

# PACIFIC SOUTHWEST REGION DISPATCH

NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION



ARIZONA  
CAJON  
LOS ANGELES  
SAN DIEGO



VOLUME 40, NUMBER 1    1st Quarter, 2022

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## Convention Snapshots 2022



Did you enjoy 2021's PSR Regional Convention? It's not too late to get 2022's event in San Diego on your calendar!

**"Back on Track in 2022" is coming!!**

September 7—11, 2022.



**Gateway 2022**  
NMRA National Convention  
August 7-13, 2022  
Marriott Grand, St Louis, MO  
Information/Registration at [gateway2022.org](http://gateway2022.org)





## **FROM THE WAYCAR**

Pat Raymer—President

Greetings fellow PSR members!

Since last I wrote we have welcomed in a New Year and, as it unfolds before us, I feel a renewed energy in the Region. Mask mandates have recently been reduced or eliminated in many locations and infection rates are declining, which bodes well for being able to again meet in person in a more normal way-a staple for our divisions and regions.

There has been some buzz around the Region about the 2024 NMRA National Convention and now I can confirm that the Pacific Southwest Region has been selected to host in 2024. The seed of this idea was planted at the last PSR convention in Irvine when it was pointed out that there had been no bid for the 2024 NMRA National Convention. A small group of PSR board members discussed the possibility of hosting in 2024 and we formed an exploratory group to research requirements and venues. Our initial team consisted of myself, PSR Vice President Gary Butts of Cajon Division, Director Vic Cavalli of Los Angeles Division, and past PSR President Don Fowler of San Diego Division. Since the 2024 PSR regional convention would fall to the L.A. Division, it was decided that the venue for the National Convention should be located within the L.A. Division geographical boundaries. It was also decided that the L.A. Division would likely not have the personnel resources to support such a large event and that the 2024 convention should be a Regional effort. At that point Director Cavalli and I volunteered to co-chair the convention. We began the search for an acceptable venue, discussed possible names for the convention, and assembled lists of potential activities. All of this started in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2021, but we were not in a position to announce this to our membership until we had confirmation from NMRA National that we were selected as host. That confirmation came at the NMRA Winter Board of Directors meeting, so I am able to share this good news with you now.

Looking forward, we are in negotiations with several venues and, until that aspect is settled, we must hold on some parts of the planning process. That said, I am very excited at the prospect of hosting the National Convention. It will be a large order (think of all the aspects

of one of our regional conventions x10), but also an exceptional opportunity for our Region and Divisions. People from all over the globe will attend, and this is a chance to showcase the best and brightest our region has to offer. Along with the National Convention comes the National Train Show. This affords some of our local modular railroads a chance to set up and interact, and of course a chance to shop 'til you drop. The National Train Show will also drive new membership-something we all can use!

None of this will be able to happen without an outstanding staff of volunteers, and it is never too early to step up. For the good of your Division and the Region, please contact me now to get your name on the list: [president@psrnmra.org](mailto:president@psrnmra.org). More to come as the plan develops, so stay tuned!

In other Regional news, I have been sitting in on the planning meetings for the 2022 PSR convention “Back on Track in 2022”, hosted by the San Diego Division. They are going to have a great line-up of activities-some favorites and some new, and they are moving to a new venue. I am looking forward to a wonderful time in San Diego-please come join us! You can find more information about the upcoming PSR convention elsewhere in this issue.

The Arizona Division convention team is hard at work on the 2023 PSR convention. They took a rather unique approach to the selection of their convention location. It came down to either the greater Phoenix area or Flagstaff, so they did a survey! Flagstaff won out, so that's where we will be in 2023. It has been over 10 years-12 years by 2023-since the convention was last held in Flagstaff. Because of weather considerations in Flagstaff, the Arizona team requested a one-time change in the date requirements outlined in the PSR by-laws and were granted the change, so the 2023 convention will be held in June. The Flagstaff area is beautiful, and with the Grand Canyon Railway just down the road, this will be one you shouldn't miss.

One last item before I go: beginning in April the NMRA Magazine will be available in a digital format, and will be included in your membership. The print version will still be available as it is now, at an additional charge. You must be a registered member on the NMRA website to access the digital magazine.

That's it for now, so- See you down the line!



## THE PSR BACKSHOP

Gary Butts, MMR  
Vice President

I hope this edition of the Dispatch finds you well and Covid free. This has been a tough time for many of our friends but it is starting to look like the virus is losing its ground. For many of us, our hobby has been a place to seek refuge. Combined with relatively cold and windy weather, staying in to creatively work on some aspect of model railroading becomes a silver lining for the circumstances.

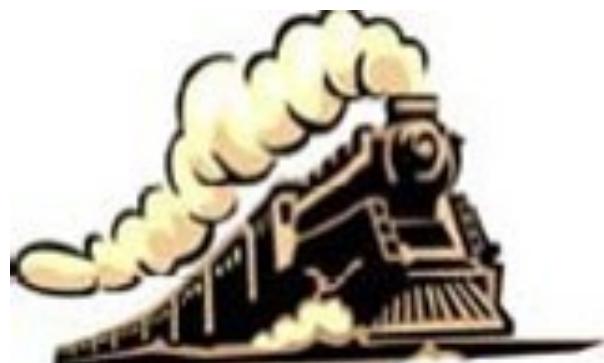
I am fortunate to have a few close model railroad friends that are fully vaccinated and feel comfortable with each other and we have taken this restrictive time to form a small model railroad operating group. Our stated goal is to collectively earn our NMRA Achievement Award Program “Chief Dispatcher” certificates, but a big part of the experience is being able to get together and talk trains. We meet a couple of times a month which usually gives us enough time to accomplish some model rail goals between sessions and we bounce these around over Pizza before the session. I don’t think the reason for getting together is as important as just getting together in a comfortable situation to exchange. If you have Covid trustable friends with a common interest, whether it be collecting, module building, structure or rolling stock modeling, layout construction or whatever, think about inviting them over for a gab session. I guarantee you will enjoy the experience and possibly come away with some increased knowledge or an idea that will enhance your modeling.

I’m sure that Pat will detail out the actions relative to our PSR Region hosting the 2024 NMRA National Convention but suffice to say that we are still looking seriously at the proposition. After visiting the Long Beach Convention Center and several of the local hotels we continued our search last month with visits to the Pasadena venue and hotels. It is a little hard for me to keep up with the current rates that are now standard at all hotels but we are continuing to look for the best value vs. experience situation we can find.

The contracts and final decision come from NMRA Headquarters so, of course, we have been in close contact with them on our findings. More information will come as we continue to move forward.

Meanwhile, if you haven’t signed up for our 2022 Regional convention in San Diego in September, think about doing this soon for the best rates and to avoid getting left out of full tours, or missing out on a convention car, shirt or pin. I am hopeful that we will be significantly out from under the virus protocols by then and can actually have a fully open exchange convention.

Also, the Cajon Division has started up a monthly (more or less) Zoom get together session called the “Cajon Connection”. Think of a group of casual “special interest groups” and you get the idea. They meet at a common Zoom site then break out into individual groups for round-robin discussions by all attendees on specific areas of interest. Although the advertising and meetings have focused on the Cajon Division members up to this point while the bugs are worked out of the program, the meetings are open to all NMRA members. The breakout areas of interest so far have focused on Scenery, Operations and Electronics. The interest has been good and the discussions fruitful. If you are not a Cajon Division member but would like to attend, check out the Cajon Division web site the meeting sign up invitations. The intent is to open the advertising to the entire Region as soon as they are comfortable with the presentation format and the Zoom platform complexities.





# Cajon

Harold Helland, Director

I have heard during various discussions that achieving the Master Model Railroader award is nearly impossible without having a home model railroad. Here are some ideas on achieving that honor without a home model railroad.

**Dispatcher Certificate:** This can be achieved without a home model railroad although you do need access to a model railroad. There are numerous model railroad clubs in the PSR Region that you can join and attend the club operating sessions. Those club sessions will provide numerous hours of enjoyment and allow you to gather enough hours at the various tasks to achieve the Dispatch Certificate.

**Cars Certificate:** This requires the construction of eight railroad cars – rolling stock. There must be four different types of cars and one must be a passenger car. The other criteria is that four must be scratch built. I personally enjoyed scratch building cars since it gives you much more satisfaction than building a kit. As you would expect, four of the cars must achieve 87-1/2 points when evaluated by the achievement team.

**Structures Certificate:** This allows you to build structures at your leisure. The Structures Certificate requires you to build twelve structures. There must be at least six different types of structures and one must be a bridge. Like the Cars Certificate, six of the models must achieve 87-1/2 points when evaluated by the achievement team.

**Motive Power Certificate:** This is similar to the Cars and Structures certificates. To qualify for the Motive Power Certificate you must build three scale models of motive power and only one must be scratch built. However, all three models must achieve 87-1/2 points when evaluated by the achievement team.

**Prototype Model Certificate:** This is another certificate that can be achieved without a home model railroad. The goal for this certificate is to construct a model of a prototype scene containing six

models of prototype equipment or structures. There is no minimum size requirement for this prototype scene. Four different types of models must be represented: rolling stock, railroad structure, caboose or passenger car, and motive power. Of course there is the 87-1/2 point challenge you must exceed from the achievement committee.

Another great way to complete achievement certificates is to get involved with the NMRA. Author, Volunteer and Official are all certificates available for getting involved with the NMRA and none of these require a home model railroad.

By completing these Achievement Certificates you can become a Master Model Railroader without building a home model railroad.

The first Cajon Connection session was held on January 28. It was attended by 31 Cajon members via Zoom. The session had “Zoom Breakout Rooms” that discussed electronics, operations, and scenery.

The Cajon Spring Meet is scheduled for April 30, 2022 and it will be free to all NMRA members. There will be more information in a few months so please mark your calendars.



## Historian's Report

Per Harwe, Historian

Per reports that there is no new activity on the historical front. Keep in mind he is always looking for those missing convention items!

## 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](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.



## Arizona

Terry Fearn, Director

Hello to all the PSR members from the NMRA Arizona Division. The past few months have been very busy and productive for our division. Our fall meet was held November 13, at the Scottsdale Congregational United Church of Christ in Scottsdale, AZ., attended by 89 people. We have scheduled the first two meets of 2022. The spring meet will be March 26 in Scottsdale and the summer meet will be June 18<sup>th</sup> in Prescott.

Bruce Petrarca has assumed the role of Division Superintendent, in addition to being the Division's AP Manager. Thanks for Richard Petrina for his many years as the Division Superintendent. Our webmaster has completely revamped the Division website. Take a look when you have a chance. <https://azdiv-nmra.org/index.php>. Lastly, after a five-year hiatus,

our newsletter, the Spur Line has been resurrected, thanks to Frank Baker. Past and current issues of the Spur Line are available to read from our website. Included are articles submitted by our members and the details for upcoming Arizona Division meets.

Planning is well underway for the 2023 PSR convention, hosted by the Arizona Division. The name of convention is the Grand Canyon Special and will be held in Flagstaff, AZ on June 7-10, 2023. The host hotel is the Drury Inn & Suites, with the conference events in the adjacent High Country Convention Center. A full slate of clinics is planned along with model railroad layout tours and railroad and non-railroad activities. We are also planning one clinic sequence built around northern Arizona history, geography, forests, and geology, with an emphasis on the Grand Canyon. On the last day of the conference, we will have a train trip to the Grand Canyon.



## Los Angeles

Vic Cavalli, Director

The start of a new year; a chance for a fresh start. Here's hoping 2022 has been a kinder and more healthy year to each of you – though January's and early-February's day-after-day ever increasing reports of new Omicron variant-based COVID cases and hospitalizations has left me unsure (more on COVID's continuing impacts below).

The final months of 2021 saw more than a dozen club and privately-owned model railroads open for public viewing in the L.A. Division area. There were even a couple of swap meets held. Although attendance was consistently reported to be down from prior years, it was wonderful to finally get out and visit with friends and fellow modelers again. Similar light attendance was observed at the last two Division held/sponsored events also – FallRail 2021 and the Los Angeles Area Prototype Modelers Meet.

During the Division's January 2022 Advisory Board Meeting, it was determined our annual General Membership Meeting and Appreciation Banquet would once again need to be held virtually. There's still just too great a chance of catching/spreading COVID in a banquet setting in our Division. The Board also decided not to produce a SpringRail event this year either. Instead, L.A. has reached out to the Cajon Division with regards of holding/assisting in a joint event during the second quarter of 2022; likely in Buena Park, CA.

So, for at least the early part of 2022, it appears L.A. Division members will have to continue living under a ongoing coronavirus "cloud" of restrictions. For example, I'm sure everyone knows by now the Great Train Show (GTS) typically held at the Los Angeles County/Pomona Fairplex each year was "relocated" to

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## **Los Angeles**

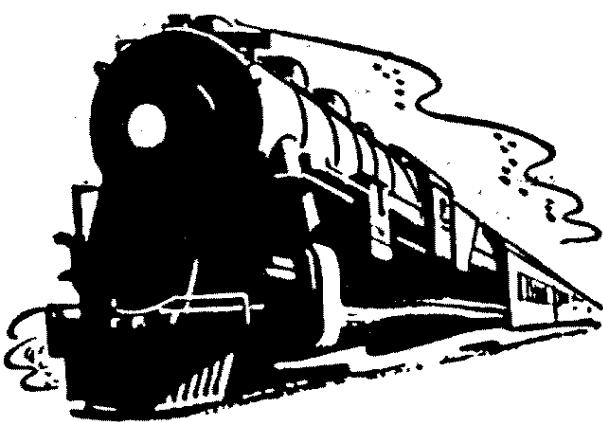
Vic Cavalli, Director

Victorville, CA, the Ventura County GTS show skipped over, and the GTS's Costa Mesa event outright cancelled.

This isn't to say events, either railroading or model railroading related, in the Division's area have completely disappeared. Indeed, not so! Again, for example, L.A.'s Advisory Board is working on scheduling special Division-sponsored layout visitations every other month starting in April. More details will be forthcoming before the end of March, 2022.

In the meanwhile, I highly recommend you read though the Division's 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 among other things, a complete list of known area-centric events (usually listed towards the rear of each issue). Likewise, check out the *Events* section of our enhanced and expanded website, [www.ladiv-nmra.org](http://www.ladiv-nmra.org), to learn more about what's happening in the northern-west corner of the PSR.

Drop me a line should you have question or comment. Until next quarter's report, happy model railroading to you.



## **San Diego**

Pete Steinmetz, Director

In spite of the pandemic, the San Diego Division was able to adapt in 2021. We try to give value to our members. After everything was shut down, we went to 2 Zoom Meetings a month. There would be one or two clinics, a layout tour, show and tell, and discussion. Attendance was good. We were offering activities to our members. All communication to members is by E Mail. The E Mail list is updated monthly to reflect new members and rerails.

In August we had our first in person meeting of 2021. We have quarterly in person meets and monthly in person layout tours.

While there were few in person public events in 2021, we ended December with 5 more members than we began with in January. Total membership in the San Diego Division is 132.

All new members are contacted, both by E Mail and by phone. We discuss the new members hobby interest, and offer them a buddy.

We had a very successful winter Meet in February. We have layout tours every month along with quarterly Meets.

Our next quarterly Meet is May 14 at Short Track Railroad at the Antique Gas and Steam Engine Museum in Vista.

<http://www.shorttrackrr.org> This is a spectacular N Scale Railroad. They model the Southern Pacific crossing of Donner Pass. Join us in viewing the railroad, have some lunch, see 2 clinics and hang out with other modelers.

The San Diego Division is hosting the PSR Convention in September 2022. We are hard at work planning and arranging the details. We will have 3 clinic rooms. One will be equipped to handle incoming Zoom Clinics. We are arranging for clinicians from Australia, Europe, Canada, and the US.



# Achievement Program

Carl Heimberger, AP Chairman

Congratulation to all the PSR members who worked to achieve the following awards this past quarter.

## Golden Spike Awards

Robert Behm- San Diego

Kenneth Wolfe – Arizona

Stephen Dress – Arizona

## Merit Awards

Kenneth Wolf – Arizona, 11 for Structures

Bob Ginger – Arizona, 8 for Cars

Stephen Drees –Arizona, 1 for Cars

Charlie Schwartz – Arizona 3 for Structures

Tim Gilliland – Arizona, 1 for Structures

Jeff Liedl – Arizona, 1 for Structures

Jeff Olson – Arizona, 1 for Cars

Steve Bradley – San Diego. 7 for Structures

## Awards Program Certificates

Lenard Smith – Arizona, Volunteer

Jeffrey Liedl – Arizona, Scenery

Richard Petrina – Arizona, Official & Volunteer

Bob Ginger – Arizona, Cars

Joel Morse – Cajon, Author and Volunteer

Stephen Drees – Arizona, Cars, Electrical, Civil, & Scenery

Harold Helland – Cajon, Prototype Modeler

Steve Bradley – San Diego, Structure & Prototype Modeler

## Master Model Railroader

Bob Ginger MMR # 695 – Arizona

So, let's discuss the Awards Program in general. The NMRA is a global organization and in the PSR we have approximately 1,000 Members. But only a small percentage of our members participate in the AP. Why? Well, some think it is just too hard, all that paperwork, and those Merit awards you have to earn. Well yes there is work involved, but then most anything you do requires a degree of work. Just building our layouts could be considered work, but it should also give you these awards Civil, Electrical, Scenery, Structures, and Cars, Dispatcher and even Prototype Modeler and Motive Power.

Did you know to become an MMR you just need to be an average modeler with average modeling skills. And that of the eleven categories you are only evaluated for your modeling skills on five of them? They are Motive Power, Cars, Structures, Scenery, and Prototype Modeler. Yes, for Motive Power all three models must make Merit, but for cars you only need four that make merit and structures only six need to make merit. So, what is average? Well, we evaluate from 0 to 125 points and a "C" average score is 87.5. So, what does that mean well to be an MMR you only need to be an average modeler.

Let also look and the remaining six categories all they require is authoring articles, volunteer service hours to help better the NMRA, build and wire your layout, or just have fun doing operations on a layouts. That all sounds like fun not work to me.

And in talking with other modelers who are in the Awards Program, they all agree once you become involved with the AP you will find your modeling skills will dramatically improve, and I can attest that is true as my skills have improved tenfold. So, what is holding you back you have nothing to lose but lots to gain. If you are having trouble with the paperwork, just ask your division AP Manager for help and stop putting the paperwork on the back burner .....it is time to get it done!



**Can you Kitbash? - Kevin Spady**

Regularly, in conversations with fellow modelers, I am confronted with the statement “Kitbashing is too difficult”, or something to that effect. Often these are very qualified modelers with all the skillsets necessary to do the job if they put their minds to it! It may seem intimidating to take a “perfect” manufacturers product and turn it into something different, but the reality is, it doesn’t take much to change a slick commercial product into something unique and interesting. The reality is, that if you have the patience and just a bit of modeling skill, you can make your motive power much more interesting. I use some or all of the following concepts to make my models just a bit different from the rest of the herd:

1. I don't try to exactly match a prototype. I am trying for a look for effect more than a strict copy of a real-world locomotive. Those that model prototypically will groan at this statement, but it frees me up to do some really interesting modeling.
2. Add details and figures to your model. People, tools, tool boxes, hoses, logging equipment and other interesting details will add tremendously to your model.
3. Paint your model unless you are after that “just out of the shop” look.
4. And if a repaint just makes you shudder, weather your model. I use acrylic washes and Bragdon powders to achieve the rusty and dusty look I want for my locos.
5. And, if you want to really test your skills, add DCC, sound and “keep-alives” to your locos.

I hope you take the plunge into modifying your locos. The rewards a great! Here are a few examples to encourage you all to give some “kitbashing” a try.



Bachmann On30 Climax – Bashed with tender



Bachmann On30 Shay – Bashed with tender



Bachman Mogul – Dead Rail bash with snowplow



Scot Maze kit with details



## The Show Room

James Keena, PSR Contest Chair

Because of the many health restrictions over the nearly last 2-years, there has been a surge in the availability of online meetings and clinic information relating to model railroading. The NMRA has a slew of clinics available on both the NMRA website and YouTube Channel. This has provided a wealth of informational, educational, historical data and how to do presentations. Hopefully, you have been able to avail yourselves to at least some of these resources to enhance and improve your own modeling skills.

Even with the availability of these online meetings, clinics and other types of multimedia, it is still not the same as in-person fellowship or hands-on how-to-do clinic demonstrations with other model railroaders. There is just something special about sharing time together and learning in person from each other. NMRA sponsored events and train shows are slowly beginning to once again be held in person again. So, get out and enjoy.

There are many events to choose from, with these upcoming ones as examples:

The Hobbyists Park & Swap Meet	Mesa, AZ	February 5, 2022
Winter Meet & Pot Luck	San Diego, CA	February 12, 2022
Sun City Model RR Club Swap Meet	Sun City, AZ	February, 12, 2022
Winter Cactus Meet	Phoenix, AZ	February, 19, 2022
Adobe Mountain Model Train Show	Phoenix, AZ	March 19, 2022
Great Train Show	Victorville Fair Grounds	March 19 & 20, 2022
Return to the Redwoods	Rohnert Park, CA	April 21-24, 2022
Joint LA/Cajon Spring Meet	Buena Park, CA	April 30, 2022
ARHS Model Train Swap Meet	Glendale, AZ	May 14, 2022
NMRA National Convention	Saint Louis, MO	August 7 to 13, 2022
National Train Show	Saint Louis, MO	August 12 to 14, 2022
PSR Back on Track Convention	San Diego, CA	September 7 to 11, 2022

Many of the Divisional, Regional as well as the National NMRA events will have Show Rooms available for you to enter your models, photos and artwork for Merit Award evaluation or popular vote contests. So, continue to work on your entries and don't forget to prepare your entry forms and evaluation forms in advance.



Do not miss the 2022 PSR convention this upcoming September 7-11. We are “Back on Track” in the San Diego Division. The convention kicks off with a reception Wednesday evening at the famous San Diego Model Railroad Museum, Located in Balboa Park.

We are planning an excellent array of clinics including topics of The History of the San Diego Trolleys, Special Effects with Arduinos, Dead Rail, Store Fronts and Interiors, Modeling with Balsa Foam, Animation, hands on structure build, Freight Loads, and many others to be announced.

The San Diego area has some excellent layouts to visit. There will also be operations sessions held at many of the layouts which will give you an opportunity to run trains under the guidance of expert model railroaders. View descriptions and pictures of the layouts offered for touring and ops sessions at the convention website: [psrconvention.org/BackOnTrack2022](http://psrconvention.org/BackOnTrack2022).

Of course, there will be prototype tours. A feature prototype tour will be at the Pasha car loading facility which is the largest on the west coast. We will also have tours of the Pacific Southwest Railway Museum in Campo, California, the San Diego Trolley Yard and Maintenance Facility, The Poway Midland Railroad (and more).

Be sure to stay for the Banquet on Saturday evening. The featured speaker is our own “Shotgun” Tom Kelly. Tom is a famous radio announcer and TV personality whose father was a railroad

engineer in San Diego. Tom is a member of the San Diego Model Railroad Association as well as the NMRA. Tom is a very entertaining speaker. He has won two Emmys and has a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

Register now at the convention web site [psrconvention.org/BackOnTrack2022](http://psrconvention.org/BackOnTrack2022). And do not forget to reserve your room at the Four Point Sheraton at the convention rate of only \$119 per night.

The PSR 2022 Convention Committee



## **PSR Treasurer**

Joel Morse, Treasurer

### **PACIFIC SOUTHWEST REGION 37**

#### **TREASURERS SPRING 2022 REPORT**

##### **SUMMARY:**

During the period October 1, 2021 through January 31, 2022 there were few PSR financial transactions, with the only two of note being the payment of the annual rent for the PSR storage in the Cajon Division storage unit (\$240.00), and a rebate from the Amazon Smiles Program of \$11.08.

The January 31, 2022 Bank Statement indicates that the Region has \$29,584.74 (compared to \$29,830.66 on October 31, 2021) in the Region Checking Account.

Since the Region became a corporation, the 2021 PSR Tax Return will include income and expenses from each of the Divisions. That return has not yet been prepared, and will be included in the next Dispatch.

##### **PSR Wells Fargo Checking Account:**

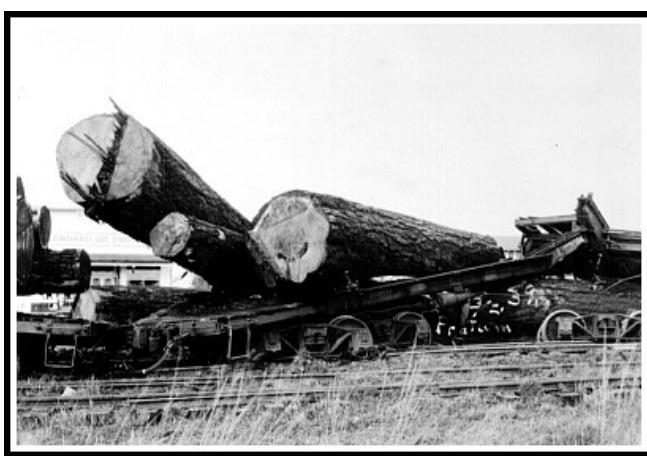
**Region Assets as of October: \$29,830.66**

**Region Assets as of January 31, 2022: \$29,584.74**

**Net Change this period: - \$245.92**

**Thoughts from the Past—Kevin Spady**

I have been going through a lot of family memorabilia lately as we have moved my Dad from his home into Memory Care and are “cleaning house” in preparation for sale. As I was going through his office, I came across a series of images of the small community where I grew up in Oregon called Pratum. Pratum sits amid the farmland of the Willamette Valley in an idyllic setting. The only reason the community exists at all is because the main local road and railroad converge here. The result during the early part of the last century was a bustling community with a local grocery store, a firehouse, a co-op/granary, and a 3-room schoolhouse where I spent my first 8 grades. The school sits right next to the railroad and co-op, and I can remember clearly the task we kids set for each other to see who could hit the baseball over the tracks from the schoolyard baseball diamond! I thought I would share a few historical images from the very early years of this community.

**Railroad Depot and Warehouse****Handcar****Pratum Mercantile****The Co-op****Mishap on the line****The Local**



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