



The Order Board

Volume 54 No. 1

March, 2026



Tracks Ahead for the Cajon Division

Upcoming Events

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March 28, 2026 Noon-4PM (see Flyer for details)

Midland Creek Layout Tour-Cajon Div, Nevada Chapter
1680 Rolling Hills Dr., Las Vegas, NV 89156

April 18, 2026 11AM-3PM (see Flyer for details)

Western Continental Layout Tour-Cajon Div, Nevada Chapter
9413 Steeplehill Dr., Las Vegas, NV 89117
Contact Craig McCormick at 702-606-5916 for gate access

April 25, 2026 8:30AM-4:30PM (see Flyer for details)

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

May 30, 2026 9AM-4PM (see Flyer for details)

Southern CA N Scale Train Show
Calvary Assembly of God Church
25501 Oak St., Lomita, CA 90717
<https://socalnscale.com/>



September 9-13, 2026 (see Flyer for details)

PSR All Aboard for 2026 Annual Convention
Double Tree by Hilton Hotel San Diego Mission Valley
7450 Hazard Center Dr., San Diego, CA 92108 USA
<https://www.sandiegodivision.org/index.php/convention-2026>

October, 2026

Prototype Modeler's Meet
The specific date and location are still being negotiated, but it will be in Bellflower, CA

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From the Desk of the Director

Gary Stenberg, Cajon Division Director



Greetings fellow Model Railroaders! 2026 has gotten off to an icy start, at least for me. My wife and I went to visit our eldest daughter and grandson in Nashville, Tennessee. We have a small vacation house there. I had every intention of working on my basement model railroad, but then... the great ICE STORM hit Nashville and we lost all electricity (as did about 250,000 other households.) You can't run a Model Railroad without electricity, unless it's "Dead Rail." If we had stayed in the house, when the temperature inside hit 31 degrees Fahrenheit, "Dead Rail" could have taken on an entirely different meaning. So instead of working on my Model Railroad, I had to stay at a local Hampton Inn. Fortunately the room was big enough that we could have family over.

Here in Southern California, and extending into Nevada, we enjoy pretty good weather (at least most of the time). Here, we can do modeling, visit hobby shops, go to Live Steam clubs and ride behind some pretty impressive models. Here we can do things with other model railroaders. Here we can go to model railroad social events. Here we can participate in the Cajon Division. Can I get a cheer? Here, here!!!

Our hope is to encourage model railroaders to get involved with the Cajon Division. We are currently looking for someone to become the new Chief Clerk. This position is a voting member of the Board of Directors and is tasked with taking minutes of the Boards meetings. In the thick of things, you get experience of how the Cajon Division runs. As an added bonus, you rapidly earn points toward the Achievement Program's Certificate "Association Volunteer." The job isn't that hard. I mean, after all, I did it. We also have an opening for the position of "Membership Chair." This position maintains the membership rolls and sends out, via email, the reminders for membership renewals. Association Volunteer points are also earned with this job. Both of these positions put you into an environment where you get to meet a lot of really cool people....namely, all of the rest of the membership.

By now you might have seen the new NMRA Logo as part of reinventing the NMRA. Along with that change we have a lot of things that the National organization wants to accomplish. We have a list of standards that the divisions need to comply with. Top of the list is "Effective Division Operations." This standard includes all of the things we are already doing, but adds a level of accountability through documentation. The next standard is to provide for "Member / Modeler Growth." Clinics, Celebration of Models (contests), Order Board articles, and the Achievement Program all go to support this standard. We also want to build the organization by getting new members and keeping all of the existing members. In order to do this, we are looking at fostering a welcoming community and providing social gathering events. We need to be more visible in the community and many opportunities are presenting themselves to represent our hobby.



From the Desk of the Director

(Continued)

The By-Laws for the Division that I have are dated July 23rd, 2018 and we may have a latter version somewhere. I've been working on converting it to a WORD document and correcting the outline numbering plan. I will propose putting a new revision to the membership for adoption.

You might ask what the Cajon Division board is working on since the National requirements were announced. First, the NMRA provided a checklist that was white letters on a black background, since I didn't want to use up all my black printer ink and had no idea to print it out normally, I converted the form into a WORD document that I can easily edit.

The Manual of Operations for the Cajon Division is dated October 18, 2018 and looks pretty good so no editing is required (hopefully). We may put it forward for revision adoption to at least acknowledge that we have reviewed it recently.

During the past quarter we have had Board members scouring the Inland Empire searching for a suitable site for the spring meet. Unfortunately, we haven't been able to locate a site that would allow us to hold the kind of meet that we've been accustomed to. We are continuing to look for an Inland Empire site that fits our needs and our price range. As it stands now, we intend to hold the spring meet at the Messiah Lutheran Church in Buena Park on Saturday April 25th.

Kurt Matthews, our Division Publications Chair and Webmaster has been working to change our website over to the new approved format. With the help of PSR's webmaster, Marshall Wales, Kurt now has access to the new version and will hopefully bring our Cajon Division website up-to-speed within the next month. As the website transitions, we hope to make all the corrections that are necessary and "Turn Off" the old, out of date, site.

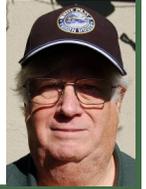
Looking ahead into the coming year, the Board of Directors will be discussing and scheduling future events. The Order Board will be our avenue to let the membership know what is on the horizon. Some items that will need to be scheduled include upcoming meets, layout tours, special events, and the election for Superintendent (around October).

In order to schedule events, we need to know what type of events you would like to see. So what would you like to see from the Cajon division? Give me a call or text me, Gary Stenberg 949-633-8098.



From the Head End

Paul Stoner, Cajon Division Superintendent



2026 Cajon Division Spring Meet

The Cajon Division Spring Meet will be held on Saturday, April 25, 2026. Once again it will be held at the Messiah Lutheran Church in Buena Park and will include the usual format of a swap meet (bring your own table), clinics, Celebration Room to display your best work, and a Hobo Auction. I'm also offering the opportunity to present a clinic. If you have an idea for a clinic, contact me. We may also hold a "Make-"N"-Take" event for anyone who would like to participate.

We Need a New Location for Future Events

Attendance trends suggest that the Buena Park location may no longer be meeting the needs of the membership. However, good venues for this type of function are getting scarce. The other issue the Cajon Board of Directors is aware of is that this is quite a distance to travel for our members in the Inland Empire, especially with rising gas prices. The Board has been searching for possible locations in the IE. The most possible locations might require a change in format for these events.

We Are Willing to Consider a Change in Event Format

One of the ideas being discussed is four smaller events, annually. This might include two meets in the IE and two more would be held in the OC. At least one of the meets would be similar to the current format, while at least two meets would be scaled back slightly (e.g., meeting only in the morning or in the afternoon). Participation by the membership must increase, however, for this type of event to be successful.

We Need Input from the Membership

The Board is seeking member input on future events.

1. Would you prefer more meets or fewer meets?
2. Should we retain the current format or explore alternatives?
3. What types of activities would you like included in future events?

We desperately need suggestions for locations and events. If you are a member of a group or organization that has access to a facility that may be available, please get in touch with us. Ideally, the location should have a large meeting room and several smaller rooms for clinics, but, at the moment, almost any location could be useful. This is particularly important to IE members if they want to see more events in their area.

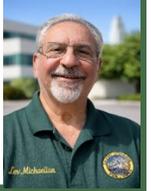
We Still Have Two Vacancies on the Board

I would like to welcome Lev Michaelian to the Board as the new Cajon Division Assistant Superintendent. Lev will be helping me arrange details for the Cajon Division. Sadly, we are still looking for a new Chief Clerk and a new Membership chairperson. Your input is essential to shaping the future of Cajon Division events. Please contact me or any Board member with your ideas and suggestions. Our contact information can be found on the Order Board mast head on page 2.



Meet Our New Assistant Superintendent

Lev Michaelian



We have a new Assistant Superintendent for California

This position has been open for quite sometime. Lev Michaelian has volunteered to fill it. His duties will be to assist Paul Stoner, Superintendent, in organizing events, soliciting volunteers and general planning. He has been a regular at the Cajon Events and local NMRA conferences. I have posted his contact information on page 2. If you have an idea for an event, want to volunteer for a home layout tour, or have any other general suggestions, feel free to drop Lev an email.

Lev's Biography in His Words

For as long as I can remember, Lionel trains circled our Christmas tree—right alongside the occasional tangled lights and family debates about who forgot to water the tree. Carrying on my father's tradition, I still set up O gauge trains each holiday season, proving that some things in life are simply too important to out-grow.

While I don't recall many commercial passenger train rides growing up, I do remember my father making sure we experienced trains in other ways—through visits to train museums and rides at Knott's Berry Farm and Disneyland. Apparently, he knew early on that I was destined to stay on track.

After retiring in 2020 from a career as a Certified Industrial Hygienist—where I provided environmental, health, and safety services to general industry—the model railroading bug finally bit...hard. Naturally, this led to building an N scale layout, because retirement clearly means thinking smaller while dreaming bigger. I have been a member of the National Model Railroad Association for the past three years and attended my first NMRA National Convention in Long Beach, followed by the Pacific Southwest Region Convention hosted by the Cajon Division last year. These experiences have strengthened both my enthusiasm for the hobby and my appreciation for the people who make it special.

Most recently, I joined the OC N'Gineers T-TRAK and N-TRAK groups, where I built several modules and have already participated in two train shows. It turns out retirement also includes a surprising amount of setup, teardown, and making sure everything runs smoothly—skills that seem to translate well both on and off the layout.

I look forward to supporting our Superintendent and serving the Board of Directors in any way I can. Simply put—I'm all aboard and ready to help keep things running on time...or at least closer to schedule than most of my trains.



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, four in 2024 and four in 2025, and we want to continue to schedule these events, which have been well attended and enjoyed by the membership. We have two scheduled in 2026 in Nevada so far, but need more layouts to feature this year.

We are looking for layout owners to join in the fun and host an open house this year or next. 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.



NMRA Achievement Program

MMR #798: Carl Heimberger (Cajon)

MMR #816: Terry Fearn (AZ)



Last year we announced our own Carl Heimberger had received his MMR Certificate. His biography is covered in the February 2026 edition of the NMRA Magazine on page 54. Check it out! In addition, NMRA announced that Terry Fearn of the AZ Div achieved MMR. His biography has not yet been published in the NMRA Magazine. Keep a look out for it in a future edition. Congratulations Carl and Terry!

All past/present PSR Members with MMR:

Pacific Southwest Region

- 4 Paul Mallery (D)
- 7 Edward A. Ravenscroft (D)
- 55 Ronald D. Tarjany
- 69 E. Leroy Thompson (D)
- 112 Bruce B. Cheever (D)
- 121 Raymond R. Thomas
- 130 R. B. Trombley (D)
- 174 Belding H. McCurdy
- 193 Robert C. Schimmel
- 218 Rodger Gredvig
- 221 George M. Feltovic
- 223 Albert Gibes
- 230 Carroll Powell (D)

- 236 John Sigurdson (D)
- 238 Allen W. Gross
- 241 R. H. Huebenthal (D)
- 242 Edwin Hall
- 246 David Cox
- 292 Mary Barstow
- 342 Paul Schmitt
- 353 Brian Block
- 375 Alan Barnes
- 491 Donald Ham (D)
- 518 Donald Fowler
- 522 Dick Roberts
- 538 David Irick
- 552 Gary Butts

- 569 Gordon Geiger
- 570 Paul Chandler
- 574 Bruce Petrarca
- 636 Dennis Ivison
- 662 John Lovely
- 683 Frank C. Baker
- 695 Bob Ginger
- 721 Paul Buhrke
- 728 Harold Helland
- 759 James Spice
- 770 Stephen Drees
- 798 Carl Heimberger
- 816 Terry Fearn



Membership Report

Let's welcome our new members since December 2025:

December:

Mark Freedkin, Irvine, CA

January:

Robert Johannes, Corona, CA

David Thede. Costa Mesa, CA

Gerardo Zavala-Garcia, San Juan Capistrano, CA

February:

Rick Mai, Indio, CA, RP*

*What is RP? It is a Rail Pass (Trial) Membership:

<https://www.nmra.org/trial-membership>

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 [member-](#)



What's Happening in Nevada

Craig McCormick



The Nevada Chapter of the Cajon Division is sponsoring two home layout tour events. Paul Mickelson's HO scale Midland Creek RR will be open on Saturday March 28 from noon-4PM. Lunch and refreshments will be served.

Then on Saturday April 18 from 11AM to 3PM, Craig McCormick's HO Scale Western Continental will be open. Refreshments will be served. Detailed information for both can be found in the Flyer section of this month's **Order Board**.

Come out and enjoy NMRA fellowship and train talk.



New Group Forming

Mark Schoenberger, a new member of the LA Division has an idea to form a local group in the Whittier/La Mirada/La Habra/Fullerton/Brea area. Mark is a long time modeler ready to stop being a Lone Ranger in the hobby.

Greetings All,

I am interested in creating a group of Railroad Hobbyists built upon our common interest. The would be for the purpose of fellowship and enjoying all things 'train'. We would welcome modelers of all experience levels whether you have a layout or not.

I have a home HO shelf layout that features switching. Yet, if you run another scale or enjoy constant running, no problem. Simply put, if you like trains and live a reasonable distance from Whittier, let's talk. I am in East Whittier between the cities of La Mirada and La Habra. Contact me at: cousin.iasper@yahoo.com

Mark Schoenberger

Your **Order Board** Editor, Kurt Matthews, lives in N. Fullerton (Cajon) and met with Mark at LA Division's Annual Meeting this month and we are excited to kick off this group. This is a great opportunity for the LA and Cajon Division border residents to informally get together, socialize, discuss model railroading, host a clinic or carpool to more distant layout tours. If you are interested, contact Mark (above) or myself (contact info on page 2).

Live a little further away and still want to participate? No problem! **Everyone** is welcome!



Upcoming N-Scale Show

May 30, 2026

It's the big one! This year's Southern CA N-Scale Train Show is scheduled for May 30, 2026 from 9AM-4PM in Lomita, CA (see address on page 1). There will be 19+ vendors on-site, displayed layouts, a raffle and free clinics. It is a free event for participants. All proceeds from vendor fees and table rentals benefit the Church's Children's Group. The four clinics will be Tools for Modeling, 3D Printing, N-Scale Detailing and DC to DCC conversion. A flyer for the event appears in the flyer section of this edition of **The Order Board**.

<https://socalnscale.com/>



The Editor's Column

Kurt Matthews, Publications/Web Chair



Revised Publication Schedule

Last year, I went to a bi-monthly publication schedule with a number of supplemental editions. This year I am going back to a quarterly publication schedule and still plan on using supplemental editions for special events, such as our spring meet.

New Look NMRA Logo

As I mentioned in the October 2025 *Order Board*, NMRA National has developed a new branding strategy, which includes a new logo. I won't go into the details as to how/why here, as they have been covered in the NMRA Magazine and email messages to the membership. A new logo is being developed by the PSR Division which will draw from the appearance of National's logo. It will replace the legacy Cajon Division logo (in the upper left of the title banner of this edition of *The Order Board*) sometime in the near future. I still plan to include the legacy logo in future editions of *The Order Board* as it represents Cajon's history.

Latest on You Tube

The story of SP's West Colton Yard:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3IU6xFnXWaM>

General Motors shipment of automobiles in the early 1970s:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iTtcPxSag50&t=100s>



3D Printed Vehicles and Misc Items

Toys in the Attic is a company specializing in 3D Printed vehicles. They have a large line of cars and trucks, many from 1910-1960 vintage, along with other detail items in HO and S. Thanks to Charles Hepperle of LA Division for sharing this at the last Sand House Chat. Check it out!

<https://www.toysintheatticinc.com/1929-ford-model-a?page=5>

Cajon Division Website

Our website is quite out of date. The plan is to have the old website superseded by a new look and host with the same format as the other PSR Divisions. I have taken the necessary training modules for the new host system and am working on making the necessary updates. I am getting help from Marshall Wales, PSR Webmaster, in this endeavor. Stay tuned! When the new site is 'open for business', I will make a general announcement.

Thanks to our Volunteers

Special thanks to the following members for the staffing the membership table at the Costa Mesa Great Train Show in February. On Saturday it was Paul Stoner, Bob Calicchia and Mark Carnigham and on Sunday, Gary Stenberg and Bob Calicchia.



The Editor's Column

(Continued)

Want to Host a Clinic?

Our April meet is the perfect opportunity to contribute to the Cajon Division and modeling in general by giving a railroad related clinic. It can be modeling or prototype based. It is also a great way for you to meet other members in NMRA.

Paul Stoner and Lev Michaelian will be looking for volunteers and subjects for the upcoming meet. You also get credit towards the Author Category of the NMRA Achievement Program. The requirements are all here:

<https://www.nmra.org/author>

Got a Modeling Question?

If you have a modeling or prototype related question you would like to propose to the greater Cajon NMRA community drop me a line at editor@cajondivision.org and I will publish it in the next **Order Board**. Hopefully, someone will provide an answer that I can publish in the following edition. Currently, I publish on a quarterly basis, but if I get the answer sooner, I can forward it to you directly before publishing that answer in the following edition.



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 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!



Building My Model RR-Benchmark

Patrick Rogan



My goal has been to build my own model railroad at home for me to enjoy without leaving my home.

My wife and I decided to move to a new house and location around 5 years ago. We made the purchase, but due to delays with COVID, we did not move in until a little over 4 years ago. The house included a golf cart garage [Figure 1] that was designated as my hobby room. Since this was a new house, I was able to add 2 additional electrical outlets in the garage at normal house level of approximately 12 inches from the floor. In retrospect I should have added 3 instead of the two outlets. The garage also had predetermined 2 garage electrical outlets that were garage height of approximate 4 feet from the floor.



Figure 1 Interior View of Golf Cart Garage

The garage dimensions are 7.7 by 14.8 feet [Figure 2], a decent size for me to create my layout.

But as we found out, downsizing created its own problems. The new house was minus a full three garage, one bedroom, one family room/loft and an office alcove.

Downsizing created lost areas in the house we previously used for storage.

Where were we going to put the file cabinet with important papers and other memorabilia that we had stored in the third car garage? Same with other items. The file cabinet and my wife's art supply cabinet/dresser had to be stored in the golf cart garage. So now the first 4 feet on each side of the golf cart garage was unavailable. My layout now would only be approximately 7 x 10 feet.



Figure 2 – Golf Cart Garage Dimensions



Building My Model RR-Benchwork

(Continued)

To me, the first avenue for creating a layout is to determine where it is to be located and how it would fit into the desired location. That is why my first approach is to define the benchwork area and design the benchwork first, before designing my railroad.

My workbench is a butcher block top that was 25 by 49 inches and 36 inches high. I later added wheels at the bottom of the workbench that raised the height to 38 5/8. Since I do not have access to the first four feet of the garage [where I planned to place the workbench], I decided to store the workbench, when not in use, down the middle of the garage with the layout all around.

The other obstacle was that one side of the garage wall included seven feet of windows. These windows do not open but we had put shutters [to match the rest of the windows in the front of the house] on them that would potentially need to be opened. Another wrinkle to my layout design is that we had a cabinet that I would use for storage. The dimensions of the cabinet are 31 by 16 1/4 inches by 37 1/4 inches high. The height of the window from the floor is 43 inches. Therefore, the benchwork needed to be higher than the cabinet and lower than the windows with some clearance above the cabinet for wiring.

For several reasons, I chose not to attach the layout to the garage walls. I was going to build my layout with modular units that would not be permanent.

Before and after moving, I was given five different modular benchwork units that I was going to use for my layout. Two units are 30 inches by 4 feet with a solid top, the only thing I need to do with them was to attach the legs. The other three are also 30 inches by 4 feet, but had track and turnouts on them.

I decided to start working with the modular units with track. I removed the track and turnouts. After removal, I discovered that the units were not very solid, had foam as the base with little support, and the frames were not solid or sturdy. It was evident that this benchwork would not be useful for my layout. I dismantled these three modular units, cleaned up the track and turnouts and threw away much of the track as it was old and appeared to be rusty in spots. I was able to salvage the 23 turnouts to hopefully be used on the layout.

So now I am left with only two 30 inches by 4 feet modular units. I attached 2x2 inch legs and 2-inch elevator bolts [**Figure 3**] to the bottom of the legs to be able to balance and align the legs properly.



Figure 3 – Elevator Bolts

At the back of the garage, I did not want any unnecessary legs to block under layout access. Therefore, I designed a module to extend the entire width of the garage dimensions 30 inches by 7 1/2 feet. The frame was built with 1x4 inch sides and platform support, 2x2 inch legs, and 3/4 inch plywood [**Figures 4 and 5**].



Building My Model RR-Benchwork

(Continued)



Figure 4 Top side of modular benchwork.



Figure 5 Underside of modular benchwork.

I was told that I needed to plan my background as I design my layout. At this stage in the process, I have no idea what that background would be. I also realized that once the benchwork was complete, I would not have access to the back of the benchwork.

I designed a method to be able to add the background once I finished the benchwork and designed my layout. Using 1x2's and 1/8-inch wallboard, I created a section that measured the approximate length of the modular unit by about 5 inches wide. I then screwed this into the bottom of the benchwork frame leaving enough gap to add background later [***Figures 6 and 7***].



Building My Model RR-Benchwork

(Continued)

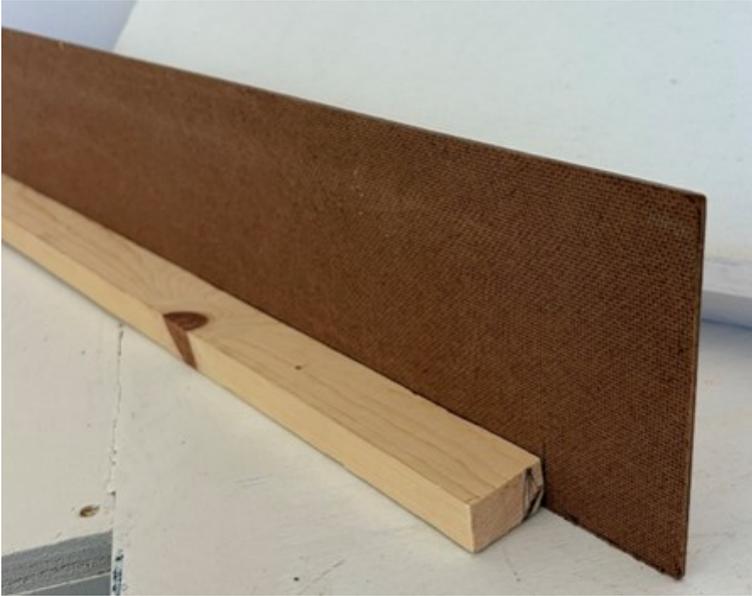


Figure 6

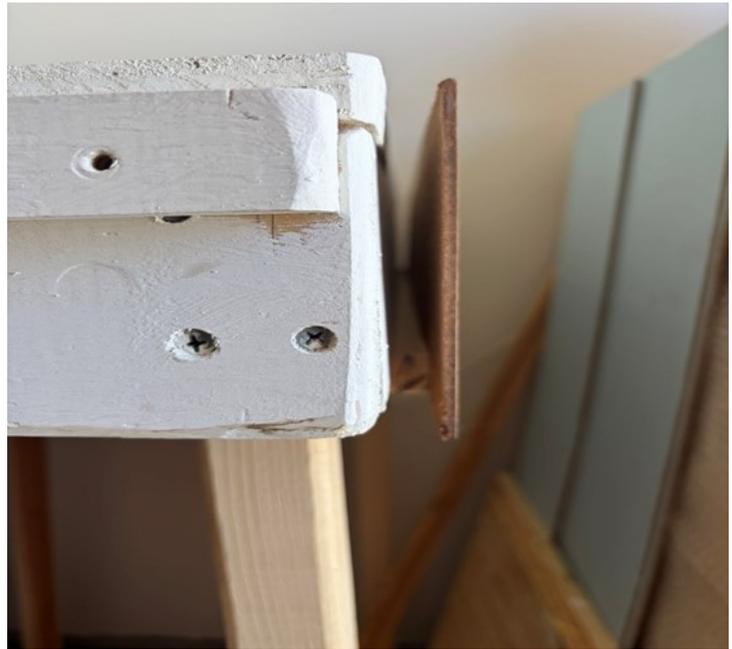


Figure 7

I was now ready to install this part of the benchwork [30 inch by 7 ½ feet] into the garage. But a problem occurred, as we were installing this part of the benchwork we were unable to make the benchwork turn and place it at the back of the garage. The measurements were too precise, and I did not realize at the time I needed the ability to turn the benchwork. Unfortunately, the legs were attached in a way that would make them unable to be reattached once the benchwork was in place. It was also too difficult to move the file cabinet and art cabinet/dresser to install the benchwork in its planned place.



Building My Model RR-Benchwork

(Continued)

Therefore, even with precise planning, another alternative needed to be created. As a result, I now placed this module along the wall with the garage windows. Two problems occurred, the two 4-foot modules would not be aligned in length with this 7 ½ foot module and there was no connection at the back of the garage between the two sides of the garage. I still did not want any unnecessary legs.

I designed the benchwork crossover at the back of the garage without legs and needed to bolt the benchwork to both sides. This piece of benchwork was approximately 36 inches by 25 1/4 inches. I used 2 ¼ inch long full thread hex bolts, with hex nuts of ¼ by 20 and fender washers ¼ by 1 [Figure 8] to attach not only this piece of benchwork, but using the same method to attach all modules together [Figure 9]. In hindsight, wing nuts instead of the hex nuts could have been an alternative.



Figure 8 Screw washer and bolt assembly.

At this stage, the benchwork length was still 24 inches short on one side and 18 inches short on the other side to reach the desired 9 ½ foot length, and again I still did not want any unnecessary legs. The 18-inch side was designed the same way as the other module I built, but with only two legs, as I would attach the legless side with bolts to secure the connection.

I was planning to do the same with the window



Figure 9 Underside of benchwork with screws and holes for wires.

side, but a complication occurred that I did not foresee. As I was pulling out my workbench from the middle of the layout benchwork I discovered that it did not allow me enough room to sit on the side of the workbench to work effectively. It would only allow me to work lengthwise, thus not allowing me to fully utilize the entire workbench.



Building My Model RR-Benchwork

(Continued)

Therefore, instead of using 1x4s all around this module, I used 1 by 4s along two sides and 1 by 3s along the other two sides, with one of the legs offset from the corner. In this way it allowed the workbench to fit under the benchwork, allowing easier access and better use of the workbench [**Figure 10**].



Figure 10 Workbench sliding under the benchwork.

I plan to build a lift up gate, but I will not fully address this until sometime during the track layout. What I did do, was put a temporary lift up section on the benchwork to illustrate the concept and better visually aid in planning the actual layout.

The final benchwork was painted and can be seen in [**Figure 11**].



Building My Model RR-Benchwork

(Continued)



Figure 11 The completed benchwork.

This was an adventure I enjoyed and took me months to complete. I have not done any woodworking projects for over 40 years. I used only a drill, a circular saw and hand tools. I learned a lot since I started this project, not only in how to do something, but by completing a project that was difficult for me to do as I had not done this in a long time. If I could do this, anyone can accomplish the same thing.

I hope this article was helpful and for some an inspiration to create your own layout. In the next article I will describe the steps in designing my actual layout. For questions and comments, you can contact me at patrick.rogan@gmail.com.

About The Author

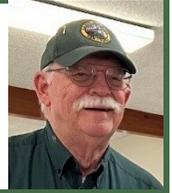
Patrick Rogan has been an active CPA for over 45 years and is a retired college professor. In college, Patrick built a 4x8 DC layout in his parents' home. Life got in the way, and he did not revisit the hobby until the beginning of 2016 where he joined the Sacramento Model Railroad Historical Society and in 2017 joined the NMRA. Patrick moved back to Southern California and in 2019 joined the North County Model Railroad Society in Oceanside. For a short time, he was a member of the Orange County Modular Railroaders.

Patrick has earned the Dispatch and the Volunteer Achievement awards. For a period of time, Pat was the clinic co-chair of the 2024 NMRA SurfLiner National Convention. He has recently served as the clinic chair of the Pacific Southwest Express 2025 convention and as Cajon Division's Membership Chair.



From the Past

Mike Allee, Contest Chair



FROM THE PAST

Mike Allee, Contest Chair

I've been modeling "railroad" for over sixty years and the hobby has changed a lot. Years ago when I was in the LA Division, I wrote and reported about articles from that series. The logo above is from that series. One of my sources was twenty-seven articles mimeographed on 8 ½ x 11 paper stapled together, probably put together in the fifties. If mistakes were made correcting was a chore and some were left. To save space there were no spaces after a comma or a period. There were paragraph indentions. I've changed the wording and typos in this paragraph only taking a matter of a few seconds to correct. In the bygone days this would have most likely been hand written in cursive (a art that is almost gone) with words crossed out or even rewritten then carefully typed, up to an hours work after correcting the mimeograph stencil with green correction fluid.

Since then the hobby has grown and diversified with new products and new ways to make products, DCC has changed the way we operate our trains even causing modelers to come together and operate trains mimicking the real railroads. You couldn't do that easily with DC. This is leading up to the subject of the article.

THE USE OF ARON ALPHA AND THE NEW CEMENTS

Aron Alpha and the new cyanoacrylate glues are a blessing to the modeler. They afford a quick, strong, easy method of applying parts to the model. Remember, they can be dangerous. Keep Acetone, the solvent, on hand at all times. This stuff sticks it to it, it to you and you to you. It is packed in Japan near sea level; your higher atmospheric pressure and its extremely low viscosity will literally make your hair grow. ***Make sure to use adequate ventilation, as vapors are harmful to the modeler!...The Editor***

To open, inception in the end of the tube. DO NOT REMOVE IT. The increased pressure and its release as you remove it will glue your three fingers firmly to the pin. First shave the plastic finer areas. Get a piece of kitchen toweling and fold it into a 2" square. Grasp then with the towel and remove. Any glue will be harmlessly absorbed by the paper. Hold pieces with tweezers, spring clamps or spring clothespins, but NEVER with your fingers. Apply glue to the parts held in the assembly. The glue works on absence of air from its surface, so it will not dry quickly. Use the corner of a piece of kitchen toweling and blot the extra glue from the joint; it will set immediately. The bugaboo of this type of glue, and epoxies, is skin oil. Be meticulously clean and use a solvent to clean the parts and their application areas. Handle only with tweezers after cleaning. This type glue lends itself to fine applications and is not meant for wood or major structural assembly. Because of its high viscosity it is not advisable for adhering parts to wood, however where stirrups and door hardware are to be applied, use the acetone glue method twice to form a base in the area that the fixture is to be attached. Glue part on, blot, hold down while using acetone to clean the siding of the glue mixture.



From the Past

(Continued)

STUCK

Don't get stuck on you job. The solvent for Aron Alpha is acetone. It'll unstick all that work you did on the beautiful Brassier. So don't use acetone as a degreaser prior to painting. Ask Roy Sutton about the spare pars at the bottom of the bowl!

We all know this information, I'm sure many of us found out about this glue the hard way and still are being reminded. So be careful as you build your model and please let us see it in the Celebration Room at the next meet.



Department of Interesting

Interesting Photo of UP Flatbed Trailer

Photo courtesy of Alan Gaines via George Ellwood's Fallen Flags website. Photo dated 8/19/1989 taken in Duplo, IL. The trailer would make an interesting weathering project. The KarTrak ACI bar code is still attached 10+ years after that system was no longer utilized. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/KarTrak>





Book Corner

Kurt Matthews Publications/Web Chair

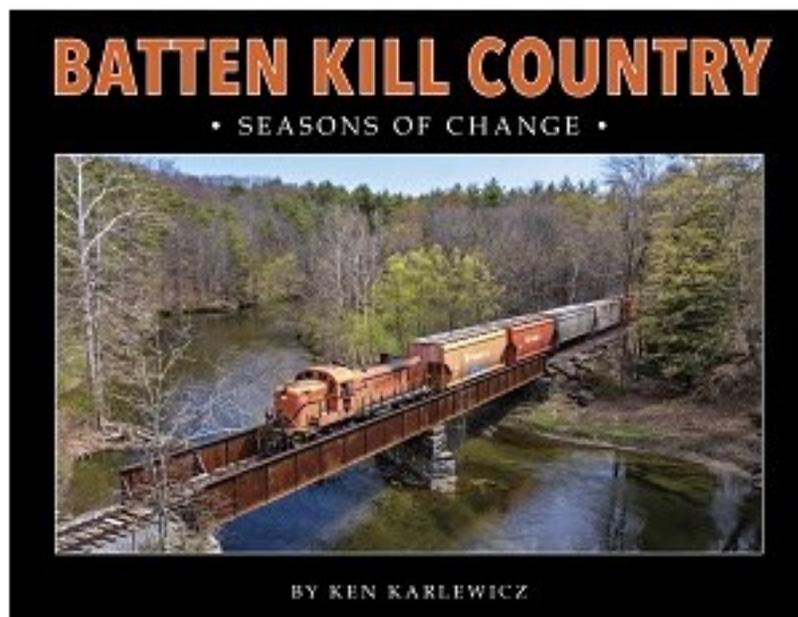
Batten Kill Country Seasons of Change by Ken Karlewicz, Double K Publishing

The Batten Kill Railroad is a short line operating northeast of Albany, NY. It's origin was the Greenwich & Johnsonville Railroad that was purchased by the Delaware & Hudson, but still operated as an independent until the line was embargoed in 1981. Ron Crowd purchased the remains of the G&J and D&H Washington County Branch (from a connection with the Boston Maine at Eagle Bridge, NY north to Salem, NY). The G&J ran west from Greenwich Junction with the D&H just south of Salem to Thomson, NY on the Hudson River. The line still operates as the Batten Kill Railroad, but its line is much truncated from Eagle Bridge to East Greenwich, NY. The railroad is currently famous for its stable of owned, leased and loaned Alco motive power including an S-2, RS-3s and RS-36s.

The book outlines the history of the railroad from the D&H ownership to present day with plenty of color photos of various motive power over the years and maintenance activities. The book is hardcover, 175 pages and arranged in roughly chronological order. I did find the transition from Ron Crowd (due to his death) to Bill Taber and subsequently the Southern New England Railroad a bit fuzzy and wish there were more details provided.

I purchased the book for \$70.50 at a discounted price from retail. The railroad would make a great model railroad project for those with limited space as it is primarily single track, interchanges with one railroad (now Pan Am/CSX) with short trains of mainly covered hoppers of fertilizer and yes, Alco 1st and 2nd generation diesel power. The G&J did operate under steam as it dates back to the 1800s, but that history is only described briefly in this volume.

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





Book Corner

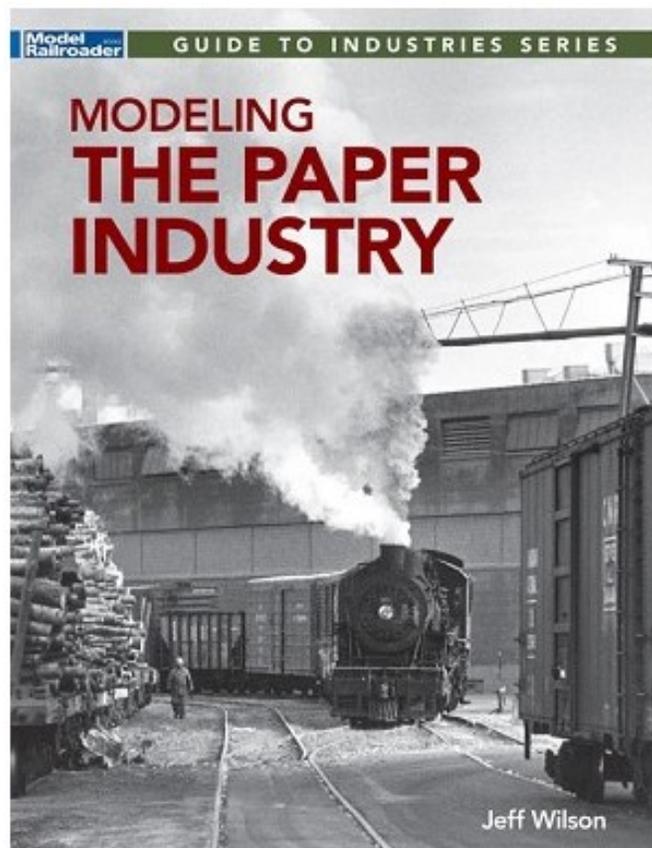
Kurt Matthews Publications/Web Chair

Modeling the Paper Industry by Jeff Wilson, Firecrown Publishing, MRR Guide to Industries Series

This book is part of the Guide to Industries Series published under the Model Railroader banner (formerly Kalmbach Publishing). I have many of this series that delve into specific industries that I have a personal interest in modeling. I plan to model the Delaware & Hudson, whose north end from Albany to the Canadian border hosted a number of paper plants making everything from newsprint and copy paper to tissue and paper sacks. The D&H also transported newsprint from Canada and New England to cities all over the northeast via various connections.

I found the book to be quite informative and it spans changes in the industry from its origins to modern day, including changes in related carloads both inbound and outbound. The book does talk about the various chemicals used in the paper making industry but lacks specifically discussing which chemicals are utilized for which type of papers. For instance, tissue paper requires different 'ingredients' than copy paper. I had to further research that on the internet, which was not all that specific either. The 'ingredients' determine what type of tank cars will be inbound with various chemicals. Otherwise, I found it a good reference book to add to my collection.

It is a paper back with a mix of black/white and color photos. There are 112 pages with two chapters devoted on modeling ideas. I purchased my copy for \$21.50 at a discounted price from retail, although I have picked up other volumes in this series at the same price at local hobby shops.





LA Division Annual Meeting



I had the opportunity to attend the LA Division's Annual Membership Meeting and Dinner at Frantone's Pizza in Cerritos, CA. Paul Ellis of Scale Trains was the guest speaker. A special appearance was made by Mary Barstow, MMR 292. Mary was instrumental in the earlier days of the LA Division and her layout, The Palos Verdes Pacific can be viewed here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IOXhaw99VNM>

Paul began his talk with a personal history of his career in model railroading with his first job at Hobby Warehouse in Lakewood, CA. He then moved on to Prestige Hobbies in Buena Park, CA, followed by a job as graphics designer at Microscale Decals, and then Athearn. He co-created Scale Trains who currently employs 24 people working out of their warehouse in Cleveland, TN. They have a team of artists using Adobe Illustrator to create the model design from builder and operator drawings and blueprints. The final model design, tooling and production is overseas. Tooling costs are typically in the low six figures.

Product decisions are based on suggestions from customers at train shows and by email. The overall product cycle can be 2 to 3 years. It takes typically 6 months from final design to receipt of completed models. Once tooling is complete, samples are made and inspected to the designs for accuracy and any changes are made to the tooling prior to final production.

Scale Trains has also recently purchased the lines of MTH, Fox Valley Models and Exact Rail.

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

Scale Trains also produced a You Tube video on how model trains are made:

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



Frantone's



Paul Ellis



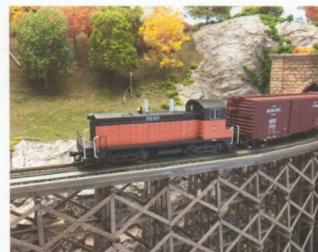
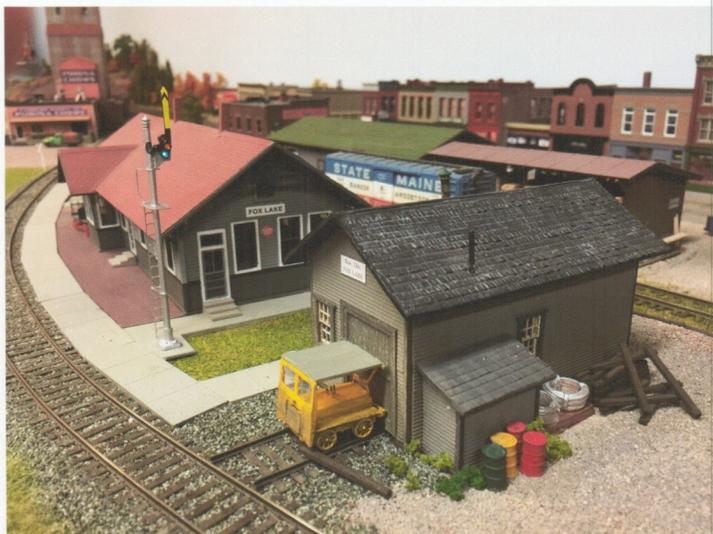
LA Division Layout Tour

The Northern Division of the Milwaukee Road



I ventured out to Burbank, CA in January for LA Division's Layout Tour of Jeff Traintime's HO Scale Northern Division of the Milwaukee Road. It is a fabulous layout, well constructed and detailed. The flyer below outlines the layout's particulars. Thanks to Jeff for hosting!

THE NORTHERN DIVISION of the Milwaukee Road



A secondary mainline with history

Originally the 1850s mainline between Milwaukee and Portage, Wisconsin, within 10 years the Northern Division was rendered secondary by a shorter, straighter route between the two cities. In spite of this demotion, the division prospered and grew, with a branch added to Berlin and Ripon in 1857, and another to Fond du Lac in 1877. Centrally located Horicon became the Division Headquarters, while important interchange traffic with the Soo Line was exchanged at Rugby Junction near Slinger.

Although mainline service had disappeared, several freight and passenger trains moved on the division daily. In addition, when weather or repair work closed the mainline through Watertown, all Milwaukee to Minneapolis traffic was diverted to the Northern Division, including the famous Hiawatha streamliners.

This current view of the Northern Division is set in time during September of 1957, as baseball's Milwaukee Braves are about to embark upon their World Series victory. Business may be down in Fox Lake, Slinger, Menomonee Falls, Horicon, Fond du Lac and other cities along the Northern Division, but hopes are high.

JEFF TRAINTIME Burbank, California

ON THE NORTHERN DIVISION:

- Scale: HO
- Size: 40' x 20' 13' x 25'
- Theme: Milwaukee Road branch line
- Locale: Southeast Wisconsin
- Era: 1950s
- Style: Double deck walk-in; standard helix and spread helix
- Mainline run: 160 feet; Yards: 60 feet; Staging: 40 feet
- Minimum mainline radius: 30"
- Minimum mainline turnout: no. 6
- Maximum grade: 2%
- Benchwork: L-girder and shelf
- Height: 41" - 60"
- Roadbed, track & scenery: variety
- Control: NCE DCC w/15 amps of Tam Valley Depot power boosters
- All locomotion is sound-equipped



LA Division Layout Tour

(Continued)





LA Division Layout Tour

(Continued)





LA Division Layout Tour

(Continued)



2026 Sat, March 28 2026

GREAT EVENT

GRAND RAILROAD TOUR

Paul Mickelson's HO Scale

MIDLAND CREEK RR



ALL TRAINS LEAVE

Las Vegas Station

1680 Rolling Hills Dr.

Las Vegas, NV 89156

Phone: 702-438-2086

SCHEDULE

Noon – 4PM

EXCLUSIVE FARE

Free to NMRA Members & Guests

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

Lunch & Refreshments 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--

2026 Sat, April 18 2026

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!

See the Latest Layout Progress
As Usual, Expert Modeling Advice Available
Bragdon, DCC, Juicers, Operations, Trackwork,
Craftsman Kits, Loco Conversions, Scratch Building, Weathering
--You Name it, We'll Discuss it--

Cajon

Division- NMRA
Spring - 2026

Saturday
April 25, 2026



8:30 AM-4:30 PM



Clinics
Swap Meet
Hobo Auction
Modelers - Show & Tell
Celebration of Model Railroading
General Membership Meeting
Awards Ceremony

TARIFF

Event Registration

- NMRA Member: \$10.00
- Non-Members: \$15.00
- 18 and Under Free *with Parent/Guardian Only*

Pizza and soft-drink lunch provided

Swap Meet Space:

- Free for NMRA Members
- Others: \$5.00 / 6' space
- Bring your own tables, chairs, shade

MODELS: Bring a model for contest, AP judging or Show & Tell and get one free Hobo Auction ticket sheet!

Messiah Lutheran Church
Courtyard
6625 Dale St, Buena Park

Near the 5 and 91
Free parking

The convention registration direct link is here:

<https://sandiegodivisionpsrnmra.regfox.com/all-aboard-for-2026>

Additional information and the link for the hotel reservation is here:

<https://www.sandiegodivision.org/index.php/convention-2026>



Pacific Southwest Region 2026 Convention National Model Railroad Association

Presented by: The San Diego Division

September 9th to 13th, 2026

Come join us in beautiful San Diego for the PSR 2026 Model Railroaders Convention.

The convention has many model railroad activities including an array of clinics, prototype tours, contests, layout tours, hobo breakfast, hobo auction and a swap meet. The introductory event will be held at the famous Model Railroad Museum in Balboa Park. The final event will be the Banquet. The speaker will be SP Author & Historian Jeff Cauthen.

The San Diego Division has some excellent layouts, many of which have been published in popular model railroad magazines. You will be able to view those layouts during the convention. Clinics will include Modeling with the PSR Masters led by Gary Butts, MMR and special guest clinics via Zoom. There will be activities every night of the convention.



Sirius Satellite Radio Show: Well-known radio personality and Hollywood walk of famer, "Shotgun" Tom Kelly will interview model railroaders attending the convention which will be aired on his radio show.

The convention will take place at **the Doubletree by Hilton Hotel San**

Diego-Mission Valley at 7450 Hazard Center

Drive, San Diego, California. The hotel is near a trolley stop that provides access to most areas of San Diego. Mission Valley is a centrally located area with access to popular areas of San Diego including restaurants, shopping centers and the beaches.



The convention registration direct link is here:

<https://sandiegodivisionpsrnmra.regfox.com/all-aboard-for-2026>

Additional information and the link for the hotel reservation is here:

<https://www.sandiegodivision.org/index.php/convention-2026>

You can also book a room by phoning 800-222-TREE. Make sure to mention that you are booking to attend the Pacific Southwest Region Model Railroaders Convention.



Free Event

N Scale Swap Meet

N-Trak Layouts

T-Trak Layouts

Raffle

Clinics

Snacks & Drinks

(Concessions sold by Church Children's)

Vendors fee: \$20 Donation to Church
Table Rental: \$20 Donation to Church
Contact: Frank Hinojosa (714)209-3051
fhinojosa21@hotmail.com

SPECIAL INVITATIONS:

- National Modeling Railroad Association (NMRA)
- Belmont Shore Model Railroad
- CPRX Model Railroad
- Group 160 N-Trak
- N-Trak Express
- East Valley Lines Model Railroad
- N-Land Pacific Free-Mon
- Golden Empire Historical & Modeling Society
- San Diego Society of N Scale
- Short Track Railroad
- Orange County 'N' Gineers
- Anywhere East & West Railroad
- New York, Ontario and Western Railway

LOCATION:

Calvary Assembly of God—Lomita (Gymnasium)

25501 Oak St, Lomita, CA 90717

You should have received an email from National regarding a new benefit called Hello by Grouper. Hello by Grouper is a healthy-living platform included with your NMRA membership at no additional cost, designed to help members stay active, engaged, and inspired. As more members come aboard “Hello” from the NMRA and other national associations, the platform continues to come to life with live and on-demand classes, unique experiences, wellness tools, inspiring content, and compelling interest groups - all created to support everyday well-being.

This is a working link:

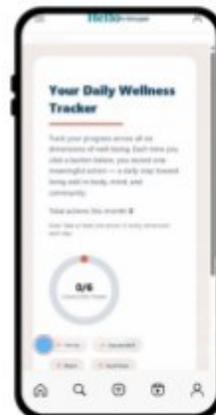
https://hello.hellogrouper.com/enroll?ecode=52644f8c-ad44-4da6-afef-377a81706f04&utm_source=map_nmra&utm_campaign=hbg_launch_1225



Connection is Health

Hello by Grouper supports healthy habits through classes, connection, and community. A free benefit for dues paying members of NMRA.

join.hellogrouper.com/nmra



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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

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X (formerly Twitter): @RMHobbies



The Original Whistle Stop

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

Sunday 11:00 pm - 4:00 pm

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

(626) 796-7791

2490 E. Colorado Blvd., Pasadena, CA 91107



The NMRA Partnership Program has negotiated discounts from several hobby related manufacturers that are listed in the *NMRA Magazine* and on the NMRA Website. If you order items from the companies on the list, remember to ask for the NMRA Discount.

<https://www.nmra.org/partnerships>