobal.net

Well, we're down to less than 60 days and counting. The convention committee has been working hard to bring you one of the best conventions you've ever been to and it's almost time to see for yourself what we've done!

At last count we have about 120 confirmed registrants and I keep looking in the mail every day for more – what's keeping you from sending yours in? Get the registration form on the PSR home page ([www.getnet.net/~dickg/nmra/psr/psr.html](http://www.getnet.net/~dickg/nmra/psr/psr.html)) and 2002 convention page ([www.getnet.net/~dickg/nmra/psr/2002conv.html](http://www.getnet.net/~dickg/nmra/psr/2002conv.html)), on the homepage at TrainNet.org ([www.trainnet.org](http://www.trainnet.org)) and as an insert in this issue. All of us here in San Diego would love to see you in September to show you how model railroading is done down here in "Paradise."

There are a number of interesting events planned for your enjoyment. Our keynote speaker will be Mr. Hal Carstens, publisher of *Railroad Model Craftsman* and head of Carstens Publishing. He will speak on "The Future of Model Railroading" at the Saturday night Awards Banquet. By the way, the charge for the banquet (a sit down dinner with your choice of steak or chicken) will be only \$25.00; a bargain – don't miss it!

As of last count, we have 33 clinics lined up on everything from prototype practices to building a layout. Scenery? Electronics? Benchwork? Engines? We've got them all. We think you'll find something there to help you regardless of your interests.

With the increased emphasis on security today there are many restrictions on what the 1:1 scale guys can do for us but we have several interesting tours planned. The Antique Gas & Steam Engine Museum is just up the street and is hosting several tours of their very interesting collection. For those into "real" trains, we've arranged a trip via the Coaster to downtown San Diego to visit the old Santa Fe Depot; from there we will take the "Red Line" trolley to visit the trolley facilities – it's only a short walk from there over to the BNSF yard. For those interested in a little local history a trip to Bell Gardens in Valley Center is arranged. Bell Gardens was the farm where the tomatoes for the Taco Bell chain were grown (the owner founded the chain) and is the site of the riding miniature train, that used to be in Missile Park next to



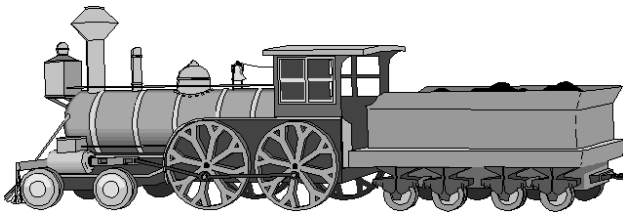
General Dynamics, along with various antique machinery. And, finally, a trip is planned to the Orange Empire Railroad Museum where the day will start with their famous yearly swap meet, touring of the facilities, possible rides on their equipment and winding up with a side trip to the air museum at March Air Force Base. In all, lots of fun.

If you enjoy looking at layouts, we have self-tours arranged by some real masters. The list keeps growing but the last time I counted there were over 30 layouts on the map, from Live Steam and Garden railroads to N Scale empires. A number of them have been featured in various magazines and they are all worth going to see.

For those who have family or non-rail guests attending with them, we have a number of events and tours planned. The convention will start with a welcome breakfast, tour a local winery where there are many craftsman shops, do some antique shopping in "Olde Carlsbad," take a tour of the San Luis Rey Mission where the rest of us will be "playing" with trains, take several interesting classes and even attend a "Bunco" party. Our non-rail event chair promises you won't be bored (and you can even come over see what the rest of us are up to!)

For the "Hobos," a breakfast is planned at a local restaurant, so don't forget to see if you can find your "mark" on the place mats.

As souvenirs the company store will be selling convention cars, pins and patches. The HO scale car is a single dome tank car and the N scale car is a "coal porter" hopper. There are a limited number of all items, so don't wait too long to order.



# PSR Achievement Program

**DON STEWART, AP PROGRAM CHAIR**

Snpcw@aol.com

The PSR Members are doing an excellent job keeping me busy this year. There have been more Certificates and Awards earned than in recent memory. **Excellent! Keep up the outstanding work!** I look forward to working more often the remainder of this year.

Remember, if you have questions about the Achievement Program see your Division Achievement

Program Chair (their contact information is in your Division publication) or contact me directly.

My email address is **Snpcw@aol.com** and my other contact information (snail mail address and phone number) are in the “**Management & Staff**” section (Ed: newly rebuilt in this issue) on Page 2 of this issue of the *PSR Dispatch*. Keep modeling, operating, writing, and volunteering! 🚂

## Certificates awarded in 2002, Second Quarter

**Brian Block**, Cajon Division, Model Railroad Author

**Tom George**, Arizona Division, Master Builder - Motive Power

**James Kociemski**, Cajon Division, Association Volunteer

**Gordon A. Miller**, San Diego Division, Master Builder - Scenery

**Jan Wescott**, Cajon Division, Association Volunteer

**Robert D. Wescott**, Cajon Division, Association Volunteer

## Golden Spike Awards in 2002, First Quarter

**Lynn Austin**, Cajon Division

**Brian Block**, Cajon Division

**Arnt Tonnessen**, Cajon Division

## Golden Spike Awards in 2002, Second Quarter

**William B. Brooks**, San Diego Division

**Roger Clarkson**, Cajon Division

**Dennis Ivison**, Cajon Division (actually just earned in July)

For those who enjoy getting real bargains, both silent and regular (non-silent) auctions will be run. All we need is for people (you!) to bring those items you have been storing to “take to a swap meet sometime,” along with funds to pick up those things you just can’t live without. Minimum lot bid will be \$25.00.

As no model convention would be complete without a contest, there will be a contest room with NMRA® judging for models and photo’s. By the way, don’t be put off by the nitpickers and “super” modelers – everyone has to start somewhere and you can pick up a lot of pointers (and maybe even points) by entering. And you might even get an award at the Banquet on Saturday night.

And last but not least, the “Train Show,” which is open to the public, promises to be a lot of fun. There will be

various operating layouts (7 at last count, in all scales), vendor tables (bring money), Live Steam and large scale operations outside and door prizes.

Oh, yes – almost forgot. The PSR Board of Directors will be holding a meeting (public, of course) the day before the convention starts and there will be the annual PSR general membership meeting on Sunday, the last day of the convention. This is your chance to have direct input into the future of your hobby.

Well, that’s about it. We are looking forward to seeing everyone in sunny, pleasant San Diego County in September – are you going to be there? 🚂

For updates, visit the 2002 convention page:  
**[www.getnet.net/~dickg/nmra/psr/2002conv.html](http://www.getnet.net/~dickg/nmra/psr/2002conv.html)**

# An Open Invitation to Visit Bill Flinn's Layout

**O**n Sunday, September 15, 2002, PSR member Bill Flinn will host an open house from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. He invites anyone travelling his way from the San Diego convention to visit his layout. Bill lives at 12912 Brittany Woods Drive in Santa Ana, California, just off the I-5 Santa Ana Freeway and says his home is very easy to find.

His layout depicts the Southwestern subdivision of the Pennsylvania Railroad and is designed for continuous operation of multiple "long" trains plus a small shortline for coal operations. His layout is highly scenic with over a thousand hand-made trees. Just follow these easy directions: In Santa Ana take the I-5 Santa Ana Freeway, exit on Red Hill avenue, turn right onto Irvine Blvd and left onto Brittany Woods Drive. "Come on by, see my layout and talk trains!" 🚂

Photo by Robert Wescott



Photo by Robert Wescott



## Mission Possible 2002

**Presented by San Diego Division, PSR - NMRA**  
**Model Railroad Convention & Train Show**  
**September 11 - 15, 2002, Oceanside, California**

See page 12 for the latest information as of the end of July.

Updated information can be found on the the convention web site at <http://www.getnet.net/~dickg/nmra/psr/2002conv.html>



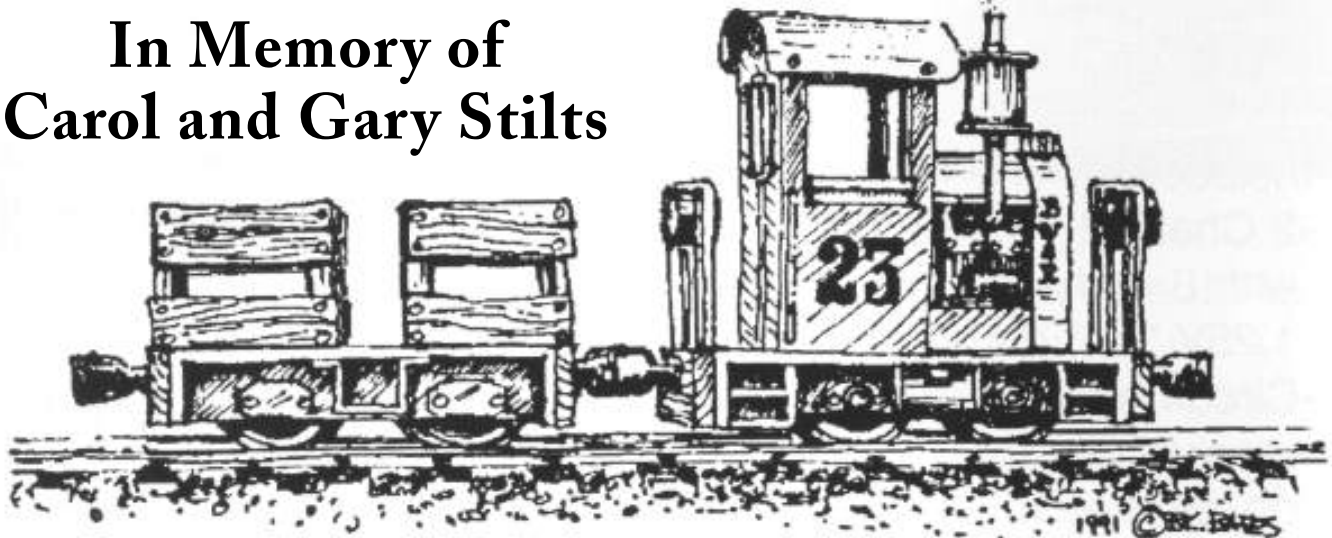


VIEW  
FROM THE

# BIRDWATER & RASPBERRY

BY  
BRUCE BATES

## In Memory of Carol and Gary Stilts



*Birdwater #23 with a non-revenue drag, on its way back to the siding.*

© Copyright 1994-2002 Bruce K. Bates

View the full range of art from Mr. Bates on the web at <http://bates-r-us.org> and contact him via email at [bruce@bates-r-us.org](mailto:bruce@bates-r-us.org)



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Or call (602) 942-9549 (evenings)

## In Memoriam Gary Stilts

Gary Stilts, former Editor of the Arizona Division Spur Line, passed away peacefully on the early morning hours of 2 June, 2002. Gary was a big fan of the Espee (Southern Pacific) and modeled the steam to diesel transition era.

Gary's wife of 41 years, Carol, predeceased him on 1 February, 2002, after a long battle with Lupus. Gary and Carol leave behind their daughter, son-in-law and one granddaughter. Gary was 65.

The Birdwater & Raspberry drawing, above, is published in their memory.

# PSR Contest Corner

**DUANE E. BUCK, PSR CONTESTS CHAIR**

buckgnry@sedona.net

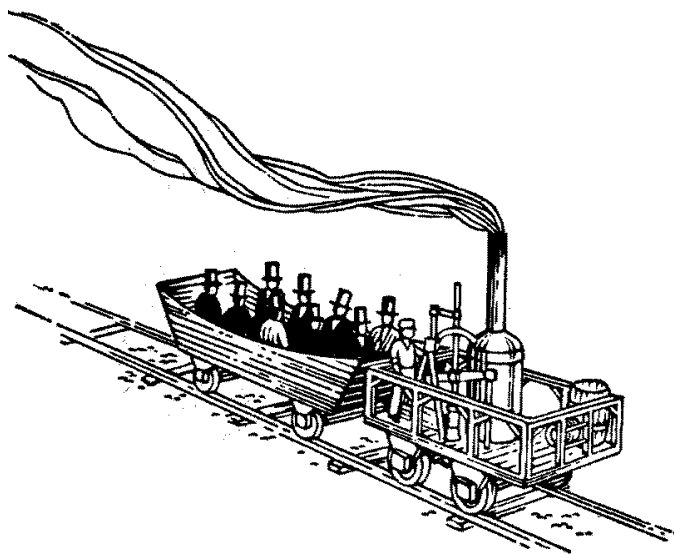
While sitting at my workbench and struggling to create a “masterpiece” to enter in the NMRA® national contest at Ft. Lauderdale, my mind turned, not so lightly, to the upcoming PSR convention at Oceanside.

Even more specifically, my mind centered on the contest activity that will be conducted there. Then my mind jumped to a recent email exchange with a gent who receives my GN Modelers’ Newsletter. He was complaining about a new GN model that had been released, but did not reflect the paint scheme or configuration for the era he modeled. I carefully explained that the manufacturers generally produce “as delivered” configuration to cover a broad based market without having to include specific details that were added by individual railroads after receipt. Then I casually mentioned a few things he could do to change the model to cover his era. His response was that “not everyone has your level of modeling skills” to bring about these changes.

I began to think about the “skills” comment and decided that he was wrong. Many modelers never approach their maximum skill levels because they dismiss a project as being too troublesome, too complicated or taking too much time. In short, they are reluctant to take on a project because they do not analyze what has to be done and what means they have available to accomplish the task.

We have reference materials, tools and a plethora of after market detail parts that most could not have imagined 53 years ago, when I started in the model railroad hobby. These modeling assets, when combined with some of the untested individual modeling skills can produce some fine models if a person is willing to make the effort.

Now, to the point of this dissertation. We all have untapped skills. A means of “self discovery” is to jump in and to use these skills to improve the quality of our models and the overall enjoyment we derive from our great hobby. You are encouraged to build that model and to enter the contest arena. You’ll find it to be an educational experience and, in most cases, a confidence builder. Sharing your efforts with others can also be rewarding.



“Come on down” and try out our “user friendly” contest room. You’ll find that contest room officials will be happy to assist you. Plan on entering your “masterpiece” in the contest during the Oceanside convention.

## PSR Contest Directory

The revised PSR Contest Directory has been approved by PSR President Robert Chaparro and mailed to the Division Contest Chairpersons and other PSR Officials.

The Directory had not received a general revision since 1989. The current Directory includes the following major changes:

1. Adds Records of Changes page.
2. Restricts the entry to a single contest class, novice, kit or open.
3. Expands the category definitions for model construction events.
4. Defines criteria and differences between the open and kit categories in the model construction contests.
5. Redefines the award requirements and updates awards list.
6. Includes requirement for the PSR Contest Chairman to procure plaques and ribbons to cover all PSR sanctioned contest award situations. The actual awards used will be paid for by the Host committee.
7. Updates contest form lists and adds previously missing forms.
8. Modifies model contest judging criteria.
9. Revises photo contest format to coincide with NMRA® standards.
10. Incorporates the use of a Judges’ Comment Sheet to be used in conjunction with the standard Model Judges’ Score Sheet.

11. Revises module contest format to coincide with NMRA® standards.
12. Provides a check off list for guidelines to prepare for regional contests.
13. Provides a check off list for essential administrative functions within the contest room.

Do I hear the comment, “Oh no, not more paperwork”? Most of the added forms are to assist the contest room personnel in the administrative process and do not place an additional burden on the contestants. Be assured that every effort is being made to control “the bureaucracy.”

To clarify model contest entry classifications, the following information is provided:

### 1. Open Model Contest.

- a. The Open Model Contest will consist of models that are more than 50% scratchbuilt or are deemed, by the entering contestant, to have significant modifications and/or a quantity of added details to warrant being judged in the Open Contest.

### 2. Kit Model Contest

- a. The Kit Model Contest, separate from the Open Model Contest, provides for a competition class for kit models upon which a modeler has made improvements. All categories listed in the Kit Contest and are intended to enlarge the field by having a contest for the builders of pure kits and kit bashers.

### 3. Novice Model Contest

- a. The intent of the Novice Model Contest is to provide an event separate from the Open and Kit Model Contests to encourage participation by novice modelers. The Novice Contest covers all model categories.
- b. NMRA® region members who have previously earned a merit award in the category entered at any meet, placed first, second or third in five of the nine categories in regional contests, or been awarded the Best of Show at any previous region contest will be ineligible to participate as a novice.

The contestant will be required to indicate which contest category he or she is entering. That is “Open,” “Kit” or “Novice” on the Entry Form and the Judges’ Score Sheet.

### Closing Comments

Another rewarding and educational experience can be that of acting as a contest judge. I have offered my services

as a model contest judge during the NMRA® national convention in Ft. Lauderdale and I have been accepted once again. I have judged in five national contests and have found it to be a wonderful learning experience. To see the creativity and innovation close up of some modelers can be an education. I never cease to marvel at what I learn from the talents and techniques of these contestants, even after 53 years of model railroading.

My wife has judged in the national arts and crafts contests for the past three years and has found it as enjoyable as I have. Give judging a try! If you don’t have any or just limited experience in this area, don’t worry. You’ll be paired with an experienced judging team.

I hope to see all of you at the Oceanside convention. Greeting old friends and making new friends is the best part of belonging to the NMRA® and sharing in our common hobby interests. I’ll be giving a clinic on tools for model railroading that I think you will find informative and entertaining. And, of course, I’ll be spending a lot of time in the contest room.

When you are visiting the contest room, be sure to thank Ed Hatch and the rest of the San Diego Division contest crew for their efforts on behalf of us all. 🚂🚂🚂



## Writing for the PSR Dispatch

**DORR ALTIZER, EDITOR**  
dorr@trainnet.org

1. In promulgating your esoteric cogitations, or articulating your superficial sentimentalities and amicable, philosophical or psychological observations, beware of platitudinous ponderosity. Let your conversational communications possess a clarified conciseness, a compact comprehensibility, coalescent consistency, and a concatenated cogency.

2. Eschew all conglomerations of flatulent garrulity, jejune babblement and asinine affectations. Let your extemporaneous descantings and unpremeditated expatiations have intelligibility and veracious vivacity, without rodomontade or thrasonical bombast. Sedulously avoid all polysyllabic profundity, pompous prolixity, psittacosis vacuity, ventriloquial verbosity, and vaniloquent vapidty. Shun double-entendres, prurient jocosity, and pestiferous profanity, obscurant or apparent.

3. In other words, talk plainly, briefly, naturally, sensibly, truthfully & purely. Keep away from slang; don’t put on airs; say what you mean; mean what you say; don’t use big words and use your spelling checker! 🚂🚂🚂



# Flag Stops

Lindsay Smith, PSR Member Aid

wlindsays@adelphia.net



Updates to these events can be found on the PSR Web Site at [www.getnet.com/~dickg/nmra/psr/psr.html](http://www.getnet.com/~dickg/nmra/psr/psr.html). Events are usually free to visitors unless otherwise noted but donations are always welcomed by the clubs. Look for raffles and other fund raisers at the event to help support the activities. Sellers/exhibitors should contact the event management for rates. The **PSR DISPATCH** presents the information provided by the sponsors and cannot be responsible for anything more than your amusement. If there are omissions or mistakes or to have your event listed, contact me at (909) 599-0182 or [wlindsays@adelphia.net](mailto:wlindsays@adelphia.net). The Pasadena MRC is reorganizing a web page. The old address did not respond as I was preparing this issue. Last changes entered: **July 7, 2002.**

## 2002

### AUGUST

- 3 Harvey Girl Historical Society. 9:30 - 11:30 AM.  
Town Hall at the Orange Empire Railway Museum, 2201 South "A" St. Perris CA 17 miles south of Riverside on I-215. (909) 943-3020, Lois Tate. [www.oerm.mus.ca.us](http://www.oerm.mus.ca.us)
- 5 Glendale Model Railroad Club. 619 Hahn Ave. (818) 500-7229. It is within Fremont Park. Visit [www.gmrrc.org](http://www.gmrrc.org) for directions to the club building. 7:30 pm to 10:00 pm
- 9 Pacific Railroad Society Membership Meeting. 7:30 PM Joslyn Center, 210 N. Chapel Ave. Alhambra, CA. Lindsay (909) 599-0182, [wlindsays@adelphia.net](mailto:wlindsays@adelphia.net)  
[www.pacificrailsociety.org](http://www.pacificrailsociety.org)
- 10 San Diego Division Annual Picnic. 11:00 AM Rohr Park, Chula Vista
- 15 Pacific Railroad Society Rolling Stock Slide Show. 7:30 PM PRS Dart Shop. 12" to the foot scale. From Olympic Ave in Industry, go south on Herbert to end of the street and turn right on Nokes. Will Walters (714) 637-4676. Lindsay (909) 599-0182, [wlindsays@adelphia.net](mailto:wlindsays@adelphia.net). [www.pacificrailsociety.org](http://www.pacificrailsociety.org)
- 17 & 18 GATS, San Bernardino Fairgrounds, Victorville, CA. 11 AM - 5 PM. \$7.00. See [www.GATS.com](http://www.GATS.com) for discount and details. (630) 834-0652
- 19 to 26 2002 NRHS Convention, Williams, AZ. [www.canyonrails2002.com](http://www.canyonrails2002.com)
- 24 & 25 GATS, Ventura, Co. Fairgrounds/Seaside Park. Ventura, CA 93001. 11 AM - 5 PM. \$7.00. See [www.GATS.com](http://www.GATS.com) for discount and details. (630) 834-0652
- 25 Toy Train Operating Society (TTOS) Southern Pacific Division Meet. 12:30 - 5 PM. Brookhurst Community Center, 22771 W. Crescent Ave., Anaheim, CA #3 each or \$5 for family. Brian Fields, (562) 595-9194. [Brian@ttos-sp.com](mailto:Brian@ttos-sp.com), [www.ttos-sp.com](http://www.ttos-sp.com)
- 31 Foothill Model Railroader's Club Swap Meet. 7 - 10:30 AM. \$2, family \$3. Sunland, CA K-Mart Parking Lot, 8040 Foothill Blvd., Hank Diel (818) 843-3699

### SEPTEMBER

- 2 Orange Empire Railway Museum Operations. 2201 South "A" St. Perris CA 17 miles south of Riverside on I-215. (909) 943-3020, [www.oerm.mus.ca.us](http://www.oerm.mus.ca.us)
- 2 Glendale Model Railroad Club. 619 Hahn Ave. 818 500 7229. It is within Fremont Park. Visit [www.gmrrc.org](http://www.gmrrc.org) for directions to the club building. 7:30 pm to 10:00 pm
- 7 & 8 GATS, Pima Co. Fairgrounds, Tucson, AZ. 11 AM - 5 PM. \$7.00. See [www.GATS.com](http://www.GATS.com) for discount and details. (630) 834-0652



**11 to 15: "Mission Possible 2002"** PSR Region Convention. Mission at San Luis Rey, Vista, CA. Sponsored by the San Diego Division. Ben Sevier, Registrar (858) 538-9863, [bsevier@pacbell.net](mailto:bsevier@pacbell.net). See the two page insert in this issue and page 12 for the latest information as of the end of July. Updated information can be found on the the convention web site at [www.getnet.net/~dickg/nmra/psr/2002conv.html](http://www.getnet.net/~dickg/nmra/psr/2002conv.html)

- 13 Pacific Railroad Society Membership Meeting. 7:30 PM Joslyn Center, 210 N. Chapel Ave. Alhambra, CA. Lindsay (909) 599-0182. [wlindsays@adelphia.net](mailto:wlindsays@adelphia.net) [www.pacificrailsociety.org](http://www.pacificrailsociety.org)
- 13 to 19 Los Angeles County Fair. 2002 Fairplex, 1101 W. McKinley Ave. Pomona, CA 91768. Citrus Empire O Scale under the grandstand. Railroad and Locomotive Historical Society at Gate F. Garden Railroad outdoors South of Grand Stand.
- 16 Pacific Railroad Society Rolling Stock Slide Show. 7:30 PM PRS Dart Shop. 12" to the foot scale. From Olympic Ave in Industry, go south on Herbert to end of the street and turn right on Nokes. Will Walters (714) 637 4676. Lindsay (909) 599-0182. [www.pacificrailsociety.org](http://www.pacificrailsociety.org)
- 22 Toy Train Operating Society (TTOS) Southern Pacific Division Meet. 12:30 - 5 PM. Brookhurst Community Center, 22771 W. Crescent Ave., Anaheim, CA #3 each or \$5 for family. Brian Fields, (562) 595-9194. [Brian@ttos-sp.com](mailto:Brian@ttos-sp.com), [www.ttos-sp.com](http://www.ttos-sp.com)

### OCTOBER

- 5 Cajon Division: Moonlight Madness! Lynn Austin's Clover Valley Railroad Yard, 5455 Plainview, Las Vegas. Evening of model railroading fun: operating trains, slide show, swap meet. 6 pm, Free admission and seller's tables. For more info, visit [www.cajondiv.org](http://www.cajondiv.org) or Jan Wescott (702) 566-0856, [wescvegas@lvcm.com](mailto:wescvegas@lvcm.com)
- 7 San Diego Division Business Meeting. 7:00PM, San Diego Model Railroad Museum

- 7 Glendale Model Railroad Club. 619 Hahn Ave. 818 500 7229. It is within Fremont Park. Visit [www.gmrrc.org](http://www.gmrrc.org) for directions to the club building. 7:30 pm to 10:00 pm
- 11 Pacific Railroad Society Membership Meeting. 7:30 PM Joslyn Center, 210 N. Chapel Ave. Alhambra, CA. Lindsay (909) 599-0182. [wlindsays@adelphia.net](mailto:wlindsays@adelphia.net) [www.pacificrailroad.org](http://www.pacificrailroad.org)
- 12 Pomona Valley Model Railroad Club (PVMRC). 8 -12 Swap Meet, 9- 4 Open house. 132 E. 1st Street, Pomona, CA. Club phone 909 865 7035. Garey and First SE corner. Lindsay Smith (909) 599-0182 or [wlindsays@adelphia.net](mailto:wlindsays@adelphia.net). [www.pvmrrc.com](http://www.pvmrrc.com)
- 18 Pacific Railroad Society Rolling Stock Slide Show. 7:30 PM PRS Dart Shop. 12" to the foot scale. From Olympic Ave in Industry, go south on Herbert to end of the street and turn right on Nokes. Will Walters (714) 637 4676. Lindsay (909) 599-0182. [www.pacificrailroad.org](http://www.pacificrailroad.org)
- 17 Sahuaro Central "EVERYTHING RAILROAD" Swap Meet. 10 - 3 PM. North Phoenix Baptist Church, Family Life Center 5757 N Central Ave. (Central & Bethany Home) \$4.00, children under 12 w/adult free. Handicap accessible. Eldon "Ellie" Barbieri, 4115 E. Siesta Lane, Phoenix AZ 85050-3765 (602) 494-7430 or [ellieb0440@aol.com](mailto:ellieb0440@aol.com). Table reservations: George Lopez Cepero, 915 E. Monte Cristo Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85022-2673, (602) 494-2263.
- 18 - 20 Maricopa Live Steamers Fall Meet Phoenix AZ. Scotty Hill (480) 233-1369 5 - 8 PM MST or [m1ao@cox.com](mailto:m1ao@cox.com) (1 = one) see also [maricopalivesteamers.com](http://maricopalivesteamers.com)
- 18 - 27 Toy Train Operating Society (TTOS) Southern Pacific Division Meet. 12:30 - 5 PM. Brookhurst Community Center, 22771 W. Crescent Ave., Anaheim, CA #3 each or \$5 for family. Brian Fields, (562) 595-9194. [Brian@ttos-sp.com](mailto:Brian@ttos-sp.com), [www.ttos-sp.com](http://www.ttos-sp.com)
- 26 Foothill Model Railroader's Club Swap Meet. 7 - 10:30 AM. \$2, family \$3. Sunland, CA K-Mart Parking Lot, 8040 Foothill Blvd., Hank Diel (818) 843-3699
- 26&27 Descanso Garden Train Show. LA Division Fall Meet

#### NOVEMBER

- Glendale Model Railroad Club Fall Open House. 619 Hahn Ave. 818 500 7229. It is within Fremont Park. Visit [www.gmrrc.org](http://www.gmrrc.org) for directions to the club building. 7:30 pm to 10:00 pm
- 2 Saturday 10:00 am to 4:00 pm
- 3 Sunday 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm
- 4 Monday 7:30 pm to 10:00 pm
- Pasadena Model Railroad Club Fall Show. 5458 Alhambra Ave., Los Angeles CA. (877) 484-4664 (Toll Free). Donations are \$3.00 for adults & \$1.00 for children (under 6 free). Joe Behan, [joebehan@ix.netcom.com](mailto:joebehan@ix.netcom.com)
- 3 Saturday 1-5 PM & 7-10 PM
- 4 Sunday 1-5 PM
- 6 Tuesday 7:30-10 PM
- 10 Saturday 1-5 PM and 7-10 PM
- 11 Sunday 1-5 PM
- 2 & 3 Cajon Division's Model Railroad Month Celebration. Weekend of fun: Clinics, Contests, Slide Show, Mini Train Show, Tours and Auctions. Barstow Ramada Inn, 1511 E. Main Street, Barstow, CA. Admission \$5 at the door. For more info, visit [www.cajondiv.org](http://www.cajondiv.org). Jan Wescott (702) 566-0856. [wescvegas@lvcm.com](mailto:wescvegas@lvcm.com)
- 7 & 8 GATS, Fairplex, Pomona CA. 11 AM - 5 PM. \$7.00. See [www.GATS.com](http://www.GATS.com) for discount and details. (630) 834-0652
- 8 Pacific Railroad Society Membership Meeting. 7:30 PM Joslyn Center, 210 N. Chapel Ave. Alhambra, CA. Lindsay (909) 599-0182, [wlindsays@adelphia.net](mailto:wlindsays@adelphia.net), [www.pacificrailroad.org](http://www.pacificrailroad.org)
- 9 LA Division Layout Tour in Pomona. Details promised later.
- 9 San Diego Division Fall Meet. 5:00 PM San Diego Model Railroad Museum
- 14 Pacific Railroad Society Rolling Stock Slide Show. 7:30 PM PRS Dart Shop. 12" to the foot scale. From Olympic Ave in Industry, go south on Herbert to end of the street and turn right on Nokes. Will Walters (714) 637 4676. Lindsay (909) 599-0182. [www.pacificrailroad.org](http://www.pacificrailroad.org)
- 16&17 Belmont Shores MRRC Swap Meet and Open House. Saturday Swap Meet 10AM to 4PM. \$1.00 per person, \$2.00 per family. Angels Gate Park, 3691 South Gaffy Street, San Pedro, (310) 831-6262, [www.socaln.com/belmont](http://www.socaln.com/belmont), Scott Schifer
- 24 Toy Train Operating Society (TTOS) Southern Pacific Division Meet. 12:30 - 5 PM. Brookhurst Community Center, 22771 W. Crescent Ave., Anaheim, CA #3 each or \$5 for family. Brian Fields, (562) 595-9194, [Brian@ttos-sp.com](mailto:Brian@ttos-sp.com), [www.ttos-sp.com](http://www.ttos-sp.com)

#### DECEMBER

- 2 Glendale Model Railroad Club. 619 Hahn Ave. 818 500 7229. It is within Fremont Park. Visit [www.gmrrc.org](http://www.gmrrc.org) for directions to the club building. 7:30 pm to 10:00 pm
- 7 & 8 GATS, Del Mar Fair, Del Mar, CA 92014. 11 AM - 5 PM. \$7.00. See [www.GATS.com](http://www.GATS.com) for discount and details. (630) 834-0652
- 14&15 GATS, Phoenix Civic Plaza, Phoenix, AZ 85004. 11 AM - 5 PM. \$7.00. See [www.GATS.com](http://www.GATS.com) for discount and details. (630) 834-0652
- 15 Toy Train Operating Society (TTOS) Southern Pacific Division Meet. 12:30 - 5 PM. Brookhurst Community Center, 22771 W. Crescent Ave., Anaheim, CA #3 each or \$5 for family. Brian Fields, (562) 595-9194, [Brian@ttos-sp.com](mailto:Brian@ttos-sp.com), [www.ttos-sp.com](http://www.ttos-sp.com)

### 2003



JULY 13 TO 19: "Maple Leaf 2003" NMRA 2003 National Convention. Toronto, Ontario, Canada. Hosted by Niagara Frontier Region. Registration: [registrar@ml2003.com](mailto:registrar@ml2003.com), General Information: [www.ml2003.com](http://www.ml2003.com) (l = small L, as in Maple Leaf)

### 2004

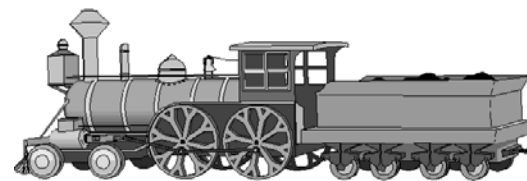


JULY 4 TO 11: "Puget Sound Express" NMRA 2004 National Convention. Seattle, WA. Hosted by the Fourth Division of the Pacific Northwest Region. Information and Registration: Dave Kreidler, (425) 831-5131, [rrnut@msn.com](mailto:rrnut@msn.com)  
General Information: [www.nmra2004.org](http://www.nmra2004.org)

# Achievement Program Thoughts II

ROBERT D. WESCOTT, CAJON DIVISION AP CHAIR

RWesc92415@aol.com



What is the purpose of the Achievement Program? The NMRA® designed this program to recognize and reward good model building. I know we have lots of good modelers building good models so we should be handing out lots of awards. Swirling around my feeble brain is the haunting question: why aren't more members entering our contests or working on their Achievement Certificates? Is it because of a bad contest room experience, too much paperwork, a lack of self-confidence?

Recently we did a survey within the Cajon Division and the results said less than 15% had ever entered a model in any contest. I thought this was unbelievable. Everyone can second-guess answers but I wanted to find out the why and how come from the members. So I began to ask these questions to various members in conversation hoping to arrive at some sort of conclusion.

I sure received an array of answers. Here is a sample of the more repeated answers. "Too much technical paperwork;" "Contests are for those Master Modelers to show off;" "Contests have too much politics;" "I don't model good enough" "Don't have time to look up requirements;" "I model for me, not contests;" "What good does it do to win a contest;" etc.

One thing I noticed is an all around sense of complacency. Most did not or would not take the time to find out what process is involved or learn the requirements. It was not on their priority of things to do to enjoy the hobby. If I informed them, their reaction was a big surprise. With some members, it was just a matter of handing them a printed copy of the requirements.

In our Division, the word "education" is similar to a hammer, a non-stop echo of pounding. However, in all fairness to our leader, the strong focus is working. The members willingly listen; some got really excited to learn they were close; others felt

reassured to learn my opinion they were good enough; and many had already qualified and didn't know it.

The biggest thing is many failed to see how entering a contest could bring them closer to what should be their goal. Most felt they wouldn't win first, second or third in competition but what they didn't realize is their own personal goal should be to earn 87½ points for their model as a step to earning their Achievement Certificate. You don't need to win first, second or third to accomplish this.

I write this as food for thought for all AP Chairs. We need more participants into the programs. We need more modelers to come out of the closet and share their knowledge and expertise. The thing I learned is there really is a need to reach out on a one to one basis wherever and whenever possible. We cannot always expect the members to do the reaching out. Every opportunity must be used to learn what the member is modeling and translate it into a progress picture of how he, too, can earn his certificate. I found one member that has modeled over 100 buildings, with at least 50% scratch-built. I would guess with my limited judging experience, if he were to enter all his models in a contest he might be pretty close to earning 87½ points for most of them and thereby earning his Master Builder Structures award. I guess now I'm sounding like that pounding education hammer.

One final thought to all modelers. I strongly encourage you to enter a model in a contest. What better place to start than at the annual PSR convention. Don't look at it as a competition versus others, but rather as a challenge to yourself to see if you can garner that set of 87½ points from the judge's viewpoint. I guarantee you will learn much from the experience. Fill out your forms at home, and go for it! Hope to see you there! 🚂

## PSR Member Services

DOTTIE FINCH, PSR MEMBER SERVICES CHAIR

gramdottie@aol.com

Welcome to the SEVENTY TWO NEW MEMBERS who have joined the PSR since August of 2001! Let's all make them feel welcome at the Division meets and different functions! Hopefully, many of them will attend "Mission Possible" in September so I can put names with faces.

There are also many of you in all four divisions whom I do not yet know. So please stop by the Membership



table in Oceanside and introduce yourself. I like to know who's money I am handling.

If there is a problem, I will be happy to correct it. My phone number, snail mail address and email address are listed in the "Management & Staff" section on Page 2 in this issue of the *PSR Dispatch* and, as usual, my email address is at the top of this article. 🚂

**Keep On Training!**





# Report on “Tracks in the Sand”

2002 NMRA National Convention - Ft. Lauderdale, FL - July 14-21

**Charles Nauman**

ChuckN37@aol.com

The 67th Annual NMRA Convention was held at the Broward County Convention Center, and hosted by the South Florida Railway Museum. This proved to be a very modern and efficient venue, with clinic and other rooms that were always large enough to accommodate those who wanted to sit in. Nice for a change.

Total attendance was relatively small, with about 1050 on site. The contest room reflected this limited attendance, with relatively few models entered for competition or judging. Allen Gross took first place in the caboos category, and Duane Buck received third place in the freight car category. I was awarded third place in the prototype color print photo contest. I didn't see anyone else I know from Las Vegas, so possibly I was the only one. The RPM room also was rather sparsely occupied, with only a few models on display. The LD SIG room had a somewhat more respectable showing.

Layout tours traveled locally and far-and-wide, including Cocoa Beach way up the Atlantic coast, and Ft. Myers over on the Gulf coast. I selected only one this year, nearby in West Palm Beach, not wanting to spend 4 - 6 hrs on a bus. Prototype tours were sparse but I did take the FEC yard tour in Miami... not to complain, but it was probably not worth the effort: we were not allowed off the bus. Disappointing, but it seems there are always unexpected glitches.

Ft. Lauderdale is a fun tourist destination. The convention center and one hotel were right on the intracoastal waterway, and only a couple of miles from the ocean beach. For \$5 you could ride the water bus all day to visit all of the local waterfront attractions. NMRA-sponsored nonrail and/or evening activities included a beach blanket dinner, a 6-hr dinner cruise, the South Florida Railway Museum dinner and tour and, of course, the NMRA convention banquet.

Clinics commenced at 9 AM, and the last one of the day ended just before 10 PM. Usually 5 clinics ran concurrently. Many were impressive, a credit to the presenters and organizers. Most were given twice, as usual, a very nice feature.

Those I thought especially well done included Scratchbuilding 101 and Scratchbuilding 102, both by Ron Gough, and two clinics on Appalachian coal industry modeling by John Roberts and John Wilkes. Pete Moffett

gave an interesting presentation on open loads and their modeling. And Al Pfeiffer illustrated the real-life experiences of a modern-day railroader (himself), acting as a special agent accompanying high and wide (mostly open) loads, like huge generators, at the request of the shipper. Badger put on a couple of informative clinics on the use of airbrush equipment. Microsoft gave two interesting clinics on their Train Simulator software... including demonstration of the activity editor that allows you to set up your own path and associated rail and environmental conditions. ScaleTree.com gave a nice presentation on advanced module construction techniques.

The National Train Show was also at the convention center. It began at 10 AM Friday and was restricted to convention attendees until it opened to the general public at 2 PM. No clinics were scheduled during the time that the train show was open, a first in my experience. The usual vendors were present, as well as many others from South Florida. Several modular layouts were in operation; I counted two HO Scale, two G Scale, two S Scale, one O Scale, two N Scale and three Z Scale. My vote for the most impressive scenery/model-wise was the only Sn3 layout. You had to be there.

I did run into the usual assortment of non-PSR acquaintances from previous NMRA activities. Surprisingly, most of them were on vacation driving tours with their spouses. This might be a viable option for future conventions: 2003 in Toronto, 2004 in Seattle, 2005 in Cincinnati (over July 4th), and 2006 in Philadelphia. For far-future reference, the 2007 convention was just awarded to Detroit at the Ft. Lauderdale convention. I met the chairman for the Detroit convention, by chance, at lunch one day — he described what sounded to me like a blockbuster convention, largely because of the real wealth of prototype tours that are possible in the area and already in the planning. The convention venue will be a single large hotel with enough rooms in-house for all convention attendees. The train show will be at Cobo Hall. This could be a good one.

Attendance at the Ft. Lauderdale convention provided a good reminder of my earlier days growing up and working on the east coast — high humidity. It was definitely not the high tourist season in Florida. But that's OK, prices were definitely more reasonable. I'd do it again. 🚂

# STANDING STOPS

## Continued

**Lindsay Smith, PSR Member Aid**

wlindsays@adelphia.net

You always know when your list was published; your friends send addenda, corrections and additions.

1. Bob DeMoss says the area code was wrong.

Highland Park Society of Model Railroad Engineers, Inc.

[www.trainweb.org/hp](http://www.trainweb.org/hp)

854 East Broadway, San Gabriel, CA 91776

(626) 285-1031. Meets Wednesday evenings 7-10. Van Facko.

2. Leo Valley says I had outdated information so here is the good dope:

North County Modular Railroad Society

1360 East Mission Road, San Marcos, CA 92069

(760) 746-4779

The club is located in the Stater Bros. Shopping center at the corner of East Mission and Bennett. They have an Open House every Thursday from 7 PM to 9 PM that is free to the public. You are invited to bring in trains to run on our layouts or use the Clubs trains. They have HO, Hon3 and N scale layouts. Business meetings are the last Wednesdays of the month at 7:30 PM in the Club. The dues are \$20 a month for a family.

3. Here is a new one!

Model Railroad Society of Ventura County

They meet on the last Saturday of the month 10 AM – 2 PM for an operating session as well as a short business meeting. They are an N scale modular club operating on the “BEND” Track Standard. Membership is open to anyone interested in model railroading. Meetings are at the Lions Club Meeting Hall in Camarillo Village Square Shopping Center. The cross streets are Arneil Road and Los Posas Road. Contact Ken Webber for schedule confirmation and information (805) 654-8044 or kencar@venturalink.net.

4. Even I gave you a bad return address:

Pomona Valley Model Railroad Club

132 E. First St., PO Box 2681, Pomona, CA 91769-2681

HO, HOn3. 3,000 square feet. Memberships open.

Club phone (909) 865-7035. Tue. and Thur. evenings 8 - 10.

wlindsays@adelphia.net (No more CompuServe for me!)

5. Ellie Barbieri (EllieBO440@aol.com) sends several corrections for Phoenix listings. Ellie and Dick Greateorex (PSR Webmaster) have been most helpful over the years and I really appreciate their assistance. They know more about the Arizona activity than most.

Adobe Mountain Desert Railroad Park

23280 N. 43<sup>rd</sup> Ave., Phoenix, AZ

Exit I-17 at Pinnacle Peak Road.

Phone Ellie Barbieri (602) 494-7430 EllieB0440@aol.com

[www.getnet.com/~dickg/SahuroCentral/SC.html](http://www.getnet.com/~dickg/SahuroCentral/SC.html)

Sahuaro Central Railroad Heritage Preservation Society

Arizona Garden Railway Society

Arizona Model Railroading Society, Inc.

Maricopa Live Steamers

Arizona Garden Railway Society

(A division of Arizona Model Railroading Society, Inc.)

[www.aznodelrr.com](http://www.aznodelrr.com)

23280 N. 43rd Ave., Phoenix, AZ

Adobe Mountain Desert Railroad Park.

Large Scale permanent and modular layouts.

Saturday 9AM to NOON.

Info: Larry Hatch (602) 866-7639, lhah@aol.com

Arizona Model Railroading Society, Inc.

(Inadvertently listed twice, maybe they deserve it!)

[www.aznodelrr.com](http://www.aznodelrr.com)

Adobe Mountain Desert Railroad Park.

Large Scale permanent and modular layouts.

Saturday 9AM to NOON.

Info: Glen Lynch (623) 352-4009, glenco2@juno.com

New or additional Listing; maybe they were confused with another group at Adobe Park!

Maricopa Live Steamers

[www.maricopalivesteamers.com](http://www.maricopalivesteamers.com)

1 ½” scale Adobe Western Railroad.

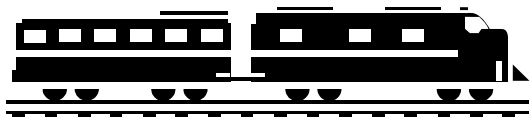
Over 5 actual miles of track on 100 acres in Adobe Mountain Peak. They have a membership of approximately 230 and hold two meets per year in March and October. They give rides every Sunday noon to 5 PM except during June, July and August.

Info: Cliff Fought (623) 386-5737 or crfought@aol.com.



We like to help friends enjoy model railroading. Drop us a line if we neglected to tell about one of your scenes of glee and frustration! I think my trains run badly from time to time so I can enjoy a few moments of intense pleasure when Murphy is otherwise engaged! 🚂

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# Scale or Gauge, Which One?

Lindsay Smith, PSR Member Aid

wlindsays@adelphia.net

You all know the difference, I hope, but the controversy in our hobby seems to part of the entertainment. I have been reading the book by David Marshall, *Model Railroad Engineering*. Although published in 1942, it has a wealth of information for model railroad planning. Actually the problem of size and space is quadratic. While the distance between the rails (gauge) may imply the scale, gauge may not be scaled from a prototype. Several gauges scale to other than 4' 8 1/2" between the rails. Then there is other prototype track spans. If the design of the model railroad requires engineering, then scaling and gauging are important numbers. Since 1942 the popular size has migrated from the most popular O Gauge or Scale. If your room has room for 100 feet of O Scale, you can place 306 feet of OO and 400 feet of HO track. So if you want to model mainline,

you want the smaller equipment with the large proportionality ratios. Hence N Scale is coming hard and smaller scales are popular for home layouts. If you want to add details to equipment the opposite is true. Since your eye resolves about one mil (one foot at range 1,000 feet), there is much more detail on the bigger scales or smaller ratios. Rivet counters scale, but you cannot break gauge and run commercial or interchange equipment on a layout.

While we blame the Romans for Standard Gauge in the prototypes, we can blame English toy manufacturers for the model rail sizing. So we use metric definitions for gauge and scale. When the railroad in England first reached 60 mph in 1849, it was on 7' gauge. Russians use 5' gauge. Most railways changed to the 4' 8 1/2" gauge. I'll simplify the mess by assuming you are going to use Standard Gauge.

Let us look at the details – the devil is in the details! The current information is taken from NMRA® Standard S-1.

Name	Scale	Ratio	Gauge: Model	Gauge: Prototype
G		~22.1		
CD - did not catch on	7/8"/foot			
O - Lionel is not scaled	7 mm/foot	45.35	33 mm, 1 19/64"	4' 8.57"
	0.26548"/foot			
	17/64"/foot			
Q - did not catch on	1/4"/foot	48	1.177"	
S -	3/16"/foot	64	22.2 mm, 0.875"	
HO - Half O	3.5 mm/foot	87.1	16 mm, ~ 5/8"	4' 6.57"
OO	4 mm/foot	76.2	19 mm, 0.748"	4' 9"
TT	1/10"/1 foot	120	12 mm, 15/32"	
N	0.075"/foot	161	8.97mm, 0.353"	
Z	0.055"/foot	220	6.52 mm, 0.257"	

Q is often mixed with O Scale and it is not always obvious on a busy layout. Three rails is highly regarded for toy trains and they enjoy a different criteria for pleasure. Toy train radius of curvature is not even close to scale practice. Hence the Christmas look includes quick turns.

If you double the scale, the model is 8 times bigger because the model is at least three dimensions (L, W, and H) and the volume is the product of the LxWxH. On the other hand if you double the scale, the radius of turn modeled is twice as tight. Thus many that model at home use the older and smaller prototype narrow gauge equipment.

The devil here is with the moving model. Whether your are on your bike, driving a model, flying like a duck or never graduated from Top Gun school,  $R = V^2/2G$ . G being the lateral acceleration and the argument for the centrifugal force, you can see as the speed (V) increases, the model tends to leave the track. At double the speed the rail has 4 times the load. But as we tighten the radius, the load on the rail increases linearly.

Very few layouts have the space to scale prototype radii of curvature. Thus we are pushing the rules of Newton in our models unless we slow down. Since we are running in a compressed scene because we do not have room, we can model the time across the eye scene by running slower than the scale speed. When we look at the proportion ratios, it is easy to make N Scale models fly on the rails. Wish speedy operators "Merry Christmas."

## And the answer is...

The answer to the title question is, quite obviously, it depends on the effect under consideration and the scale on which you are working. Gauge counts for compatibility. Scale counts for realism!

American modelers can take pride in the prototype signal colors. Green, red and amber were first used on American railroads. However, like the ruts, there are historic precedents. The Bible talks about green fields as peaceful. Red is the color of blood and danger or warfare. Halfway between is amber indicating it may not be green ahead. These colors were available in glass filters that were between the lamp flames and the observer.

The American railroads had greater distances and could operate at higher speeds. Braking distance increases as velocity squared and thus the desire for long range signaling was greater in America. Adding lights and making the searchlight signal improved safety on real railroads.

But on a model even the most devout rivets counter does not meet scale. If we measure the distance we can see the signal on the model railroad, it may approach a realistic range. However, it must span several model blocks. Yet we can place the signals very close to the end of a safe block and stop the model before it simulates a cornfield meet. We are not modeling the braking capacity of the prototype.

Once more the devil really comes to the moving modeler. 🚂





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# “Mission Possible 2002”

September 12, 13, 14, 15, 2002

Presented by the San Diego Division,  
Pacific Southwest Region,  
National Model Railroad Association

At the Mission San Luis Rey  
Oceanside, California

## Convention Registration Form

(Please Print)

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

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Phone (    ) \_\_\_\_\_

NMRA# \_\_\_\_\_ PSR# \_\_\_\_\_

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Please indicate how you want each First and Last Name to appear on your name badges: \_\_\_\_\_

## REGISTRATION FARES

Adult Rail No. \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$54.95 \_\_\_\_\_

Youth 15-20 No. \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$19.95 \_\_\_\_\_

(Children 14 and under FREE)

Single Day (which? Thurs. Fri. Sat.) No. \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$29.95 \_\_\_\_\_

Adult Non-Rail Program No. \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$24.95 \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Registration Fares** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to ... “Mission Possible 2002” ... and send along with this form to

Ben Sevier, Registrar

12793 War Horse Street

San Diego, CA 92129

Phone: 858-538-9863

Email: bwsevier@sbcglobal.net

**Cancellation Policy:** Full refund, minus \$5.00 fee, when requested by August 13 and confirmed in writing (Email accepted).

**Our convention accommodation of choice is the  
Best Western - Mary's Valley Inn, 3240 Mission Avenue, Oceanside  
For reservations call 1-800-747-3529**

[illegible]



# Event Descriptions

## Clinics

We have over 18 clinics lined up so far, with a variety of topics that we are sure you will find interesting. By the way, Hal Carstens plans to present a clinic (but he won't divulge the topic yet). Here's a list of clinic titles so far:

Large Layout, Small Room - The Two Lives of 4449 - A Compilation of Weathering Techniques - Tuning and Repowering Diesel Locomotives - Standards. What's That For - Simple Signals for Model Layouts - Simple Wiring for Simple Signals - Prototype Signaling Practices on the Santa Fe and Southern Pacific - Resin Parts Casting From Rubber Molds - Southern Pacific Passenger Cars - Gadgets and Gizmos, Tools for the Model Railroader - Intermodal Modeling from the Prototype - Special Trains Operation - Kitbashing Buildings - Control Panel Design & Construction - Selected Electronics topics for the Model Railroader - Making a beach scene - The Palos Verdes Transfer Railroad

## Layout Tours

There are a large number of self-guided layout tours this year (32 at last count), including G, 1 #1 scale, O (O, On2, On3), HO (HO, HOn2, HOn3), N Scale (N, Nn3), 1/2" Scale and 1:22.5 Scale. Here is a sample of just a few of the treats we have lined up:

**Fire Mountain Railroad.** G Scale. Bill Smith - **Onion Valley Mining & Lumber Co.** HO Scale. Dave Balser - **O.G.S & A. Railroad.** HO Scale. Ora G. Smith & Adrain Benard - **Deboise Western.** HO scale. Art Dominy - **Two Century Railroad Park.** HO Scale. Ed Hatch - **PA, Reading & Seashore Lines.** O Scale. Max Schwanda - **Santa Fe & Arizona Northern.** HO scale. Randy Schissler.

## Rail/Prototype Tours

Security being a big issue to many of the companies today, they are not as open to public tours as before. However, we plan to provide the following tours (tentative - details may change):

1. The Antique Gas & Steam Museum - steam tractors and other antique vehicles.
2. Bell Gardens - small gauge railway rides, tour of farm owned by Taco Bell founder.
3. Red Line Trolley and Santa Fe Depot - take the Coaster to the depot, ride the trolley, tour the trolley facilities, ride the train back.
4. Orange Empire Railroad Museum, Perris, CA - attend one of the best swap meets in the state (bring money and a bag), tour the grounds of the rail & trolley museum, check out the March AFB museum on the way back.

## Non-Rail Events

Welcome Breakfast - Complementary Continental breakfast - meet old and new friends.

Party! - Bunco Party, refreshments provided.

Tours: 1. Self Guided tour of the Mission where the convention is being held.

2. Trip to Bernardo Winery - tour of winery, shops, and a luncheon included - wine tasting optional.
3. Trip to Carlsbad Village - wander the antique stores, boutiques, restaurants, beaches and spas, enjoy the famed San Diego climate.

Classes/Clinics: Decorator plates - Stamping Crafts - Mosaic Votives - Potting Shed Coasters.

## Contact Information

Convention Chair - Chuck Hart - (858) 748-6816 - email: pce@cox.net  
Registration - Ben Sevier - (858) 538-9863 - email: bwsevier@sbcglobal.net  
Vendor/Show Chair - John Sigurdson - (760) 747-1152 - email: jtsig@cox.net  
Non-Rail Chair - Connie Schmidt - (760) 744-6424 - email: ikanfly@hotmail.com

For additional details: <http://www.getnet.net/~dickg/nmra/psr/2002conv.html>



# Mission Possible 2002

## Registration Information

Please enter the requested information in the form. Your registration ID number is on the mailing label on your envelope, in the upper right hand corner. If this is a new registration, leave the ID blank. If more than 1 person registered from your household, each registrant should fill in a separate form.

Name:	Registration ID: (from mailing label)		
Address:	City:	State:	Zip:

*Please circle the appropriate answer*

I will have an item for the live auction:                      Y                      N  
 I will have an item for the silent auction:                      Y                      N  
 I will be entering a model or photo for judging: Y                      N

## Order and Event Sign-up Form

In the spaces below, enter the number of people attending an event or number of items ordered in the Qty column. In the blank rows, enter the Event Name and Code from the schedule of events, the number of people attending, and the cost. Multiply the Qty column times the Cost column in each row, placing the result in the Total column. Add them all up, enter the total in the "Total Due" box, and send your payment in check or money order (no cash) to: Ben Sevier, Registrar, Mission Possible 2002, 12793 War Horse Street, San Diego, CA 92129.

Event or Item	Code	Qty	Cost	Total	Special Instructions
<i>Example Event</i>	EX	1	15.00	15.00	<i>(this is an example entry)</i>
Banquet	BQ		\$25.00		Entree: Beef ( ) Chicken ( )
Car	CAR		\$11.00		O ( ) S ( ) HO ( ) N ( )
Patch	PTH		\$ 4.50		
Pin	PIN		\$ 4.50		

Total Due:

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