

APRIL MAY JUNE 2009

LOS ANGELES DIVISION



PSR-NMRA

L.A. COUPLER

Contents

- 2 -- L.A. Division Staff
- 3 -- Superintendent's Report
- 4 -- From the Editor
- 5 -- Important Dates to Remember
- 6 -- Palos Verdes Layout Tour
- 7 -- Our Advertisers
- 8 -- PSR Convention Las Vegas

ON THE COVER:

Ralph Hougesesn's layout in Walnut.
Photo by Mike O'Brien

*Don't miss our layout tour on May 16 -- See page 6
5 home layouts on the Palos Verdes peninsula
Plus "Munchies and Merriment!"*

THE L.A. COUPLER STAFF

Editor

Mike O'Brien
1070 N. Marengo Ave.
Pasadena, CA 91103
626-798-7087
mikeobrien@corbu.us

Business & Circulation Manager

Paul Cutter
3042 Earlmart Drive
Los Angeles, CA 90064
310-837-5269
patecu@sbcglobal.net

Flagstops

Lindsay Smith
909-599-0182
wlindsays@compuserve.com
Please refer to **PSR Dispatch**

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION – The L.A. Coupler is the official publication of the Los Angeles Division, Pacific Southwest Region (PSR), National Model Railroad Association (NMRA) and is published quarterly. The L.A. Coupler is available online at <http://ladiv-nmra.org>

SUBSCRIPTIONS – A printed and mailed copy of The L.A. Coupler is also available by subscription for \$6.00. Checks may be mailed to Clerk/Paymaster John Oliver.

CONTRIBUTIONS – The L.A. Coupler solicits all contributions on any railroad or model railroad topic likely to be of interest to its readers. Compensation is limited to a hearty “thank you” and credit toward the NMRA Author Achievement Certificate.

RESPONSIBILITY – Except for official reports, opinions expressed are those of the authors, and do not necessarily represent those of the L.A. Division, PSR or the NMRA. Advertisements similarly do not carry the endorsement of the L.A. Division. Please understand all terms when making purchases from advertisers.

L. A. DIVISION STAFF

Director – Paul Cutter

3042 Earlmart Dr.
Los Angeles, CA 90064
310-837-5269
patecu@sbcglobal.net

Superintendent – Mary Barstow, MMR

6930 Clovercliff Dr.
Rancho Palos Verdes, CA, 90275
310-377-9762
pvpacific@cox.net

Clerk/Paymaster – John Oliver

29011 Geronimo Dr.
Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90275
310-377-6265
low227-1@lafn.org

Membership Chairman – Robert DeMoss

3706 Woodruff Ave.
Long Beach, CA 90808
562-421-2199
bobrds.sfscrr@verizon.net

Achievement Program – Dave Cox, GMMR

178 S. Gretna Green Way
Los Angeles, CA, 90049
310-472-6363
dcx.lafd@gmail.com

Member Aid Chairman – Sandy Friedfeld

29418 Quailwood Dr.
Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90275
310-541-1917
sandjol@aol.com

Activities Chairman

POSITION OPEN



Superintendent's Report

by Mary Barstow, MMR

The Los Angeles Division is delighted to have our own Web site on line. With Michael O'Brien's expertise, we can be proud. Our image has been enhanced. Mike is currently working on his first edition of the L.A. Coupler due out in April. He was ill over the holidays and into January, but now he is slowly returning to his former energies. In haste I put together the first quarter of Coupler as Mike was not yet ready. You will note a vast difference from my basic desktop Word skills to his more professional abilities. We are most fortunate to have him on our staff.

Our annual Members' Meeting and Banquet was held at Taix's French Restaurant. Followed by a short business meeting, we enjoyed a very nice dinner. Our evening progressed with recognition of Charley Hepperle, L.A. Division Member of the Year. Volunteer Achievement Certificates were awarded to John Oliver and Sandy Friedfeld. Paul Cutter received the Elected Official Achievement Certificate. Keep up the great work! Our evening concluded with a door prize exchange, -a little varia-

tion from the usual "draw the ticket and read the number."

A layout tour on May 16th is fast approaching. We on the Peninsula can be found hard at work in preparation for the event. Nothing like a layout tour to motivate one to get the trains and track in order.

Bob DeMoss, along with building a new layout, has been diligently working on our membership list, -editing, correcting, and making additions. His goal is to have an accurate computerized roster of members that can be used to easily contact our members. Sondra Segall has been a valued consultant for this effort. The task is daunting. Bob and Sondra deserves major thanks.

ladiv-nmra.org..... Go on line and explore. The latest LA. Coupler is available. Also, there are links to the PSR and the National Web site.

Photo below is Superintendent Barstow officiating at the L.A. Division banquet last month.



From the Editor....

I am pleased that the L.A. Division Board of Directors selected me to edit the L.A. Coupler, our quarterly newsletter. What's more, being webmaster goes along with that job.

I was going to start with the last issue, January 2009, but unfortunately I got sick right about then and our excellent Superintendent, Mary Barstow, covered for me. So this is my first issue.

A little about me: I am an old-timer, having first joined the NMRA in 1956. My hobby shop back in the '50s was the old Allied Models out on Pico, for those of us who remember back that far. I'm now a member of the Glendale MRR Club, and am president of the Layout Design Special Interest Group, a national nonprofit corporation. I also serve the Southern Pacific Historical and Technical Society as photographer at their annual meetings, and was previously their webmaster. My day job is architect.

My vision for the L.A. Coupler is to communicate local news and goings-on to the model railroaders in the Los Angeles Division of the PSR, and to publicize local layouts, modelers and clubs.

Our division consists of L.A. and Ventura Counties, with about 13 million population. This may be the largest population of all the divisions in the NMRA. We probably have more model railroad manufacturers than any other one division, from the old Athearn in Carson to the new BLMA in Whittier. We have a rich history, a rich present and a rich future, and I would like to feature them in upcoming issues. So we are looking for articles about our local scene, past, present and future, to be submitted by you, our readers.

The L.A. Coupler is being published online, at <http://ladiv-nmra.org> which is our division website. We offer a traditional paper copy mailed to your home for \$6 a year. Since the online version is free, in color, and may have longer articles, we expect many

members to read the L.A. Coupler using their web browser on their computer. For that reason, we are experimenting with the landscape format which fits computer screens much better than the portrait format. We would like your comments.

Mark Lestico

Mark Lestico, of Whittier, has a long article on his N scale UP in Oregon layout in the current Layout Design Journal. Mark's layout was built for operating sessions and he is now wringing it out with his operating crew. I cannot recommend Mark's article enough as a story of a completely up-to-date model railroad built to the best standards. The LDJ comes with membership in the LDSIG. To join, go to <http://www.ldsig.org>.

Rick Graves

Rick Graves, of La Canada/Flintridge, has a featured article in the new Great Model Railroads 2009, the annual magazine from Kalmbach Publishing. X has extraordinary photographs of his bedroom-size home layout which features the Tehachapi Loop in HO scale. His layout has been on Bob Chaparro's SoCal layout tours, so if you get a chance to see it, don't miss it! Funny story: I first met X in Salt Lake City at a dinner for layout operators at the Great Basin Getaway operating weekend, where he was showing around an album of his layout photos and I immediately recognized the Best In Show winner from the recent SPH&TS annual meeting in Bakersfield, where I had photographed it for the S-P Trainline magazine. The small world of model railroaders—I have to go to SLC to meet a fellow modeler who lives two miles from me!

'Till next time...

Cheers,
Mike O'Brien
Pasadena



IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

2009

May 16 L. A. Division Palos Verdes Layout Tour, ends at afternoon get-together. See display ad on page 6 in this issue for details!

July 5 – 11 2009 NMRA Convention, Hartford, CT
<http://www.HN2009.org>

August 8 L. A. Division Board Meeting & Potluck.
<http://www.ladiv-nmra.org>

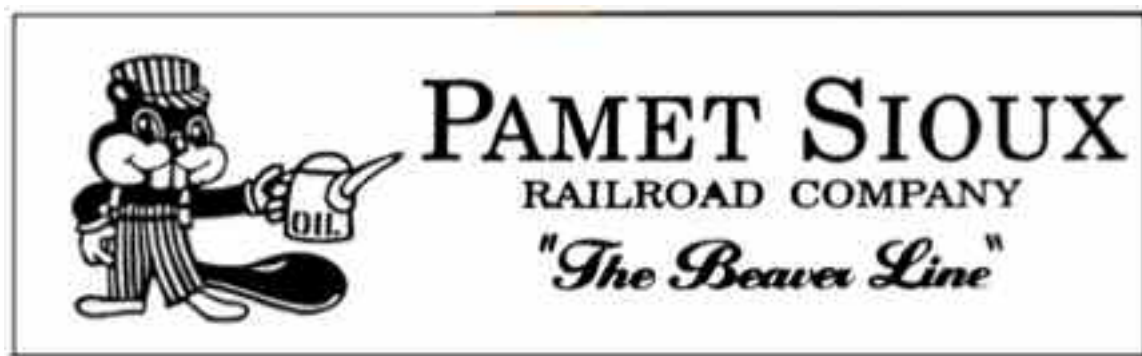
September 2-6 PSR Convention in Las Vegas. Texas station Convention Center and Casino, 2101 Texas Star Way, North Las Vegas, NV 89032
<http://www.cajondiv.org/events.htm>

October 3 L. A. Division Clinic Meet. Hold the date -- details to follow.

October 21 L. A. Division Board Meeting. 1900 Paul Cutter's home
<http://www.ladiv-nmra.org>

November 7, 8 LA Division Model Train Show. South Coast Botanic Garden. Details to follow.

Flagstops: Please refer to The PSR Dispatch for additional information on events in Southern California: <http://www.psrnmra.org/>



May 16th Layout Tour

Palos Verdes Peninsula

An opportunity for NMRA members
and guests to visit 5 home layouts.

1:00 PM - 4:30 PM

1. Pick up **MAP** at Mary & Paul Barstows
6930 Clovercliff Dr., Rancho Palos Verdes, 90275
310-377-9762 pvpacific@cox.net
2. Visit the layouts of Harold Graebner, John Oliver,
Birk Binnard, Sandy Friedfeld, and Mary Barstow.
3. Return to the Barstows' for

Munchies and Merriment!

THE TRAIN STOP

211 West Bonita · San Dimas, CA 91773

Exclusively Model railroading

Sales - Service

Operating layouts - "G" / "O" / "HO" / "N" Gauge

TUES. THRU FRI. 10 - 6 · SAT. 9 - 5

SUNDAY & MONDAY CLOSED

PAUL & SUSAN KIRBY

www.trainstop.com

(909) 599-2602

Fax (909) 599-1566

*Visit Our
Sponsors...*



**WE BRING STEAM
TO YOUR FRONT DOOR**

DIESELS, TOO! OUR SPECIALTY IS
TRAINS. ONLY TRAINS.
SINCE 1951, THE VERY BEST IN
MODELS, BOOKS, VIDEOS
AND MUCH MORE.
LET US BRING RAILROADING
HOME TO YOU.
DROP IN OR CALL. OPEN 7 DAYS.

The Whistle Stop

2433 E. Colorado Blvd., Pasadena, California 91107
ph: 626-796-7791 fax 626-796-7886
<http://www.thewhistlestop.com>

www.alpinemodels.com

ALPINE DIVISION SCALE MODELS

(Orange Vista Tractiion Supplies)

msd1962@earthlink.net

P.O. Box 6

Artesia, CA 90702

Ph: 562 860 6060

Fax: 562 860 7800

**ALLIED MODEL
TRAINS**

4371 Sepulveda Blvd.

Culver City, CA 90230

310-313-9353

We're back in business!

info@alliedmodeltrains.com

CITY OF LAS VEGAS 2009

**PACIFIC SOUTHWEST REGION, NMRA
2009 CONVENTION**

**PRESENTED BY THE CAJON DIVISION
AT TEXAS STATION HOTEL-CASINO AND
CONVENTION CENTER, LAS VEGAS, NEVADA
SEPTEMBER 2ND – 6TH, 2009**

THE LOS ANGELES COUPLER

Los Angeles Division, PSR -- NMRA
3042 Earlmart Drive
Los Angeles, CA 90064

Return Service Requested
DATED MATERIAL DO NOT DELAY