



PSR Dispatch

PACIFIC SOUTHWEST REGION

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PSR Forums

The PSR member forums are now open on the PSR web site at: www.psrnmra.org

Click on the Forums tab, register your account, and participate in discussions,

PSR Dispatch Online

July 15, 2016

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

Officer Elections

This edition of the PSR Dispatch Online includes information to members about the PSR Officer Elections beginning on July 17, 2016, including balloting procedures. Details and general instructions are below the Directors articles.
PSR Election Committee



From the Hot Seat

Carl Heimberger - President

It is hard to believe that it is already July and that the 2016 PSR/NMRA Convention L.A. Junction is just around the corner. The Los Angeles team has put a lot of time and effort into this convention and it will start out with a great welcome reception/BBQ for all

get up to date info on events, and ask questions of fellow members of the PSR and NMRA.

Do it TODAY!

From the Editor:

Do you have an interesting article that would be of interest to members of the PSR? If so, please email them to psrdispatch@psrnmra.org. If the article is more than a couple of paragraphs long, the full article will be stored on the PSR Website, and linked from the article. One image may be part of the newsletter - any additional images will be stored on the PSR Website, and linked from the article. This allows for the newsletter to be easily read on a members device (computer, tablet or phone), with a full article or large images available as they choose.



Members Only
Forums
Now Open on the
NMRA Web Site
www.nmra.org
Registration Required

full registered delegates on Wednesday night. There are also 3 great prototype tours planned none of which will be canceled with a fourth tour in the planning stages. A great line up of clinics many have never been presented before along with layout tours and operations sessions. Also there is a full line up of Raillette clinics. And of course there will be a Hobo Auction, Hobo Breakfast, Swap Meet and Awards Banquet. There is still time to register. Visit the L.A Junction web site <http://www.psrconvention.org/lajunction/index.html>.

I would also like to remind every member that this is an election year for PSR President and Vice President. You will find information in this **Dispatch** about the candidates and how to vote. Please take just a few minutes and vote, we have some very competent members running and they deserve your vote.

As some of you may already know there are some changes in the works on how divisions and the region will be communicating information to the membership in the future. Ben Sevier along with other PSR members has been working on this and information on these changes will be provided in the future.



Arizona Division

Verryl Fosnight - Director

The Arizona Division had its second state wide meet June 11-12. This is our 2 day meet, which has become a tradition. We have the regular meet on a Saturday with business, announcements, clinics, and awards. The



Saturday was a car weathering afternoon that Allen Montgomery conducted and furnished all supplies, including an air brush. The cars were brought by participants or purchased from the swap meet room. At 4 PM about 55 members to the meet, including many wives car pooled to Sharon and my home in Sedona where we hosted a BBQ with professional chef and servers. The cost was \$8 per person, 100% of which was collected by Division members for the Division, the food and location for both the BBQ and the Saturday meet have been donated by us for these three years as a Division fundraiser. In these last three years this has become an annual social event and is a lot of fun.

Many stayed over in Sedona for the second day for a AZ Division only members operating session on my Wyoming Division. Ops started at 9 and by 1 or 2 many had to leave for the long drive home to the far corners of the state. We shut down the DCC system about 5pm, and some were still going strong. We had 31 operators for this op session, which has also become an annual event in June.

Our Sun City (a suburb of Phoenix) meet in March was a more conventional meet attended by about 60. The Sun City Model Railroad Club hosts this meet, and always does a very good job.

The next Arizona Division meet will be in Tucson on November 18, 2016. It is always a lively meet, and all NMRA members and guests are invited.



Cajon Division

Per Harwe - Director

We are talking a lot about getting the younger audience interested in model railroading. The Cajon Division had the honor to co-sponsor an event in June that was geared towards just that audience; The Kids build Kars at Arnie's Train Store. It was a very successful event and I just want to share a couple of observations that I saw. My task was to interest people in running the TimeSaver, a task that wasn't too difficult. Was struck me was the great skill that some of the youngsters showed when it came to do the switching. I had secretly tried it myself and just about every youngster beat my (not published, thank you) time by a lot!

There was an unplanned benefit of having the TimneSaver next to the car build area: When a car was ready the kid could just step up to the TimeSaver, put the new car on the track and run it. The look in their faces when they saw their own car run behind a locomotive was priceless!

We are planning our last two meeting for the year. The fall meet will be in Buena Park in either August or October; we haven't set that date yet. And the winter meet will be in Henderson in December, or late November.

Finally, If you haven't signed up for the PSR Convention in September, do so now. It's promising to be a good one and you will want to miss it..



L.A. Division

Pat Raymer - Director

We Want To See You!

As my wife and I travel, we meet a lot of people. Sooner or later, the subject of trains, scale model railroading and the NMRA comes up, usually in that order. This would happen more often when we were membership co-chairs for the L.A. Division, but we are still out there talking trains. If the person is new to the hobby, the first questions about the NMRA are "what is it?" and "what do they do?" My answer is usually something like "The NMRA is a volunteer organization of men and women that promote the hobby of scale model railroading. We provide education and set standards." Pretty dry stuff, huh?

Hopefully the next question would be "what's in it for me?" or "why would I want to join your organization?" These questions come not only from people new to the hobby, but also from people who already in the hobby and are aware of the NMRA. This is our chance to boast a little and explain some of the member benefits: an excellent magazine, on par with any of the other model railroading magazines out there, members-only online access to a wealth of information about scale and full size railroading, layout insurance, and the fellowship of other modelers.

Fellowship, as defined by the Merriam Webster Dictionary, is: "a friendly relationship among people; the relationship of people who share interests or feeling; a group of people who have similar interests." Fellowship is most definitely a benefit of your NMRA

membership! How does this fellowship occur? At NMRA sponsored events, of course! Now, I know a lot of you already take advantage of this benefit, attending events and even doing presentations at them. For you folks, I am preaching to the choir. I want to reach out to the members who do not take advantage of the fellowship benefit.

Just imagine a place where there are gathered railroad modelers with centuries of combined knowledge, and they will happily share that knowledge with you. Imagine tens of people inviting you into their homes to see how they build and operate their layout. Imagine train trips and tours with fellow modelers. How about a chance to win something from one of the premier railroad model manufacturers? Maybe create something you can take home, with the personal guidance of an experienced modeler?

Some of these things are available to you throughout the year at various divisional meets in the region, but ALL of these things and MORE are available to you at the PSR regional convention, **L.A. JUNCTION 2016**. This is THE BIG EVENT of the year for the Pacific Southwest Region, and a perfect time to start taking advantage of that fellowship benefit! You likely have already received some information regarding the convention via email. If not, go to www.psrconvention.org/lajunction/. Please take a look and consider joining us in Culver City this September. We truly do want to see you there and enjoy your fellowship!



San Diego Division

Pete Steinmetz - Director

With this Election issue, it is important members submit their votes. I realize that there is only one candidate for each position. This is because only one person stepped forward for each position. We are lucky to have two very qualified candidates to lead the Region. That said, I hope everyone is enjoying his or her summer. Some will continue to model, others are taking some time off.

If readers are looking for a nice weekend family trip, try Metrolink from Oceanside to LA. Saturday and Sunday they offer a \$10.00 Day Pass. Ride as many trains as you want for a day. Tickets are available from Metrolink Ticket Machines on the platform or from the Metrolink app. A fun trip is Metrolink to LA. Go downstairs to the subway and ride 2 stops to Pershing Square. Use either Purple or Red Line trains. Go upstairs to the street. You are at Grand Central Market. Go hungry because there are many food stalls and restaurants. <http://www.grandcentralmarket.com> Olivera Street is right across from Union Station's front door. It is pretty touristy, especially to San Diegans that have their favorite Mexican restaurants.

China Town is only a couple blocks from Olivera Street. Real Chinese food. Need I say more? It's very good.

Another short walk is Philippes. Home of the original French dip. They are located 2

blocks North of Union Station. Go out the front door. Turn right on Alameda St. This trip can be started in San Diego on Amtrak, but the fare is higher: www.amtrak.com A train ride coupled with good food makes for a good day.

Or you could build a kit.

PSR Officer Elections July 17 through July 31, 2016 How to Vote

We are trying something new for PSR Elections. The voting will be by electronic ballot, using an online election system from Election Buddy, already in use by a number of Regions, clubs and other volunteer organizations. The advantages are many, and include security (a ballot can only be used once), reduced costs of the election, faster voting, and automatic tabulation and reporting. All ballots are one time, and results are available ONLY to the election administrators. It is a very secure election process. Candidate statements will be available on the election site when the election begins on Sunday, July 17th. The electronic ballot will arrive as an email with a link to the election site on the start date, Sunday, July 17. All current PSR members who have valid email addresses in their NMRA member record will receive the email. The ballot includes instructions, candidate statements, the voting choices (including write-in votes), and other information. The electronic ballot is a ONE TIME ballot - once the vote is cast, the link is no longer valid for voting.

Members who have not provided email addresses to the NMRA will receive a paper mailing with voting instructions and a one-time assigned voter key. The voting itself is online, and requires a member to use a computer, tablet or smart phone to cast the ballot. Members who have none of these can use public computers (family, Internet cafes, libraries, churches, etc.) to cast their vote. There is no provision for accepting paper ballots for the election, and no need to mail anything.

Positions and Candidates

Candidates for the positions are:

PSR President - Don Fowler

PSR Vice President - Ben Sevier

Write-in votes are accepted.

PSR Election Committee

What are you waiting for?!

You have not yet signed up for the 2016 PSR Convention "LA Junction" that is being sponsored by the LA Division of the Pacific Southwest Region NMRA? Well, you will be really missing out on a great convention. Here are some of the highlights of the convention.

It starts out on Wednesday, September 21, at 1:00 pm with clinics at the hotel and at Ron Varnell's layout in Torrance. At 6:30 pm the Welcome Reception will start at Ron Varnell's layout which will include dinner and drinks sponsored by the Original Whistle Stop – Pasadena CA. You will also have the opportunity to operate on Ron's layout, and just hang out with some fellow model railroaders.

Thursday, September 22 starts out with a full schedule of clinics, layout tours, contest room, op's sessions, module layouts at the hotel and prototype tours. First prototype tour will be via Los Angeles Union Station by Metro Light Rail to their new Gold Line Maintenance Facility in Monrovia. There will also be a second tour which will be a 2-1/2 hour walking tour of Los Angeles Union Station that will take you to areas not normally open to the public. Both these tours will originate at the hotel and you will be transported by bus to LA Union Station and back. At 6:30 pm there will be the General PSR Membership Meeting followed immediately by the Hobo Auction. This is always a fun social event with snacks and a No Host Bar.

Friday, September 23 starts with 48 delegates boarding the "Silver Splendor", originally the Burlington Route Denver Zephyr Vista Dome "Silver Buckle" for a trip to Santa Barbara. Trip will return around 8:00 pm (Note Silver Splendor tickets must be purchased in advance and is limited to first 48). For the rest of the convention delegates we have a full schedule of clinics, contest room, op's sessions and layout tours through 9:00 pm.

Saturday, September 24, which is the last day of the traditional PSR Convention, brings the Hobo Breakfast, a swap meet, clinics, op's sessions and layout tours until 5:00 pm. In addition there is going to be a special set of clinics for beginning modelers, kids and families. There will be a special admission fee just for this Saturday for non members of the NMRA of \$25 which will include the NMRA Rail Pass. Starting at 6:30 pm will be the Annual PSR