



The Order Board

Volume 53 No. 2

April, 2025



Tracks Ahead for the Cajon Division

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Upcoming Events Details Inside!

June 14: 11AM-3PM

Nevada Grandjean/Martin Railroad Tour Event
 Home of Timm Martin
 5018 E. Monroe Ave.
 Las Vegas, NV 89110
trailhoundsmokersbb1@gmail.com
 Phone: 702-802-1134

June 21-22: 10AM-4PM (Free Swap Meet June 21 8-10AM)

Belmont Shore Model RR Club Open House (N-gauge)
 Angels Gate Park
 3601 S. Gaffey St., Bldg. 824
 San Pedro, CA 90731
<https://belmontshorerr.com>

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



CAJON DIVISION OFFICERS

Division Director

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

Division Superintendent

Paul Stoner
6 Riverstone, Irvine, CA 92606
(949) 636-7552
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/Web Chair

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

Social Media Chair

Joel Morse
(714) 614-5401
social@cajondivision.org

Donations Chair

Brian Neely
donations@cajondivision.org



From the Caboose

Harold Helland, MMR, Cajon Division Director



Hello Cajon Members. We held another successful Spring Event at the Messiah Lutheran Church in April. I have been a member of Cajon Division for many years and do not remember any of the events being rained upon. Well, that came to an end when the rain added some challenges to this event. Attendance was held down due to the prediction of rain and then fell even further when the rain began to dampen some spirits. The members who were involved in the Swap Meet were happy with their results. All four clinics were very interesting and well attended by the members. All of us involved with the Celebration of Models were happy with the models submitted this time. The Hobo Auction was a lot of fun since there were numerous items to choose from for your tickets. Everyone enjoyed the pizza lunch while catching up with friends. All members attending had an enjoyable day despite the rain.

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.

FOUR MONTHS TO THE 'PACIFIC SOUTHWEST EXPRESS'

Planning for the 2025 Pacific Southwest Region Annual Convention which will be held at the Hilton Irvine - John Wayne Airport is well under way. 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, Celebration of Models, general interest activities, and an Awards Banquet. There will be opportunities to find something new for your home model railroad from Silent Auction, Swap Meet, Hobo Auction, or the Vendors Booths. We are planning four days packed with model railroad fun.

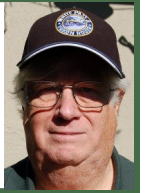
Prototype Tours include Los Angeles Union Station and the Southern California Railway Museum. In addition to the normal fun at the Southern California Railway Museum, we will be focusing on Santa Fe 5704 which is now at the museum. SCRM will also provide an opportunity for you to drive a diesel engine. The Los Angeles Union Station tour includes a behind the scenes tour of areas not open to the public. The original refurbished 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 is celebrating 90 years of service to model railroad enthusiasts this year. As an NMRA member, you want to help celebrate the 90th anniversary and join in the fun at the Pacific Southwest Express convention.



From the Head End

Paul Stoner, Cajon Division Superintendent



The 2025 Cajon Division Spring Meet was held at the Messiah Lutheran Church in Buena Park on Saturday, April 26, 2025. Though the attendance was a little lower than we expected, probably because of the weather, everyone was able to focus on model railroading for a day. Despite the rain dampening the swap meet, we had 4 great clinics, 19 excellent models, and lots of participation. To those that braved the weather, thank you for coming,

For those interested in improving their modeling skills, we had a good selection of clinics. Brian Hunnell led an open discussion on selecting components for model electronics applications, and Mark Carnighan presented a clinic on the basics of 3-D printing. Kurt Matthews talked about the history of auto racks, and I expanded my talk about printing decals to focus on white lettering. All the clinics were well attended. In the Celebration Room, 19 models were entered for viewing. All models displayed were of excellent quality. Of the 19 models, 15 were officially evaluated for awards and 14 of those awarded Merit by the evaluators.

As always, everyone had fun with the Hobo Auction. Brian Neely, our Donation Chairman, gave us a nicely balanced selection of items to bid on and everyone went home with their "prizes". I point out that the Hobo Auctions at meets and conventions are one of our biggest participation activities and an important source of income for the division. Your participation goes to fund many other activities of the division. Finally, I wanted to thank everyone that helped set up the meet and clean up afterwards. Your help was appreciated.

The Celebration Room

Until recently, this was called the "Contest Room". The new philosophy of the NMRA has shifted to one of achievement rather than competition. To this end, entries are "evaluated" rather than "judged". Models are evaluated objectively based on a system established by the NMRA and adopted by the Pacific Southwest Region. Any subject obtaining a score of 87-1/2 points out of 125 receives a Merit Award. The competition aspect remains, however, as the rest of the members attending an event may vote on "People's Choice" awards for the various categories.

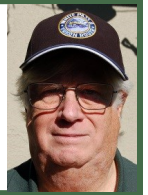
Members of the Cajon Division and the Pacific Southwest Region have up to 3 events annual to have their models evaluated in this way. Cajon Division typically holds Spring and Fall meet and the PSR holds their annual convention. The PSR and Cajon Division Boards strongly encourage members to bring their work to these events and display them in the Celebration Room. Not only does it allow members to show off their work, but it gives the rest of the division membership the opportunity to view them. As modelers, we are all interested in viewing high quality models and discussing the techniques other modelers have mastered. I'm aware of members' apprehension about bringing their models to these events.

1. My models aren't good enough.
2. I don't like to compete or that it's not worth the effort.
3. The entry paperwork is either too difficult or too confusing.
4. I'm not interested in participating in the Achievement Program.



From the Head End

Paul Stoner, Cajon Division Superintendent



In response, I'll point out that we all have models that we are particularly proud of or where we used a technique where we were pleased with the result. Why not bring those models to these events and share them with us? We would all like to know about your model. I think most modelers are looking for any techniques that enhances their models' appearance. During Cajon Division Meets, we hold a "Show and Tell" after the noon lunch where modelers are offered a chance to talk about their models and explain what they did and why they did it.

Secondly, as I explained earlier, this is not as much of a competition as an evaluation. My personal feeling is that if you were willing to make an effort to attend the event, then it doesn't take much additional effort to bring a model. Many times I have heard a modeler remark that they grabbed a model at the last minute to add it to the models display. And just as often the modeler was surprised to find that they had won a Merit Award or a People's Choice award.

I understand the apprehension about the paperwork. Sometimes it seems like a daunting challenge. However, our regional Achievement Program officials Carl Heimberger, Gary Butts, and others routinely hold clinics to explain the program and offer help on the paperwork. I have helped several friends complete the process and their models have received awards. If you still feel overwhelmed, I encourage you to bring a model and enter it into the "Display Only" category. The paperwork for that is very minimal.

Even if you're not interested in the Achievement Program, I believe that bringing models to these events results in better model and ourselves as better modelers. If you are interested in building better models, I urge you to volunteer as an evaluator at the next event. Not only will you learn about the process, but you will learn what evaluators are looking for in our models. After that, I guarantee that you will begin to look at your own models in a different light as you build them and start building better models.

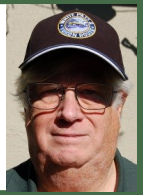
Finally, and most importantly, everyone that enters at least one model in the Celebration Room will receive a sheet of Hobo Auction tickets absolutely FREE! That has got to be worth the entry effort!

The next event with a Celebration Room will be the PSR Annual Convention in Irvine on September 3 – 6, 2025. More information on the convention is available elsewhere in this issue. If you are planning to attend, please consider entering a model. If you don't already have a model in mind, it's not too soon to start building one. I've started working on my next entry.



From the Head End (continued)

Paul Stoner, Cajon Division Superintendent



A coat was left in the Fellowship Hall after the Cajon Spring Meet. It is a black and gray fleece-lined hooded sweatshirt, Size 3XL. If it is yours, please claim it by contacting me at superintendent@cajondivision.org.



Pacific Southwest Express Convention

Call for Member Layouts

Paul Stoner, Cajon Division Superintendent

One of the highlights of any NMRA convention is visiting the home layouts of other modelers. Planners for the 2025 Pacific Southwest Express Convention in Irvine during September 3 – 6, 2025 are looking for individuals to open their home layouts to attendees of the convention.

If you would like to share the experience of the convention with your fellow modelers, we're ready to include you in the convention fun. Your layout doesn't have to look like those in your favorite magazine, you just have to be interested in showing your fellow modeler what you have been working on and in spending a few hours talking about model railroading. In fact, input from visitors to your layout may provide you with some new ideas and tricks! If you are interested in having your layout included in the convention layout tour and showing others what you are working on, contact Paul Stoner at : superintendent@cajondivision.org.



Layouts of the Cajon Division

Call for Member Layouts

Paul Stoner, 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.



Notes from the Chief Clerk

Gary Stenberg, Cajon Division Chief Clerk



I may be all wet, but I had a great time at the Spring Meet for the Cajon Division! Yes. It did rain but most everything was indoors! By 1:00 or so in the afternoon the rain had stopped and the day got better.

At a meet, I usually just run around and help out where I am needed. This time, I got to be an evaluator of models in the "Celebration of Models" Show room. What an impressive group of models! Of the 15 models entered for evaluation, 14 of them received a "Merit Award" for work well done. Would I be redundant if I said "Well Done!!!"? Well then, WELL DONE modelers. Oh, by the way. You don't have to enter a Model to check out the ones that were entered. This level of work can inspire! Every time I see model railroad modeling, I want to head home that evening and start building something.

If you missed this event...you really missed it. Keep your eyes peeled for our next event and make sure to attend.

I'd like to mention a service provided to the membership that may not be on your radar. The Cajon Division and the Pacific Southwest Region (of which we are part of) both have websites. I'm probably the number one offender for not knowing of or not viewing either. Last night I was looking for some information on an article that I had written and called up the Region's newsletter (The Back Issues are on file and can be downloaded.) You can find a lot of valuable information archived there.

Opportunities abound!!! With NMRA membership you get a National publication (NMRA Magazine), automatic membership in the Pacific Southwest Region and an online publication (PSR Dispatch), and automatic membership in the Cajon Division plus the Division's online publication (The Order Board). Lots of things are going on and you can read about many of these opportunities to participate in all three of the publications.

Did I just say participate? Yes I did. Here in the Cajon Division, we don't just have the twice a year meets; we also have sponsored tours of members model railroads! Several members have volunteered to host an open house to show off their model railroads. Looking at trains, enjoying a little snack, and talking model railroading to likeminded folks... what an opportunity! Talk about fun and fellowship. The more you participate, the more "value" you get out of your membership.

Don't limit yourself to just participating...get involved! It takes a bunch of people to run things. Gary Butts (MMR) asked me to consider the role of Chief Clerk. I said OK, and the next thing I knew, I was one. The mere act of volunteering for this position has led me back into active membership. I have been working on rolling stock models, structure models, and creative writing.

I meet more and more people at every Cajon Division, Pacific Southwest Region, and even NMRA national Events. It's kind of cool to have an NMRA president walk up to you and say "Hi Gary, How you doing?" It all starts with getting active.

Another opportunity that the NMRA affords is the Achievement Program. Disguised as a "Merit Badge Program for Model Railroaders," the Achievement Program is designed to explore many facets of Model Railroading. The individuals, who participate in the NMRA and give of their time, earn points for the Achievement Program certificate entitled "Association Volunteer." In order to build a model railroad, one needs to learn some railroad basics like track planning and construction (Model Railroad Engineer – Civil), and basic wiring (Model Railroad Engineer – Electrical). Now that the track is down, how about building some buildings and scenery? (Master Builder – Scenery and Master Builder – Structures)....*continued next page*



Notes from the Chief Clerk (continued)

Gary Stenberg, Cajon Division Chief Clerk



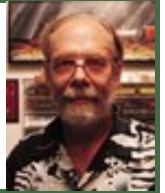
While most of us use commercially available locomotives and rolling stock, we could also get into building our own. (Master Builder – Motive Power and Master Builder – Cars). When the bug really bites and we want to run trains just like the real thing there is the Chief Dispatcher Certificate. Of course there is also the desire to spread the good news of Model Railroading and that can be facilitated by the Model Railroad Author certificate. Finally, as one progresses through the areas of Model Railroad Equipment, Settings, Engineering and Operations, plus Service to the Hobby, with at least one certificate in each of these areas and a total of at least seven certificates, one then can qualify as a Master Model Railroader. If you see someone at a convention with MMR after their name, they have gone through this process and have agreed to help out other modelers. Exploring each of these facets of the hobby is a learning experience and will make you be a better modeler. Participation really helps.

Until Next time, High Green and PAX.



The Backshop

Gary Butts, MMR, Cajon Division AP Chairman



It is time for us to elect a new Cajon Division director. Please see below and direct your nominations to John McGreevy nmrapsrlajohn@gmail.com no later than May 31, 2025.



Call for Candidates

The Pacific Southwest Region (PSR), National Model Railroad Association (NMRA) has the following offices coming open for election:

**Arizona Division Director
Cajon Division Director
Los Angeles Division Director
San Diego Division Director**

Harold Helland, Cajon Director and Vic Cavalli, Los Angeles Division Director are termed out and may not be nominated for the position

Any member in good standing with the NMRA (or who is applying for such membership) and living within the boundaries of the Pacific Southwest Region consisting of the Four Divisions (Arizona (AZ), Cajon (CJ), Los Angeles (LA) & San Diego (SD)), may run for the position of Director within the Division in which they reside. Each elected candidate will assume office for a period of two (2) years, coinciding with PSR's Annual Membership Meeting in September, 2025.

Duties and responsibilities of the Division as found in the By-Laws of the PSR:

The Director shall act as the representative of the Division in all matters before the PSR Board of Directors. The Director shall cooperate with the Division Superintendent in promoting the programs and purposes of the Division. The Director shall be elected in accordance with the PSR By-Laws and Manual of Operations.

The Director is also expected to attend the Regional Convention to participate in the Regional Board of Directors meeting held at the convention.

The Director shall hold office for a term of two years. The Director may be elected to one successive term for a total of two (2) consecutive terms.

Submission of candidacy needs to be delivered to the PSR Nomination Chair, e-mail address: John McGreevy nmrapsrlajohn@gmail.com no later than May 31, 2025.



What's Happening in Nevada?

Craig McCormick, Asst. Superintendent-NV



Coming June 14, 2025 is a layout tour of Timm Martin's Grandjean Martin HO Model Railroad. Come out for a look see and get together. Timm will be providing a BBQ lunch. Please see flyer later in this edition of the Order Board for details. Here are some photos of the layout:





The Editor's Column

Kurt Matthews, Publications/Web Chair



I will be releasing a supplemental Order Board in the near future focusing entirely on the Cajon Spring Meet. It will include a summary of the events, contest results and lots of photos!

Yes, the April edition of the Order Board is being released in May. My goal is to release a new Order Board every two months. The Spring Meet falling on April 26 and my attendance at the NMRA Keystone Division Jamboree in Pittsburgh on May 3, necessitated the delay. Along with releasing the Spring Meet Contest Supplemental, I will also be releasing a report with photos of the Keystone Jamboree in the near future.

I had the pleasure of attending the LA Division's Annual Meeting on March 15 featuring guest speaker Joe Strapac. Joe was born and raised in SoCal and is the author of over 60 books on railroading with most focusing on Southern Pacific, Cotton Belt and Pacific Electric. He published his first book in 1967 on SP Diesels and his first hard cover book in 1977 on SSW locomotives. Joe discussed his years of chasing trains, taking photos and authoring books. He is a member of the Southern Pacific Historical Society and some of his books are still available at their website: <https://sphts.org/product-category/books/>.

He mentioned that John Shaw is currently working on a 200 page picture book of the SP from Santa Margarita in Central California to Indio. It is expected to be published in October of this year. He also mentioned that a Field Guide Book for the Carson & Colorado is in work. This railroad became part of the SP narrow gauge line from Mound House, NV to Keeler, CA at Owens Lake. The SP Narrow Gauge Historical Society can be accessed here: <https://www.spnghs.org/pr/welcome.htm>.

A few members from Cajon Division were present such as Gary Butts and Mike Allee. Jeff Smith, LA Division Superintendent and owner of Railmaster Hobbies was master of ceremonies. The event was held at Frantone's Pizza and Spaghetti Villa in Cerritos. There was a wonderful buffet of pizza, pasta salad, dessert and coffee/tea/soft drinks, and enough left over to for everyone to take home doggies bags. Jeff also had a grab bag of model freight cars and everyone go to reach in and take a freight car home. A great evening.



Vic Cavalli, LA Division Director



Joe Strapac, Guest Speaker



The Editor's Column

Kurt Matthews, Publications/Web Chair



I recently visited the Corona Model Railroad Society located in Corona's Heritage Park. A small house left from the days on the lemon groves contains an HO continuous loop layout that models Corona, Fullerton and Riverside including SP, ATSF, UP and PE railroads. The layout is seen from a viewing area with Corona in the foreground and Fullerton in the background. There are also historical photos and other items to see. The Society was kind enough to allow me into the operating area of the layout to take photos. Layout control is NCE DCC with manual and remote turnouts. There are lower level staging areas and a helix hidden under a mountain to bring trains up to the visible layout. The era is set at 1949 for two Saturdays a month public viewing, but any era equipment may be run on other days. Members have full access to the layout after a 6 month probation period. Membership is \$20/month with a one time entry fee of \$50. There are currently approximately two dozen members. The layout is open every Saturday to the public from 10AM-2PM. Big thanks to members Bruce and Jim for allowing me to photograph the layout and see it up close, along with providing much background information on the Society. Well worth the visit.

Corona Model Railroad Society: <https://www.cmrclub.com/>



Fullerton Portion of Layout



**UP Depot (now
Spaghetti Factory)**



ATSF Depot (street side, now Amtrak/Metrolink)



Society Building



Membership Report

Patrick Rogan, Membership Chair



Let's welcome our new members since February 2025:

February:

- **Arthur Olsen, San Clemente, CA**

March:

- **Clifford Mathews, Rancho Cucamonga, CA (RP)**
- **Daniel Krist, Apple Valley, CA**
- **Jeffery Wang, Fullerton, CA**

April:

- **Crystal Ryan, Yorba Linda, CA**
- **Christopher Ryan, Yorba Linda, CA**
- **David Dillbeck, Orange, CA**

If any of our members know these new members, how about reaching out to them and welcome them with open arms!

Reminder: 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 www.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.



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

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 future meets, contact me directly at donations@cajondivision.org and arrange to donate your items. Thank you in advance for your generosity!

Cajon Division Spring Meet Model Awards



Mike Alee, Contest Chair



There were nineteen entries in the Celebration Room at the Cajon Spring Meet, of which fifteen were submitted for evaluation. Fourteen of the models received Merit Award.

There are two ways in which one can enter an item in the Celebration Room. As an item to be evaluated, using NMRA Achievement Program Guide Lines, with the possibility of receive a Merit Award. Or, as "Display Only" (not seeking evaluation). All items submitted are voted on by attendees in "Popular Choice". Evaluated models are evaluated by qualified modelers

With only fifteen models submitted for evaluation, there was a lot of room for a modeler to submit a model for evaluation and receive a first, second, or third place certificate and ribbon. With the possibility of a merit with plaque (Cajon members only) as well. At a Cajon Div. Celebration there are nine model evaluation classifications Steam Locomotive, Diesel & Other Loco, Passenger Car, Freight Car, Caboose, Non-Revenue Car, Structure On-Line, Structure Off-Line, and Display (dioramas and Modules). In "People's Choice" Locomotives (all types), Rolling Stock (all types), Structures (all types), Display/Module, Arts and Crafts (all types), Thumbs (humorous), and Favorite Train. At our division meet usually only local area modelers enter models. You may notice, as you look at the pictures, the models are identified by number, the modelers name doesn't appear. The only time a modeler would be associated with the model would be when the model receives an award. A personally proud moment.

A full report of all the Cajon Spring Meet contest winners with photos will be released in a supplemental Order Board in the near future!



Thank You Volunteers!

Thanks to the following folks who volunteered to staff the NMRA Membership Drive Table at the World's Great Train Show at the Orange County Fairgrounds last February!

Saturday: John Burrow, Harold Helland

Sunday: Steve Cole, Harold Helland, James Lambert, Kurt Matthews, Mona Raymer, Pat Raymer



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 (continued)

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

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Pacific Southwest Express Convention

Final Call for Clinics

Final call 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



On the Road Again...

Kurt Matthews, Publications/Web Chair



Roaring Camp and Big Trees Railroad, Felton, CA

Nestled in the redwood forest above Santa Cruz, CA is the Roaring Camp and Big Trees Railroad, a remnant of past logging narrow gauge steam operations that brought redwoods out of the local mountains to the Southern Pacific line at Felton. The operation is a bit of a tourist trap these days, but offers 45 minute rides into the forest behind either a narrow gauge Shay, Heisler or Climax locomotive. Passenger cars are open sided for expansive views and the route includes wood trestle bridges and a switch back. Once at the top of the mountain, you may disembark and stretch your legs before the return down. Upon arrival at the depot, the locomotives are serviced with water from a wooden water tank.

Shay Locomotive

The Shay was named after its inventor and patented in 1881. Lima obtained the rights to the name and produced it into the early 1900s. When the patent ran out, other manufacturers built locos of the same design. Steam was routed from the boiler to a series of vertically mounted cylinders that drove a series of shafts and gears to move the locomotive. The shafts, counterbalances and gears are visible along the out-sides of the locomotive. It is quite a sight to watch in action.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shay_locomotive

Heisler Locomotive

The Heisler was named after its inventor and patented in 1892. Its steam cylinders resemble a V-twin design as they are mounted vertically at an outboard angle of 45 degrees. Power was transmitted to a longitudinal shaft under the center of the locomotive frame with the gear case riding between the truck frames and driving the inner most axles. The outer axles were then driven by a set of connecting rods on the drive wheels. This design was the fastest of all three types, yet had equal pulling power.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Heisler_locomotive

Climax Locomotive

The Climax is named after the company that manufactured it. The concept inventor was Charles D Scott who ran a forest railroad in Pennsylvania and was thought to have been invented between 1875 and 1878. Unlike the Shay design, the Climax Class B was a symmetrical design, with drive cylinders on each side, angled upwards from horizontal by roughly 30 degrees. These cylinders drove a centrally mounted gearbox underneath the locomotive frame.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Climax_locomotive

Standard Gauge Too!

In addition to the narrow gauge operation, the site hosts a standard gauge tourist train with a diesel locomotive that departs from Felton to the Santa Cruz Pier on the old Southern Pacific Line....*continued*



On the Road Again

(continued)



The line was originally built by logging and lime kiln interests in the Santa Cruz mountains from Watsonville to San Jose, CA. Eventually, the lines were purchased and maintained by the Southern Pacific, extending north from the SP coastal mainline at Watsonville through Santa Cruz and into the mountains over to San Jose. Freight traffic declined in the 1920s to be replaced by a significant amount of passenger traffic due to the numerous recreational camps located in the mountains. After a series of floods necessitating expensive repairs, SP abandoned the portion from Felton to San Jose which included many bridges and tunnels. Eventually a tourist operation purchased the line from the Santa Cruz pier up to Felton. Operations vary from weekday to weekend and time of year.

A definitive source to all the railroads in the Santa Cruz area is Santa Cruz Trains Railroads of the Santa Cruz Mountains by Derek R. Whaley. I purchased my copy at the Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park gift shop. The park maintains a collection of old growth redwoods and hiking down along the creek, you can see some of the bridges and ROW of the railroad. The park lies adjacent to the railroad property and offers a convenient parking lot to access both, for a modest park entrance fee.

The SP maintained service on the Watsonville to Santa Cruz portion up into the 80's to service a large cement plant a few miles up the coast in Davenport. The plant still stands, but is closed and the branch from Santa Cruz to Davenport is abandoned. If you hike to the beaches north of Santa Cruz, you will cross the remains of the ROW. There is a You Tube video of operations of this train under UP.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HrkhWAKJ414>

Information regarding the Roaring Camp and Big Trees Railroad can be found here:

<https://roaringcamp.com/>

The Train Shop, Santa Clara, CA

While you are in the area, it's a short 30 mile drive to Santa Clara, and The Train Shop, with a large variety of trains of all scales and a huge selection of books. The store does not maintain a website, but I think they have a Facebook page. Google it.

Santa Cruz

In addition to the railroad, the redwoods park next door, Santa Cruz amusement boardwalk and beaches, and San Jose, there is plenty for everyone in the family to enjoy. I have made the drive from Orange County to Santa Cruz in 6 hours, so it is easily reached in a day from the LA basin.

On the Road Again

As I combed my archives for rail related trips and sights I have seen over the years, I decided to name a recurring column On the Road Again, where I will give a short summary of interesting places to visit or re-search more in depth on your own. I hope you find it enjoyable.



On the Road Again (continued)



Shay #1



Shay #1 Cylinders

**All photos taken
by myself**



Heisler #2



Heisler #2 With Open Air Coaches



On the Road Again (continued)



I took the following photos at UP (ex-SP) Colton yard in 2014 when they had moved UP Big Boy 4014 from the museum at the Pomona Fairgrounds to Colton in preparation for sending it back to the UP at Cheyenne, WY for refurbishment into running order. Here is more information on the current UP steam program and 4014:

<https://www.up.com/heritage/steam/4014/index.htm>





On the Road Again (continued)





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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.

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