

MAIL HOOK

SAN DIEGO DIVISION, PSR-NMRA

1ST QUARTER, 2008

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

By Don Fowler

"Never, but never question the engineer's judgment!"

Happy New Year! I hope that your holidays were great and that Santa left you some cool model railroad gifts. We had a great time visiting with family and friends. With the exception of our son Doug (USN), we had the whole family in for a great Christmas. We later joined Doug via Amtrak's Texas Eagle in Jonesboro, Arkansas (Bob Moore's hometown) for his New Year's wedding. It was a very busy, but fun holiday season.

I'd like to thank everyone who braved the rainstorm to attend our holiday open house. We had a great time visiting and running trains. There was a lot of great food and a lively gift exchange with some organized stealing. I think that everyone had a great time and we'd like to make it an annual Division event.

Superintendent Ben Sevier and I have been working with a representative from HelmsBrisco to secure a hotel site for our upcoming 2010 convention. This part of the planning process is always one of the most difficult to work through. This is the first time that we've worked with a professional procurement agency for our event and

See "Director's Report" on Page 2

Superintendent's Report

By Ben Sevier

Well, a new year has arrived, and so far looks to be pretty good for model railroading. We've had the "World's Greatest Hobby" show, which was pretty good, and for our January Division event we had a great visit to the North County Model Railroad Society club layout, and the February event (swap meet and Winter Meet) will be here by the time you read this. In March we've been invited to participate in the Cajon Division's "Temecula 2008" mini-convention up in Temecula, and I'd like to encourage all our members to take them up on the invitation - looks like a great time will be had, at least I expect to. In April we get a chance to visit a layout that is new to most of us, Ron Tindall's in Rancho Penasquitos, just off the I-15 and SR-56 intersection - I've heard good things about it, and am looking forward to seeing it. In May we'll have our Spring Meet and Annual Membership meeting - details to follow.

The really big event for the year is the NMRA National Convention & Train Show, "Anaheim Special 2008", sponsored by the Pacific Southwest Region and the LA Division up in Anaheim. The convention will have many, many interesting things to see and do, and the National Train Show is one of the principal model railroading events nationwide each year - something like 25,000 people attend the show. And, they need your help! The convention won't work without people to help out, so your assistance as a volunteer is greatly sought. You won't miss the convention - volunteers work as much or little as they wish to - and you'll be part of something that tells the rest of the country how great Southern California is from a modeling and all around 'fun' perspective. If you'd like to help, you need to register for the Convention, then call Dave Arendes, (714) 546-4484 or email him at

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Director's Report from Page 1

we are very pleased with the results. The firm is compensated by the hotel for bringing them our business and in turn, they negotiate the best deal possible for us. The 2010 convention will be held at the Handlery Hotel & Resort in Fashion Valley.

In the near future, we will be seeking volunteers to chair convention assignments. We had a great time working on the 2006 convention and made note of lessons learned. It is agreed that an early start on preparations will make life easier and ensure a successful event. We value the experience of our past participants and hope that they will rejoin us. We would also like to mentor some new folks as well so that more of us can be involved.

Our mid-year PSR Board of Director's meeting is tentatively scheduled for February 23rd in Anaheim. *(This meeting has been changed to Temecula, March 28th, 1 PM. See page 4. Ed.)* The early date is due to the National Convention in July. At that time we will be updated on the progress/status of the convention and address any remaining issues/concerns. As a reminder, we will be holding our annual regional convention concurrently and have our own meetings and contest judging as well. Your PSR Board is currently working on updating our by laws and manual of operations so that they conform and properly interface with contemporary National NMRA standards.

I hope to see you all at our monthly events. The fellowship is great and it's fun to admire and learn from other people's modeling. Talk to you soon,

Don

Superintendent's Report from Page 1

arendesd@epcinternational.com - cc Mary Barsow at pvpacific@cox.net to make sure more than one person sees it. According to Mary, assistance is needed in the Registration desk, bus loading area, clinic room, tour guides, company store, auction room. Volunteers work 4 hour shifts - morning, afternoon, and evening choices. I understand they are really looking for bus tour guides for the layout tours (several down here to San Diego), prototype tours, etc.

Well, looks like I've talked enough. I look forward to seeing you at the upcoming events, and may you have a wonderful 2008.

Ben

CLUB CAR

This feature will run every issue that I receive input from the clubs. Use this space to keep us up to date on your current activities. Submit announcements to the editor at any time for the next edition.



New Officers

If you're like me, you're already tired of all the election news in the media, and we have eight and a half more months of it to look forward to. Well, a couple of local clubs have completed the election process by naming new officers during January. Both Short Track Railroad and Poway Station All Scale Model Railroad Club have new teams to guide them through the next year.

Short Track will be led by Dave Cobbe as the new President. Dave will be assisted by Vice President Don Diehl, Secretary Pete Steinmetz, and Treasurer Paul Schmitt.

Poway Station's new President is Jim Kitt, with Ron Walker taking the Secretary's position, and Steve Studer as the new Treasurer.

Best wishes to all in their new positions!



Special Events

The San Diego Model Railroad Museum has a couple of special events coming up. First will be a President's Day Special on February 17, when the Museum will be showcasing various information and examples of Presidential rail cars. Then on April 13, they'll have Wild West Family Day. Contact the Museum at info@sdmrm.org for more information.

Miss Gateway Electronics?

Try San Diego Electronic Supply, 8148 Ronson Rd, Ste E, San Diego, CA 92111, They're former Gateway employees, and are open Monday through Saturday. Now you can finish up those electronic projects you've been planning.

BELLS, WHISTLES, AND WHOOPS

by

Frank Tepedino

I've been salivating recently, when reading about sound equipped locomotives. So I asked Santa Claus to bring me one, hoping he'd ignore my last year's "shortcomings." (After all, nobody is perfect.)

"Ol' Santa" came through with not one, but two! new HO sound equipped steam engines, and a handful of freight car kits to boot, for my DC controlled pike.

The first of the locomotives is the new ATHEARN Genesis UP FEF 4-8-4, with dual-mode sound. That means the sound works on either DC or DCC. The second locomotive is the new PROTO 2000 HERITAGE UP 2-8-8-2, also with dual-mode sound. Both are exquisitely detailed. Even the "Rivet Counters" have to be impressed with these two locomotives.

I had Reed's Hobbies install the extra PROTO 2000 2-8-8-2 traction tire that was provided, which they did in a day, for very modest cost. Generally I don't like traction tires since I'm bothered by their potential failure rates. However I consistently run long trains, so I thought it advisable in this case.

On my sea level pike, the 2-8-8-2, with traction tire, easily pulls 31 weighted freight cars, (including a lighted caboose which adds rolling resistance). Loco hissing and start up sounds begin at about 5 volts. The engine smartly moves out with coordinated sounds at about 7.5 volts.

At 11.9 volts, and about 0.1 amps, the loco pulls 31 weighted cars at 18 scale miles an hour. The verbal speed read-out closely matches the scale speed indicated on the TOTH HO Scale Speed indicator.

Since I run DC, I purchased the extra cost "Railroad Engineer" unit which allows access to various sounds. The unit is connected between the track and the power source and measures about 5 inches wide by 3 inches by 1 inch. The various buttons allow access to a number of sounds such as whistle, bell, flange squeal noises, apply brakes, release brakes, and verbal loco speed read out. Some of the other built-in features are only accessible by DCC systems. (I'm not sure if you DCC guys have to purchase anything extra to get these sounds). The sounds make the world come alive.

The ATHEARN Genesis FEF 4-8-4, runs on a different main line from the 2-8-8-2. This main includes some slight inclines. This engine too, has exquisite detail. At about 5 volts the engine sounds start. At about 6 volts the engine starts and at 8 volts the engine is running at an average 30 miles an hour pulling 29 weighted cars including a lighted caboose. The only problem I see is that the loco's right number board light does not function. I've e-mailed Athearn to see what can be done to correct this.

The ATHEARN loco control unit is included with the loco and tender. It measures 1 3/4 inches by 3 inches by 1/2 inch. It is battery powered, radio control, with no connection to the track or the power source. The unit has button controls for only stop, direction, bell and whistle. The sounds are magnificent.

Thanks Santa, but now I'm spoiled to sound.

From the Editor...Continued from Page 8

good time, with many vendors and private individuals offering deals you won't find anywhere else. You can also walk around the grounds, and for a few dollars more you can ride the train, too.

March 28-30 brings a new event sponsored by the Cajon Division, in Temecula. They have many activities for both rails and non-rails, from auction to wine tasting and everything in between, including the chance to drive an Alco locomotive. The San Diego Division will share in the registration fees for all division registrants, so be sure to mention your affiliation when you register. From all appearances, this should be a fun event, and very similar to the one they've put on in Barstow for the past several years.

In April there are a couple of things going on. You won't want to miss Ron Tindall's small, but highly detailed, layout on April 12. For a preview, go to the Poway Station web page at www.powystation.org, and click on the link for the Complete Tour of the Yosemite Sugar Pine Railroad.

Then, SDMRRM is having another special family event, Wild West Days. This will be on April 13. Contact the Museum for details.

Finally, the Division Spring Meet will be held at Peace Lutheran Church, 6719 Tait Street, San Diego, 92111. We'll have the traditional pot luck, the annual meeting, and some hands-on clinics. Hope to see you there!

The Cajon Division of the
Pacific Southwest Region
National Model Railroad Association
Presents

Temecula 2008

More than an Event...A Total Experience

March 28th, 29th, and 30th

Non-Members Welcome

To be held in the famous Wine Country of Temecula, California, this event has something for everyone. Especially the Railettes and would be Locomotive Engineers of an Era long Past. Summary of Scheduled Activities include:

Fun for the Entire Family: Young and Old Alike

- **Orange Empire Railway Museum, Perris, CA: Be the Locomotive Engineer on an ALCO RSD2 Diesel Locomotive and Feel the Thunder as You Take it out on the Main Line Outside the Museum**
- **Old Town Antique Shopping, Lunch and Wine Tasting Tour**
- **Saturday Afternoon Layout Tours**
- **Saturday Night Wrap Up with Dinner at 'Pat and Oscar's' followed by a Chinese Style Auction (Up to 100 Quality Model Railroad Items from 30+ Original Manufacturers and Suppliers)**

Timetable of Activities

Friday Night ~ Mary Phillips Senior Center in Old Town Temecula

- Registration 4:30 pm until 8:00 pm (See Attached Registration Form for Fees) MC and Visa will be Accepted for Advanced Registration to avoid waiting in line.
- Bring and Brag Hour 6:00 pm until 7:00 pm
- Bingo 7:00 pm until 9:00 pm

Saturday Morning ~ Mary Phillips Senior Center in Old Town Temecula

- Registration 8:00 am until 11:00 am
- Model Contest Entries 8:00 am -10:00 am...Judging 10:30 am until 1 pm
- Clinics start at 8:00 am until Noon.
- Antique and Wine Tasting Tour departs at 9:30 am until mid-afternoon (Personal Vehicles and/or Car Pooling required)

Saturday Morning ~ Run-1 Locomotive Engineer at the Orange Empire Railway Museum in Perris

- First Run starts at 8:30 am (Depends on number of Sign-ups)
- Free BBQ at the Museum between Noon and 1:30 pm before Layout Tour
This Museum is huge. Be sure to bring your camera. www.oerm.org
Reservations need to be made well in advance. Contact Bob Mitchell ~ 951-440-9729
Email: cajondivision@coastinet.com

Saturday Afternoon

- Self Guided Model Railroad Layout Tours ~ Maps and locations available at Registration
- Mid-Year Board Meeting of the Pacific Southwest Region Starts at 1:00 pm @ **Mary Phillips Senior Ctr.** Sandwich Tray and Beverages will be Provided for by the Cajon Division.

Saturday Evening ~ 'Pat and Oscar's' by the Pond

- Show up time is 5:00 pm ~ Dinner to be served at 5:30 pm
- Contest Awards 6:30 pm
- Chinese Auction Ticket Sales begin at 7:00 pm and close at 8:30 pm
- Chinese Auction 8:30 pm until 10:30 pm

Sunday Morning ~ Run-1 Locomotive Engineer at the Orange Empire Railway Museum in Perris

- First Run starts at 8:30 am (Depends on number of Sign-ups)
Reservations need to be made well in advance. Contact Bob Mitchell ~ 951-440-9729
Email: cajondivision@coastinet.com MC and Visa Credit Cards Accepted

‘Temecula 2008’ Lodging and Locations Information

Lodging in Temecula can be expensive. So I have blocked out 40 rooms at the Motel 6 in the Old Town area and within walking distance (1 Block) of the Mary Phillips Senior Center. **Reservations should be made as soon as possible....**Ask about cancellation policies.

Motel 6: 41900 Moreno Drive, Temecula, CA 92590

	Single \$73.99	Double \$79.99	(951-676-7199)
Rancho Calif. Inn:	Single \$95:00	Double \$125.00	(951-676-5700)
Best Western:	Single \$139.00	Double \$149.00	(951-676-7378)
Holiday Inn Exp:	Single \$189.00	Double \$189.00	(951-699-2444)

Clinics for Everyone

Many of these clinics are trial runs for the NMRA National in July

- Weathering Modern Freight Cars~ David Arendes
- Scenery without the use of Molds, Plaster, or Paint ~ Bob Mitchell
- Casting Your Own Parts and Clutter ~ Tom Stumpf
- Build Quality Trees with this Fast and Simple Method
- Scratch Build Your Next Project: Materials, Tips, and Techniques ~ Brian Block MMR
- Starting Your First Model Railroad: Bench Work and Construction
- Modeling the Bear River Bridge on Nevada County Narrow Gauge – Dick Roberts, SD Division
- Contest Modeling: Paperwork and What Judges are looking For ~ Bill Jacobs, Cajon Div. Contest Chair
- Laser Cut Kits, Concept, Layout, and Manufacturing? ~ Joe Warren, Owner of Showcase Miniatures
- More to be Announced at a Later Date ~ Some Titles are subject to change.

If you are doing a Clinic for the National and would like to do a trial run at this meet, please contact me as soon as possible. Bob Mitchell cajondivision@coastinet.com or 951-440-9729

Temecula 2008 ~ March 28th, 29th, and 30th

Event Registration:

	x	Totals
Registration Only (Dinner not included)	\$10.00	=
Registration Including Dinner and Chinese Auction at 'Pat and Oscars' by the Pond in Temecula	\$30.00	=

Extra Fares:

Orange Empire Museum 'Run1' Locomotive Engineer	\$40.00	=
Antique Shopping, Wine Tasting and Lunch	\$40.00	=
Same tour without Wine Tasting Tickets	\$28.00	=
Total		=

Name(s): _____ Telephone No: () _____

Locomotive Run Requested Times (Subject to date received and number of sign-ups)
Circle once for first choice and twice for second choice

Saturday 8:30 am 9:30 am 10:30 am

Sunday 8:30 am 9:30 am 10:30 am

Event Registration can be paid with MC, Visa, or Check. Fill out the above form and then call Bob Mitchell to reserve Locomotive 'Run1' times. Credit Card info will be taken over the phone only.

**Checks need to be made out to 'Cajon Division' 951-440-9729
21460 Walnut Street, CA 92595-8966**

February 2008

San Diego Division - Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9 SD Div Winter Meet AG&SEM
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	

March 2008

						1 OERM Swap Meet
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 /Caj /Div 30	24 / / 31	25	26	27	28 Cajon Div Temecula Meet	29 Cajon Div Temecula Meet

April 2008

		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12 SD Div Layout Tour -Tindall
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

SCHEDULE OF PSR-NMRA EVENTS

OTHER EVENTS OF INTEREST

Assembled from various sources. Events may have been submitted by sponsors. Send corrections, additions, and future events to the editor at grobbiedobbie@yahoo.com or (760) 839-5877. Events should be of interest to San Diego Division members. Division-sponsored events are listed in **bold**.

2008

February

- 9 San Diego Division Winter Meet and Swap Meet**, Short Track Railroad, Antique Gas & Steam Engine Museum, 2040 N. Santa Fe, Vista. Hours TBA.

March

- 28-30 San Diego Division** monthly activity will be to participate in the Cajon Division Meet at Temecula

April

- 12 San Diego Division Layout Tour, 12-3.** Ron Tindall. Watch your mail for the invitation postcard with the details.

May

- 10 San Diego Division Spring Meet**, Peace Lutheran Church, 6719 Tait Street, San Diego, CA 92111.

June

- 14 San Diego Division** Layout tour. TBA

July

- 13 – 19 2008 NMRA Convention, Anaheim, CA**

August

- 9 San Diego Division Summer Meet** and picninc. TBA



2008

February

- 17 President's Day Family Celebration.** The San Diego Model Railroad Museum will be hosting a family event to celebrate the weekend of President's Day from 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. The Museum will be showcasing various information and examples of past Presidential railcars. Snacks, refreshments, and a model train activity will be offered to all visitors. Don't miss a great way to spend President's weekend with your family! Activities included in admission price. For more info, contact info@sdmrm.org.

March

- 1 Orange Empire Railway Museum swap meet, 9AM - 2PM, exhibitors at 7AM. OERM,**
- 28-30 Cajon Division Special Event, Temecula.** This will be a "mini-meet," similar to their Barstow event, with extras for the non-rails in your life. Everything from Auction (their famous Chinese auction) to Wine Tasting, with lots in between. See the flyer on pages 4-5, or http://www.trainnet.org/documents/CJ_0108.pdf for more information.

April

- 12 Pomona Valley Model Railroad Club Swap Meet, 8-12, VFW parking lot, 1st and Main, Pomona, CA.** Free to buyers. For more info, see <http://www.pvmrrc.org/> or call Lindsay Smith (909) 599-0182.
- 13 Wild West Family Day, San Diego Model Railroad Museum, 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.** For more info, contact info@sdmrm.org.

May

- 3-4 Railroad Days, Fullerton, CA**
- 17 Swap meet, SDMRRM (tentative)**

Left: Merrymakers at the First Annual San Diego Division Holiday Celebration, at Kim and Don Fowler's home. Doesn't look like the rain dampened the fun! Plan to be there next year.

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Mail Hook

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Submissions: Contributions of articles on any railroad or model railroading topic of interest to the membership are welcome. There is no compensation, but published articles can be credited to the NMRA® Author Achievement Certificate. If you are interested in submitting articles, event information, or other information of interest to members of the Division, please follow these guidelines:

1. Preferred method is by email to the editor, with the submission attached as a text document. Also accepted are: text document on floppy disk, printout from laser or ink jet printer, or typed using new ribbon.

2. Keep in mind that submissions may be edited for length or formatting, or not used, at the discretion of the editor.

3. Submission deadlines for 2007: January 15, 2008; April 15, 2008, July 15, 2008; October 15, 2007.

4. If you wish submission materials returned (i.e., photos), please include a stamped, self-addressed envelope with your submission.

From the Editor...

January was a great month for model railroading in San Diego! First of all, I hope everyone has been enjoying their Christmas presents! I know Frank Tepedino, whose review of his new toys appears elsewhere in this issue, has been having a good time with his.

I also hope you all were able to attend the World's Greatest Hobby On Tour™ show last month in Del Mar. Wow! Most of the national vendors were there, and new products and vendors were also in evidence. Plus, there were many great layouts to see. I know I got several good ideas to try out on our club's modular layout. All in all, it was a great show.

Then we enjoyed our visit to the North County Model Railroad Society in Oceanside on the following weekend. They are always an hospitable group, and they've made great progress on their layout since I last visited. In addition, they'll soon be expanding the club floor space, which will allow them to expand the layout some, but will also provide more room for the crew lounge and model "restoration" area.

And the fun doesn't stop at the end of January, either. We had our division Annual Swap Meet and Winter Meet at the Antique Gas & Steam Engine Museum and Short Track Railroad February 9, on the museum grounds in Vista.

The San Diego Model Railroad Museum (SDMRRM) is having a special event on February 17, to observe President's Day. There are special events going on for the whole family, all for the standard admission price.

March 1 is the semi-annual swap meet at the Orange Empire Railway Museum. This is always a

See "From the Editor" on Page 3

Model Railroad Clubs in San Diego

San Diego Model Railroad Museum

Balboa Park, San Diego

Info: www.sdmodelrailroadm.com

La Mesa Model Railroad Club (HO)

Info: LaMesaClub@att.net

San Diego 3-Railers (O)

Info: (619) 690-4358

San Diego Model Railroad Club (HO & O)

Info: www.sdmrrc.org

San Diego Society of N Scale (N)

Info: www.sdsons.org

North County Model Railroad Society (HO)

Oceanside

Info: (760) 722-7366 ncmrs@cox.net

Poway Station All Scale Modular Club

Old Poway Park, Poway

Info: www.powaystation.org

Short Track Railroad Club (N)

Antique Gas & Steam Engine Museum, Vista

Info: modeltrains@agsem.com

San Diego Garden Railway Society

Info: www.sdgrs.com

If you would like your club listed, contact the Club Liason, San Diego Division

Online - Web Sites of Interest

Train Net: www.trainnet.org

NMRA: www.nmra.org

PSR: www.getnet.net/~dickg/nmra/psr/psr.html

NMRA National Convention <http://www.nmra.org/convention/>

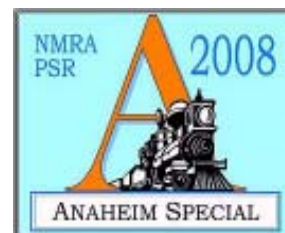
San Diego Division: <http://www.sandiegodivision.org/>

Cajon Division: www.cajondiv.org


San Diego Model Railroad Museum: www.sdmodelrailroadm.com

San Diego Rail: www.sandiegorail.com/index.html

The Overland Trail: www.overlandtrail.com



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San Diego Model Railroad Museum

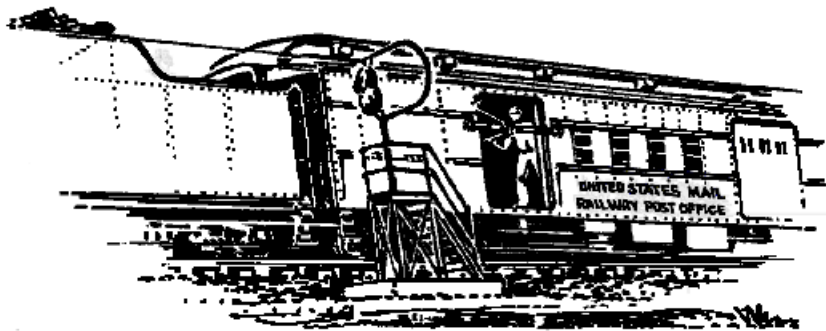
World's Largest Operating Model Railroad Museum

1649 El Prado, Balboa Park

Open to the Public

Tuesday through Friday 11:00 - 4:00
Saturday - Sunday 11:00 - 5:00

Admission: Adults \$5, Students \$3, Seniors \$4
Military \$2.50, Tuesdays free to all



MAIL HOOK

LOOK INSIDE FOR THE LATEST NEWS!

- Temecula 2008 Announcement
 - Bells, Whistles, & Whoops
 - Club News

Look Inside!



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