



# PSR Dispatch

PACIFIC SOUTHWEST REGION

National Model Railroad Association®

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## EVENTS

2016

July

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Wed, Sept 21st

PSR BOD Meeting

Wed, Sept 21st -

Sunday, Sept 24th

PSR 2016

Convention

Culver City, CA



Members Only  
Forums

## PSR Dispatch Online

May 15, 2016

Welcome to the PSR Dispatch Online, bringing you up to date news and events in the Pacific Southwest Region ~ NMRA

### PSR Forums

The PSR member forums are now open on the PSR web site at: [www.psrnmra.org](http://www.psrnmra.org)

Click on the Forums tab, register your account, and participate in discussions, get up to date info on events, and ask questions of fellow members of the PSR and NMRA.

Do it TODAY!

### LA Junction 2016 PSR Convention September 21 – 24, 2016

**NEVER ATTENDED A DIVISION EVENT / NATIONAL / REGIONAL CONVENTION?**

My question to you is, are you paying dues to the NMRA but yet you are not taking advantage of the great resources being offered to you by not attending local division meets and Regional / National conventions, why not? I understand that some of you are working and taking time off may not be an option, but most

Now Open on the  
NMRA Web Site  
[www.nmra.org](http://www.nmra.org)  
Registration Required



division events are held on weekends. Let me tell you that every division meet or convention I have ever attended I have learned something new or a better way to do something, and that even includes learning something new on a subject I have even given a clinic on in the past. I have also met many interesting modelers who have similar interests as me and it is just fun to sit around and discuss what they are doing and talk about the layouts they are building.

So if you have never attended a Regional Convention your next opportunity is this September, to be exact September 21<sup>st</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup>, in Culver City, at the Double Tree Hotel. For more information on the 2016 PSR/NMRA Convention L.A. Junction and to register on line go to the convention web site at:

<http://www.psrconvention.org/lajunction/index.html>.

Here is a brief outline of events that are available to you at this convention. Starting off on Wednesday night with a welcome reception at Ron Varnell's layout in Torrance where you will enjoy a BBQ dinner hosted by Fred Hill of "The Original Whistle Stop" and the L. A. Division of the PSR. There will also be 3 great prototype tours, the first tour is of the new Metro Light Rail Gold Line maintenance facility and yard, next a is 2-1/2 hour walking tour of L.A. Union Station that will show you places not open to the general public, and finally an all day trip on the Dome Car "Silver Splendor" from L. A. Union Station to Santa Barbara on the trip you will be served breakfast and dinner and have time to tour downtown Santa Barbara. In addition to tours the convention features 60 hours of educational clinics, 26 home and club layouts to visit, the contest room with many fine models to look at, the traditional Hobo Auction with hundreds of items, the Hobo breakfast on Saturday, a swap meet, and the Awards Banquet. There is also as a special extra fare item, Sunday Brunch at the Magic Castle (attendance to this event is very limited so sign up early).



As you can see the members of the Los Angeles Convention Committee have put hundreds of hours of effort into this convention just for you, why not take advantage of their effort. Who knows you may actually learn something new or make some new friends and most important have some fun.

Carl Heimberger

## Officer Elections

Elections for PSR President and Vice-President are coming up in July. The nominees as reported by Tom Draper, Nominations Committee are:

President - Don Fowler

Vice President - Ben Sevier

For PSR members who have a valid email in their NMRA membership, the election will be electronic, using a service that provides security and validation of returned ballots. Members who do NOT have an email registered with the NMRA will receive a paper version of the ballot, which will need to be mailed back to the Election Committee. More details will be provided just before the elections.

PSR Election Committee



## From the Hot Seat

Carl Heimberger - President

**At the Mid Year Board of Directors Meeting** held in Temecula this past April, items were discussed that will change how the PSR is run in the future. First was a follow up from the Board Meeting in September

that will change how the PSR is run in the future. First was a follow up from the Board Meeting in September 2015, where the Board decided to stop the publication and mailing of the paper regional newsletter "The Dispatch". The reasons for this are lack of articles being submitted and the printing and mailing costs. So for members it is important that you no longer pay the subscription fee when you renew your membership. The paper "Dispatch" will now be an electronic "Dispatch" that will be published bi-monthly starting with this issue. Future issues will be published on the 15<sup>th</sup> of July, September and November, so it is critical if you wish to have information in these publications that you send that information to Ben Sever by the first of the publication month.

There is also a special task force headed by Gary Robinson who is developing a new strategic/business plan for the region. This group will look at how we distribute regional funds, the organizational structure, and other aspects of the PSR. The hope is to have a preliminary report at the September Board of Directors Meeting.

2016 is also the year that the PSR elects a new President and Vice President. To date only one member for each position has expressed an interest in running, and where it is appreciated that they are stepping up to the plate both these member have been on the Board of Directors for numerous years and it would be good for the continued health of the PSR/NMRA if some new members started taking on some of the leadership positions. It would be great to actually have an election that has more than one candidate. So you members who have been just enjoying the events put on by your division and region, here is your opportunity to help make a difference. I have been on the PSR Board for 11 years and it has been very enjoyable and I have met a lot of new friends, but for me it is time to move on to new challenges and let new members take over duties on the Board.

Finally in just four months will be the PSR/NMRA Regional Convention "L.A. Junction" which will be held in Culver City at the Double Tree Hotel on September



21<sup>st</sup> -25<sup>th</sup>, 2016. The Los Angeles Division has been planning this convention for the past 18 months and there are 3 great prototype tours, over 70 hours of clinics, 26 home and club layouts to visit, on Wednesday night a BBQ reception at Ron Varnell's layout in Torrance hosted by Fred Hill – "The Original Whistle Stop" and the LA Division of the PSR. And of course there will be the traditional Hobo Auction/General Membership meeting, non-rail clinics, Hobo breakfast, a swap meet on Saturday, and a special Saturday event designed for beginning modelers and families with hands on clinics. The convention will also have the Saturday night Awards Banquet, and as a special extra fare event a Sunday brunch at the Magic Castle (attendance to this event is very limited so sign up early). For more information and on line registration visit the convention web site at <http://www.psrconvention.org/lajunction/index.html>.

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## From The Fireman's Seat

Gary Robinson - Vice President

To paraphrase John Chancellor, I'm coming to you from "somewhere in Utah." My wife and I are traveling the US in an RV. Modeling is challenging, but we have been camped along three active rail lines, which even Neva has enjoyed, so train watching is standing in for modeling! More to come!

I've been working on two projects for the Region, an audit of the financial records, and development of a strategic business plan. The audit is complete as of this writing, but the business plan is on-going.

AUDIT At the September 2015 Pacific Southwest Region (PSR) Board meeting, President Heimberger charged me with conducting an audit of the financial books and records of the PSR at the Mid-Year meeting in Temecula. It appears that the financial records have

been fairly stated. Some signatory assignments have been updated, and future financial reports will contain information that will allow signatories to locate appropriate financial instruments when necessary.

BUSINESS PLAN Also at the September 2015 Board meeting, President Heimberger charged me with creating a Business Plan for the PSR. A committee was assembled, consisting of myself as Chair, Frank Baker from Arizona, Denis Ivison from Cajon, Wayne Maynard from Los Angeles, Don Fowler, MMR, from San Diego, and Carl Heimberger, PSR President, ex-officio.

Preliminary work has begun, but more remains, and the makeup of the committee had changed, with Tom Draper, HLM, replacing Frank Baker as the Arizona Division representative. Also, Ken Allen, a member of the San Diego Division who wants to become more involved in Region governance, has volunteered to assist. This project will continue over the summer.

One of my personal goals when I became Vice President was to encourage more people to become involved in the governance of the Region. I have been unable to accomplish this objective, as witnessed by the forthcoming election slate. I believe the biggest reason for my failure has been my inability to get out to all the other Divisions as much as I had hoped. For this reason, I encourage everyone, particularly the Division Directors, to identify people in your own Division that have the ability and interest to lend a hand. Get them to help out with some small project, then increase their responsibilities from there. Once they see how much they enjoy the interaction, and learn that it isn't really hard work, I'm sure they'll continue through the chairs. There are a lot of administrative changes coming down the pike from National, and these affect all levels of the NMRA. Get in on the ground floor!





## Arizona Division

Verryl Fosnight - Director

**The Arizona Division will promote the LA Junction Meet set for September 24** by announcements and passing out materials at our June Meet (June 11-12, 2016). If I fail to get official materials, I will at least make screen shots of the Website for the meet and of the registration page in hopes of getting some Arizona members to sign up.

**The Arizona Division will hold its two day Early Summer Meet June 11 and 12, 2016 in and around Sedona**, and all NMRA Members are invited. The Meet itself will be Saturday, June 11 at Beaver Creek School in Rimrock, Arizona and have clinics, contests, and swap tables, and the gathering of the ladies hosted by the Railettes. The meet will be followed by a BBQ for all NMRA Members at 4PM at my home in Sedona with a cost of \$8, all of which goes to the Arizona Division as a fund raiser. On Sunday, there will be a free **Operating Session** at the huge Wyoming Division layout from about 9 to 3, 4, or 5 PM. We will tour the layout and give a quick rundown on the unique operating features of the Wyoming Division, then op till we drop. Click [HERE](#) for a flyer with other details and maps.



## Cajon Division

Per Harwe - Director

Welcome to the Cajon Division. We have just had our Spring Meet in Temecula and it was very well attended. I thank all of you who came and I hope you had a good time.

Our next meet will be our Summer Meet in Henderson, NV, on May 28 which may be a bit early for a summer meet, but considering the temperature there, I think it is a good time of the year. This will be a one-day meet with swap meet, clinics and layouts. If you are in the area, by all means come and visit. You will like it.

We have had our election and our new Superintendent is Dennis Iverson and the new Paymaster/Chief Clerk is Joel Morse. I wish both of you welcome to your new positions.

Cajon Division will be arranging the 2017 PSR Regional Convention. The preparations are in full swing but we will honor the 2016 Convention and not publish anything until after that event. I really hope you have signed up for the 2016 Convention. It looks like it is going to be a really good one and you don't want to miss it.

That's all for now. Have a great spring and early summer,





## L.A. Division

Pat Raymer - Director

The L.A. Division's annual SpringRail event was held April 23<sup>rd</sup> in Buena Park. There were several new clinics and, from all appearances, the event was enjoyed by all. With SpringRail behind us, this allows us to turn our focus to the PSR Regional Convention, L.A. JUNCTION 2016.

So, without further ado, and with a nod to David Letterman, I would like to present: THE TOP TEN REASONS YOU SHOULD ATTEND L.A. JUNCTION 2016

10. You will be really jealous when your friends that attended tell you what a great time they had.
9. Your spouse will be really upset with you when they hear what a great time the spouses that attended had.
8. See #9
7. Where else can you learn to make a bag of Popsicle sticks into an award winning model?
6. It will be 20 degrees cooler in Culver City!
5. Two words: Dullcote fumes!
4. If you don't go, your pin & patch collection will be incomplete.
3. If you don't go, your convention car collection will be incomplete.
2. If you don't go, you'll have to wait a whole year before you can go to another one.

And the #1 reason you should attend - **CLINIC NAPS!**

All joking aside, the L.A. JUNCTION 2016 convention promises to be a most memorable convention. The convention takes place September 21<sup>st</sup> through September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2016. Our convention hotel is the DoubleTree Hotel-Westside in Culver City. It is an outstanding venue, with all the amenities one would expect from a first class hotel. We are kicking off on Wednesday night with a welcome reception at Ron

Varnell's 1,400 square foot Union Pacific layout in Torrance. Complimentary food and drinks are included, and there will be a chance to operate on the layout.

The three days following will be loaded with exciting activities. We are featuring a ride to Santa Barbara on the Vino Train aboard The Silver Splendor, a wonderfully restored 1956 Budd dome car originally run on the CB&Q's Denver Zephyr. In Santa Barbara there are many wine tasting rooms to visit, with a variety for almost any palate. There are other fun activities available in Santa Barbara. We are currently looking into a tour with an amphibious vehicle that will drive right into the harbor! If Santa Barbara doesn't appeal to you, you may stay on board and ride over the Cuesta Grade to San Luis Obispo (extra fare, box lunch included). Seats are limited on the Vino Train, so you should get your seats reserved as soon as possible.

Other prototype tours include a 2 ½ hour walking tour of Los Angeles Union Station, with access to areas not normally available to the public, and a tour of the new Metro Light Rail yard and maintenance facility in Monrovia.

The L.A. JUNCTION convention team is planning over 60 clinics, and has 28 layouts on the layout tour so far. Other events include our Hobo Auction on Thursday night and a swap meet under a 3,000 square foot tent on Saturday. For those who will be able to stay in town after the convention, we have a very special brunch offer at The Magic Castle, an exclusive restaurant and magic club in the Hollywood Hills. The Magic Castle is usually only available to members and their invited guests. Ron Varnell has made arrangements for a limited number of convention attendees to go for brunch on Sunday. This is also an extra fare item.

Not to forget our non-rail conventioners, we have a team setting up activities that are sure to please, with fun things to do at the hotel, and perhaps a trip to one of our outstanding local museums.

These are just some of the great things in store for you at the L.A. JUNCTION 2016 convention. For more information and to register please go to [www.psrconvention.org/lajunction](http://www.psrconvention.org/lajunction).

On behalf of the L.A. JUNCTION 2016 convention team, we look forward to seeing you in September!





## San Diego Division

Pete Steinmetz - Director

It has been a busy start to Spring. The Cajon Division Event in Temecula was a success. There were mostly new clinics and a number of new presenters. This is always a good event.

Looking ahead, the Big Train Show is at the Ontario Convention Center on May 21 and 22.