



The Order Board

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2026 SPRING MEET OF THE CAJON DIVISION

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This is a Special Edition of The Order Board

Highlighting the 2026 Spring Meet.

Announcements:

Joel Morse is now Cajon Division's Membership Chair.

Lev Michaelian is dual hatted as Assistant Superintendent, CA and Social Media Chair taking that over from Joel.

We still have an opening for Chief Clerk. It's an easy assignment of taking minutes at the monthly Board of Directors Meeting and publishing those at the following meeting. BOD meetings are recorded, so documenting is not hectic. Let Paul Stoner know if you are interested.

Our 2026 Fall Meet is tentatively scheduled for October 24. Keep that date open on your calendars.

Check out our Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/CajonDivisionPSRGroup/about/>

The new website is up and running and will be kept up to date, especially for news and upcoming events. Nevada will be having a tentative June event. Check back often:

<https://www.cajondivision.org/home/>

Thanks to Lev Michaelian for creating the new Cajon Division logo.

Next full edition of the Order Board will be out in late June. It will have a number of interesting modeling articles.



The Editor's Column

Kurt Matthews, Publications Chair



This is a supplemental edition of The Order Board focused on Cajon's recent Spring Meet on April 25, 2026 in Buena Park, CA. There were a total of 50 attendees from the Cajon, LA and San Diego Divisions and four swap meet vendors.

A big thanks to the volunteer staff who handled sign-ins, set up of the various rooms and swap meet vendors, organizing the food & drinks, setting up of the Hobo Auction and final tear down.

Sign-In Table



Swap Meet



There were four clinics presented. The clinics were well attended. Thanks to all the presenters who donated their time to prepare and present their topics.

1. **Understanding the new NMRA Evaluation Matrix** by Carl Heimberger, MMR. The clinic discussed the newly developed NMRA matrix for Merit Award evaluation.
2. **Operations on My Mojave Division** by Don Fowler, MMR. The clinic discussed how operations such as timetables, passenger train schedules, definitions and operating rules, train orders route schematics and train sequencing schedules.
3. **Building Turnouts Using Fast Tracks** by Harold Helland, MMR. The clinic discussed the tools and basic steps to build a turnout using Fast Tracks assembly fixtures.
4. **LEDs 101:** by Gary Butts, MMR. The clinic discussed the basics of LED function, types, use, power supply requirements, techniques for current control with easy math needed to design LED circuits.

Clinics



Lunch and Hobo Auction

The usual lunch of Domino's pizza along with drinks was provided with admission. After lunch a number of announcements were given by Paul Stoner, followed by the model awards ceremony and the Hobo Auction. The auction consisted of many items including models of various scales, books, shirts and a few non-railroad related items. A book of tickets sells for \$5 and one or more tickets are placed in the red cup next to the auctioned item. Once all tickets are placed, a single winning ticket is drawn from each cup for each item. More than one ticket can be placed in the cup to increase your chances of winning. All but a very few items were bid on and won.



Lunch



Hobo Auction



Contest Report: 2026 Spring Meet



This result report is short for one reason only four modelers entered models for evaluation, three, or display only, two. Is the Cajon membership no longer modelers and spend several ten dollar bills to have an assembled car off-the-shelf or buying someone else's work at a swap meet? Come on fellow Cajon members, build a model or two and submit them to the Celebration room either for evaluation or just display. With many categories to submit a model in, you could very easily wind up with a ribbon and certificate. There were only two categories with models submitted for evaluation, two in Structure On-Line and one in Structure Off-Line.

If you're at all interested, I suggest two places to go. One is the NMRA website and under Education investigation are the categories and their descriptions, two is the Cajon website with our rules, almost the same as NMRA, and the forms 901 & 902 to fill out. Don't write a narrative but rather list the points of your process. Don't forget to add pictures of reference if scratch building or kit-bashing. Notice that 3-D printing is included in scratch if you draw the plans. Kit-bashing means modifying the model or adding details, like interiors. For further information contact Cajon AP Manager, Gary Butts, PSR AP Manager, Carl Heimberger, or myself Mike Allee, Cajon & PSR Contest Chair, Rmallee@mac.com. If contacting me use words like Cajon, contest or model building in the email title. I get many emails and I go through the list quickly and usually not every day.

The following is a reprint of a portion of an article I submitted to the Order Board and was printed in the March 2023 addition. "Many of us are a little apprehensive about having our models on a table where others can evaluate the model. There's a difference in a club member evaluating our model and a meeting member evaluating our model. The meeting member has no ideal whose model it is and any comment they make is blowing in the wind. They've compared your model to their work. Is their work on the table? No, because they think their model doesn't measure up, even though it more than likely does. There are other modelers looking at your presentation and admiring the work because they know the time and effort you put in, not to mention the difficulty and enjoyment of building the model. Sure models are compared one to another by the attendees. But when you think about it, they can't be compared other than maybe in difficulty, unless it's the same model. The model shows where you are on the path of learning techniques, which never ends. Where else can one receive uninhibited feedback on your modeling techniques? Two modelers looking at a model are going to discuss what they see and what they'd do if they built the model or point out things that could be improved or how good something looks. Both, if you think about it, are positive rewards. A negative comment tells you the area you need to address by either practice or change. A positive comment tells you that you've mastered a skill and now have more time to work on other skills."



Contest Room





Fall Meet Model Contest Awards

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

Best of Show & Merit Award

Gary Butts, MMR, Oyster Bay House

Model Contest-Evaluated

Online Structure

1st Place: Harold Helland, MMR, Single Stall Engine House

2nd Place: Paul Stoner, Acme Transship Warehouse

Popular Choice

Arts & Crafts

1st Place: Tom Stumpf, The Lost Mine

2nd Place: Tom Stumpf, Batman & Batmobile

Structure

1st Place: Gary Butts, MMR, Oyster Bay House

2nd Place: Paul Stoner, Acme Transship Warehouse

3rd Place: Harold Helland, MMR, Single Stall Engine House



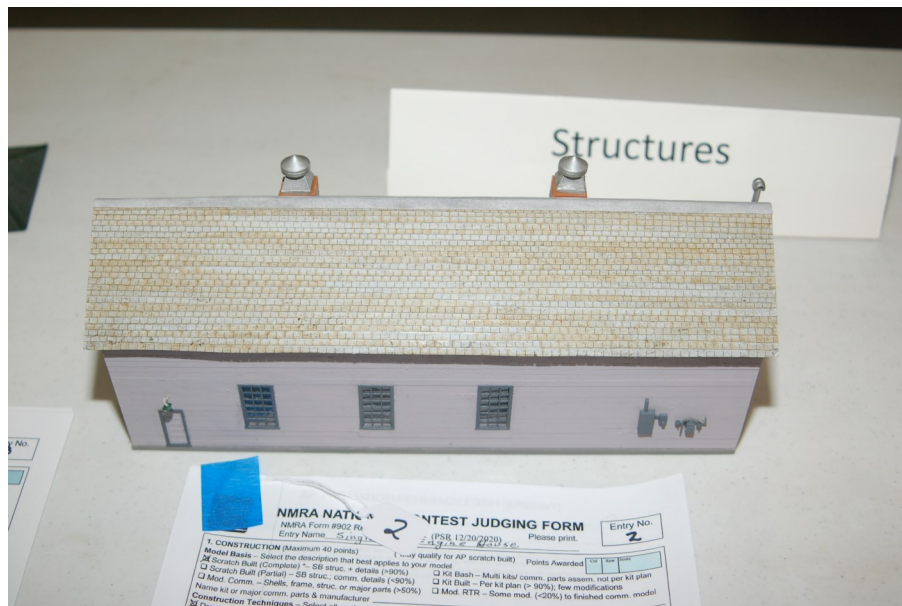
Best in Show & Merit Award: Gary Butts, MMR



Oyster Bay House



Online Structure: 1st Place, Harold Helland, MMR



Single Stall Engine House



Online Structure: 2nd Place, Paul Stoner



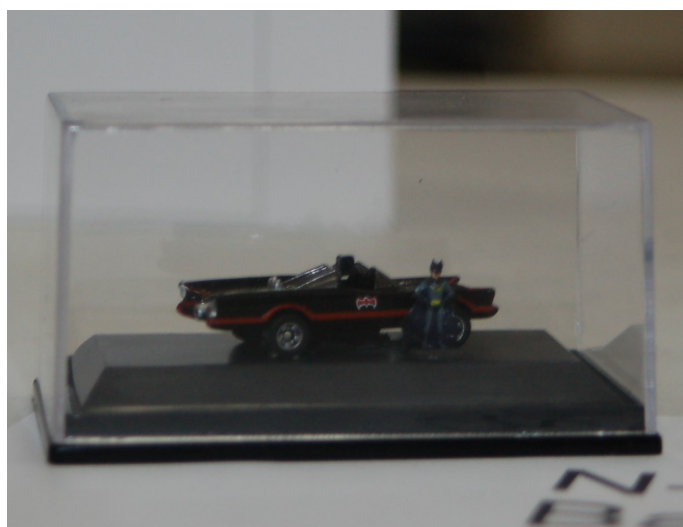
Acme Transship Warehouse



Popular Choice, Arts & Crafts: 1st & 2nd Place, Tom Stumpf



1st Place, Lost Mine



2nd Place, Batman & Batmobile

Both in N-Scale!



Popular Choice, Structure: 1st Place, Gary Butts, MMR, 2nd Place, Paul Stoner, 3rd Place, Harold Helland, MMR

SEE YOU IN OCTOBER!