

# ***RUNNING LITE***

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## **Time Table**

**Cajon Spring Event**  
**Buena Park**  
**April 17**

**PCR Convention**  
**Fresno April 22-24**

~~**NMRA Convention**~~  
~~**Santa Clara**~~  
~~**August—Cancelled**~~

**PSR Convention**  
**Orange Blossom**  
**Special**  
**Irvine Sept 8-11**



## **From The Director**

**Richard Hock**  
**Cajon Division Director**



### **Keepers of History**

I was asked how I was going to dress-up my picture for the month of February... It was suggested Cupid? My response was, "Not in my lifetime!" Although, I do have a love for the hobby.

My thinking is for President's Day. The celebration of all Presidents that have served this country, but primarily two Presidents that stand tall in history and have birthdays in February. Of course, we all know that a lot of stuff gets put on sale to celebrate the holiday. I'm looking for the hobby sales.

More significantly, I thought of Abraham Lincoln for his role as advocate for the trans-continental railroad and railroads in general. As an attorney in his younger years, Abraham Lincoln represented Illinois railroads. Lincoln was a firm believer of railroads for the future of America. Not only did the railroad play a big part in the Civil War, it was believed by Lincoln that the railroad would support frontier communities and military outposts, as this frontier moved further west, to meet the new States of California and Oregon. Just as a side note, for any history buffs, the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad Museum is a must see. There are excellent displays of equipment and stories depicting the railroad's role during the Civil War, in their iconic roundhouse. That railroad came to be in 1829. Also, the California State Railroad Museum has wonderful exhibits and history of the Central Pacific and its major role to connect this railroad to the Union Pacific.

It was on July 1, 1862 that Abraham Lincoln signed into law, the Pacific Railway Act. This act brought forth the existence of the Union Pacific and put an end to the long debate of a transcontinental railroad since its inception in the 1850's. This act put into motion a ten-year project of a public and private partnership. However, in only seven years, the golden spike was driven into the rail to mark its completion on May 10, 1869, at Promontory, Utah.

It has been just a little over a year-and-a-half ago that we celebrated the 150th anniversary of this event with the historic restoration and operation of Union Pacific Big Boy 4014. Oh the history!

This brings me to the sub-title of my Director's portion of this publication, "Keepers of History." Model railroaders are the keepers of railroad history. From the selection of the era of motive power to the rolling stock. From the industry and building architecture to the supporting modes of transportation. From the methods of railroad operations to the scenery and landscape.

*Continued on page 3*

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## *“ From the Brass Hat “*

by Joel Morse Superintendent



What are you working on? My answer to this question is always: “A bunch of things”. I suspect that is the answer many model railroaders would give to this question. Model railroading is a multifaceted hobby; that’s one of its’ main attractions to me, and it’s one of the key points I make when I talk to others about what’s great about the hobby.

Therefore, it stands to reason that I (and perhaps you) would be working on a number of projects, big and small, at any one time. And it’s true today that I’m working on short term focused efforts with a discernable finish point, and small pieces of the bigger goal. And I like it that way, most of the time. Sometimes, it seems like there are a lot of projects to complete, and it can get a bit daunting. When I realize I’m stressing about any project (or the number of projects to be done), I remind myself that there is no deadline (well, unless an operating session is coming up), and “all good things come in all good time”.

And it’s often been the case for me that in fact, not starting, working on or completing a particular project is a good thing, because it allows the project to “stew” in the back of my mind. It rolls around back there, mixing with everything I’ve read, every video I’ve seen, every related (and unrelated) conversation I’ve had that might be applicable, and that subconscious analysis results in a new or useful insight into the approach, technique or pitfall associated with the project. I can’t tell you how many times I have been sitting watching tv or eating dinner, my mind just wandering, or other things that don’t require deep concentration, where I suddenly get insight into one of these projects. It just pops into my head: it’s why there is always a pad of paper and pen on the dining room table, on my workbench and near the tv. Does that happen to you, too? Your subconscious has worked the “problem” enough, and out pops a solution; and now you can move forward in a way you initially hadn’t identified before.

I have now come to the conclusion that sometimes “inaction” isn’t “no progress” and that “thinking about” it has a lot of value. Mind you, I’m not talking about avoiding a necessary project or about procrastination as lifestyle; I’m talking about being able to recognize the value in allowing yourself the space and time to enjoy this great hobby, without stress. I’d be interested in hearing what you think about this. As always, I can be reached at [superintendent@cajondivision.org](mailto:superintendent@cajondivision.org).

We tell a story of events and places, some that are dear to our hearts, through our modeling. We hear the terms conformity and prototypical to describe what we model. A prototype defines the features of a type, standard, example or model object. Conformity is the compliance to a standard or prototype. Many of us get immersed into the subject material of an industry we choose to model and operate on our layouts. We research the history of the prototype and display the details to depict the railroad operation.

### **Tell Your Story!**

The PSR 2021 Convention, Orange Blossom Special, hosted by the Cajon Division, is promoting a One-Foot Challenge. What is the One-Foot Challenge? It is a one-foot square diorama to show off your creativity, modeling skills and tell a story through the scene. A picture is worth a thousand words. That is what we do when we model.

The rules are quite simple.

- The diorama must be a square 12 inches by 12 inches.
- The diorama can be any scale, any era, and any theme.
- The diorama must be railroad-related and must include a railroad track of any length.
- The diorama must have a flat bottom, stand on its own, be easily moved and nothing can overhang the edge.
- You must be a member of the NMRA.
- And the diorama must be new and not have been entered in any previous contest.

Diorama judging is by popular vote of the members attending the convention. Cash awards will be given for first, second and third place.

Create and tell your railroad story from history. Put to use that kit that has been shoved to the back of your hobby closet. Your railroad, your story, your history through your eyes. Wow your audience!

### **See You in the Showroom!**

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## **April 17 Buena Park Meet**

## **COVID SENSITIVE MEET**

**Activities will be outside under cover or in large rooms  
with social distancing!**

**\*\*\*\*\*Masks and Social Distancing Required\*\*\*\*\***

**Contests**

**Swap Meet**

**Hobo Auction**

**Modelers Show and Tell**

## The Editor's Column

by Morrie Fleishman  
Editor: Cajon Division



Welcome to the February 2021 issue of **Running-Lite** the monthly newsletter for the Cajon Division during this current Pandemic situation. The purpose of **Running-Lite** is to keep members updated with modeling opportunities available such as the many Virtual (On-Line) events that have been popping up everywhere. Please send me an email and pictures showing what you are working on and letting us know what on-line events you are aware of so that we could spread the word to others.

Thanks. Morrie Fleishman [mefleishman@cox.net](mailto:mefleishman@cox.net)

### **Reminder: Virtual Meetings via Zoom, Skype, etc.**

While new to some, IT types have been using products like webex and gotomeeting to do training to remote sites for many years. The NMRA now has a new activity called the NMRA-X. Those involved have created a Week long Virtual Model Railroad Convention in July and, more recently, a one day convention in September. These events include presentations on a variety of topics and are available for viewing after the event. Go to the NMRA website and enter NMRA-X in the white (search) box in the upper right of the page.

The Operations Special Interest Group, OPSIG, held their annual meeting as a virtual meeting on Sunday, July 12 and schedules 2 hour presentations on various Sundays. For times and other information see the OPSIG website [opsig.org](http://opsig.org).

There are other virtual events taking place including periodic broadcasts from the San Diego Division. For more information, go to the San Diego Division website; [sandiegodivision.org](http://sandiegodivision.org) and go to the youtube channel link to see previous virtual events. See additional information under Meets/Events.

Common elements of all of these meetings are that attendees are provided with the login information, the time and as well as reservation information as there may be limits on the number that can join in. Often the meetings have been recorded and are available on youtube.

### **Convention Preview:**

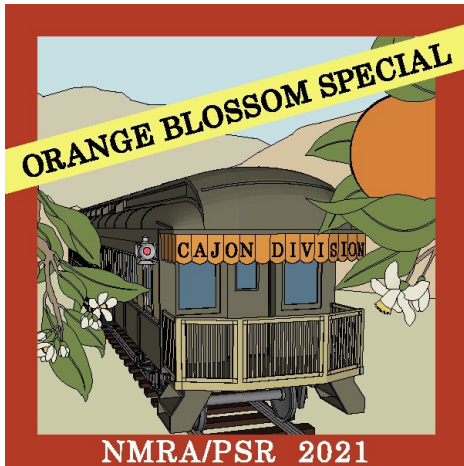


Texas & Viejo Western HO Railroad



Mitchell Falls & Staunton Garden Railroad

Both Railroads will be on the Layout Tour on Friday



*National Model Railroad Association*

*Pacific Southwest Region*

*2021*

# MODEL RAILROAD CONVENTION

## September 8–11

### *“Orange Blossom Special”*



**Railroad Modeling Clinics**

**Private Layout Tours**

**Ops Sessions**

**Prototype Tours**

**Hobo Breakfast**

**Non-Rail Activities & Tours**

**Model Railroad/Railroadiana Swap Meet**

**Railroad Model Contest Room**

**Model Railroad Auction**

**Welcome Reception**

**Awards Banquet**

**Hotel Reservations:** You can now reserve your room on-line by going to the convention website and clicking on the 'Hotel' link. The convention rate rooms at the Hilton are guaranteed to fill up, and you don't want to miss out on the discount, or worse, be trying to find a last-minute hotel deal. Hilton Reservations: 949-833-9999 – Group Name: 2021 PSR Convention / Group Code: PSRC

**Convention Tours:** Convention staff is working on securing both rail and non-rail tours. Look for updates at [www.psrconvention.org](http://www.psrconvention.org)

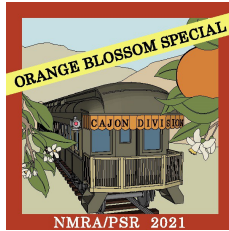
**Convention Goodies:** Don't forget to check out the Company Store, where you will find shirts, pins, as well as our special run model railroad cars.

**Registration:** The cost for registration is \$125 and includes the banquet. You can register on line at our website [psrconvention.org](http://psrconvention.org). If for some reason you have to cancel, we will refund your registration minus the \$10 transaction fee up until August 8, 2021.

**[www.PSRConvention.org](http://www.PSRConvention.org)**



# Happy New Year



## Important updates for the Orange Blossom Special 2021 Pacific Southwest Regional Convention

When I started to write this article 2020 was behind us, and we could look forward to lots of exciting train events in 2021. However, if you have not already heard the NMRA National Convention in Santa Clara this summer has just been canceled. In part due to uncertainty of the virus and because of low registrations at this point. That now just leaves 2 Regional conventions for members to attend in PCR and PSR. The first being the Pacific Coast Region Convention in Fresno April 22 to 24, 2021 and the other the Pacific Southwest Region "Orange Blossom Special" Convention in Irvine, September 8 thru 11, 2021. As of now the PCR is moving forward with their convention although they are experiencing low registrations.

I know it is a difficult time right now and the "Orange Blossom Special" committee understands the reluctance of members to make a commit to attend, but we encourage you to sign up now so we can insure we have the attendance needed to support this convention. If we do have to cancel any fees you paid for registration, tours and extra fare clinics will be refunded per the refund policy. Items such as shirts, pins, cars will be provided to you.

Why should I attend the Orange Blossom Special? Well for starters it will be held right in your backyard. So, grab your calendar and block out September 8 to 11, 2021 and attend the Orange Blossom Special in Irvine at the Hilton Irvine/Orange County Airport hotel, 18800 MacArthur Blvd., Irvine, CA.

We have 34 outstanding educational clinics, a prototype tour to the GEMCO yard in Van Nuys, home layouts to visit, Op's sessions to attend, a contest room so you can show off all the things you built this last year, activities for our Non-Rail members, and some fun social events that include a welcome reception, Hobo Auction, Swap Meet, and Awards Banquet.

Want more details? Visit the convention website at: <http://www.psrconvention.org/>

[OrangeBlossomSpecial2021/index.php](http://www.psrconvention.org/OrangeBlossomSpecial2021/index.php)

## IS YOUR MODEL "C" OR BETTER? By Mike Allee

The PSR convention, *ORANGE BLOSSOM SPECIAL*, is in September, organized by the Cajon Division. It would be a great time for you to show what you've been modeling to fellow modelers in this time of little or no socializing. You are pleased and proud of what you've created and have shown it/them to your family and maybe a close friend or two. The NMRA/PSR membership is a family of railroaders many of them modelers. Share your models with your railroad family at the convention.

You may be apprehensive or not, about having others look at your work. Is your model worth a "C" in your mind? The Merit Award is the title used to indicate a model that has met the Achievement Program (AP) acceptable point value. The acceptable value is eighty-seven and a half out of one hundred and twenty-five possible points. Well,  $87.5/125=0.70$  or 70%. In my grade book, as a high school biology teacher, that was not just a "C", it was the lowest "C". Surely your model deserves at least that grade.

Now let me ask, you see those Master Model Railroader (MMR) letters follow many names of NMRA members. Did they earn the distinction by being an exceptional modeler? Some are, but not all of the six hundred plus MMR members are exceptional modelers. There are eleven categories of which an MMR must earn a Certificate in seven to earn the MMR.

There's a way to determine if your work is worthy of display considering "C" is "good enough". What the evaluators use in evaluating a model is available to you. Go to the NMRA website <[nmra.org](http://nmra.org)>, at the top of the page is a burgundy row click on [Contests](#), to the right below the three colored rows is a blue table of contents box click on [Guidelines](#). In "2. Judged Contest -" find [Achievement Program Judging Guidelines](#) click on it. Here you will find guidelines for evaluating each category evaluators use to arrive at a point value. As Contest Chairman for the Cajon Division I've seen scores below "C". Almost always the modeler did not do a good job explaining how they built the model not that the model wasn't worth 87.5 points. I've seen points one hundred and twenty-five (the maximum). I've even seen a model not receive a merit even though it was worth well over a hundred points. It is a rare/exceptional model that receives all the points. The solution is in the paperwork.

"The infamous paperwork" that goes along with a model to be evaluated isn't hard. Once the technique is learned it only takes a few minutes. The guidelines will outline what you need to cover. Looking from the evaluators position, what do they want on your description? They don't want prose. In fact they'd rather you didn't prove you passed English. What they want is the brief yet complete description. Sounds like an outline to me. Evaluators have a very limited amount of time to evaluate your model make it easy for them to know how you built the model.

By entering your model(s) you will receive an evaluation score but better yet you receive from your peers that carried out the evaluation comments on what you might have done to make the model and future models better. Making you even a better modeler.

At recent PSR conventions and division meetings clinics have been offered to assist members in making paperwork complete, understandable, yet brief. Taking the "infamous" portion out of the paperwork. Set that model in front of you, read the guidelines again, print the judges evaluation form for the specific guideline, and score your model writing down the descriptions you thought of to create the point value as you do so. Bring it to a clinic and modify as needed and submit your model.

You're on your way to receiving personal satisfaction, peer praise, and a Merit Award.

### **Are you Curious how good some of your models are?**

If you have built a model but are not sure if it is of a quality to be judged for merit award, here is a simple way to get some feedback. Take several good photos of the finished model and prepare a simple write up description on how you built it and what was the inspiration to build it. Then email the photos and description to your local AP Manager and for Cajon Division that person is Gary Butts MMR. From this submittal Gary can make a quick evaluation of your work and provide you with some valuable feedback. Likewise if you are unclear of the requirements feel free to contact Gary Butts or myself with any questions you may have, we are here to help you in any way we can.

Carl Heimberger, PSR AP Manager

## **CALLING FOR JUDGES by Mike Allee**

The judges that evaluate our models are our fellow modelers. Why they volunteer to evaluate others work has many answers. One answer is to learn what it takes in constructing a model to be a successful contest entrant. Another is to learn how to write the description of how it was built. If your thinking about earning or working on your Master Model Railroader (MMR) it is a great way to improve your knowledge quickly about what it take in building quality models.

Our region and division Achievement Program (AP) chairmen are developing a training program for prospective and returning judges. Let's face it, we all have biases and the process that is easy for one person may be difficult for another. These differences can lead to inequality in evaluation. The training purpose is two fold, first, in how and what to look for in each of the categories and to evaluate the model only on those elements included in each category. The second, is to make sure that the value given to each item of the category is the same for all evaluators resulting in all judges arriving at the same total value. Not always easy to do but as the Contest Chairman for the Cajon Div. I know it is possible. With training the process becomes easier.

Please give serious consideration to volunteering to judge. You will receive personal satisfaction, appreciation from fellow members and volunteer credit towards an MMR. Friendships develop from these sessions with fellow modelers you would otherwise might not get to know. The more judges we have the quicker the job gets done and the quicker the awards can be announced.

Be a judge.



## ***Support Your Local Hobby Store***

In these times when Hobby Stores have not been able to function normally, we need to continue to support them when we can. There are 3 Brick and mortar train stores in our area that support our hobby;

### ***Arnie's & Milepost Come in and shop around!***

***Arnie's & Milepost 38 HOURS: Sunday Closed***

***Arnie's HOURS: Monday - Saturday 10am-6pm***

***Milepost 38 HOURS: Monday - Saturday 10am-5pm***

***Social distancing of 6' will be enforced & we ask that you wear  
a face-cover for the safety of other customers and employees per OC Guidelines.***

Arnie's Trains [www.arniesmodeltrains.com](http://www.arniesmodeltrains.com) 714-893-1015

Milepost 38 Toy Trains | [www.milepost38.com](http://www.milepost38.com) 714-892-9471

6462 Industry Way, Westminster, CA 92683

**NOTE:** There is highway work going on around Arnie's so check with them about the best route.

### **RailMaster Hobbies, 9812 Belmont St., Bellflower, Ca. 90706 562-867-5627**

Monday—Closed

Tuesday - Friday 10:00am to 6:00pm

Saturday - 10:00am to 5:00pm

Sunday - 12:00pm to 4:00 pm

Following us on;

[www.railmasterhobbies.com](http://www.railmasterhobbies.com)

[www.facebook.com/railmasterhobbies](https://www.facebook.com/railmasterhobbies)

Twitter - @RMHobbies

***Restrictions to come into the store:***

We follow official health guidelines

We do thank all of you for your support. Stay safe.

Jeff and Leticia Smith and Crew

### **The Train Crossing, 1113 Baker Street, Costa Mesa, Ca 92626 714-549-1596**

#### **Store Hours**

Tuesday - Friday 11:00am to 7:00pm

Saturday - 9:00am to 5:00pm

Sunday - 11:00am to 3:00 pm

Closed Mondays

[www.TheTrainCrossing.com](http://www.TheTrainCrossing.com)

**Authorized Lionel Repair Dealer**

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