

The Order Board

Volume 52 No. 4

December, 2024



What's Inside

Upcoming Events	1
From the Caboose	2
From the Brass Hat	4
From the Chief Clerk	5
The Backshop	6
Fall Meet Awards	7
Layout Tour	10
Nevada Report	13
Call for Web/Social Media Chair	13
Call for Clinicians	13
Editor's Column	14
Membership Report	15
Call for Models	15
Call for Layouts	16
Call for Donations	16
PSR 2025 Convention	17
CA State RR Museum	20
Electronic Brakeman	25
Flyers	38
Hobby Store Ads	43

Tracks Ahead for the Cajon Division

Upcoming Events Details Inside!

January 11, 2025

Craig McCormick's Western Continental Layout Open House
9413 Steeplehill Dr.
Las Vegas, NV 89117
RSVP required for gate access
RSVP to Craig McCormick at email cmccor275@gmail.com

February 15-16, 2025:

Great Train Show/World's Greatest Hobby Tour
Orange County Fairgrounds
88 Fair Dr., Costa Mesa, CA 92626
www.greattrainshow.com

April (TBD) 2025:

Cajon Division Spring Meet
Messiah Lutheran Church, 6625 Dale St., Buena Park, CA 90621

July 14-19, 2025:

NMRA 2025 National Convention, Station No. VI
Sheraton Detroit Novi
21111 Haggerty Road, Novi, MI 48375
<https://www.nmra2025.com/>

September 3-6, 2025:

PSR 2025-Pacific Southwest Express Convention
Hilton Irvine at John Wayne Airport (SNA)
18800 MacArthur Blvd., Irvine, CA 92612
www.pacificswexpress.org

**From all of your Cajon Division Officers: Have a safe
and enjoyable holiday season and new year!**

CAJON DIVISION OFFICERS

Division Director

Harold Helland, MMR
6 Ambito St.
Mission Viejo, CA 92694
(847) 302-1577
director@cajondivision.org

Division Superintendent

Joel Morse
11891 Tunstall St
Garden Grove, CA 92845
(714) 614-5401
superintendent@cajondivision.org

Asst. Superintendent-NV

Craig McCormick
702-606-5916
assistsuper-nv@cajondivision.org

Asst. Superintendent-CA

Open
assistsuper-ca@cajondivision.org

Chief Clerk

Gary Stenberg
clerk@cajondivision.org

Paymaster

Bob Calicchia
(562) 480-1737
paymaster@cajondivision.org

Membership Chair

Patrick Rogan
membership@cajondivision.org

Contest Chair

Mike Allee
23627 Cahuilla Rd.
Apple Valley, CA 92307
(626) 533-9913
contest@cajondivision.org

Achievement Program

Gary Butts, MMR
5991 Kenwick Cir.
Huntington Beach, CA 92648
(714) 842-4980
ap@cajondivision.org

Publications Chair

Kurt Matthews
(657) 243-6226
editor@cajondivision.org

Web and Social Media Chair

Dan Moran
(562) 715-9118
social@cajondivision.org

Donations Chair

Brian Neely
donations@cajondivision.org



From the Caboose

Harold Helland, MMR, Cajon Division Director



Hello Cajon Division members. I would like to start by welcoming Paul Stoner as our new superintendent. Paul took over from Joel Morse, who moved on to be the PSR President. Paul has several good ideas which will be seen as he puts his thoughts into action for the Cajon Division.

The Cajon Division is sponsoring Layouts of the Cajon Division. These are home model railroad tours presented by Cajon Division members. If you would like to host a tour at your home model railroad, please contact our Division Superintendent, Paul Stoner. The Cajon Fall Meet was held at the Messiah Lutheran Church on October 19. We had another successful event which was enjoyed by everyone present. Clinics, Celebration of Models, Swap Meet and the Hobo Auction provided plenty of action to keep everyone busy for the day.

The Cajon Division is responsible for the 2025 Pacific Southwest Region Annual Convention which will be held at the Hilton Irvine - John Wayne Airport. The convention, "Pacific Southwest Express" is scheduled from September 3 through 6, 2025, and will feature modular railroads at the hotel which will include operating sessions, home layout tours, prototype tours, home operating sessions, numerous clinics, general interest activities, and an Awards Banquet. There will be opportunities to find something new for your home model railroad from the Silent Auction, Swap Meet, Hobo Auction, or the Vendors Booths. We are planning four days packed with model railroad fun.

Prototype Tours include Los Angeles Union Station and the Southern California Railway Museum. In addition to the normal fun at the Southern California Railway Museum, we will be focusing on Santa Fe 5704 which recently joined the museum. There will also be an opportunity to drive a diesel engine. The Los Angeles Union Station tour includes a behind the scenes tour of areas not open to the public. The original ticket counters and the original Fred Harvey restaurant will be included in the tour.

The convention will end with an Awards Banquet and our guest speaker, Cinthia Priest, Editor NMRA Magazine. The NMRA will be celebrating 90 years of service to model railroad enthusiasts, and I am sure Cinthia will have plenty of information for an interesting presentation.

Please consider participating in the Cajon Division events. For those members who have not participated in our events, I hope you will join the fun and learning experience offered by the Cajon Division events. Your NMRA membership will quickly become more meaningful as you participate and become part of the active Cajon Division members.

I wish everyone a great Holiday Season filled with joy.



From the Caboose (Continued)

Harold Helland, MMR, Cajon Division Director



**PSR 2025 Convention
Pacific Southwest Express
September 3 thru 6, 2025
Hilton Irvine – John Wayne Airport**

www.pacificswexpress.org

Welcome Reception

Reunite with Friends

Model Railroads

Modular Railroads
Home Model Railroads
Operating Sessions
John Allen Timesaver

Add to Your Model Railroad

Swap Meet
Silent Auction
Hobo Auction

Celebration of Models

Display
Evaluation
One Square Foot Model

General Interest

Activities for All

Prototype Railroads

So Cal Railway Museum
Los Angeles Union Station

Clinics

Educational
Hand On

Awards Banquet

Delicious Dinner
Keynote Speaker
Cynthia Priest
Editor NMRA Magazine
Awards

Register Now for the Convention and Reserve a Hotel Room
www.pacificswexpress.org



From the Brass Hat

Joel Morse, Cajon Division Superintendent



This is my last “From The Brass Hat” column to you (really, it is), as I will be stepping down as Cajon Division Superintendent at the end of the year and turning over the Superintendent responsibilities to newly elected Superintendent, Paul Stoner.

I’ve been acquainted with Paul for quite a few years as a fellow N-scale modeler but got to know him better while we worked together during the Surfliner2024 Convention. Paul stepped in when needed and handled the complex job of finalizing the presentation of more than 200 clinics and coordination of the clinicians and worked during the Convention to ensure the clinics happened when scheduled. His work here convinced me that Paul would be an excellent Cajon Division Superintendent.

I wish Paul great success and satisfaction in his efforts to improve the value of your Cajon Division membership over the next two years and beyond. I know Paul will do everything he can to achieve this goal, and I will do what I can to support him in those efforts.

And I encourage you to support him as well, by participating in the Cajon Events, volunteering to help at the various events, or by joining the Cajon Board of Directors.

In closing, it has been my honor and privilege to have served the Cajon membership as Superintendent, and my final message to you today remains consistent with my first column and numerous columns during my years as Superintendent: *This organization is what YOU, the members, make it. If you want a better Division, Region or better events, get involved, volunteer to serve on the Board, volunteer to help with an event, you’ll be rewarded with the increased richness of your experience.*

Added Note: Surplus merchandise from the 2024 Surfliner Convention is available at discounted prices. See the flyer section in this edition of The Order Board for details



Meet Paul Stoner

Cajon Division Superintendent Elect



Paul started model railroading in 1959 with his first HO train set. In 1973 he joined the NMRA and has been a lifetime member since 1976. When Paul was living in Niles, CA he started an N scale layout. When he retired, he moved back to Orange County and has been leading the Orange County ‘N’gineers, a modular N scale model railroad club, for the last 20 years. The ‘N’gineers are well know in SoCal for taking their modular layout to many of the local shows in Orange, Kern, San Bernadino and San Luis Obispo counties.

Paul’s term as Cajon Superintendent begins on January 1, 2025. Paul’s contact information is:

Phone: 949-636-7552

Address: 6 Riverstone, Irvine, CA 92606



Notes from the Chief Clerk

Gary Stenberg, Cajon Division Chief Clerk



Greetings All!!!

Are you feeling stressed? Is your mind fretting? Have we got a suggestion for you!!! Model Railroading!!!! If you're a senior citizen, the NMRA (and a partner agency) even have a method for you to have your dues paid for. Fight the depression of old age by getting active in a hobby (preferably ours). You younger folks can benefit too! It's fun!!!! How can you become active you say. Look to the future.

Let's talk about the future. A volunteer organization such as ours, takesvolunteers. By the time this article reaches the Order Board, I suspect that we will have a new Superintendent. A BIG WELCOME to Paul Stoner!!!! I am sure that Paul would like to see a whole big group of volunteers step forward!!! . Join in and see how things are organized for our membership by volunteering. You might find a niche that you fit into perfectly and really enjoy.

In 2025 we are going to have at least one Division meet and one Regional Convention in Orange County. Every meet and convention needs volunteers. These are great learning opportunities. The Celebration of Models evaluation teams teach what modeling skills shine. The registration desk lets you meet everyone and learn about their interest. If the Internet interests you, there are opportunities to participate in our online efforts. I could go on and on.

There are actual rewards for volunteering for a Division or Regional event. Volunteer Hours count towards a National Model Railroad Association Achievement Program Certificate. In order to become a Master Model Railroader, you are expected to provide service to the hobby as an Association Volunteer (the easiest to get, it just takes time volunteering), Model Railroad Author (you have to write articles and/or give clinics at the Division and National level.), or hold office at the Divisional level (as Superintendent), Regional or National Level (This certificate is Association Official). You don't have to do all three; just one of them (plus six other certificates in three other disciplines) to qualify as a Master Model Railroader.

If you haven't started working on your Master Model Railroader Certificate yet, the Volunteer AP Certificate is a good place to start.

My personal goal for 2025 is to earn at least one Achievement Program certificate and make progress on one other. Since I write a lot (can you tell?) The certificate for Model Railroad Author is within reach. With a division meet and a regional convention in Orange County next year, I can buckle down and have at least one structure built for each celebration of Models evaluation. I only need 12 structures and I've already built 5. I'm almost half way there. Wish me well.

We've got almost a year for the Regional Convention at the Hilton in Irvine. It's plenty of time to build something. Go for it!!

High Green and PAX

Gary Stenberg. Chief Clerk

Cajon Division, Pacific Southwest Region, National Model Railroad Association.



The Backshop

Gary Butts, MMR, Cajon Division AP Chairman



Well, we are back to that time of the year when the days are short, the nights are long and it is cold outside so what better activity is there than to stay inside and put some time in on finishing the model you have been working on? Or maybe you can finally get to putting in some of that static grass or ballast on that section of your layout over in the corner. In any case, as you pick up the pace of your model railroad hobby this winter, don't forget to keep the Achievement Program in mind for extra focus and enjoyment.



I know that I have to stop and take a photo, every once in a while, of what I am working on to make it really easy to document the process when it comes time to let others appreciate the work that went into my model or layout upgrade in the celebration of model's room at one of our meets. It also makes for an easy way to complete the paper work needed for entry into the evaluation process for the Achievement Program should you desire to participate. For me, keeping my eye on the AP as I model makes it easy for me to decide what I want to work on if I get some spare time and what I want to do for my next project.

Don't hesitate to bring your work to the next NMRA meet to let others appreciate what you have been up to. If paperwork is causing you to hesitate, please reach out to me or any of our Achievement Program or Contest committee members, or any of our Master Model Railroaders to get pointers on how to easily and efficiently present your models to the evaluators on paper. It's not that hard with a few words and maybe a few photos.

Congratulation to Harold Helland, MMR for earning his NMRA Association Official Achievement Award! Harold is our Cajon Division Director and is heading up the 2025 Pacific Southwest Region Convention committee. Earning this award generally requires two to three years of continuous service to the administration of our NMRA organization and those that have earned this award are the ones that make our association enjoyable for all of us. Thank you, Harold!

I hope to see you at our next Cajon Division or PSR meet, meanwhile, enjoy your model railroad hobby.



Fall Meet Model Contest Awards

The following model contest awards were won at the Fall Meet in Buena Park. Photos of the presentation of awards are on the next page. Congratulations to all the winners!

A supplemental edition of the Order Board will be released in the next few weeks with photos of the entries.

Model Contest-Judged

Caboose

1st Place: John Peckham, SP Wartime Caboose 18037

2nd Place: John Peckham, SP Wartime Caboose 22824

Online Structure

1st Place: John Peckham, McKinley Station

2nd Place: Alan Kershaw, HO Standard Water Tank

3rd Place: John Pelham, Car Maintenance Shed

Offline Structure

1st Place: Travis Heimberger, Murphy's Bar

2nd Place: Mike Allee, City Florist

3rd Place: Gary Stenberg, Old Glory Mine

Display:

1st Place: Tom Stumpf, Diesel Facility

People's Choice

Caboose

1st Place: John Peckham, SP Wartime Caboose 18037

2nd Place: John Peckham, SP Wartime Caboose 22824

Structure

1st Place: John Peckham, McKinley Station

2nd Place: Travis Heimberger, Murphy's Bar

3rd Place: Alan Kershaw, HO Standard Water Tank

Thumbs Award

Tom Stumpf, Casper's Haunted House

Best In Show

Allan Kershaw, Tie and Plank Mill

Model Railroad Engineer-Civil Certificate

Bryan Hunnell, Self-Switching Layout



Photos

Fall Meet Model Contest Awards



From left to right: John Peckham, Mike Allee (Cajon Contest Chair), Tom Stumpf, Alan Kershaw, Gary Stenberg, Travis Heimberger



From left to right: Mike Allee, Alan Kershaw, John Peckham



From left to right: Mike Allee, Alan Kershaw, Travis Heimberger



Photos

Fall Meet Model Contest Awards



From left to right: John Peckham, Mike Allee



From left to right: Mike Allee, Tom Stumpf



Union Pacific Sugar Pine Sub

Layout Tour

Terry Howden graciously opened up his HO Scale Union Pacific Sugar Pine Sub Layout for a Cajon Division tour on December 7. The layout resides in what was a two car garage. It has continuous loop running and Terry had two trains running in opposite directions. The layout is still a work in progress, but trackwork is complete, along with benchwork, wiring and day/night overhead lighting. Trees have been planted, but will need to be removed in order to finish the ground cover. Terry did the wiring and lighting, while Mike Sandstedt was in charge of the track work. Don Day assisted in the track planning that allows for staging, a yard, set offs for industry and a future engine servicing facility. The layout is inspired by the Yosemite Mountains, so plenty of mountain terrain, tunnels, bridges, curves and big trees abound. There are over 450 trees mostly supplied by Canyon Creek Scenics. The layout is designed in a manner that allows easy changing for eras from steam to modern. Multiple touch controls are in the fascia for turnouts and duplicate controls are located in the fascia at multiple locations such that the turnouts can be actuated from various standing positions along the layout. DCC control is provided by NCE ProCab. The mainline is one scale mile. Terry and Mike have been working on the layout for four years and have made substantial progress. Big thanks to Terry and Mike for opening the layout for visitation and being gracious hosts.

The Layout at a glance

Name: Union Pacific Sugar Pine Sub.
Scale: HO
Size: 17' x 20'
Proto-Freelanced: UP Mountain RR
Locale: Inspired by Yosemite Mountains
Minimum radius: 20"
Maximum radius: 40"
Minimum turnout: No. 6
Maximum grade: 1.5%
Benchwork: 3/4" Baltic birch
Height: 54" - 57"
Roadbed: 1/2" Baltic birch cork on top
Track: code 83 (main)
 code 70 (elsewhere)
Scenery: blue/pink foam
Backdrop: custom lighting
Control: NCE DCC



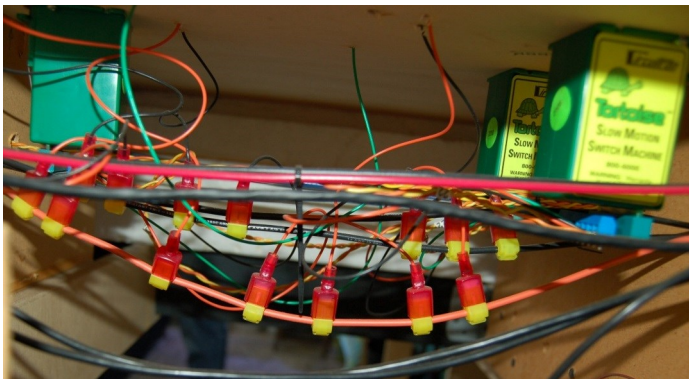
Terry Howden



Mike Sandstedt



Union Pacific Sugar Pine Sub Layout Tour





Union Pacific Sugar Pine Sub Layout Tour





What's Happening in Nevada?

Asst. Superintendent-NV

RL Jenkins is signing off as our Nevada Assistant Superintendent. RL is currently in the process of helping to open a new model railroad shop in Las Vegas. We thank RL for his dedication to Cajon Division and the hobby. Craig McCormick has been confirmed as the new Nevada Assistant Superintendent. Craig has been modeling since his first starter Tyco train set from Sears. Welcome aboard! Please support Craig in his new role in keeping the Nevada folks active.

Western Continental Layout Tour

Craig McCormick will be hosting a tour of his home layout, the Western Continental on January 11, 2025. Further information on the details will be sent out to the membership shortly. Refer to the calendar section within for the time/location. There is also a flyer in the flyer section of this edition of The Order Board.

New Model Train Shop in Las Vegas

Las Vegas Trainworld is now open and worth checking out. The shop has a Facebook page and website at [lasvegastrainworld.com](https://www.lasvegastrainworld.com). The address is 9440 W Sahara Ave # 150, Las Vegas, NV 89117.



Call for Web and Social Media Chair

Dan Moran will be signing off as Web and Social Media Chair at the end of 2024. If anyone would like to volunteer to take over this role, please contact Dan at social@cajondivision.org. Dan will provide training and help to get started. The primary responsibilities include updating the Cajon website and Facebook pages. The role can also be split between the website and social media if necessary.



Call for Spring Meet Clinicians

Joel Morse, Cajon Division Superintendent

A great way to share some of what you know with your fellow members and earn some points towards your Volunteer or Author AP Certification would be to present at Clinic at the Buena Park Event in April 2025. If you are interested, contact Paul Stoner at superintendent@cajondivision.org. Subjects can be:

- 3D Printing, Laser Cutting and Other Computer Modeling Methods
- Achievement Programs and Standards Setting
- DCC, LCC, Wiring & Other Electronics
- Layout Design and Construction
- Layout Operations
- Modeling Techniques and Ideas
- Prototype Railroads History
- Any Other Areas of Interest



The Editor's Column

Kurt Matthews, Publications Chair



Thank You

A big thanks to outgoing Cajon Division Superintendent Joel Morse for his years and service to not only the Division, but to the Region and National NMRA. Joel is a driving force behind just about everything we do and it is appreciated. When I joined Cajon less than a year ago, Joel was very welcoming and helpful to me personally. He has opened his home and layout on numerous occasions. While Joel will still be part of NMRA serving at the Region level, I am sure he will still be very active in Cajon.

And Welcome

A big welcome and congratulations to Paul Stoner who is Cajon's new Division Superintendent. Please support him in his new role to carry on the NMRA mission for Cajon.

DJ's Trains on YouTube

If you are interested in current prototype operations, check out DJ's Trains on YouTube. DJ is an engineer at CSX in the Pittsburgh area and operates his drone to film trains, industries and other points of interest that are railroad oriented. The industries he flies over are interesting as they provide ideas for modeling and how the rail lines tie in. His channel archives may still contain videos he did on N-Scale modeling techniques and CSX operations. He currently limits himself to only drone footage. He covers CSX, NS, Union, B&LE (CN), B&P, W&LE, AVR and numerous local short lines under the G&W umbrella.

California State Railroad Museum

I visited the California State Railroad Museum in Old Town Sacramento in November. I had not been there for over 20 years. Recently, they opened an NMRA sponsored model railroad museum on the third floor. The collection includes exhibits of toy trains, all scales of model railroading, portions of famous layouts, tools, equipment, supplies and a partially constructed layout showing the layers of construction. Next to the model railroad exhibits is a Thomas the Tank Engine play area for the kids and grandkids to play with wooden trains, read books and keep busy. Attached are photos of some of the displays. It certainly is a must see if you are in the Sacramento area or just passing through. The main part of the museum houses many displays of equipment from the first days of railroading in California. There are plenty of exhibits to read. You could spend an entire day reading all the material or if you are already familiar with California railroad history, plan to spend at least 2-3 hours browsing. Check out the photos I have included later in this edition. All photos are my own and are free to use.

The museum also houses the NMRA's A.C. Kalmbach Library book collection on loan. The NMRA Magazine has a small block in the Division Business Car column with all the details. www.nmra.org/library has the details on how to access the information.

The California State Railroad Museum is located at 111 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814 and is open daily 10am to 5pm except Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years days. Adult admission is \$12, Kids ages 6-17 \$6 and Kids 5 and under are free. www.californiarailroad.museum/visit/general-information

Membership Report

Patrick Rogan, Membership Chair

Let's welcome our new members since August:

September:

- **Alexander Priest, San Juan Capistrano, CA**

October:

- **Melodyne McGroarty, Las Vegas, NV**

November:

- **None**

The Cajon Division communicates with its members by e-mail. If your email address is not on file with the NMRA you are missing valuable communications from the Cajon Division.

To update your email with the NMRA go to nmra.org, and in the upper left hand corner, login to the Member Log-In Registration (if you have not registered on the NMRA website you will need to register). Once logged in, in the upper left hand corner, click on Member Info. Above your user name click on Edit and then update your email address in the space provided and save your changes. Now you should start receiving email messages from the Cajon division. If that might be too difficult for you can contact me at membership@cajondivision.org and I will have the NMRA office update your email for you.

Cajon Division Spring Meet Model Awards

Mike Alee, Contest Chair

There are two ways in which one can enter an item in the Celebration Room, as an item for evaluation, using NMRA guidelines, with the possibility of receiving a Merit Award, or as an item entered for "Display" and not to be evaluated. A Merit Award is one step in earning the title of Master Model Railroader (MMR®). All items in the Celebration Room are automatically entered into the People's Choice Award category.

Some of the categories may only have one, two or no entries. A modeler could have received a certificate for first, second or third place, possibly a Merit Award, if they had entered a model. Do you have models that would place in the categories, but you're a little apprehensive about showing your skills to fellow modelers? At the division meet it's just modelers of the local area. The models are identified by number, the modeler's name doesn't appear. The only time a name would be associated with the model is when a modeler receives an award for their modeling ability. A personally proud moment.

Please consider bringing your models to the Spring Meet in April!

Layouts of the Cajon Division

Call for Member Layouts

Joel Morse, Cajon Division Superintendent

We had seven ***Layouts of the Cajon Division*** Open Houses in 2023 and four in 2024, and we want to continue to schedule these events, which have been well attended and enjoyed by the membership. We need more layouts to feature in 2025.

We are looking for layout owners to join in the fun and host an open house next year. Your layout does not have to be the “finished article”, you just have to be interested in showing your fellow members what you have been working on and spending a few hours talking about model railroading. In fact, input from visitors at your Open House may provide you with some new ideas and tricks! The Cajon Division will provide up to \$50.00 to reimburse you for food and drinks that you might serve. If you are interested in hosting an Open House and showing us what you have been doing, please contact me and we’ll work out a date that works for you. Email Paul Stoner at superintendent@cajondivision.org.

Call for Model Railroad Donations

Brian Neely, Cajon Division Donations Chair

“One man’s trash is another man’s treasure” seems like the perfect reason for every model railroad swap meet since the beginning of time. But it also applies to the items that appear for bid at our Cajon Division Hobo Auctions, which next takes place at our upcoming 2025 Spring Meet in April.

Many members don’t realize that every item that appears in the Hobo Auction was donated by a Cajon Division member or local hobby shop. Our Hobo Auction supplies of donated items are getting very low, and we need your unneeded model railroad supplies to the Cajon Division, so we can continue this tradition.

Every one of us has bought and stored items that we know we will never use, not on the current layout and not on the next layout, because our model railroading focus, need, or interest has changed. These items are cluttering up our limited storage space. Sure, you could wait until you get around to selling your items at swap meet after swap meet until it’s gone or you can just donate the items to the Cajon Division.

The Cajon Division (and the PSR) are 501(c)(3) Charitable Organizations under the IRS and California tax codes and therefore you may be able to take a tax deduction for the items you donate. When you donate items to the Cajon Division, we provide you with a receipt for your taxes.

If you have items to donate for our upcoming April Spring Meet, contact me directly at donations@cajondivision.org and arrange to donate your items to the Cajon Division. Thank you in advance for your generosity!



Pacific Southwest Express

PSR 2025 Convention

PSR 2025 Convention

September 3 thru 6, 2025

Hilton Irvine – John Wayne Airport

www.pacificswexpress.org

The Pacific Southwest Express planning is well under way and the convention will have something for everyone.

Do you like to see home model railroads to learn how the owner has accomplished something that you like? Do you like to learn new ideas from the home model railroad owners? If yes, we will have numerous home model railroads to visit and learn directly from the owner. Many of the home model railroads will be self-drive, (you can team up with a friend) and one guided tour of home model railroads. We will have several modular railroads set up at the convention for viewing and learning something new.

Do you like Operating Sessions? We have four home model railroads committed to run operating sessions and one modular club that will run operating sessions at the Convention Center.

The Pacific Southwest Express will offer several opportunities to acquire something new for your model railroad. Several vendors are planning to set up at the convention which will provide the opportunity to purchase the latest in model railroading. Of course, we will have the Hobo Auction and Swap Meet to allow you to decide which items you cannot live without. Another new feature will be a Silent Auction which will allow attendees to decide how much they would like to pay to add something new to their collection.

Clinics are always a big hit among attendees. Our clinics will provide historical information, knowledge on building all phases of a model railroad, and prototype information. We are planning for over 80 clinics presented by modelers, historians, manufacturers and MMRs with the most popular being presented twice. Stephen Priest will present a clinic on the restoration of SF 5704, an SD45-2, to the 1976 paint scheme. He will also discuss the process for moving a new model from an idea through planning, production and finally to distribution. We will all learn the importance of the Pre-Order portion of the process. In total, 294 requests for a clinic have been sent to previous presenters. I am sure you will find some clinics that will be of interest to you.

If you like Prototype Tours, we have something for you. The Southern California Railway Museum has the West's largest collection of railway locomotives, passenger cars, street cars, and interurban electric cars. The tour will include SF 5704, which was refurbished to the 1976 paint scheme. If you always wanted to drive a diesel engine, this tour will provide the opportunity.

(continued)



Pacific Southwest Express

PSR 2025 Convention (cont.)

The Los Angeles Union Station is the main railway station in Los Angeles and the largest railroad passenger terminal in the Western United States. This is a behind the scenes tour that includes the historic ticket counter and the original Fred Harvey Restaurant. Los Angeles Union Station is included on the National Register of Historical Places.

Celebration of Models is always my favorite portion of our conventions. We will include all the “normal” categories for viewing and evaluation. In addition, there will be a special contest for a one square foot model. The model must be no larger than one foot square and not over two feet high. The model must include track and/or a freight car. Photographs and Arts and Crafts will also be included in the model contest.

We will end the convention with an Awards Banquet and our Keynote Speaker, Cinthia Priest, Senior Editor NMRA Magazine. Since 2025 is the 90th Anniversary of the NMRA, I am sure Cinthia will include some of the key events in the development of the NMRA. She may also hit the highlights of her Destination MMR articles.

It is time to reunite with model railroad friends and associates. We will include plenty of general interest activities for spouses. Come and join us for an interesting, knowledgeable and fun four days at the Pacific Southwest Express convention September 3 through 6, 2025 at the Hilton Irvine. Register at www.pacificswexpress.org.

Harold Helland, MMR
Chairman, Pacific Southwest Express

Register Now for the Convention and Reserve a Hotel Room
www.pacificswexpress.org



Pacific Southwest Express Convention

Calls for Clinics

We are looking for individuals to present clinics at the PSR 2025 Pacific Southwest Express Convention September 3-6, 2025, at the Irvine Hilton which is across the street from John Wayne Airport. If you are interested in showing others your model railroad knowledge we want you. Suggested topic areas are:

- 3D Printing, Laser Cutting and Other Computer Modeling Methods
- Achievement Programs and Standards Setting
- DCC, LCC, Wiring & Other Electronics
- Layout Design and Construction
- Layout Operations
- Modeling Techniques and Ideas
- Prototype Railroads History
- Any Other Areas of Interest

If you are interested in presenting a clinic at the PSR 2025 Pacific Southwest Express Convention, we request that you complete the online form, for each clinic proposal, as soon as possible. You can find the form using the link at >

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdEkTYilnT677hBO3XrZXqtWYvCl8wqyRU_Q7T9K6RUEJDEfw/viewform?usp=sharing

If you have any questions or problems, please contact us at pacificswexpress@gmail.com



California State Railroad Museum

Toy Train Displays



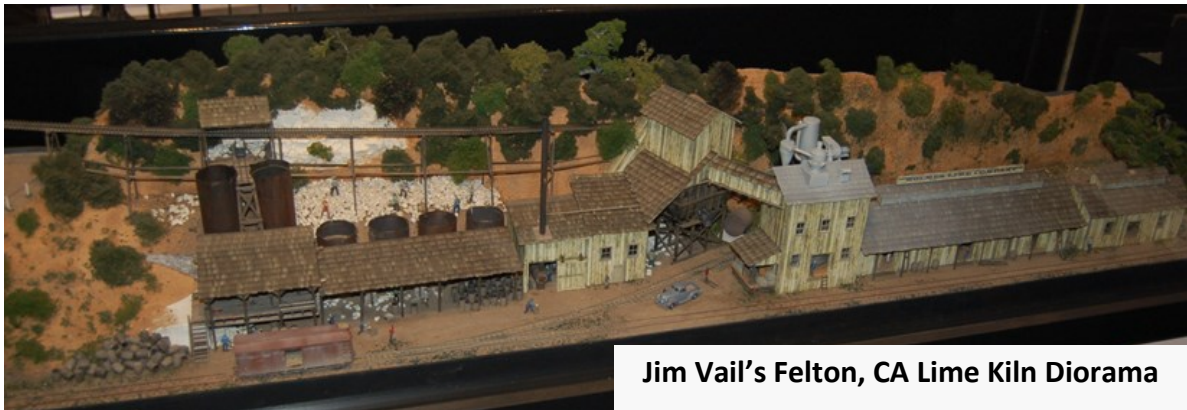
Toy train exhibit with operating layout



California State Railroad Museum Historical Layout Section Displays



Malcolm Furlow's San Juan Central



Jim Vail's Felton, CA Lime Kiln Diorama



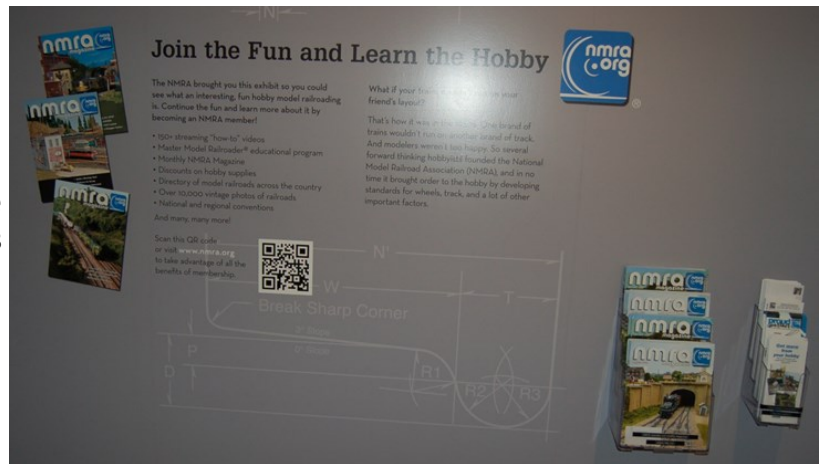
Irv Shulz's St. Clair Northern



California State Railroad Museum

Model Railroading Displays

NMRA display complete with free magazines and applications



Operating HO layout under construction



Workbench



Model railroad magazines over the years



California State Railroad Museum

Wall Displays



Rolling stock wall



Available model railroad products wall



California State Railroad Museum



Western Pacific EMD F7A Built 1950



AT&SF EMD F7A Built 1949



Southern Pacific EMD E9A Built 1954



Union Pacific Lima 0-6-0 Built 1920



Electronic Brakeman

Joel Morse, Cajon Division Superintendent



I'm not sure where I originally saw this idea, it may be my own, but I don't think so.

This electronic lineside BRAKEMAN is a useful bit of automation where a train must be stopped, and cars cut out on a grade, to do switching. The BRAKEMAN will hold cars on the siding or main during switching, or hold cars on a customer spur which is on a grade. On my layout, the BRAKEMAN is installed where the local needs to be left on the main, on a 2% grade, to work a trailing point customer spur. Necessity once again being the mother of invention. I used an N scale brakeman figure, and a small sign painted red next to the tracks to identify the location with a labeled toggle switch on the fascia for its operation.

When in the "CLEAR" Position, the BRAKEMAN ARM (seen here in white) sits unobtrusively by the side of the tracks behind the BRAKEMAN figure. (See Figure 1)





Electronic Brakeman

Joel Morse, Cajon Division Superintendent



When braking is needed, the train is stopped so that the BRAKEMAN Arm is located just behind the wheels of the uphill truck of any length cut of cars which need to be left on the grade (under the frame). The BRAKEMAN arm, rotates under the frame and across the tracks just behind the wheels, and acts as a wheel stop. The engine slowly backs the train until the BRAKEMAN Arm touches behind the downhill wheels, and the cut of cars is now secure on the grade. (See Figures 2 and 3). No cars are shown in Figure 2 to make the BRAKEMAN Arm visible in the picture, but the BRAKEMAN would not be activated until a train was on the track in the correct location.



Figure 2



Electronic Brakeman

Joel Morse, Cajon Division Superintendent



I use the *SwitchMaster*™ rotary turnout stall motor (in combination with Frog Juicers) for the few turnouts on my layout that are not hand thrown. If you are unfamiliar with this motor, it's a very simple, yet versatile 12-volt dc turnout stall motor with a 360-degree rotation, where the speed is controlled by the value of the resistor placed in the circuit and the degree of rotation is controlled with simple stops. The speed can vary from very fast to slow. The ELECTRONIC BRAKEMAN is activated with the simplest of model railroading electrical components, the good old Double Pull/Double Throw (DPDT) toggle switch in the fascia.

I used the *SwitchMaster*™ for all my turnouts because I like the location flexibility this rotary motor provides. All my turnouts were already installed when I realized a few needed to have



Electronic Brakeman

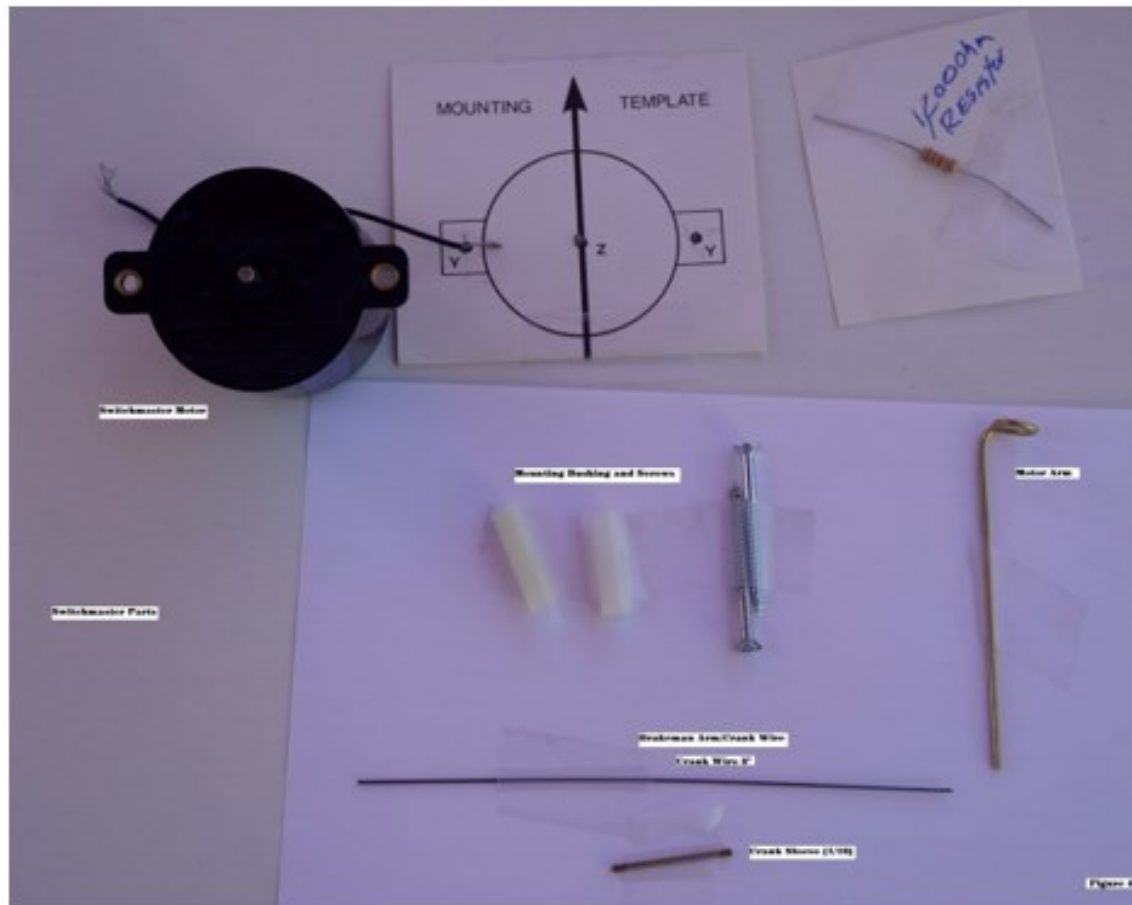
Joel Morse, Cajon Division Superintendent



motors. This device allows for the turnout activating throw wire to be located almost anywhere near the turnout throw-bar and requires drilling only a 5/64" hole for the actuating wire. The *SwitchMaster™* is suitable for a wide range of layout automation applications because it is so easy to vary the speed of the rotary action of the motor. I'm planning on using it on the layout to operate rotating signs for a gas station and perhaps other establishments.

Bill of Material:

One *SwitchMaster™* stall motor, available from Builders in Scale (builders-in-scale.com). All of the materials you need to use a *SwitchMaster™* for its primary purpose as a turnout motor are provided with the motor (except the DPDT switch) and will be used for the ELECTRONIC BRAKEMAN. (See Figure 4)



In addition, for the ELECTRONIC BRAKEMAN, you will need these additional/substitute items:

- One piece of 1/16" brass tubing as the CRANK SLEEVE. The *SwitchMaster™* comes with a 1" long piece of 1/16" brass tubing, but it may not be long enough for this application, if you are working in HO or a larger scale. For scales larger than N, you may need a bit more



Electronic Brakeman

Joel Morse, Cajon Division Superintendent



than 1" of brass tubing, (length needed will depend on the thickness of your sub-roadbed, your scale, and the height of the installation of the BRAKEMAN arm).

- One piece of brass rod from between .030" and .040" thick (the heaviest gauge that will fit into the 1/16" tubing) at least 6" long, to use as a substitute Crank Wire/BRAKEMAN arm (kit comes with .030" x 5" steel wire).
- One 800 Ohm resistor (recommended but the speed is up to you). The *SwitchMaster™* comes with a 1200-Ohm resistor, which moves the motor pretty slowly – great for a turnout, but slower than needed for this application.
- One double pull, double throw (DPDT) toggle switch or DPDT type switch of your choice.

Installation:

Generally speaking, you will follow the instructions for installing the *SwitchMaster™* motor that are provided in the directions that come with the motor. However, there are a number of key changes in the installation.

1. Identify the location or locations on your layout where you want to install your ELECTRONIC BRAKEMAN.
 - a. The BRAKEMAN should be located downhill of the turnout for the spur or spurs you will be switching. The location you choose can be any number of cars downhill from the turnout. I located my BRAKEMAN five cars downhill from the turnout because of the length of the spur and the resulting maximum number of cars that could be put onto the spur (4). This arrangement has worked well during my operating sessions.
 - b. Before finalizing the location of the BRAKEMAN, double check that the location will be free of any interference from Benchwork cross pieces, wiring or other obstructions under the location you have chosen. Note that the *SwitchMaster™* does require about 4" of clearance from obstructions.
 - i. Note that the *SwitchMaster™* instructions provide an alternative installation configuration to the one discussed here, which may work better for you, if there are obstructions affecting the location of the switch motor.
2. Determine the location for the CRANK SLEEVE and the height of the BRAKEMAN arm.
 - a. Use your NMRA Track Template to confirm the location you want is far enough away from the rails to assure that the CRANK SLEEVE (which holds the BRAKEMAN arm) and BRAKEMAN arm, will not interfere with passing locomotives, rolling stock or cleaning cars. (I didn't consider this when I installed mine. My mistake is your lesson! (See Figure 5)



Electronic Brakeman

Joel Morse, Cajon Division Superintendent



3. Drill the PIVOT HOLE. A 5/64" bit will give you a snug fit for the 1/16" brass tube CRANK SLEEVE. Drill the PIVOT HOLE through the roadbed and sub-roadbed. It is important that the PIVOT HOLE be as vertical as possible.
4. Determine the height above the rails the BRAKEMAN arm needs to be installed so that the back of the wheels would rest against it, but without the arm touching the rails (touching both rails would cause a short). (See Figure 6)
 - a. When establishing the height of the BRAKEMAN arm across the tracks, be sure to consider the underframe equipment of your rolling stock such as brake cylinders, hopper chutes, truss rods and the like. The ARM must pass freely between the top of the rails and the any underframe equipment, to lodge against the back of the wheel.



Electronic Brakeman

Joel Morse, Cajon Division Superintendent



5. Determine the length of the CRANK SLEEVE by measuring from the height above the rails you established as the height for the BRAKEMAN arm, to the bottom of the sub-roadbed (flush with the bottom of the sub-roadbed). (See Figure 7)
 - a. Cut the CRANK SLEEVE to length with any tool that will not crush the brass rod (pipe cutter, razor saw or cut-off wheel). Clean any burrs from the inside of the cut.
 - b. Dry fit the CRANK SLEEVE into the PIVOT HOLE to confirm the length is correct. If correct, remove the CRANK SLEEVE, put a small drop of AC glue on the outside of the CRANK SLEEVE and slide it back into the PIVOT HOLE – cure the AC.



6. Determine the length of your BRAKEMAN arm – this is the distance from the CRANK SLEEVE to beyond one or both rails. (See Figure 8)
 - a. Bend the BRAKEMAN arm to a 90-degree angle so that the ARM extends across both rails. (One rail is adequate for N Scale)



Electronic Brakeman

Joel Morse, Cajon Division Superintendent



- b. Slide the remaining length of the brass rod, the portion not acting as the BRAKEMAN arm into the CRANK SLEEVE. Confirm that the height of the BRAKEMAN arm is correct.
 - i. If the 90-degree bend does not result in the arm extending as far as you want it to, you will likely need to use another piece of brass rod. It is very difficult to reshape this material.

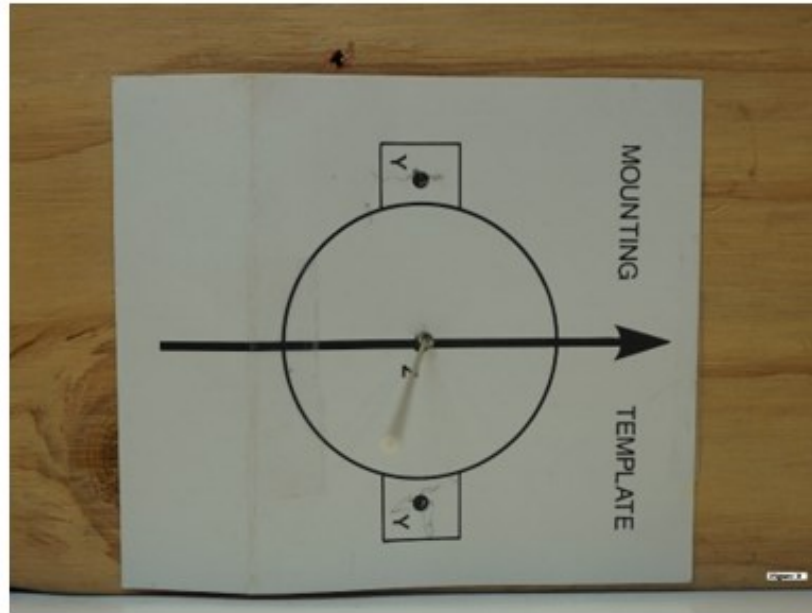


- 7. Locate the MOUNTING TEMPLATE (you may need to cut it out of the packaging).
 - a. Using an awl, ice pick, or similar tool, punch holes through the MOUNTING TEMPLATE at the locations marked "X", "Y" and "Z". (See Figure 9)
 - b. Points "X" and "Y" are the location of your MOUNTING SCREW holes, and "Z" will be the point where the CRANK SLEEVE and brass rod come thru the sub-roadbed.



Electronic Brakeman

Joel Morse, Cajon Division Superintendent



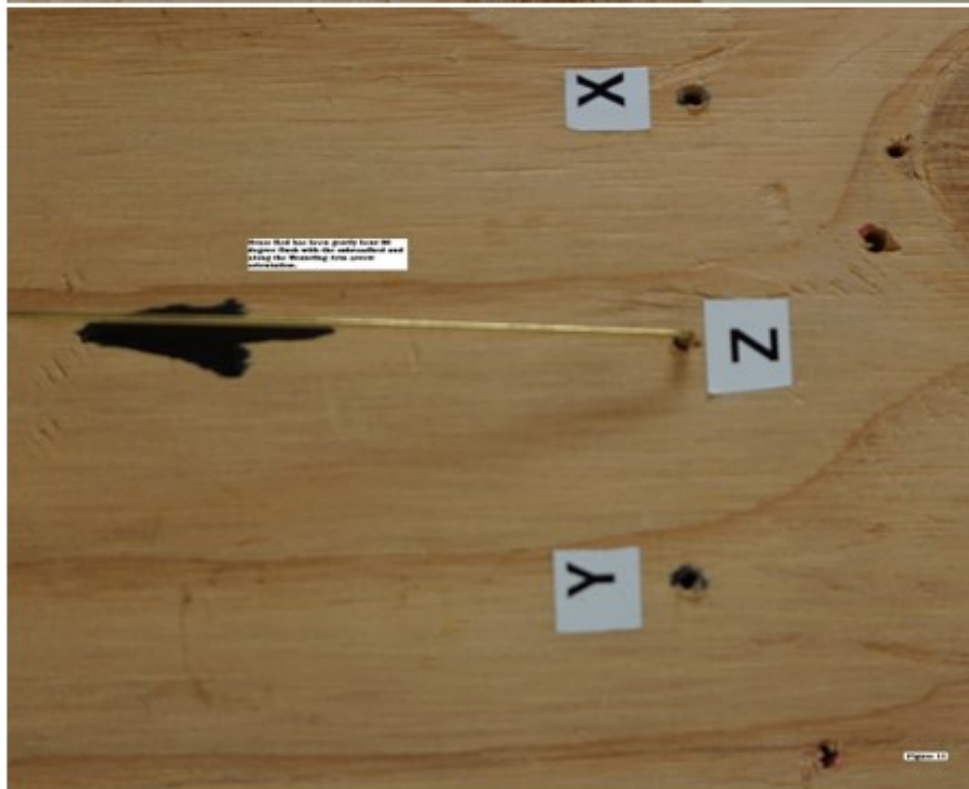
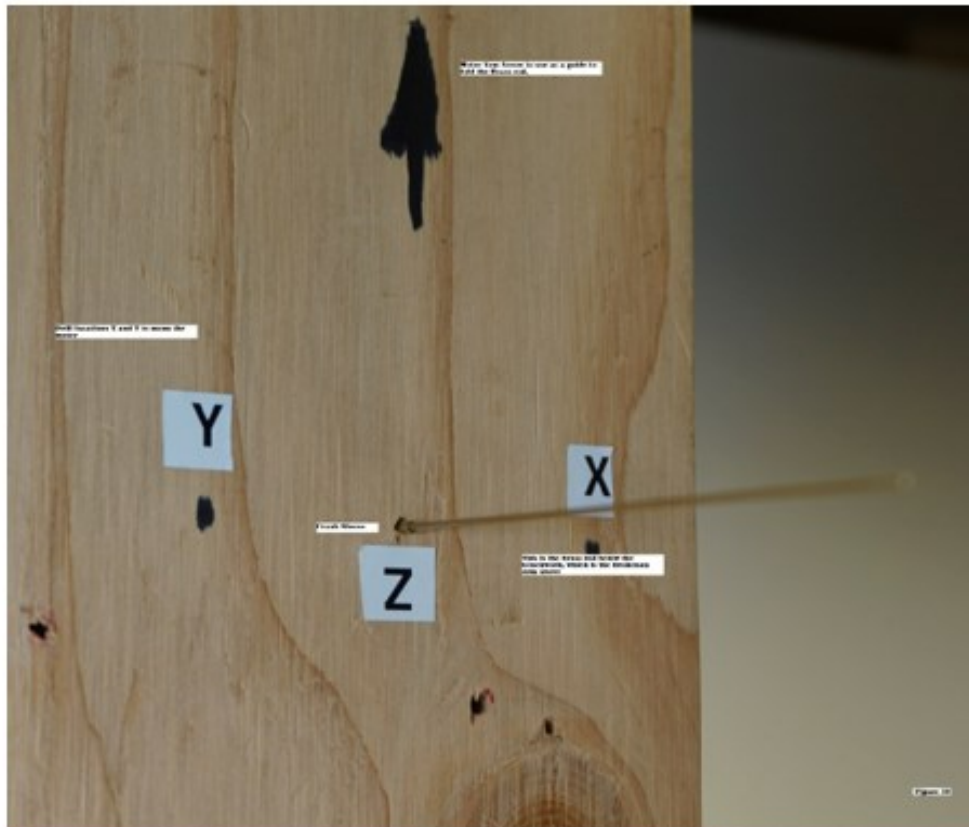
Time to go under the layout.

8. Place the MOUNTING TEMPLATE on the underside of the sub-roadbed so that the BRAKEMAN arm wire comes through the point marked "Z".
 - a. Rotate the MOUNTING TEMPLATE so that the Arrow points perpendicular to the BRAKEMAN arm in the activated position (across the tracks). Hint: The arrow should point along/parallel to the tracks, not across the tracks.
 - b. Make a mark at the end of the arrow on the sub-roadbed, and draw a line along the MOUNTING TEMPLATE Arrow, through Point "Z", and beyond the MOUNTING TEMPLATE onto the sub-roadbed on the other side of the Template.
9. Pull gently on the brass rod which extends through the CRANK SLEEVE to below the sub-roadbed, and use your thumb to bend it in line with the MOUNTING TEMPLATE Arrow, flush with the bottom of the sub-roadbed (90 degrees). (See Figures 10 and 11)



Electronic Brakeman

Joel Morse, Cajon Division Superintendent





Electronic Brakeman

Joel Morse, Cajon Division Superintendent

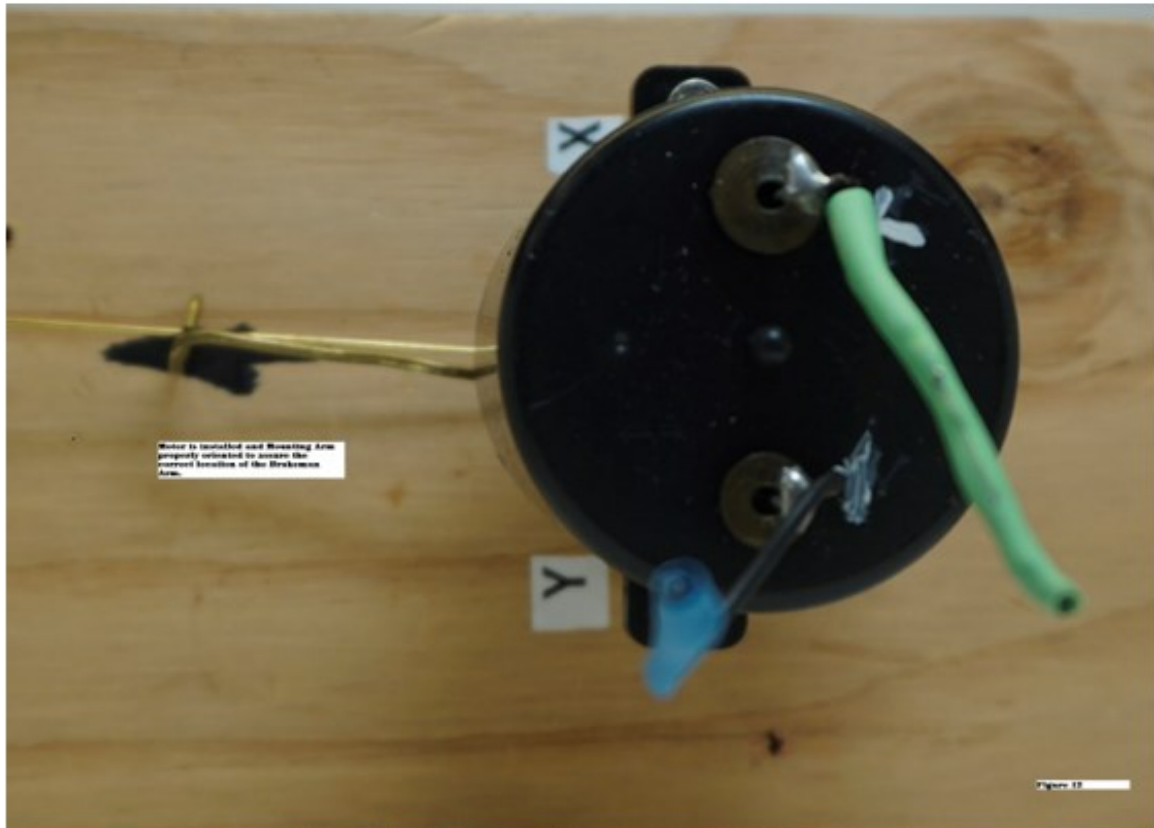


10. Mount the motor under the layout.
 - a. Use a 3/32" bit to drill holes at points "X" and "Y".
 - b. Mount the motor per the *SwitchMaster™* instructions after reviewing Step 11.
11. Determine the uphill and downhill direction swing of the BRAKEMAN arm. (See Figure 12)
 - a. While mounting the motor, you will want to rotate the MOTOR arm to the appropriate side of the MOUNTING BUSHINGS, so that the rotation of the MOTOR arm rotates the BRAKEMAN arm in the uphill direction when the BRAKEMAN arm is activated, and in the downhill direction to clear the tracks.
 - i. NOTE: If this is done incorrectly, your BRAKEMAN arm will rotate into the trucks of the car, rather than under the car into the backs of the wheels. And you will have to go back under the layout to re-orient the MOTOR arm on the other side of the MOUNTING BUSHINGS. (See Figure 13)
 - b. Since the motor direction is controlled by the DPDT switch, there is really no wrong way to install the motor (other than the rotation issue discussed above).
 - c. Confirm that the rotation is correct for the bends in your BRAKEMAN arm.



Electronic Brakeman

Joel Morse, Cajon Division Superintendent



12. As designed, the MOTOR ARM will rotate 90-degrees (between the MOUNTING BUSHINGS) and then stall. However, we only want the MOTOR ARM to rotate 90-degrees.



Electronic Brakeman

Joel Morse, Cajon Division Superintendent



Therefore, install an additional "stop post", along the line you drew using the MOUNTING TEMPLATE Arrow as your guide. (See Figure 14)

- a. The "stop post" can be as simple as a screw long enough to stop the swing of the Motor Arm, or a nylon bushing screwed to the sub-roadbed.
- b. The location of the "stop post" can be used to increase or decrease the rotation of the BRAKEMAN arm.



Electrical Connections

1. The SWITCHMASTER MOTOR uses 12-volt DC power and can be connected to your turnout motor power supply or any available 12-volt DC source.
2. Be sure to prewire the Motor with the resistor and appropriate lengths of wire, so you do not have to solder under the layout.
3. Use a lower rated resistor to speed up the motor. It comes with a 1200-ohm resistor, I used an 800-ohm resistor, but this is a personal choice.

Enjoy your ELECTRONIC BRAKEMAN and your new ability to switch cars on a grade, with no runaways!

2025 Sat, January 11 2025

GREAT EVENT

GRAND RAILROAD TOUR

Craig McCormick's HO Scale

WESTERN CONTINENTAL



ALL TRAINS LEAVE

Las Vegas Station

9413 Steeplehill Dr.

RSVP for gate access: cmccor275@gmail.com

Phone: 702-606-5916

SCHEDULE

11 a.m. Depart ~ 3 p.m. Return

EXCLUSIVE FARE

Free to NMRA Members & Guests

Show & Tell: **Bring your latest Project to Share**

Refreshments & Snacks are Included!

As usual, Expert Modeling Advice Available

-We have all kinds of Arm-Chair Experts-

Bragdon, DCC, Juicers, Operations, Trackwork,
Craftsman Kits, Loco Conversions, Scratch Building, Weathering

--You Name it, We'll Discuss it--



**PSR 2025 Convention
Pacific Southwest Express
September 3 thru 6, 2025
Hilton Irvine – John Wayne Airport**

www.pacificswexpress.org

Welcome Reception

Reunite with Friends

Model Railroads

Modular Railroads
Home Model Railroads
Operating Sessions
John Allen Timesaver

Add to Your Model Railroad

Swap Meet
Silent Auction
Hobo Auction

Celebration of Models

Display
Evaluation
One Square Foot Model

General Interest

Activities for All

Prototype Railroads

So Cal Railway Museum
Los Angeles Union Station

Clinics

Educational
Hand On

Awards Banquet

Delicious Dinner
Keynote Speaker
Cynthia Priest
Editor NMRA Magazine
Awards

**Register Now for the Convention and Reserve a Hotel Room
www.pacificswexpress.org**

Merchandise From Surfliner Convention Is Available For Members

Contact the Cajon Division Superintendent if you would like to purchase

superintendent@cajondivision.org



N-Scale Covered Hopper \$15.00



HO-Scale 40' Box Car \$15.00



Lapel Pin \$3.00



WELCOME to the 90th NMRA National Model Railroad Convention, STATION No. VI

July 14-19, 2025 – Novi, Michigan

60 Layouts to Visit



Clinics and Workshops



Suburban Hotel
w/Free Parking

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!

The convention is being hosted by the NORTH CENTRAL REGION of the NMRA. Our goal is for [A Convention Like No Other](#). We are planning a great week of model and prototype railroading, just for YOU!

This convention is open to ALL model railroaders! You do not have to be an NMRA member to attend!

Come and join us for the MAXIMUM model railroad FUN!

LOCATION

Convention HQ is the Sheraton Hotel
21111 Haggerty Road, Novi, MI 48375

See all the accommodation options on our [Location Page](#)

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

- [Suburban location HQ Hotel](#) with FREE parking!
- 50+ restaurants within 15 minutes of HQ Hotel
- Operating sessions available
- NMRA model contest and model showcase
- [Banquet Dinner](#) with guest speaker on Saturday evening
- 20+ [Clinics](#) per day Tuesday – Saturday
- [Modeling With The Masters®](#) clinics
- 60+ [home/club layouts](#) 200 – 3000 sq ft to visit
- [Prototype tours](#) available
- Model Showcase display room with popular vote awards
- Yard Sale of new/used model railroad equipment
- Friday night [Pizza Party](#) with choice of soda, beer or wine.
- Event shirts available pre-order only
- EVERYONE welcome to attend!
- Unprecedented One LOW cost admission!
- Admission price includes ALL layout visits/clinics
- National Train Show Saturday – Sunday

Don't miss out on the latest updates leading up to the 2025 NMRA Convention! [Subscribe](#) now to join our community of industry enthusiasts, thought leaders, and passionate learners.

Subscribe



Operating Sessions



Model Showcase Room



<https://www.nmra2025.com/>



Grouper NMRA Membership Dues Benefit

This is healthcare?

Your passion for model railroad is healthcare. **Really.**

Research shows that participating in groups like the **National Model Railroad Association** improves our mental, physical, and social health. It's called "Social Fitness," and it's the perfect replica of your favorite track.



MODEL RAILROADING

Get Paid for Having Fun

MEMBERSHIP DUES? WE COVER 'EM FOR ELIGIBLE MEMBERS OVER 65!

Grouper works with Medicare Advantage and Medicare Supplement plans to cover membership dues, so you can focus on what you love to do. Don't worry about the membership cost - **it's on your health plan.**



To see if your plan covers the Grouper social fitness benefit, visit



hellogrouper.com/NMRA

Grouper

Call (833) 519-1078

Email nmra@hellogrouper.com

Exclusive benefit for current NMRA members in the U.S. with an eligible Medicare Advantage or Medicare Supplement plan.



Support Your Local Hobby Store

We like to support local hobby stores when we can. So, we have included a list of local shops for your use.



Arnie's Model Trains & Milepost 38 Toy Trains

Arnie's Hours: Monday - Saturday 10:00 am - 6:00 pm

Milepost 38 Hours: Monday - Saturday 10:00 am - 5:00 pm



Arnie's Trains | arniesmodeltrains.com | (714) 893-1015
Milepost 38 Toy Trains | milepost38.com | (714) 892-9471

6462 Industry Way, Westminster, CA 92683

RailMaster Hobbies

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

Sunday 12:00 pm - 4:00 pm



railmasterhobbies.com

(562) 867-5627

9812 Belmont St., Bellflower, CA 90706

Follow us at:

facebook.com/railmasterhobbies

X (formerly Twitter): @RMHobbies

The Original Whistle Stop

Monday - Saturday 10:00 am - 5:00 pm

Sunday 11:00 pm - 4:00 pm



thewhistlestop.com

(626) 796-7791

2490 E. Colorado Blvd., Pasadena, CA 91107

Westside Trains and Hobbies

Monday - Saturday 11:00am - 5:00pm

westsidetrains.com

(702) 254-9475



2960 S. Durango, #117, Las Vegas, NV 89117



The NMRA has negotiated discounts from several companies that are listed in the *NMRA Magazine* and on the NMRA Website, including a company called Daylight Sales. If you order items from them or any other of the companies on the list, remember to ask for the NMRA Discount.

Support Your Local Hobby Store

We like to support local hobby stores when we can. So, we have included a list of local shops for your use.



Las Vegas Trainworld

Monday - Thursday 10:00 am - 7:00 pm

Friday - Saturday 10:00 am - 9:00 pm

Sunday 12:00 pm - 5:00 pm

lasvegastrainworld.com

(702) 268-8276

9440 W. Sahara Ave., #150. Las Vegas, NV 89117



The NMRA has negotiated discounts from several companies that are listed in the *NMRA Magazine* and on the NMRA Website, including a company called Daylight Sales. If you order items from them or any other of the companies on the list, remember to ask for the NMRA Discount.