



# PACIFIC SOUTHWEST DISPATCH

NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION



ARIZONA  
CAJON  
LOS ANGELES  
SAN DIEGO



VOLUME 39, NUMBER 4 4th Quarter, 2021

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Did you enjoy this years PSR Regional Convention? It's not too late to get next years event in San Diego on your calendar! "Back on Track in 2022" is coming

September 7—11, 2022.

[Convention Website Link](#) (control-click)

## Editors Note

I wish you all a Happy Holiday Season 2021! We have all been challenged by the continuing restrictions on events, but happily that is easing up as the nation adapts to Covid challenges! I encourage you to get out there and participate in events in 2022. Build your models, bring them to meets and conventions, write articles (I can use some here!) and reengage the hobby with a passion! Stay safe and keep on chugging along! Kevin Spady

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO YOU ALL!**





## FROM THE WAYCAR

Pat Raymer—President

Greetings fellow PSR members!

It is hard to believe that Thanksgiving is almost upon us and only another month past that to Christmas. It is traditional in many households, when gathering for the Thanksgiving feast with family and friends, to go around the table and each tell what they are thankful for. As for me, I am thankful that my family is healthy and safe. I am thankful that my friends are healthy and safe. I am thankful that my NMRA family and friends are, for the most part, healthy and safe. However you celebrate the upcoming holiday season, I wish you peace, health and happiness!

I am happy to report that the 2021 PSR convention, “The Orange Blossom Special”, was a resounding success! I, and everyone I spoke with, had an outstanding time. I think everyone has a desire to get back to the things we enjoy, seeing each other in person, and visiting layouts and prototype locations.

I particularly enjoyed the prototype tour of Gemco Yard in Van Nuys. This visit was originally scheduled for the 2020 convention, so I was pleased that it was finally able to happen. Our clinician/host, Mike Osborne, shared tales of the days when General Motors was turning out nearly a thousand vehicles a day from their plant.

The annual PSR Board of Directors meeting was held at the convention, this time with a twist. Two of our board members were unable to attend the convention, but were able attend the board meeting via a Zoom link. To my knowledge, this is the first time a PSR board meeting was conducted with a hybrid of in-person and virtual attendance.

Some of the business conducted at the meeting, aside from the usual reports, included:

Amendment to the Manual of Operations protecting member’s personal information from unauthorized use; amendment to the Manual of Operations making the Education Committee a standing committee of the

Region; PSR financial audit (all is well); and discussion of the rewritten convention manual. I am happy to report that Mike Allee has volunteered to chair the Education Committee. Thank you Mike!

The PSR General Membership meeting was well attended. There were no Regional issues to present to the members. The President’s, Vice President’s, Treasurer’s and Division Director’s reports were presented and our newly elected Division Directors were introduced: Terry Fearn from Arizona Division, Harold Helland from Cajon Division, and Vic Cavalli from Los Angeles Division. Vic also serves as Elections Chair for the Region. Pete Steinmetz returns for his second term as Director for the San Diego Division. I would like to welcome our new and returning Directors and look forward to working with all of them. I was pleased to present PSR Vice President Gary Butts with his past President’s pin at the meeting.

The awards banquet on Saturday night was notably energetic, as we not only had the contest awards to distribute, but also 2 years’ worth of Member of the Year awards. I was pleased to recognize Dan Moran as 2021 Regional Member of the Year and Ryan DiFede as NMRA President’s Award recipient for service to his Division. I also presented a plaque for Dave Irick recognizing his many years of service to the PSR. Frank Baker accepted the award on his behalf. Charlie Getz gave an outstanding keynote speech, as always with his own special sense of humor.

The convention was very well produced, and I congratulate Convention Chairman Carl Heimberger and his excellent team for a job well done.

I am looking forward to next year’s PSR convention, “Back on Track in 2022”, hosted by the San Diego Division. I know they will put on another great show. I’m already signed up-how about you? I’m sure you can find out how to register somewhere in this issue of The Dispatch.

As always,  
See you down the line!





## THE PSR BACKSHOP

Gary Butts, MMR  
Vice President

It seems things are starting to get back to normal. We are just back from the LA Division's Fall Rail meet and a month ago from our Regional "Orange Blossom Special" Convention. Both of these events were well attended and lots of fun.

The Convention brought in something like 175 members from all over our Region and started off with a great "Bingo for Trains" ice cream social with two bingo callers shouting out the numbers and lots of great socializing. The clinics were good and I heard that the prototype tour to the GEMCO Yard was really enjoyed by all of the members that took advantage of the event.

Although I was not able to visit any of the layouts on the self-drive tours myself (our layout was one of those on the tour), our guest speaker, former NMRA President Charlie Getz did, and spoke highly of the layouts he was able to visit at the Banquet. The swap meet was big with lots of train stuff changing hands and I am afraid I was also caught up in it and couldn't help myself from buying another locomotive that I don't really need. But how can you resist a beautiful little 2-4-4-2 logging articulated staring you in the face. It's like a little puppy dog or kitten begging you to take it home with you.

The 2022 San Diego convention committee was out in force and maybe due to the success of the Orange Blossom Special or maybe because of the long hiatus of train events, they were able to sign up over 90 members at the convention for the 2022 event and I understand that this number has since grown to well over 100. This is unusual for this early in the year before a convention and bodes well for a great model train year coming up.

LA's FallRail in Whittier was also nice to attend. The smaller venue produced some more intimate clinics with lots of idea exchanges between not only the presenters but also those attending the clinics. I always enjoy catching up with our LA Division members and this event was no exception. The Orange County Module Railroaders had a layout set up and it has been so long since I saw their modules that I had forgotten how nice they are. In addition, there were several great new modules that have been added to their club's inventory.

Unfortunately, the Cajon Division's next event scheduled for the Henderson, the Nevada meet, lost its venue due to some electrical problems with the Boulder Railroad Museum's building and that, along with several other competing model rail events, has led to cancellation of the November event.

There is a lot of fun stuff on the horizon, possibly for the next few years. Unfortunately, I have been bound to keep them to myself for now to avoid disappointment should they not work out, but keep your eye on the Dispatch and your Divisional newsletters to see what may come our way in the near future. If that doesn't get you to wondering.....







## Historian's Report

Per Harwe, Historian

The Orange Blossom Special convention is now just a (great) memory and we can all go back to our other tasks at hand. Because of the convention not very much has happened in the Historian's Corner (<http://www.psrnmra.org/library/historians-corner>) but that is about to change.

I am preparing pictures from the convention to be published on the page and hopefully those can be followed by pictures from previous conventions if you would be so kind as to contribute some.

We now have a very good hard-copy archive of the old newsletters that I inherited from Gary Butts. He has coordinated collecting these from previous officials in the region and they are now safely stored.

I will repeat my request from earlier columns and that is please dig up those Newsletters, your old notes, and photos. I'm sure some of you have kept notes, minutes, etc. (I can't be the only packrat in this elaborate group) and share with me what you can find.

As I have mentioned above, contributions are what will bring this program forward so please contact me via email [history@psrnmra.org](mailto:history@psrnmra.org) with what you can find.

### NMRA YouTube Channel

If you have access to the internet take a minute to check out the NMRA YouTube Channel at

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLBbDHVLodgxn8otpnudMsHdQMucCzcTWD>

While it is challenging to watch videos live during the week if you are a working person, these video recordings of the presentations give you access to many events you might not otherwise get to see.



## Cajon

Harold Helland, Director

Hello Model Railroaders. I was recently elected as the Cajon Division Director and had a great start to my term as Director with the PSR Convention. As you all know the PSR Convention "Orange Blossom Special" was a great success as everyone had a great time. The clinics, model railroad home layouts and operating sessions were well received by the attendees, and all were worth the time to visit. The opening Ice Cream Social provided a great venue to reunite with friends from all the PSR Divisions. The Hobo Auction was truly successful since everyone went home with something from the auction. Another highlight at the conference was keynote speaker, Charlie Getz, past president of the NMRA. Charlie has been instrumental in the development of the NMRA exhibit "Magic of Scale Model Railroad-ing" at the California State Railroad Museum in Sacramento, California. Charlie discussed several topics, but certainly focused on the social benefits of being a model railroader.

Unfortunately, the Cajon Division had to cancel the Fall Meet scheduled for November 6 in Boulder City, Nevada due to some technical issues with the venue. However, we have booked the Cajon Division Spring Meet on April 30, 2022, in Buena Park. I am very confident we will not have any issues with the location of the Spring Meet.

As we move away from the COVID Pandemic, our membership is also starting to increase again. We had several new members added to our Division in the third quarter and plan to work to continue increasing membership.





## Arizona

Terry Fearn, Director

I want to say hello to all the PSR members and thank Frank Baker for his tireless efforts leading the Arizona Division for the last four years. Frank is looking forward to spending more time working on his amazing model railroad. The October NMRA Magazine included an article by Frank describing his journey towards achieving Master Model Railroader.

After cancelled meets during the past 1 ½ years, we are happy to be able to hold meets again in person. Our fall meet is November 13, at the Scottsdale Congregational United Church of Christ in Scottsdale, AZ. The fall meet was originally planned to be in Tucson. Unfortunately, the facility suffered severe roof damage during our very active monsoon season this past summer. Two presentations are included and a complete line up of NMRA contests is planned. Included will be the Favorite Train, the subject being “Reefers” and Levity, the subject being “Economy Passenger Travel”.

Preliminary planning has begun on the next PSR meet to be hosted by the Arizona Division in the fall of 2023. The location will be in northern Arizona, the specific site still to be determined.



## Los Angeles

Vic Cavalli, Director

Let me start this, my first report as Los Angeles Division’s newly installed Director, by recognizing all Pacific Southwest Region members who voted during our recently concluded election. Your display of support is always appreciated by all candidates. I would also like to recognize and thank Mona Raymer for the many years of unselfish, quality service she has provided not only to the L.A. Division but the entire Region. Job well done Mona!

Now then, let’s get down to what I believe is one of this office’s most important responsibilities - sharing with the Region’s membership what has been, is, or will be happening within the L.A. Division.

The fourth quarter of 2021 has finally seen L.A. return to its more traditional pre-COVID-19 existence. October saw the Division not only assist in sponsoring the Los Angeles Area Prototype Modeler Meet at the beginning of the month, but held its first mini-meet in a year-and-a-half, FallRail 2021 on Saturday October 23<sup>rd</sup>. Throughout the past few months, members have had opportunities to attend several club open houses, a number of swap meets, and one of Bob Chaparro’s excellently organized “self drive” layout tours; this one in the greater San Fernando Valley area.

For the remainder of 2021, expect there to be more club or privately-owned open houses and at least a couple more swap meets. Sadly, the L.A. Division will not be holding its annual open-to-the-public Modular Layouts Invitational at the

Continued on next page



## Los Angeles

Vic Cavalli, Director

Continued from page 5

South Coast Botanic Garden due to COVID-19 work site constraints. Refer to the latest issue of our quarterly newsletter, the *LA Coupler*, [www.ladiv-nmra.org/index.php/news-and-information/la-coupler-newsletter/current-edition](http://www.ladiv-nmra.org/index.php/news-and-information/la-coupler-newsletter/current-edition), for a complete list of known area-centric events (usually listed towards the rear of each issue).

Events planned for the first half of 2022 are already well into their development phases too. I recommend readers of this report visit our recently enhanced and expanded website, [www.ladiv-nmra.org](http://www.ladiv-nmra.org), to learn more about what we are working on and when they will be held.

So there you have it. Only 6 weeks into office; yet quite a bit to share.

As this is my only official opportunity to address our Region's membership prior to the year's end, I want to extend my best wishes to you, and your families, for a cheerful Thanksgiving, joyful Holiday Season, and happy, healthy New Year.

Drop a line should you have any thoughts or concerns. In the meanwhile, happy model railroad-ing to you,



## San Diego

Pete Steinmetz, Director

The Division is enjoying getting back to in person meets. We had one in August.

Our October Meet was in conjunction with the North County Model Railroad Society Swap Meet and Open House at their club in Oceanside. It was nice to be able to see so many people we haven't seen for quite some time. We had a good crowd. Sellers seemed happy with their sales.

We still find it difficult to recruit new members. Mostly it has been due to not having in person events for almost 18 months. We will have tables at NMRA events talking about the benefits of NMRA Membership.

Our November meet will be held at the San Diego Model Railroad Museum in Balboa Park on Saturday November 13. Details will be available on our PSR San Diego web site <https://www.sandiegodivision.org>

While visiting the web site, we have information on the 2022 PSR Convention hosted by the San Diego Division. We will have many new clinics, layouts, OP Sessions, and field trips on the schedule. All are not announced as we finalize details. One of our goals in planning the convention was to offer new, never before presented activities in all our categories.

Convention information, and registration can be found at the San Diego Division web site <https://www.sandiegodivision.org>





# Achievement Program

Carl Heimberger, AP Chairman

## Third Quarter 2021 AP Report

I was disappointed in the model entries at the 2021 PSR Convention this last September. I had figured with the lack of events over the past eighteen months we would have had lot of models entered into the contest room, but that simply was not the case. However, we still did accomplish a great deal over the past quarter, I was especially pleased with the growth in the San Diego Division.

### We awarded seven Golden Spike Awards:

Bob Ginger – Arizona  
Wayne L. Pierce – San Diego  
Leonard Smith – Arizona  
Chris Thompson – Arizona  
Van Schultz – Cajon  
Michael Wolf – Cajon

### Nine Merit awards:

Michael Starkey – Arizona, 6 - car Merit awards  
David Arendes – Cajon, 1- Structures Merit Award  
Nick Lisica – Los Angeles 1 – Structures Merit Award  
Gary Stenberg – Cajon 1 – Structures Merit Award

### AP Certificates:

Wayne L. Pierce – San Diego  
Structures  
Civil  
Electrical  
Scenery

Leonard Smith – Arizona  
Association Volunteer  
Jeffrey Liedi – Arizona  
Scenery

And at the 2021 Orange Blossom Special Convention two MMR's were presented.

John Lovely MMR # 662 - Arizona  
Frank Baker MMR # 683 - Arizona

Congratulations to all the members who worked so hard over the past three months on their awards!

I still know members are intimidated by the paperwork and therefore are not participating in the Awards Program. Remember each Division has an AP Manager who is more than willing to assist you in filling out the paperwork. Just as a hint: Keep track of things you do as you do them. This will make filling out the paperwork that much easier. For example, every time you author an article keep a copy of the publication in a folder so when you go to fill out the Author paperwork you will have every thing you need. Likewise with volunteering. Keep a record of things you have volunteered to do as you do them, then just attach the list to the paperwork.

Same goes for structures, cars, and motive power document as you go what products you used, how you did the work and any prototype photos you may have of the project. This will save you hours of time trying to recall what you did.

Remember the PSR Awards Program team wants you to succeed so if you do not understand something just ask.

**We are here to help you.**



## Convention Update

What a wonderful time we had at the Orange Blossom Special, just getting back together after two years and seeing old friends should have been sufficient, but there was so much more. Starting out on the first day of course we had the PSR BOD Meeting for those of you who had to attend. But for the rest of the attendees, we had layouts to visit and clinics to attend in the afternoon. The day closed out with an Ice Cream Social that includes Bingo for trains. Yes, a PA system would have been nice to have but with the help of two callers we made it work.

Thursday started out with the PSR General Membership Meeting followed by clinics, a tour to the GEMCO Yard which I understand was a roaring success. The afternoon had more clinics and the opportunity to visit home and club layouts, participate in Op's sessions and the day concluded with more outstanding clinics. Friday morning was filled with clinics, the afternoon was dedicated to Op's and touring home layouts. The day ended with the Cajon Division famous Hobo Auction with a host of items up for grabs. Saturday started out with the Hobo Breakfast, a large swap meet, more clinics and afternoon layouts tours and Op's sessions. Concluding the convention of course was the Awards and Recognition Banquet with guest speaker Charlie Getz who is always entertaining. And in spite of handing out two years' worth of awards we still keep the event within a reasonable time.

As with any event of this magnitude it take a large group people to make it happen, as was the case for this convention. I have to thank the seventeen members of the convention planning team for a job well done. This convention would have

never happened with out all of you investing countless hours of your time. In addition, we had twenty-seven clinicians who put on thirty-nine clinics over the four days of the convention and two non-rail clinicians who gave four clinics.

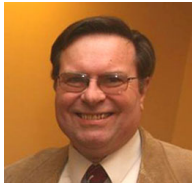
A convention would not be complete without home and club layouts to visit. We had twenty-one layouts on tour for this convention I would also like to thank all these layout owners for opening up their home so our members could visit and see their layouts.

And finally, I would like to thank all the members who had the faith in us and attended the 2021 Orange Blossom Special. You attendance made all the months of planning and work worth the effort, and the team hopes you had an enjoyable experience. And do not forget 2022 PSR Convention will be held in San Diego, see you all there.

Carl Heimberger  
2021 Orange Blossom Special  
Convention Chair

Ps: Yes, I am actually getting back to doing what I really enjoy building models and working on my layout.





## The Show Room

James Keena, PSR Contest Chair

From all accounts that I have heard, the PSR 2021 Orange Blossom Special Convention in Irvine was a successful event sponsored by Cajon Division. This was one of the first opportunities for fellow NMRA members of the Pacific Southwest Region could gather together again to attend clinics and fellowship with each other. Various events from Welcome Reception, Annual Membership Meeting, Hobo Auction, Swap Meeting and Banquet were all well attended.

The Show Room was well participated in with 41 entries in various categories from locomotives, cars, structures, railroadiana, photographs, arts and crafts.

In Addition, there also was the 1-foot challenge to scenic a one-square foot diorama that had to include a section of track in any scale. Some of the entries in the room were for display only by modelers.

Eight models were evaluated at the event with four of them earning Merit Awards with evaluation scores greater than 87.5 points. The award results of the Show Room are as follows:

### Locomotives Diesel and Others

1<sup>st</sup> Place - Southern Pacific Locomotive #130 by Ed Hall

2<sup>nd</sup> Place - Southern Pacific Locomotive #378 by Ed Hall

### Passenger Cars

1<sup>st</sup> Place, People's Choice & Merit Award - UP Business Car Lone Star by Milton SansSoucie

### Structures On-Line

Best in Show & Merit Award - Timber Lined Tunnel by Gary Stenberg

1<sup>st</sup> Place & Merit Award - Ashwell Textile by Dave Arendes

### Structures Off-Line

1<sup>st</sup> Place & Merit Award - Spreckels Sugar Company House from the 1920's by Nick Lisica

2<sup>nd</sup> Place - Dubois Store by Harold Helland

3<sup>rd</sup> Place - Scarlet Slipper by Harold Helland

### Arts & Crafts General

1<sup>st</sup> Place - Rose Basket by Annette Palmer

2<sup>nd</sup> Place - Christmas Lights by Annette Palmer

### Arts & Crafts Needlework

1<sup>st</sup> Place & People's Choice - We Can Fly Quilt by Kimberly W. Fowler

2<sup>nd</sup> Place - NY Quilt by Kimberly W. Fowler

### Railroadiana

1<sup>st</sup> Place - Missouri Pacific Lines State Flowers Plate by Roberta Fleishman

2<sup>nd</sup> Place - Union Pacific Dining Car Cook Book by Roberta Fleishman

### Favorite Train

1<sup>st</sup> Place - Southern Pacific Local Freight by James Keena

2<sup>nd</sup> Place - Scrap Metal Train by Annette Palmer

### Thumbs or Levity Award

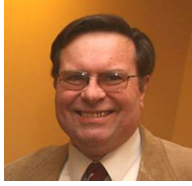
1<sup>st</sup> Place - Southern Pacific 3/4 Dome Observation Car by Ed Hall

### One Square Foot Challenge

1<sup>st</sup> Place - Branch Line Milk Train by Joel Morse

2<sup>nd</sup> Place - Desert Freight House by John Parrish

3<sup>rd</sup> Place - Rainbow Desert by Annette Palmer



## The Show Room

James Keena, PSR Contest Chair

Continued from Page 9

### Black & White Prototype Photos

1<sup>st</sup> Place - Country Grade Crossing by John Parrish

2<sup>nd</sup> Place - Eastbound with a Double Load by John Parrish

3<sup>rd</sup> Place - Desert Sun and Steel by John Parrish

### Color Prototype Photos

1<sup>st</sup> Place - Blizzard by John Parrish

2<sup>nd</sup> Place - Hot Train by John Parrish

3<sup>rd</sup> Place - UP 3985 at Whittier Junction by James Keena

### Color Model Photos

1<sup>st</sup> Place - Keeping 'Em Fresh by John Parrish

2<sup>nd</sup> Place - Moving Energy by John Parrish

3<sup>rd</sup> Place - Passing Underneath by Annette Palmer

Congratulation to all the winners. I encourage all of you to continue working on your model railroads as well as your future entries for upcoming Show Rooms. Be sure to begin filling out your forms in advance for your entries.

Looking forward to seeing and visiting with many of you again. Conventions and local Divisional meets are a great opportunity to interact with your fellow model railroaders. Keep safe and continue to enjoy your modeling along with time with your family and friends.



## PSR Treasurer

Joel Morse, Treasurer

### PACIFIC SOUTHWEST REGION 37

### TREASURERS WINTER 2021 DISPATCH

#### REPORT SUMMARY:

During the period July 1, 2021 through September 30, 2021 there were quite a few financial transactions by the Region, with the majority of the activities associated with support for the Cajon Orange Blossom Special Awards Ceremony. It should be noted that the Awards covered two years, as no Awards were presented during 2020, due to the cancellation of the 2020 Convention.

The September 30, 2021 Bank Statement indicates that the Region has \$30,123.66 (compared to \$30,345.14 on June 30, 2021) in the Region Checking Account.

The major transactions during this period were:

- Deposit and Distribution of Division Membership Rebates (\$844.00)
- Purchase of the awards presented at the Orange Blossom Special Convention totaled \$665.43.

#### Wells Fargo Checking Account:

**Region Assets as of June 30, 2021: \$30,345.14**

**Region Assets as of September 30, 2021: \$30,123.66**

**Net Change this period: - \$221.48**

I would like to make a brief acknowledgment of the hard working team that takes the time to share their expertise and donate their time to making the Convention and Meet Showrooms so successful. Having acted as a judge several times in the past, I know it is a challenging and yet rewarding experience to try to help modelers understand the comparative level of their models and to promote constructive responses to their efforts. Trust me, this is not an easy job!. A special thanks to James Keena for his continued efforts as our Regional Contest Chair, and to Mike Alee as the Cajon Division Contest Chair. James continuously dedicates his time at Conventions and Meets to meticulously manage the intake, display, evaluation, and safe return of all model entries, as well as putting together the Awards Banquet presentations.

Thanks to Bruce Petrarca, Joel Morse, Harold Helland, Annette Palmer, Joe Perino, Gary Butts and Sandy Butts for acting as judges at the Convention event. Kevin Spady, Editor



# The Convention Showroom

## Diesel Locomotives



1st Place—Southern Pacific AC4400 #130

Ed Hall



2nd Place—Southern Pacific AC4400 #378

Ed Hall

# **The Convention Showroom**

## **Passenger Cars**



**1st Place, Merit and People's Choice—Union Pacific Business Car Lone Star**

**Milton SansSoucie**

## **Structures On-Line**



**1st Place Merit—Ashwell Textile**

**David Arendes**



# **The Convention Showroom**

## **Structures Off-Line**



**1st Place, Merit—Spreckels Sugar Company House**

**Nick Lisica**



**2nd Place—The Scarlett Slipper**

**Harold Helland**



**3rd Place—Dubois Store**

**Harold Helland**



## 1-Square Foot Challenge



**1st Place Branchline Milk Train**  
Joel Morse

## Favorite Train



**1st Place—SP Local Freight**  
James Keena  
**2nd Place—Scrap Metal Train**  
Annette Palmer

## 1-Square Foot Challenge



**2nd Place—Desert Freight House**  
John Parrish



**3rd Place—Rainbow Desert**  
Annette Palmer



## **Best In Show**



**Timber Lined Tunnel**

**Gary Stenberg**

## **Thumbs Award**



**1st Place—Southern Pacific 3/4 Dome Observation Car**

**Ed Hall**



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