

# PACIFIC SOUTHWEST REGION DISPATCH

NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION



ARIZONA  
CAJON  
LOS ANGELES  
SAN DIEGO



VOLUME 38, NUMBER 3 3rd Quarter, 2020

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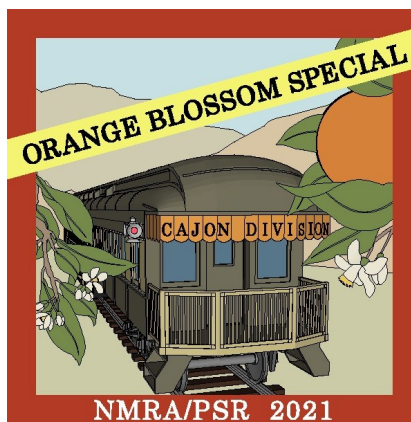
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NMRA/PSR 2021

## 2021 PSR/NMRA Convention ORANGE BLOSSOM SPECIAL

Planning is well underway for the 2021 convention with many clinics already on board, as well as layouts and operations sessions. Check out the convention website at:

[psrconvention.org/OrangeBlossomSpecial2021](https://psrconvention.org/OrangeBlossomSpecial2021)

**Note from the Editor:** If you are interested in publishing an article in the Dispatch, drop me a line or send me an article at [PSRDispatch@PSRNMRA.org](mailto:PSRDispatch@PSRNMRA.org). I am always interested in new content.

**Errata:** Note that the Volume number for the last issue was incorrectly identified as Volume 38 Number 3. It should have been listed as Volume 38 Number 2.





## The PSR BACKSHOP



Gary Butts, MMR, President

Well, here we are, pretty much still in it. The good news is that for most of our Region, the Covid numbers are trending downwards. Probably not low enough for us to have any type of meet that we used-to-be-used-to for a while longer. I was hoping for a socially distanced PSR meet as part of the Cajon Division Buena Park meet and the decision for holding that meet will be made in the next couple of weeks. It may turn out to be a parking lot swap meet or maybe an outdoor, under the canopy, clinics and membership meeting or maybe cancelled. Keep an eye on the PSR and Cajon web sites and direct emails for the latest on this.

I can't put off the PSR Board meeting any longer so we will schedule a "Zoom" board meeting for the last part of October for all of the PSR Board members. We have been holding several member Achievement Award certificates and plaques hoping for a formal presentation but since a general membership meeting and awards banquet are probably not going to be possible this year, we have decided to release them directly to the members with notations of their accomplishments in our Regional and Divisional newsletters. If you have an award coming, we will try and get these out to you via post within the next month or so. I am disappointed that these awards won't get the fanfare they deserve but that seems to be the norm for these days.

While I am on the AP, if you have been active in the virtual clinics and layout tours, etc. that have been sponsored by the NMRA don't forget to keep track of your time spent and contact your Division AP manager or our Regional AP manager to assess their applicability toward AP Author and or Volunteer Achievement awards. Also, the extra time we have had on our hands has resulted in several Golden Spike applications. The Golden Spike is easy to document with

detailed pictures of the required components, so check out the application, take some qualifying pictures of your work, have a fellow NMRA member who is familiar with your layout and models witness the application and send it to your Division AP manager for forwarding. (<https://www.nmra.org/sites/default/files/2006-golden-spike.pdf>) You may be rewarded with a fancy certificate, golden spike lapel pin and a mounted 1:1 scale spike trophy with an engraved plaque for your efforts.

Meanwhile, if you have an inkling to present a clinic to help your fellow modelers solve a problem or want to show off your work on your layout or project, our San Diego Division has taken the initiative to implement a complete virtual program. They have been presenting Zoom meeting events since May and have invited participation both in attendance as well as presentation to all of our PSR Regions. They have openings for presenters through the balance of this year and on into 2021. If you are interested in presenting or know of someone that would like to present, contact or have them contact the San Diego Layout Tour Chair, Tim Foote: [layouts@sandiegodivision.org](mailto:layouts@sandiegodivision.org) or Dick Roberts: [clinics@sandiegodivision.org](mailto:clinics@sandiegodivision.org) to volunteer a Clinic or layout tour.

Their next meeting is scheduled for Saturday, September 12 from 1-2:30pm and features a Show and Tell session (3-5 minutes/presenter), a layout tour of Frank Baker's (Arizona Division Director) Morristown and Erie Railway, and a Basic Electronics for model Railroaders Clinic presented by Tim Foote (San Diego Division). See their web site for details on this and following meets: <https://www.sandiegodivision.org/index.php/events>.

Until we can get together again, stay safe and enjoy your great hobby!



## From the **V.P.**

Pat Raymer, Vice President

As I write this, it is 21 days before the Van Nuys Local 2020 PSR convention would have started. I do not regret the decision to cancel the convention, as I believe the health and safety of our members and their families should be paramount. I find myself thinking about the things I will miss the most due to the cancellation. My mind goes to the awards banquet, where we would have recognized the outstanding achievements of our members. This is also when I would have been able to thank all of the people who volunteered to assist with the production of the convention. Since I won't have that chance, I would like to take the opportunity to do so now. My sincere thanks go to, in alphabetical order: Mike Allee, Vic Cavalli, Al Daumann, Bob DeMoss, Ed Hall, Carl Heimberger, Tim Johnson, James Keena, Edna Keena, Nick Lisica, Mike O'Brien, Mona Raymer, Scott Sackett, Dottie Sanders, Kevin Spady, and Ron Westlund. If I have left anyone out, please accept my apologies.

I would also like to thank all the people that volunteered to welcome us into their homes and clubs for layout tours. I would like to thank all of our clinicians, too many to name here, who were willing to lend their time and expertise to our convention. Finally, I would like to thank all of our registrants that donated their registration fees to the L.A. Division to help defray the expenses incurred in the planning process.

Moving ahead within our new reality has caused everyone to become more resourceful and look for alternatives to the standard operating procedures. Virtual contact with our members has become more important than ever. San Diego Division barely skipped a beat as they transitioned to a Zoom format to continue their monthly meeting schedule. Cajon and Los Angeles Divisions conduct their board meetings online. Arizona Division has acquired a Zoom account and currently several clubs are using it.

All of this online activity has forced some out of their comfort zone. Members who have never attended an online meeting are now learning how to do so. Part of

the NMRA mission statement is education and, in an odd way, this is fulfilling some of that mandate.

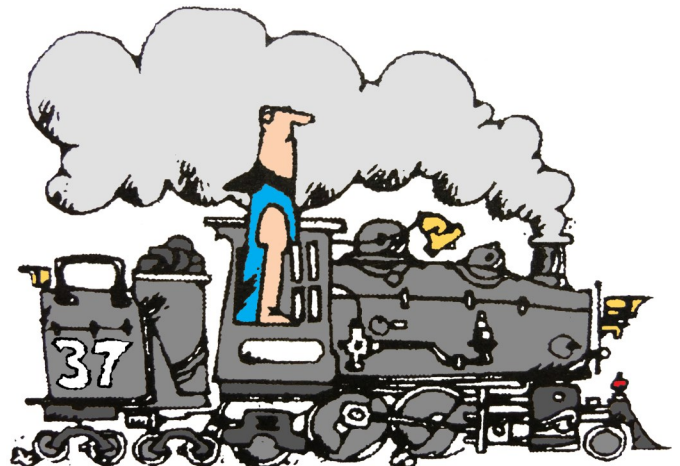
Virtual meetings will never replace the comradery and fellowship of meeting in person. That being said, I think that the virtual meeting is a powerful tool that we cannot ignore. In the future we will likely have a more hybrid approach, combining in-person and virtual events. The fly in the ointment here is finding the people in the Divisions that have the technical skills to bring this together and who are willing to volunteer their time and talent to make it happen. I know you folks are out there somewhere, so please step up and contact your division leadership.

There is one last group to thank, and that is all the 2020 registrants who rolled their registration fees over to the 2021 Orange Blossom Special PSR convention, being hosted by Cajon Division. Since they were not able to advertise their convention in Van Nuys, the rollover of registration fees gave them a much needed financial leg up to start their convention plans. I have been able to sit in on some of their convention planning web meetings, and it looks like the Cajon Division has some great things in the works. I'm sure you will be able to find more about the 2021 Orange Blossom Special convention elsewhere in this issue.

And so I close this time with a sense of nostalgia for the 2020 Van Nuys Local PSR convention. Can one be nostalgic for something that never happened? Perhaps it's the memories of the fun and excitement we had while planning. Nevertheless, I am sure the next 12 months have more fun and excitement in store for all of us.

I look forward to the time when we can safely meet in person again. In the meantime...

See you (virtually) down the line!





## Cajon

Richard Hock, Director

"Sideline". Dictionary.com defines sideline as "to render incapable of participation". Am I on the sideline? Quite frankly, I think that we all feel on the sideline from our usual activities due to this pandemic. Here we are, going into month six of this thing. So many of the activities that we look forward to have been cancelled. In just a few weeks, we all would have been going to Van Nuys for the Los Angeles 2020 PSR Convention. Cancelled. Great Train Show in Pomona, postponed. Just a polite way of saying cancelled. The Cajon Division Nevada Fall Meet, just cancelled. However, there still is a glimmer of hope.

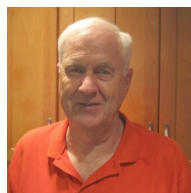
The Cajon Division Fall Meet in Buena Park is still on and actively being planned. Of course, these plans include social distancing, another new household term thanks to the pandemic. So, in short, COVID has rendered me and everyone else incapable of participation in dining at our favorite restaurants, going to the movies, social events and gatherings, conventions, operation sessions and other hobby related events. Unfortunately, I don't see the set-up of our module railroad club anytime soon. How many pieces of rolling stock can I weather or kits can I build during this isolation?

Let's look at "sideline" from a different point of view: "to render incapable". Incapable... Dictionary.com defines incapable as "lacking in ability, preparation, or power for whatever is to be accomplished". Do we choose to be on the sideline ourselves? My father always told me that you only get out of something, what you put into it. At that time, he was referring to school. But today as I look back, that is true about most every endeavor. It is our sidelining of ourselves that renders us incapable of participation. So then, we get nothing out because we have put nothing in.

There has been a lot of talk in the NMRA at large about buddy systems. This same conversation is being explored by the Division leadership. It is in my opinion that a buddy system does not just apply to new members, although very important, but to all division members. To be a flow of ideas and techniques. Not at the clinic level, but at the level of common railroading or modeling interests. Your skill level in the hobby makes no difference, just a conversation of like-mindedness. A lot of my kit-bashed structures came about from a passing comment, observation or "what if."

We all are in need of the "what if" as this isolation drags forward. What if we came together as a Division to say to one another "what if?" (Can't believe that sentence just typed on this page!?) This is what I meant by that comment. There is no possibility without the conversation. There is no possibility on the sideline.

I think the "what if," no matter how crazy, is better than the sideline. Feel free to share with me your "what if." Hopefully, I will get to see you in Buena Park for the Fall Meet.



## Arizona

Frank Baker, Director

The Covid Virus continues to be a problem in Arizona causing the cancellation of many model railroad events. July and August swap meets were cancelled. Swap meets planned for September, October and November are still scheduled to occur. The Arizona Division has a table at these events to promote the NMRA.

We are currently working on the fall division meet in Tucson. The meet is planned for November 14<sup>th</sup> at St. Odilia's church. Richard Petrino, superintendent for the division is currently working on planning the meet.

While the virus has cancelled many events, we still find members working on their MMR. Bruce Petrarca, Arizona AP manager has been working with several Division members on their MMR. It is good to know that many folks are spending this time on their MMR. I personally have been working to complete my Civil and that should be ready for judging in September. Also September will complete my three term for Officer. Those are the remaining elements of my MMR.

I hope more of our members are taking the time to work on completing elements of their MMR. Any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Bruce directly.

The Arizona division has a ZOOM license. The license information has been shared with all the full NMRA clubs in Arizona to help them with club communications. We are actively seeking someone to run ZOOM meetings within the division. San Diego has been highly successful in achieving a strong communication team utilizing ZOOM. Anyone within the Arizona Division that would like to help with Zoom, please contact Richard Petrino or myself.

Stay safe and I look forward to seeing everyone in Tucson.





# Los Angeles

Mona Raymer, Director

Hello PSR friends!

I hope this finds each and every one of you and your families continuing to be safe and well!

Not much has changed since my last article. I hope you've been having some fun working on modeling projects. We have not. Our modeling time quickly turned into time growing vegetables and making improvements in the yard and around the house. It has been a very satisfying time getting these things accomplished. After daily yard work, we reward ourselves with going into the pool. Very nice, especially with all of these very hot days!

Here in Los Angeles County, we continue to have major restrictions in place regarding stay at home orders, wearing of masks in public and any in person gatherings. That being the case, the Los Angeles Division Advisory Board has been having our monthly meetings via Go To Meeting. During our meetings, we have been in discussions about providing virtual meetings to our Division via the ZOOM app and have recently purchased a license to facilitate these meetings.

We are continuing to be hopeful that distancing restrictions will be eased so that we are able to bring you the event we have planned for December. We are looking forward to seeing you there! Date currently, as follows. We are quickly approaching our "go/no go" date and will advise if cancellation is required.

Dec. 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup>: Frosty Freight (formerly Freight Fright)

**\*New Date!** South Coast Botanic Gardens

26300 Crenshaw Blvd.

Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA 90274

Until next time....Happy modeling, stay safe and well!

## Cajon Division Meet is ON! SAVE THE DATE!

All NMRA members & guests welcome.

Let's get together (at a distance) to renew our friendships and catch up on our fellow modelers activities!

***Strict Covid protocols require masks + Social distancing. Masks and social distancing will be mandatory. Please stay home and get well if you don't feel well or have had recent contact with an affected individual.***

**October 24, 8am-1pm  
Messiah Lutheran Church  
6625 Dale St.  
Buena Park, CA**

**Swap Meet:** Set up 7-8, Swap 8-10a

**Contest Room/ AP evaluations: Enter Models:** 7-8:30a

**General Membership meeting and Awards:** 10:15-10:45a

**Show and Tell Session:** 10:45-12p

**Hobo Auction: ticket sales:** 10:45-12p

**Hobo Auction:** 12-1p

**PSR Board of Directors meeting :** 1:30p—

Fare: \$10 NMRA member, \$15 non-member (no exceptions) includes swap meet, raffle tickets and self-serve snacks and water.

Swap Meet: Bring your own tables and chairs and pop-ups if you have them, we will set up spaces out in the courtyard under a canvass and overflow into the parking lot (no canvass) if needed.

Show and Tell will be in parallel on separate tables with spectator circulation and conversation following Social Distancing guidelines. Bring in what you have been working on to let everyone see and discuss your progress. Entering a model in Show-and-Tell, Contest room or for AP evaluation gets you a free sheet of Hobo Auction Tickets.

General Membership meeting: We will be well spaced out inside for this meeting. Chips and water will be available.



## San Diego

Pete Steinmetz, Director

The San Diego Division has been very active during this Pandemic. We are happy to be leading the PSR in member activities. One positive to come out of this pandemic lock down is I have been involved in many other region and division activities. PNR, LSR, SER all have active programs for their members. All are on line using various formats. I can attend an event in Texas and a couple hours later attend an event in Seattle. There are so many, I really have to pick and choose or else spend the day or evening in front of the computer. There is a lot of NMRA activity out there. These on line events give me the opportunity to see what other regions and divisions are doing for their members

The San Diego Division continues our Second Saturday activities. Only difference, we moved away from in person meetings and layout tours to a Zoom and You Tube format. All PSR members are invited and are sent an email announcing the meet. Access information is sent the day prior to the meet by email with a link for the meeting number and passcode. All announcements and meeting itinerary are posted on the web site at [www.sandiegodivision.org](http://www.sandiegodivision.org) and on our Facebook group page. Meetings are also simulcast on the SD Division YouTube channel.

We always have a layout tour, a clinic, show and tell, and discussion.

Meets are the Second Saturday of the month at 1:00PM Pacific Time.

The San Diego Division would appreciate it if members that come to our Zoom meets from other divisions would participate in the show and tell, layout tours, and clinics.

We also plan to hold our November Meet at the Model Railroad Museum in Balboa Park, San Diego on Saturday November 14.

Hopefully everyone is taking an opportunity to work on model railroad projects and railfan.

PSR San Diego has a completely updated web site, [www.sandiegodivision.org](http://www.sandiegodivision.org) and a new Facebook Group The San Diego Division Facebook Group. I thank Mike Hampson for doing an outstanding job putting both of these together.

The San Diego Division has started using the Buddy Program. An experienced modeler buddies up with a new member. They welcome them, answer questions, and show them the ropes. We are working on both a geographic and an interested based buddy system.

My modeling projects are on hold due to being very busy with my business. I don't have much to report modeling wise.

Developing some new clinics.



## PSR Membership

Pete Steinmetz, Membership Chair

With the lack of live events it is difficult to have personal interaction with potential members.

Our goal until we are able to return to live events is convincing members to renew.

PSR membership number comparison from March 2020 – July 2020.

March 2020 Start of Shutdown

SD= 119 LA=211 AZ=355 Cajon=326

July 2020

SD= 125 LA=205 AZ=333 Cajon=318

Summary

SD + 6 LA -6 AZ - 22 Cajon -8

Deaths and moving out of the region are not factored into the above numbers.

We do not have many new members joining at this time. This is to be expected as we are not out and about attending activities and promoting NMRA.

Retention is key in these times and we need to keep members engaged.

## 2021 PSR/NMRA Convention

### “ORANGE BLOSSOM SPECIAL”

In a little over a year from now the 2021 PSR/MNRA Convention the Orange Blossom Special will take place in Irvine California, September 8 to 11, 2021. The convention hotel is the Hilton Irvine/Orange County Airport Hotel, 18800 MacArthur Blvd. Irvine, California. Due to the cancelation of the 2020 PSR Convention the Orange Blossom Special is offering a reduced convention registration package.

This package will include the Welcome Reception, General Membership Meeting with Continental Breakfast, Clinics, Layout Tours, Operations, Non-Rail Activities, Hobo Auction, Saturday am Swap Meet and closing the convention with the Awards Banquet for the pre-convention price of only \$105. Note: This special offer is only good until September 30, 2020, after that the price goes up to \$125. There are also some extra fare items, Prototype Tours, Non-Rail Tours, Hobo Breakfast, and some exciting clinics.

Central Orange County is rich in layouts so driving time and distances to them will be short. If you do not want to drive, we are also planning a bus layout tour to 3 outstanding layouts which will limit visitors to 10-12 people at a time. We are still working on a number of prototype tours, and quite a few operating layouts will be available to sign up to crew! The 2021 PSR/NMRA Convention, the “**Orange Blossom Special**” will be held at the Hilton Irvine/Orange County Airport Hotel, located at 18800 MacArthur Blvd, Irvine, CA 92612, just across the street from John Wayne Airport (SNA). All meeting rooms are located off the main lobby, and a modular N scale layout will be set up in the lobby.

We have negotiated discounted room rates for attendees:

\$134 for single and double.

\$144 for a triple.

\$154 for a “Quad”

These special rates for attendees include:

FREE parking with unlimited in/out privileges.

FREE wireless internet.

20% menu discounts at onsite restaurants.

There are several upscale restaurants close to the hotel, with world renowned South Coast Plaza and Fashion Island, just a short drive from the hotel. Also located in the area are the Lyon Air Museum, the Marconi Auto Museum, the Red Car Museum, and a short drive will put you in the heart of Newport Beach. Of course, we invite you to plan some time to visit our great local hobby shops!

**Note: The hotel will not be accepting room reservations until after October 1, 2020. Check our website for details.**

For more information about the 2021 PSR/NMRA Convention **Orange Blossom Special** visit our website:

<https://psrconvention.orgOrangeBlossomSpecial2021>

Carl Heimberger

Convention Chair

2021 PSR/NMRA Convention Orange Blossom Special

### MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

**A quick reminder that because of the current “stay at home” requirements, that NMRA National is not in the office and as a result membership renewals may be processed more slowly. If you have the ability to renew online this will be processed much more quickly than mail-in renewals, as mail is only being accessed periodically by National staff.**





## Achievement Program

Carl Heimberger, AP Chairman

### Model Railroading “It’s About the Journey NOT the Destination”

Over my 20 years being involved with the NMRA on many levels I have gotten to know many people in the PSR. And we all are in this great hobby for different reasons. Some of us are building our dream layouts, others belong to clubs, and some just enjoy building cars, structures, etc. Some are involved for only the social aspect and enjoy being on boards and running the organization. All of which are great reasons to belong to the NMRA and for being involved with model railroading as a hobby. And there are a few of us who have set out goal on becoming an MMR but let me caution you, that is the Destination and NOT the Journey.

The requirements for MMR are reasonably simple to complete so it will take some work, but the journey is not that complex. Here is a thumbnail of the minimum requirements.

Author: write and have published 42 pages of articles/ photos.

Cars: build 8 highly detailed cars, 4 must be scratch built.

Civil: draw a plan showing various track components, in HO build a minimum of 50 LF of track with 6 different types of track of which 3 must be scratch built.

Dispatcher: earn 50 hours of running Op’s spread among several operation tasks.

Motive Power: highly detail and build 3 locomotives 1 must be scratch built.

Official: serve as an elected official on a regional board.

Prototype Models: build a scene that is prototypically correct in every detail.

Scenery: in HO build scenery of a minimum of 32 sq. ft of your layout or module.

Structures: build 12 highly detailed structures, 6 must be scratch built.

Volunteer: accumulate a minimum of 60-time units by volunteering to help with events, conventions or give clinics.

For MMR you must earn at least 7 from the above list and at least one from each sub category Railroad Equipment,

Railroad Settings, Construction/Operations, and Service to the hobby. And if you are aggressive you can do this in one to two years. But then the journey is OVER. So, do you then move onto a new hobby? Why not take a different approach build your railroad and as you meet the requirements of the above categories fill out the paperwork and turn it in. Just because you now have a certificate in a subject area that does not mean you can no longer build a building or car, add scenery, or change some wiring. This is a hobby that is never completed you can always add something to your layout be it a new section of track or more details.

What am I trying to say? We are in this hobby for the enjoyment it brings to us. Don’t get hung up on the destination of MMR as it is only a title. Instead enjoy the journey you will take to get there, you will be glad you did. I am not saying do not go for your MMR just do not make it your priority, you will miss a lot of the journey if you do.



## PSR Treasurer

Joel Morse, Treasurer

### PACIFIC SOUTHWEST REGION 37

#### TREASURERS THIRD QUARTER DISPATCH REPORT

##### SUMMARY:

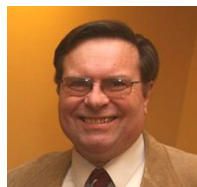
During the period April 1 through June 30, 2020 there were very limited expenditures by the Region.

The June 30, Bank Statement indicates that the Region has \$34,694.58 in the Region Checking Account.

There was one large transaction this period: receipt of a check in the amount of \$2,613.67 from the Arizona Division, the “split” with the Region of the of profits from the successful September 2019 “Arizona Junction” Regional Convention.

Region Assets as of June 30, 2020:  
Wells Fargo Checking Account: \$34,694.58





## The Show Room

James Keena, PSR Contest Chair

As many of you are already aware, the Pacific Southwest Region (PSR) Van Nuys Local 2020 fell casualty to State, Los Angeles County and City COVID-19 restrictions and had to be canceled along with many other events. The Los Angeles Division in cooperation with the Cajon Division, allowed many of you to take advantage of the opportunity to transfer your Van Nuys Local 2020 registration over to the PSR 2021 Orange Blossom Special Convention. The Orange Blossom Special website is already up and running with entry application forms and contest information for the next Show Room.

The website is: <https://psrconvention.org/OrangeBlossomSpecial2021/index.php>

During this additional year wait for the next Show Room, it gives you more opportunity to work on your models and prepare your entries forms. If you need assistance in completing your contest entry forms, do not hesitate to contact the Contest and Achievement Chairs in your Divisions. They can review your forms ahead of time and offer guidance, suggestions and tips to improve your submittals. For your convenience the Division Contest and Achievement Chairs are listed below:

As you can see, for many of the Divisions, the Contest and Achievement Chairs are the same person. I know it would be greatly appreciated if you could step up to the plate to volunteer in any of these Divisions to provide assistance with these responsibilities. Also look at volunteering to be a Merit Evaluator at the Convention, this way you will get mentoring on what Merit Evaluators look for in models, which will go a long way in improving your own modeling skills. You will also meet and make some new friends in the process.

In the meantime, whichever way you enjoy model railroading, it is great to share your joy with others and receive positive feedback and encouragement to further your modeling or photographic skills. I would encourage you to continue to connect with your fellow model railroaders' through phone calls, emails or various social media platforms. Post photos of what you have been working on to your Division Website or Facebook Groups.

The Editors for the PSR Dispatch as well as your local Division Newsletters are always looking for articles and photos, so go ahead and share them.

Looking forward to seeing you and your entries at the PSR Orange Blossom Special 2021 Regional Convention to be held in Irvine, California September 8th to the 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

In the meantime until then, keep safe!

<u><b>Division</b></u>	<u><b>Contest</b></u>	<u><b>Achievement</b></u>
Arizona Division	Terry Dorsect	Bruce Petrarca
Cajon Division	Mike Allee	Gary Butts, MMR
Los Angeles Division	James Keena	James Keena
San Diego Division	Rodger Gredvig, MMR	Rodger Gredvig, MMR



## Editors Notes

Kevin Spady, Editor

### What are you doing during the pandemic?

In this time of introspection and social distancing I thought I would offer up some thoughts on my activities over the past few months. Although my firm is still enforcing a work at home strategy in response to State and Federal mandates, I am one of those lucky ones who can work at home almost as easily as I can work in DTLA. In addition, most of my clients are healthcare clients and are seeking advice on how to cope with this pandemic.....keeping me very busy!

However, I do find, now that I have more time at home than I had previously, that I am filling time with modeling fun. In addition to doing some locomotive kit-bashing, finishing a trestle module, and building locomotives for other modelers, I tasked myself with several model related activities. This keeps my spirits up and energy high.

### Maintaining the Fleet

I have gone through all my locomotive and rolling stock and looked at repairs or adjustments that needed attention. This is something that we often put off as modelers, but is critical to successful operation. I even made a spreadsheet to help me keep track of when and how my locomotives have been serviced. Things like coupler heights (remember that pesky coupler that is just "Not quite right?"), lubrication of all moving parts, damage repair, replacing of burnt out lights, proper car weighting, test running the loco's to ensure proper operation, adjusting CV's etc., were all part of the maintenance regimen....all minor things that I have put off for a long time. Now I can pull out any locomotive and string of cars and run them with confidence.

### Identification

In addition to all the maintenance items I also went through all my locomotives and labeled the bottom of each locomotive with its correct long address for easy reference, and also placed a special identifying mark on each locomotive and piece of rolling stock.

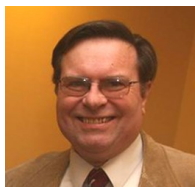
I started using these identifying marks as some years ago a friend of mine had his roster stolen and his identifying marks on the underside made identification by authorities and recovery of his property much easier.

### Photography

I have also been taking the time to document my locomotives and some special rolling stock photographically. Since I do a certain amount of publication and want my Facebook page to be as professional as possible, I value high quality images of my roster. I also think these would be valuable in the event of theft, although that was not my reason for doing it. The following is a picture of the simple photo setup I use for photographing models and an image of the results. YMMV depending upon your level of equipment and photographic knowledge.

Keep positive and stay safe!





## What are you working on?

James Keena, PSR Contest Chair

This is a section of the Dispatch to share with others what projects you have been working on.

You just need to provide a photo of your project and a brief description if you desire. One of the projects that has been setting on my shelf that I have been meaning to complete was a Southern Pacific caboose made from a repurposed Harriman coach.

As reference I utilized photos and roster from Tony Thompson's Freight Cars of the Southern Pacific Volume 2: Caboosees and additional information from Jason Hill's blog Models and Kit-bashes by NightOwlModeler. These cars were converted by the Southern Pacific in the early 1950's primarily for use in transfer service. These converted Harriman coach cabooses lasted in service throughout the 1950's until they could be replaced with newer purchased cabooses.

This car started as an Athearn Roundhouse 60' Harriman coach chair car. Being utilized as a caboose the doors on the car were either locked open or were complete removed to allow quick ingress and egress by train employees. Therefore, the doors were cut out of both sides and ends of the model. As part of the conversion, several windows were patched over. I measured and cut styrene to fit in the appropriate opening that were closed.

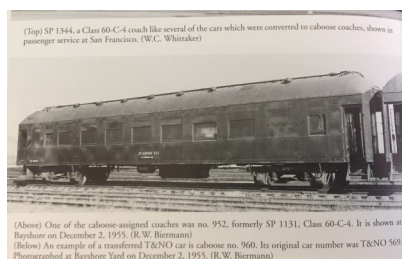
On the roof I added wire conduits to simulate the electric lighting that was installed in the cars. Some of the roof top vents were removed and a smoke stack was added where a caboose stove was installed in the car. Wire roof grabs were added to both ends of the roof and grab irons installed on the ends of the car. The model has windows

in the vestibule that I also closed up with styrene sheet cut to fit.

Correct Central Valley 8-foot wheel base trucks were installed to the underframe. To accommodate the clearance need for these long wheel based trucks, one of the air tanks needed to be removed and shifted over to provide swing clearance for the trucks. Since the trucks were made of metal, I soldered wire leads to provide lighting in the car for track detection purposes since the car was to be utilized as an end of train caboose.

A few of these cars were just re-stenciled and put into service, but many of these cars when converted by the Southern Pacific were repainted into their standard freight car red paint scheme. I repainted the coach caboose freight car red and then decaled with a combination of Microscale and Champ decals. The roof is painted black along with a wash of grimy black to simulate sun bleached and rain weathering. Trucks and underbody are lightly weathered with Pan Pastels.

Hope you enjoyed my project. Please go ahead and share yours. - James



Reference Photo from Southern Pacific Freight Cars Volume 2: Caboosees by Anthony W. Thompson



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