

The Order Board

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Las Vegas Limited Convention 2001

- Mark your Calendar—September 12-16, 2001
- Palace Station—Las Vegas, Nevada
- We need clinicians!!
- Already 45 Railroaders are signed up!
- Don't miss out—see Page 2

FROM THE TOP

ED HALL, MMR

Hello everyone, As the days leading to the end of the year 2000 approaches, my thoughts are on our Cajon Division and it's future. What will tomorrow bring? Certainly the future of the Cajon Division depends on you, the members. The key is in your hands. Will you let it fade into oblivion?

Take a look at all the things you like about your division (meets, events, Order Board) and if there aren't

enough then put your hand up and help to make a change and move the Division in a direction that will make you proud you belong. Just sitting in an armchair, seeing problems and assessing blame does no good without answers. There will always be details with which you disagree. Remember, our Division will only go as far and as long as our volunteers are able to take us.

I challenge all members to take a pro-



active part! Step up and make a difference, continue the efforts to make our Division the very best in the PSR! It's your Division—the time is now to make it truly yours!

I've appointed Robert

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LYNNAUSTIN OPEN HOUSE A GREAT SUCCESS

Lynn Austin's annual open house, held on the 28th and 29th of October was widely attended. It was estimated that 200 people came to the event over the two

days. Three layouts were operating – Lynn's highly-detailed HO bedroom miracle, the On30 Modulers layout of The Narrow Minded People of Las

Vegas, and the Southern Nevada N-Trakers modular layout. Additionally, the swap meet had a brisk showing, with lots of equipment

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LAS VEGAS LIMITED CONVENTION 2001 PROGRESS UPDATE

JAN WESCOTT

Excitement is building as evidenced by the wonderful response to our early bird registration and the many raves and kudos received for our snazzy convention logo. If first impressions are any indication, our convention will be a huge success!

Part one of the publicity campaign got off to a running start. Armed with pockets full of souvenir convention buttons, a well designed kiosk, and poster, the convention committee began promoting our convention from San Jose to Los Angeles and several events in between. Convention information can be found on our website and the current issue of the PSR Dispatch. In addition, all the major model railroad magazines have now been notified.

The convention committee continues to make good progress in organizing what they hope will be a great event with exciting highlights. The following paragraphs contain our progress and some of these highlights.

Auctions. A great auctioneer has been lined up for the live auction to be held on Friday night at the convention. Be sure to bring

along any no longer wanted items to the Auctions—trains, accessories, books, videos, railroad-ing items. All items will be sold to the highest bidder. Don't forget the Silent Auction that will be open for 3 days allowing bidders a chance to bid for items.



Clinics. Typically there will be 3-4 clinics running simultaneously and our convention will not be different. Among the wide choices of subjects will be a hands-on clinic entitled Modeling with the PSR Masters. A more detailed list of clinics to be offered will be forthcoming.

Tours. The buses are lined up for our guided tours that are now 90% complete. Highlighting the tours' list is the Pahrump Winery Tour, which will include a tour of the winery, wine tasting and a fine culinary lunch (choice of Steak Delmonico, Pasta with Scampi, or Broiled Chicken Piedmont) for a very reasonable price. A list of these tours, complete with description, will be on the extra fare form due to be distributed about March 2001.

Company Store. The Company Store is ready to open! The convention mugs arrived and they are super! An all black mug with our logo in silver, black and white. The store's inventory includes both an HO and N scale convention car, black tee

“Excitement is building as evidenced by the wonderful response to our early bird registration and the many raves and kudos received for our snazzy convention logo.”

shirts (with glow in the dark logo), embroidered logo polo style shirts, and embroidered caps, patches and pins.

The Contests. Although the

(Continued on page 4)

ROBERT'S RAMBLINGS

BOB WESCOTT, CAJON DIVISION CONTEST CHAIRMAN

Webster says that the meaning of a contest is "a competition in which each contestant performs without direct contact with or interference from his competitors." Therefore, each of you is on your own. I hope that each of you will at least read this and think about entering the Las Vegas Limited 2001 Contest.

One of the high points of any convention and certainly at the Las Vegas Limited Convention are the contests. This activity is the splendid display of competitive talent of model builders and photographers. Competition is a hallmark of our life. NMRA contests reward the builder for models that look good and demonstrate exceptional model workmanship.

Contest Information. Two types of contests covering various phases of model railroading are offered to Pacific Southwestern Region Members: Model Construction and Photography.

Model Construction Contest

All entries must be accompanied by a Pacific Southwestern Region (PSR) entry form available in the model contest room. Additional supplementary data may

also be attached as needed.

Those 18 years and under should indicate this fact for the Special Youth Award consideration.

The following categories will be accepted for the Model Contest: (1) Steam Locomotives, (2) Diesel and other Locomotives, (3) Passenger Cars, (4) Freight Cars, (5) Caboose, (6) Maintenance of Way Cars, (7) Structures, and (8) Traction.

Photography Contest

The Photo contest consists of six categories and is judged by a group of judges that have experience in the photographic field. The judging methods are the same as used by most photography associations. It is not a point system but rather consensus choices made by the judges after evaluating them for certain attributes. The categories are Black & White Model Print, Black & White Prototype Print, Color Model Print, Color Prototype Print, Model Slide, and Prototype Slide.

Rules

The rules are simple. The entrant must be a member of the NMRA and not a professional in the contest entered. The entry must be the sole work of the en-

trant. An entry form must accompany each entry. The entry cannot have won a 1st or Gold Award/Best of Show award at a previous PSR or National Contest. All entries must be available for display in the Contest Room.

The Photo Contest has a few additional rules. All photos must be mounted flat on rigid material and can be mounted but not framed. Minimum mount size is 8" x 10". Maximum mount size is 12" x 16". Minimum print size is 5" x 7". Each entrant is limited to 10 entries with no more than 5 in one category.

The Novice Competition was devised to allow modelers who have not previously won a contest award for the category entered or an award in five other categories or Best of Show. It is conducted as part of the Model Contest. To enter this special contest, indicate this fact on the entry form when entering your model.

Arts & Crafts

The Arts & Crafts Contest are for those interested in something besides railroading. Unlike the

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ROBERT'S RAMBLINGS

(Continued from page 3)

other contests, Arts & Crafts are open to all convention registrants, whether or not they are NMRA members. The categories are General Original, General Kit-Built, General Pattern, Railroadiana Original, Railroadiana Pattern, Railroadiana Kit-Built, Needlework, Original, Needlework Kit-Built, and Needlework Pattern.

dlework Pattern.

Favorite Model Contest

This contest will be judged by a popular vote of all persons visiting the Contest Room. Upon entering, each person will be given a voting slip and asked to vote for their favorite model from all categories entered.

Special Notes:

1. The Contest room will be

closed during the judging period. No one will be allowed to view the models until after judging is complete.

2. All models must be removed from the Contest Room by 3:00 PM on Saturday so that the room can be setup for the Banquet.

LAS VEGAS LIMITED CONVENTION 2001 PROGRESS UPDATE

(Continued from page 2)

Contest/AP chair has written an article for this event, I just wanted to remind everyone to think about the Popular Vote category. For example, the Favorite Train: Assemble your favorite train just to see what others think. I'm sure each of you has something sitting on the shelf that you could bring along. Or how about the Thumbs Award: Those of you with active imaginations can go wild here, definitely not for the prototypes. Don't forget about the Arts/Crafts area of the contest, which is open to everyone at the convention!

Registration and Extra Fare.

Save \$10 by registering before March 1, 2001. This issue of the

Order Board contains a registration form. The extra fare registration will be mailed to all registrants.

Cajon Division Members! The time is now to register for this event. You are the host for this convention and we, the committee, have been hard at work organizing an event you can be proud to attach your name. The Cajon Division is depended upon its members to enjoy continued success.

As this issue of the Order Board reaches your mailbox, the air of Christmas will be abound. Thus, in closing, I wish all of you Happy Holidays and Happy Model Railroading!



September 12—16, 2001

CAJON DIVISION
Company Store

Won't you say YES and support your Division by purchasing a tee shirt? Both the Alien and the Cajon Tee shirts are available in all sizes for \$10 each.

A few badges are left. These are the Cajon logo badges for just \$5. Just contact Ed and he'll get it to you!

KUDOS — CAJON DIVISION WINNERS

Lynn Austin

21st Century Limited Convention
2nd Place
Non-revenue

Brian Block

20th National Narrow Gauge
Convention
1st Place
Dioramas

Ed Hall

PSR X2000 Convention
2nd Place
Diesel and other locomotives

Rick Jones

PSR X2000 Convention
1st Place
2nd Place
3rd Place
Prototype Subjects—Slides

Charles Nauman

PSR X2000 Convention
1st Place
Prototypes Subjects—Color
Prints

3rd Place
Freight Cars

1st Place
Novice Freight Cars

LAS VEGAS LIMITED

A SPECIAL INVITATION to anyone who wants to get involved ... You are most welcome to lend a hand and volunteer.

How? Doing what? YOU CAN:

- Share your modeling tricks, give a clinic!
- Help while at the convention for 2-3 hours! (registration contest room, company store, etc.)
- Be a judge or learn to be a judge.
- Be an anything/everything person.

**ONE THING IS CERTAIN,
WE NEED YOU!**

Convention Committee
Directory

Chairman
Trade Show Chair
Clinic Chair
Volunteer Chair
Paymaster
Ed Hall
(702) 564-6176

Contest/AP Awards
Convention Car
Robert Wescott
RWesc92415@aol.com

Registration
Charles Nauman
(702) 645-7158

Tours/Layouts
Richard Fritz
(702) 896-0347

Tour Transportation
Company Store
Convention Pin & Patch
Publicity
Jan Wescott
RWesc92415@aol.com

Railettes
Marie Lee

Convention Photographer
Bob Jones
(702) 459-4557

Timetable
Bill Jacobs
billj455@yahoo.com

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE MEMBERS OF THE CAJON DIVISION, PSR, NMRA

This issue of the Order Bard contains the draft of the new Cajon Division By-Laws. Now it is up to you, the membership to give your input. All it takes is to put a mark (X) in the box that indicates your vote.

As you have seen in previous other elections, your vote is very important. These By-Laws will

be the governing instrument of the Cajon Division. Once accepted/approved, it will be signed, dated and forwarded to the PSR Board of Directors.

As Chairman of the Cajon Division By-Laws committee, I wish to thank my committee members, Steve Connolly, Charles Nauman, Bill Jacobs, Ed Hall

and Jan Wescott, for all their work and input in the drafting of the By-Laws. Through their efforts this final version of the Cajon Division By-Laws was accomplished.

Robert D. Wescott
By-Laws Committee Chairman

CAJON DIVISION PACIFIC SOUTHWEST REGION NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

ARTICLE I – NAME, PURPOSE AND BOUNDRIES

Section 1 – This organization shall be known as the Cajon Division of the Pacific Southwest Region of the National Model Railroad Association, Inc., in shortened versions PSR-NMRA.

Section 2 – The primary purpose of the Cajon Division shall be to further the enjoyment of the hobby of model railroading and promote the aims and objectives of the Pacific Southwest Region of the National Model Railroad Association (PSR-NMRA) within the Division boundaries.

Section 3 – The Boundaries of the Cajon Division shall be limited to the area approved by the PSR-NMRA Board of Trustees and described in the PSR Manual of Operations.

Section 4 – These Cajon Division By-Laws are provided in accordance with Section 7 of the Manual Of Operations of the PSR. A copy of these By-Laws and every amendment thereof shall be filed with the Secretary of the PSR.

ARTICLE II – MEMBERSHIP AND DUES

Section 1 – Any member in good

standing with the PSR and NMRA (or who simultaneously applies for such membership) may become a voting member of the Cajon Division.

Section 2 – You do NOT have to be a member of the PSR to:

1. Attend PSR Region Conventions or PSR Division Meetings.
2. Present clinics at PSR Region Conventions or at PSR Division Meetings.
3. Buy or sell items from the Swap Table or Auction.
4. Participate in any PSR Division or PSR Region Con-

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tests; however, you must be an NMRA member in good standing.

NOTE: When the NMRA National Convention is held within the boundaries of the PSR or when the PSR Regional convention is held in conjunction with the National Convention, the PSR Regional contest shall be restricted for PSR members only.

Section 3 – You DO have to be a Cajon Division member in good standing with the PSR to:

1. Be appointed, run or be elected to a Cajon Division Office.
2. Vote in any of the Cajon Division elections.

Section 4 – Members shall pay no dues to the Cajon Division. An admission/entry fee may be collected at Division meets to help defray costs of room/equipment rental, refreshments, etc.

ARTICLE III – MANAGEMENT

Section 1 – The general management of the Cajon Division shall

be vested in the Director, Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, Chief Clerk, and a Paymaster.

Section 2 – The Director shall be elected by the membership and hold office for a term of two years beginning at the annual meeting of the PSR in odd years. The Director shall not succeed himself/herself more than once.

Section 3 – The Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent shall be elected by the membership of the Cajon Division and shall hold office for a term of two years beginning at the annual meeting of the Cajon Division in even years. An elected officer may not succeed himself/herself more than once in the same office.

Section 4 – The Chief Clerk, Paymaster, and Editor shall be appointed by the Superintendent and shall serve a term of two years beginning at the annual meeting of the Cajon Division in even years. They shall be Cajon Division PSR members.

Section 5 – All officers shall be under the supervision of the Board of Directors of the PSR.

Section 6 – All officers of the

Cajon Division shall be Regular Members or Life Members of the PSR.

ARTICLE IV – DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 1 - Director

1. The Director is the responsible officer in the Division through whom the Officers of the PSR shall channel all National and Regional information and programs. It is his duty in the Region to attend all meetings of the Board of Directors, reporting on the status of the Cajon Division and presenting all questions or initiative action from the members of the Division. As an Officer of the Region and as a member of the PSR Board of Directors, his actions in all deliberations and voting must not only be representative of his Division but must also be in pursuit of the goals and objectives of the Region as well.

2. Provides leadership and direction for an efficient administration of the Division.
 - A. Presides over all meetings of the Division.
 - B. Ensures compliance with the Cajon Division policies and guidelines.

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- C. Oversees programs related to the Division.
 - D. Maintain budgetary controls to ensure effective and accurate administration of Division funds.
 - E. Supervise, coordinate and motivate the activities of the Division Officers.
 - F. Addresses issues and concerns of the Division members.
3. The Director is empowered to create any committee as necessary to for the fulfillment of the purposes of the Division and also to designate a Chairperson for such committee. Appointees will assume the office immediately, but the appointment must be ratified at the next meeting or Special General Membership meeting of the Cajon Division.

Section 2 – Superintendent

1. The office of Superintendent is responsible to the Director of the Division. The Superintendent shall perform the duties of the Director when the latter is absent. In the event the office of Director is vacant, the Superintendent shall be the Director for the remainder of the term.
2. The primary duty of the Su-

perintendent is to assist the Director in the administration of Division programs. as follows:

- A. Organize and coordinate Division Meets.
- B. Coordinate “new member” recruitment programs.
- C. Organize and coordinate Clinics and activities.
- D. Develop and implement new programs for the growth and prosperity of the Division
- E. Assist Director with Division members concerns and issues.
- F. Solicit Door Prizes.

Section 3 - Assistant Superintendent

1. The office of Assistant Superintendent is responsible to the Superintendent of the Division.
2. The primary duty of the Assistant Superintendent is to the assist the Superintendent in the administration of the Division programs. The Assistant Superintendent shall perform the duties of the Superintendent when the latter is absent. In the event the office of Assistant Superintendent becomes vacant, the Director may appoint a new Assistant Superintendent.
3. The Assistant Superintendent shall assist with Division Meets,

recruitment of new members, coordinating clinics and other programs as necessary.

4. In the event of the vacancy of the office of Superintendent, the Assistant Superintendent shall perform his duties.

Section 4 - Chief Clerk (Secretary)

1. The office of Chief Clerk is responsible to the Director of the Cajon Division.
 - A. Records the minutes of the Annual or Special General Membership meetings.
 - B. Presents the minutes of the previous Annual or Special Membership meeting.
 - C. Prepares and mails to the membership a written notice and agenda of Annual or Special General Membership meetings as required.
 - D. Is responsible for maintaining the office files of the Cajon Division in an orderly fashion.
 - E. In the absence of the Clerk, the minutes must be passed to another member of Cajon Division management for presentation.

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Section 5 - Paymaster (Treasurer)

1. The office of Paymaster is responsible to the Director of the Division.
2. The primary duty of the Paymaster is to maintain accurate administrative records of the Division funds and its bank accounts.
3. The Paymaster shall ensure all expenses have proper documentation., as follows:
 - A. Maintain detailed income and expense reports.
 - B. Provide regular accounting reports of finances to Director.
 - C. Present summary financial reports at Division meetings.
 - D. Coordinate an annual audit of the finances of the Division in October of each year with an independent agency.
 - E. Maintain bank accounts and checkbook balances accurately. The Director and the Paymaster would be the two signatures used on bank accounts requiring two signatures. All authorizations for withdrawals must have two signatures and the approval of the Director. The Director and the Paymaster are the

two signatures used on bank accounts.

Section 6 – Registrar

1. In addition to the duties of Paymaster, the office of the Paymaster will also serve as the Registrar for the Division.
2. The duties of the Registrar will be to maintain a current record of the Division members and present copies of this list to Division Officers as necessary.

ARTICLE V – DIVISIONAL SIGNING AUTHORITY

Section 1 - Divisional signing authority shall be as follows: Checks authorized or issued by the Cajon Division must have the signatures of the Cajon Division Paymaster and the Cajon Division Director.

ARTICLE VI – REIMBURSE- MENT

Section 1 - All officers and committee members of the Cajon Division shall serve without reimbursement for the performance of their duties, except that telephone calls over \$10.00 will be reimbursed.

Section 2 - To be properly reim-

bursed for Divisional expenses incurred, documentation for the expense must be submitted to the paymaster and approved by the Management.

ARTICLE VII– MEETINGS

Section 1 – All meetings shall be moderated by the Director and a full record maintained thereof by the Chief Clerk which shall be open for examination by any member at all reasonable times. Proceedings of all meetings shall be governed by Robert's Rule of Order.

Section 2 – There shall be one Convention and Business Meeting of the members annually, which shall be held within 30 days before or after October 1 as determined by the Superintendent.

In the instance of a major event within the division during the year, such as a national convention, the Director may, at his discretion, move the date of the annual meeting and convention to coincide with that event for that year.

Section 3 – Special meetings of the membership may be called by the Director. At least thirty

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(30) days' notice of such meeting shall be given through the official publication.

Section 4 - The membership shall receive reports from each member of the management to keep the membership informed of the financial situation and the plans of the Division.

Section 5 – Proxies are not valid for the members at any meetings nor may they be used by members voting by mail.

ARTICLE VIII– COMMITTEES

Section 1 – Standing committees – The following Standing Committees of the Cajon Division shall be appointed by the Superintendent of the Cajon Division during his term. Member Services and Promotion, Contest, Nominating, Public Relations, Convention Promotion, Publication and Achievement Program.

Section 2 – Special Committees – The Superintendent may appoint such Special Committees as are necessary and their duties and term of office shall be set forth in the appointment.

Section 3 – Only Cajon Division Members may be appointed to any Standing or Special Committee.

ARTICLE IX – PUBLICATIONS

Section 1 – There shall be one official Publication of the Cajon Division, which shall be known as the ORDER BOARD. This publication shall be issued to the membership at least four times a year and shall be the charge of the Editor. The ORDER BOARD shall carry all official notices to the membership of meetings and all official ballots.

Section 2 – Members shall receive a ballot when an official mail ballot is sent to the membership. These may be included in the Division newsletter (**ORDER BOARD**) mailing for that issue or by direct mailing.

ARTICLE X – AMENDMENT

Section 1 – These By-Laws may be amended by a two-thirds majority of the votes cast by the membership on a mail ballot.

Section 2 – Membership classes (Article II, Section 1) may be added or deleted to align with PSR and NMRA membership

classes by a majority vote of the Cajon Division Officers.

Section 3 – Any article, section and/or part of these By-Laws that do not conform to the PSR or NMRA Constitution and By-Laws may be amended to conform by a majority of the Cajon Division Officers.

ARTICLE XI – CONFLICTS

Section 1 – In the event of any conflicts between these By-Laws and the Constitution and By-Laws of the PSR and/or NMRA, these By-Laws shall be considered amended in principle to agree with the Constitution and By-Laws of the PSR and/or the NMRA, and shall be formally amended to agree at the next annual membership meeting of the Division.

ARTICLE XII – DISSOLUTION

Section 1 - In the event of dissolution of the Cajon Division, no distribution of any of the property or assets of the Cajon Division shall be made to any Officer or employee of the Cajon Division, but such property or assets shall be given only to an organization or organizations which

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would qualify under Section 501 (e) (3) of the present Internal Revenue Code.

Section 2 – First consideration should be given to the PSR for the distribution. If this is not appropriate, such organization(s) to

be selected by the Officers of the Cajon Division, whose purpose may be similar to or different from the purposes of the Cajon Division, provided that the organization qualifies under the provisions of Section 501 (e) (3) of the present Internal Revenue Code or the comparable provi-

sions of the Internal Revenue Code than in effect.

Section 3 – In the event of the need to dissolve the Cajon Division, the plan of dissolution and distribution of any assets shall be approved by the PSR Board of Directors.

ANAHEIM MEET REPORT

JAN WESCOTT

HATS OFF to Steve Connolly for the job he did in organizing the Anaheim meet held August 26, 2000! As one modeler commented, "this meet showed me what this hobby is all about—meeting new friends, getting together and talking model railroading."

The clinics were excellent! The clinicians came well prepared. There was a live demonstration by Todd Scott on scenery; Gary Hannes brought a beautiful set of color slides showing details of weathering on freight and diesels; Jim Fuhrman's clinic on Jewels in the Junk Box was fun; and a well presented clinic by Bill Meyer on model railroad operation in layout design. HATS OFF to these clinicians!

One new member attending his first Cajon Division meet commented how "swell" it was to meet the PSR president and was impressed to see that he stayed all day. HATS OFF to Bob Chaparro!

One final HATS OFF to Bill Flynn who graciously played host to Robert and Jan Wescott and took them to his home to see his layout. What a remarkable job! I don't think Jan will ever forget "nandina" trees.

Toward the end of the meet, a business meeting was held. Among the new business agenda items was the need to have

Cajon Division By-Laws. To address this issue, Robert Wescott was appointed as Chairman of a Special By-Laws committee.

The Cajon Division hosted a meet at the Anaheim Central Library on Saturday, August 26, 2000. Although lightly attended, theinits were outstanding. The business meeting afterwards was very informative and provided insight as to what challenges this and the PSR face.— Steve Connolly

In addition, a suggestion was a proposal to have a meet in the Indio/Coachella area. This was tabled to establish if there were enough interested members to have a meet there.

There being no further business, this meet was adjourned.

FROM THE TOP

(Continued from page 1)

Wescott (email: Rwesc92415@aol.com) as nominations chair. Both the positions of Director and Superintendent are open to all. You can even nominate yourself. My allowable term as Director expires at the 2001 convention in September when I will have completed my second term as your Director. Someone is needed to step up and fill these vacancies.

While my thoughts have been on the Cajon Division's future, my energies have been with the convention committee. I am very

proud of their efforts as they begin working on all the details for the 2001 convention. They have made remarkable progress. I have every confidence this convention will be a success. I urge all members to support their convention by registering now. This is one Cajon Division event, you can be assured, will make you proud you belong.

The final draft of the Cajon By-Laws is included in this issue for your review. Take time to vote and mail in your ballots. Comments are welcome on the ballot. My heartfelt thanks to Robert

and his committee for their efforts to get this project completed.

And finally, a word of thanks to our new editor, Bill Jacobs. As you can see, the Order Board is sporting a new look. In addition to this being his first issue, he had the daunting task of putting together such a large issue.

Once again, send in your nominations, review the By-Laws and vote, keep the Cajon train rolling and see you at the next stop. Ed.

LYNNAUSTIN OPENHOUSE

(Continued from page 1)

changing hands. Lynn also had his Malfunction Junction Hobby store open for the parts minded. There were several reports that

Ed Hall was a little slow on the grill but nobody looked starved. The Cajon Division sold a few T-shirts and gave away Convention buttons, and at least one

new NMRA member was brought into the fold. All in all – a great time. If you missed it – be sure to get there next year – you won't be disappointed!

REPORT FROM THE SAN JOSE ANNUAL NMRA CONVENTION

CHUCK NAUMAN

The "21st Century Limited," July 30 through August 6, 2000, was set up so that attendees could visit outlying layouts (mostly not on convention tours) on Saturday and Sunday before

and after convention week. The map book available to guide visitors to the various home and club layouts was excellent. I drove from Las Vegas, through Yosemite National Park, and

stopped at two home layouts in Merced on Sunday preceding the convention. Both were exceptional.

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REPORT FROM THE SAN JOSE ANNUAL NMRA CONVENTION

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Convention week was occupied for me by three layout tours, one prototype tour, and numerous clinics...and running into a lot of old acquaintances from previous NMRA functions. The age-old problem of needing to sign up for tours before knowing clinic schedules seemed not so onerous this time, as many clinics were given twice, and I seemed to be able to work in the clinics around the tours. Next time, however, I think I will sign up for fewer tours. Not only will clinic conflicts be lessened, and more time allowed for the contest room, RPM displays, and live and silent auctions (all of which were extensive this year)...but also there will be fewer long bus rides just to get to a tour area. Most clinics came off without a hitch and proved interesting to me. However, I must mention a negative: twice I could not even get into the clinic room because organizers had not scheduled a large enough room for what would be obviously popular clinics. Really frustrat-

ing! The prototype tour I signed up for was of the Intermodal facilities at the Port of Oakland, viewed from both a boat on the bay-side, and from land within the ship-to-truck-to-rail (and vice versa) operation. Currently there is no direct ship-to-rail (or vice versa) movement of containers. Very interesting tour!

Friday afternoon was the National Train Show at the San Jose Convention Center. It was a short light-rail (2-unit trolley) ride from the convention hotels. As far as I could tell, light rail service in San Jose is on the honor system: you buy your ticket from a machine at the boarding station, but it is never inspected or collected. Amazing. By this time the cold that I had acquired earlier in the week was full blown, so I wasn't able to get much out of the Train Show, and spent most of my time viewing the layouts that were set up. Impressive. I did get to view Microsoft's soon-to-be-released "Train Simulator" software, and liked what I saw.

There has been a lot of discussion on this software on various model boards; one concern may be the power of the hardware required to run it.

I didn't stay for the banquet on Saturday night aboard the Hornet, and have heard no reports on it. The trip home included a stop at The (large) Train Store in Santa Clara, just adjacent to San Jose (recommended, should you be in the area), a jaunt down the coast highway to see the Pacific Ocean once again, and a stop at Tehachapi Loop on Sunday... I must have lucked-out as there was lots of action during the 1.5 hours I spent there, including one 13-unit diesel lash-up passing through. Apparently several of the units were dead and headed for repair in Mojave or beyond. What a spot, and it's railfan-friendly as long as you conduct yourself appropriately.

Next year... "Gateway 2001" in St. Louis, July 8-15... Hope to see you there.

FROM THE EDITOR

BILL JACOBS

I've been a NMRA and PSR member for years, just not very active, and when I innocently

volunteered to help with something it's obvious that someone saw a live one coming. I'm go-

ing to give this my best effort in at least two areas: a regular quar-

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NOMINATIONS (WRITE IN)

FOR DIRECTOR _____

FOR SUPERINTENDENT _____

BY-LAWS

APPROVE

DISAPPROVE

COMMENTS: _____

FOLD AS SHOWN ON OTHER SIDE, TAPE (NO STAPLES PLEASE), STAMP, AND MAIL.

PLACE
POSTAGE
HERE

**ROBERT WESCOTT
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FROM THE EDITOR

(Continued from page 13)

terly issue with all the latest news and activities in the Division; and continuous improvement in the publication. This little newsletter is the only thing that holds the Division together, in my view, so it has to be interesting, legible, and informative.

I've already met a great group of people and I will tell you that the guys (and gals) on the Board and the Convention Committee are a bunch of hard working, dedicated people. I'm a HO narrow gauger, so if you want to talk about K-36s or whatever, e-mail, call, or write me. All of those

addresses are listed in the publication. If you have suggestions, complaints, or want to submit something, please feel free – there is no pride of authorship, we just want it to be good. I look forward to meeting all of you in the future.

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