

# THE ORDER BOARD

VOLUME 49 NO. 4

DECEMBER, 2021

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## Time Table

Great Train Show  
Costa Mesa  
February 12—13

Great Train Show –  
Pomona  
March 19-20

Cajon Div. Spring Meet  
Buena Park  
April 30

Back On Track in 2022  
PSR Convention  
San Diego, Ca.  
Sept 7—11, 2022



## From The Director

Harold Helland  
Cajon Division Director



As we approach this Holiday Season, I would like to wish everyone Happy Holidays and best wishes for a super 2022.

I was involved in a discussion a couple weeks ago that talked about things we can do if we do not have a model railroad at home. I was in that situation when I moved to California from the Midwest. Having had a basement in my home in the Chicago area, always allowed me space to build a model railroad. When I came to California and discovered there were no basements, I decided I needed to do something or I would go nuts.

I found several local model railroad clubs and decided to join North County Model Railroad Society. That turned out to be a great move for me. A couple years after I joined the club, we were forced out of our location and had to move to a new location and start over. At that point there was potential for several years of involvement. Since we started with an empty room, our work included: building framework, laying track, installing turnouts, electrical wiring, developing electronic controls, automating turnouts, and building scenery, which included landscape and structures.

As time passed we were able to run trains and began to hold operating sessions. An operating session at a club layout is another way to keep involved in the model railroad hobby without having a home model railroad. Operating sessions allow you to participate in running trains as if the model was real life.

If you know a model railroader who has a large enough space to build a model railroad, you can offer to help build the layout. There are a couple members in our club who really enjoy helping build a layout with a friend. We also answer questions model railroaders bring to us at the club as they search for answers to their concerns about building a successful model railroad in their homes.

Another suggestion to keep you active without having a home model railroad is to complete some of the NMRA Achievement Certificates. Be creative, there are many ways participate in the Achievement Program. Building a model railroad diorama and completing the scenery will qualify for the Scenery Certificate. The scenery does not have to be part of a model railroad. Building structures at your leisure will qualify for the Structures Certificate. Building Motive Power or Cars will qualify for the Motive Power Certificate or the Cars Certificate. If you like Operating Sessions, you can qualify for the Dispatchers Certificate without having a home model railroad by participating in a fellow model railroader's session or a club operating session. A Prototype Model is another certificate that can be achieved without a home model railroad. Completing a diorama of a real scene is the basis of achieving the Prototype Model Certificate.

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.

Continued on page 3

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## “ From the Brass Hat“

by Joel Morse Superintendent



Winter is upon us, the weather is cold, rainy or snowing, National Model Railroad Month has just passed, and the holidays are around the corner. Now that the weather is lousy, we're all heading down to the basement layout room for the winter to make progress on all those stalled projects we put down during the summer to spend time outdoors. Screech!

Wait a minute! This is Southern California, it's 90 degrees in November and no one has a darned basement! How are we going to get anything done on our railroads when the weather is still fine and there is so much to do outside? Will power? Desire to make progress? My answer to this question is I make a list of things to accomplish each weekend (model railroading and other areas of life). So, if I don't leave the house on the weekend (except to go to Arnie's or the electronics store), I don't get cabin fever: I get stuff done.

Of course, I never get as much stuff done as I've planned to do: everything takes longer than the allotted time. And if it's the first time doing it, throw the schedule out the window. But I have a model railroading plan for each weekend, regardless of what else may be on my "honeydo" list or other obligations; that means a written list of what I want to accomplish each weekend. I may not get to it all, or finish everything, but I get intense pleasure from crossing things off the list (maybe this is just me). I find that if I do not make a list, very little gets done because there is no urgency.

These past couple of weekends provide a good illustration of my winter modeling efforts. I had a lot on my list for the Thanksgiving weekend. On my layout, I'm having some electrical issues/loco control issues, possibly linked to power draws from the close to 40 locomotives on the layout, in action or in staging. To address this, I'm building a control panel with on/off toggles for the 11-track main staging area, which typically holds 23 or so locomotives of those 40 locos (a half dozen of which have sound). I also have a couple of layout workdays scheduled with my regular crew to work on this project as well as a couple of other electrical upgrades.

But not everything on my model railroading list is focused on my layout or my projects. Last weekend I spent some quality time with Dan Moran, Cajon Paymaster, at his house, going over some of the design and construction decisions for his mid-sized HO layout. The time was well spent and very enjoyable (and technically out of the house!); but we had arranged ahead of time to spend the afternoon together.

Also on my list of model railroading activities this winter, is to assist my friend Chris with the design of his new N scale layout. Last year Chris moved from Long Beach, where he had just completed construction of a 15 x 12 layout in a room in his garage, to Virginia, to a basement with a house above it. The basement is odd shaped so I don't have the size; but it's a lot bigger than the space in his garage in Long Beach. Two weeks ago we had a Zoom call, and we're sending track plan ideas back and forth.

So, what are your plans for the cold and snowy days of winter in the Cajon Division?

Finally, there are upcoming events which you should mark on your calendars. First is the Cajon Connect session to be held on January 28, at 7:00. Cajon Connect is a group meeting to be held via Zoom which will discuss a wide range of topics. The first session will have "Zoom Breakout Rooms" that will discuss electronics, operating sessions and scenery.

The second event is the Cajon Spring Meet which is scheduled for April 30, 2022. There will be more information in a few months so please mark your calendars and hold April 30 for the Cajon Spring Meet.

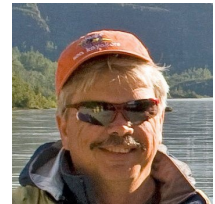
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**Welcome : Gary Stenberg to the Cajon Board**

**Gary was recently appointed to fill the position of Chief Clerk on November 29<sup>TH</sup>, 2021**

Gary is a retired Fire Department Captain with more than 41 years of service, a husband, a father of four, and a grandfather. He is also a lifelong Model Railroader and a Life Member of the NMRA. He is no stranger to the Cajon Division as he was involved in its founding. As the first editor of the Order Board, he dates back to a time when "Cut and Paste" was literal! Moving on, Gary served as the second Superintendent of the Cajon Division and later as a Cajon Division A/P representative under PCR A/P Chair MMR Eric Bracher. In more modern history, Gary has served as a judge for the "Celebration of Models" at four National Conventions. He models in HO with an emphasis on Narrow Gauge. Pick him out and say Hi at NMRA events...he's the one in the brown derby.

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**Welcome : Steve Moss to the Cajon Board**

**Gary was recently appointed to fill the position of Social Media Chair on November 29<sup>TH</sup>, 2021**

Steve Moss is a husband, father and Vet. He and his daughter started model railroading with HO when she was 6. He built the layout and she built the building kits. He quickly found N Scale and has been working on a home layout for several years. Steve is a member and Superintendent of the Short Track Model Railroad at the Antique Gas and Steam Engine Museum in Vista CA. Prior to retiring Steve spent 35 years as a software engineer, and is the new Social Media Chair for the Cajon Division.

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***PLEASE JOIN US On-Line for the inaugural  
“CAJON CONNECTION ON ZOOM”***

***January 28 at 7 PM***

***MARK YOUR CALENDAR!***

*The Cajon Connection is a new way for Cajon Division members to share what they know and get the answers to their model railroading questions.*

*The format is a live on-line discussion covering three areas of model railroading:*

***Electronics-Operations-Scenery***

*Moderated by experienced and knowledgeable Cajon modelers, members will go to “breakout rooms” to discuss their specific area interest.*

*This format will provide you with the opportunity to ask the questions and get the answers you are looking for, or perhaps get answers to questions you didn’t even realize you had!*

*This is the first of these one hour Zoom video calls, which will be scheduled monthly during 2022.*

***Cajon Connect Schedule***

*Introductions and Explanation*

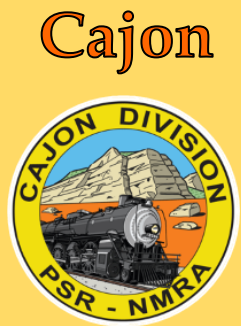
*Discussion of other topics of interest*

*Breakout Rooms:*

***Electronics-Operations-Scenery***

***Look for an email from the Cajon Division with the login information in the coming weeks!***

**Saturday**  
**April 30, 2022**



**Division- NMRA**  
**Spring - 2022**

**7:30 AM**

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**COVID SENSITIVE MEET**

**Activities will be outside and inside**

**\*\*\*\*\* COVID Protocols in effect will be observed**

**FREE to NMRA Members!**

**FREE Pizza Lunch!**

**Pre-registration Raffle!**

**Clinics**

**Swap Meet**

**Hobo Auction**

**Contest Room**

**Modelers - Show & Tell**

**Cajon Connect—Special Interest Discussion Group**

**General Membership Meeting and Awards Ceremony**

**TARIFF**

**Event Registration**

- NMRA Member: No Charge
- Non-Members: \$ 5.00
- 18 and Under *with Parent or Guardian Only* : FREE

**Pre-Registration Raffle—\$25.00 Arnie's Gift Certificate**

- ♦ Email [Superintendent@cajondivision.org](mailto:Superintendent@cajondivision.org)
- ♦ Must pre-register by April 23 to be eligible

**Pizza and Soft drink lunch provided**

**Free Swap Meet Space:**

- Bring your own tables, chair, pop-up

**MODELERS: Bring a model for contest, AP judging, or show and tell!**

**Messiah Lutheran Church**

**Courtyard**

**6625 Dale St, Buena Park**

**Near the 5 and 91**

**Free parking**

## **Towards The End of The Year**

*by Per Harwe, Membership Chairman*

Our membership numbers are moving in the right direction. We are seeing new members coming in to our Division and we are also seeing former members rejoin us after some time off. All of this is good news and we are hoping for the trend to continue. Let us all work together and try to recruit a member, or two, and pretty soon we will be back to –pre-COVID numbers.

I did not have a column in the July Order Board, so here are the new members from July through November (we did not have any new members in October). I wish all of you very welcome to our Division:

### **JULY**

Jeff Sauls, Temecula

Scott Steidinger, Huntington Beach

### **AUGUST**

Patrick Powell, Las Vegas

### **SEPTEMBER**

Judith Belvill, North Las Vegas

### **NOVEMBER**

James Learned, Costa Mesa

I also like to welcome back following members who have rejoined the Cajon Division after some absence:

Trow Davis, Bob Dittenhauser, Bryan Hunnell, Seth Kimmel

Steve Moss, Todd Quiggle, Stan Schweitzer, Neil Shaw, David Wentworth

## **The Editor's Column**

by Morrie Fleishman

Editor: Cajon Division



Welcome to the December and last issue of the Order Board (the newsletter for the Cajon Division) for 2021.

Starting in 2022, we will discontinue the monthly Order Board Lite newsletters and send out the Order Board on an every other month schedule. The Order Board Lite newsletters were designed to fill in the gap when no in person activities were taking place due to Covid-19. While some restrictions are still with us, we are hoping that in person activities such as the GTS train shows and the Cajon one-day events will continue as we return to normal activities.

As always we are looking for items to include. This is your chance to talk about what you are doing and to show off a little in this time of non-socialization. Not everyone can publish an article for Model Railroader. However, this publication is available for everyone and if needed I can help you organize your thoughts. So, 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)

## 12 inch Challenge : O&W Branchline Milk Stop in 12 x 12” – By Joel Morse

As part of the Orange Blossom Special PSR Regional Convention this past September, a new (to me) contest category was added. Dubbed the “12-inch Challenge”, modelers were tasked with constructing a 12’ x 12” diorama focused on any railroad subject. Of course, I selected to model a scene on the Delhi Branch of the New York, Ontario and Western Railway, the railroad I model on my N-scale layout.



The challenge gave me an opportunity to model a portion of the branch not included on the layout, and to model it at a much more detailed degree than is typical on my operations-focused layout. The challenge also allowed me to build a small Northeastern Scale Models Passenger Shelter wood kit that I had been holding onto for a number of years, and use a few models that have been languishing in my parts kit or “to sell” yard sale box. It also gave me a chance to create a couple of small scratch-built components, work with products that were new to me, and practice some techniques that I may use on the rest of the layout. Let me walk you through the process; perhaps seeing what I did will assist you in some way with your next project.

The first steps were to visualize what I wanted to put in the diorama, find and/or build the components, and then to see if everything I wanted would fit in 12 x 12 inches. My vision was to model a milk stop in the middle of the heavily forested woods typical of the Catskill Mountains of New York, and include a bridge crossing a creek (also typical of the area), a tunnel portal, milk platform/shed, water tank, section crew house and dirt road.



It seemed clear that working in N-scale I should be able to build a diorama that included all of the scene components that I envisioned; but fitting them into the scene in a logical way still required laying out the scene with rough sketches in numerous track and structure configurations. The first decision while sketching it out was to determine whether the track should cross the scene parallel to the front of the diorama, or at some other angle. After roughing in the scene with the track at a number of angles, I recognized that going from corner to corner (diagonal) gave me the longest track “run” and the most trackside real estate for the structures I wanted to include. This orientation also resulted in the best overall “scene” by providing enough depth for the tracks to “naturally” disappear into the tunnel at the back of the scene, and with the track entering the tunnel I was able to add a caboose to the scene.

From my scrap box I rescued a water tank with enclosed base but missing the water spout, a commercial section house. I added a missing water spout to the tank, and a light fixture over the door of the section house, and heavily weathered both of structures. From my parts stash I pulled out a plaster tunnel portal, a plastic “tell-tale” to warn the crew of the tunnel ahead, some telephone poles, lengths of rusty rail, and tie pile for the section house, barrels, loose ties, milk cans and painted a length of Code 55 track. The bridge abutments were cut from an old resin retaining wall, and the wooden trestle is a reborn trestle kit I had built years ago that had been damaged. I rebuilt the wooden trestle bents, and scratch-built a new deck in styrene. Add in an old O&W caboose I had painted and decaled years ago, and the newly built milk shed, a dairy farmer, conductor and track worker, and I had everything I needed.



At this point, I realized that the “passenger shelter” kit was intended to be set at ground level. However, a milk shed would need a platform at reefer door level for easy loading. To solve this problem, I scratch-built a wood loading platform to raise the original building and then added additional decking along the trackside and one end of the building, to ease the loading of milk cans.



The structure was “painted” using Pan Pastels (my first time using them), I printed a sign on the computer (Delancey is a town on the Delhi Branch), added some milk cans along with a dairy farmer sitting on the platform resting after exchanging cans with the train. I found the Pan Pastels easy to use on the structure both during construction to color it and after construction for weathering.



The next step was to create the diorama base using white floral foam, which I purchased in 11” x 12” x 1” sheets (Michael’s), then stacked and cut it using a utility knife, until I had the basic shape and space I wanted for the scene. I glued some home-made rock castings to the steep creek banks, used ¼ inch foam-core for the roadbed and roughed in the structure and road locations. Checking and rechecking the fit of the components until I was satisfied.

Once I was comfortable that the building locations, orientation of the track, and diorama viewing angle were correct, I trimmed the foam to eliminate the hard corners, and covered the diorama in tan colored “Sculptamold”, and again, text fit all the components. You can see that I added another rock casting near the tunnel portal to improve the believability of the vertical hill, and used a thin India ink and alcohol wash on the rock castings. Getting the tunnel portal to fit correctly and creating flat spots for the structures was the only tricky bit.



Once the “Sculptamold” dried, I once again test fit all the components, and glued in the tunnel portal using hot melt glue. I marked the location of the structures and drew in the roadway, in preparation for the next step, which is adding the groundcover and trees, ballasting the track, and creating the creek bed.

I used blue painter’s tape to cover the building footprints, along with the footprint of the road and parking areas. The first layer of groundcover that I use is almost always ground leaves from the maple trees in my backyard, it’s the tan material you see in the photos, which is applied over slightly diluted white Elmer’s glue, brushed onto the base material.

Using a variety of groundcover materials and trees, including a combination of JTT trees, Woodland Scenics Fine Leaf Foliage (a natural product like Supertrees) and Woodland Scenics plastic tree armatures with painted trunks and foam foliage clumps. Which, when used in tight groupings, look pretty good to me. In order to “plant” the trees, telephone poles and tell-tale in hardened “Sculptamold”, my technique is the identify the location of each tree or pole before applying groundcover, drill a hole for the trunk and place a toothpick in the hole, to prevent it from getting covered up.



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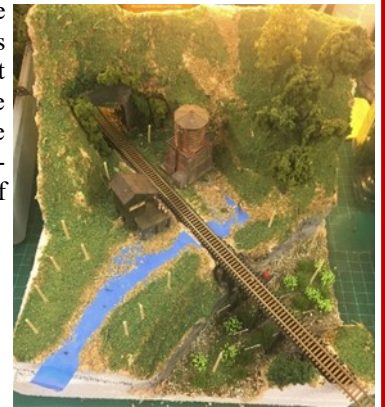
When I'm done with the groundcover and ready to plant the trees, I just pull out the toothpicks and insert a tree trunk with some glue on it. It is important to remove the toothpicks for one tree at a time, or you will "lose" the hole (ask me how I know).

If the toothpicks get glued into the holes, it's easy to just spin and pop them out. Once again, test fitting the structures along the way.



The creek bed is a combination of ground cover and stone materials with a few trees thrown in; the tufted shrubs and the grass clumps are commercial HO products that seem to work fine here. The metal pins in the creek bed are marking the location of the trestle bents during the application of the creek foliage and rocks, to ensure that the material did not interfere with the bents seating properly. Once the bents were in place permanently, the scenic material was applied around them. There is "water" in the creek, but the water level is very low, and it was added after this photo was taken. I used Gloss Matte Medium for the creek as well as for water between the tracks and the water tank to show water overflow from servicing the locomotive. Once the groundcover was complete, I added the roadway, a plank grade crossing, parking areas, telephone poles and tell-tale, then glued down the structures and the old pick-up truck. The caboose was glued down at the tunnel entrance to create the illusion that the milk train has just left this location, and I placed the track crew worker at the door to the section house and the dairy farmer seated on the milk platform. The photos below show the finished diorama depicting this small piece of

the NYOW Delhi Branch.



### **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.

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

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

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

6462 Industry Way, Westminster, CA 92683

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

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

Sunday - 12:00pm to 4:00 pm

Following us on;

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Twitter - @RMHobbies

### **The Original Whistle Stop, 2490 E Colorado Blvd, Pasadena, Ca. 91107 626-796-7791**



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Sunday - 11:00pm to 4:00 pm

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