

L. A. Coupler



“SPRINGRAIL 2013”

April 20th
First Christian Church
200 S. 5th St., Alhambra, CA



It is that time of the year again for the 4th annual Los Angeles Division NMRA SpringRail Meet.

This year the Los Angeles Division of the NMRA is offering admission to this event for NMRA members FREE. If you would like morning coffee, lunch and afternoon soda or water that is available for \$10. Non member admission fee is \$10 which will be used to purchase you a NMRA Rail Pass there will be an additional \$10 if you want the lunch package. Each attendee will get one free Hobo auction ticket that contains 25 chances for prizes. That alone is a \$5 value. To be sure we have a lunch for you we ask that you sign up by emailing Mike Allee at rmallee@me.com and include in the subject line SpringRail lunch signup.

This event will start out at 7:00 am with a Swap Meet, followed with educational clinics starting a 8:00 am, the lunch break will also include the Hobo Auction with over 100 items, and followed by more clinics. The event should end around 4:30 pm. We will also have some modular layouts to view as well as a contest table where you can enter a model of your choosing; prizes will be awarded on popular vote

CONFIRMED CLINICS

Todd Scott, How to add detail to your layout and make it come alive

Todd will demonstrate various techniques for adding details to your layout that will make it look more realistic.

Jim Fuhrman, DCC Camp

Here Jim will show you how to program your locomotive decoder and if you have a problem programming a locomotive bring it in and Jim will help you program it.

Andy Jackson, History and modeling opportunities of the LAJ (Los Angeles Junction Railway)

Andy will show photos of the LAJ ALCO diesels as it were from 1941 through 1974.

Lloyd Lehrer, Fast and easy pine and canopy tree (this is 2 clinics back to back).

You will be given the opportunity to build a pine and canopy tree for your layout and take it home at no cost to the participant.

Carl Heimberger, Making molds and casting parts with casting resins and plaster.

Carl will show you how to make an original, build a mold with RTV rubber compound, and make castings using casting resins and plaster.

Los Angeles Division Directory

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Please refer to: PSR Dispatch

Raillette Chair & Business/Circulation

Manager positions are VACANT

We need volunteers

Contact the Division

Superintendent

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

The L. A. Coupler solicits all contributions on any railroad or model railroad topic likely to be of interest to the readers. Compensation is limited to a hearty "Thank You" and you will get credit toward the NMRA Author Achievement Certificate.

Except for Official reports, opinions expressed are those of the author, and do not necessarily represent those of the L. A. Division, PSR, or the NMRA.

Superintendents Report

The Los Angeles Division Board of Director has decided that 2013 is the year to reshape how the division serves the membership.

The first priority is to change the way we plan and hold Division Events, by gearing them more to the member's needs and wishes. So in order for us to do that you will receive in the next month or so a short questionnaire asking you what type of activities you would like the division to put on and what events you would like to attend. We are also asking that you update your contact information as it is critical that members keep their address, phone number and e-mail addresses current. If we cannot contact you we cannot keep you informed of our upcoming events. So please look for the questionnaire, fill it out and return it to the Division ASAP.

Another change will be a new monthly e-mail publication "LA e-Coupler". This one to two page e-mail publication will provide members with an event scheduled for LA Division events and other train related meets and activities in the So-Cal area. You can expect to see this new publication around the end of each month.

Finally speaking of great events put on by the LA Division, "**SpringRail**" is in Alhambra, on April 20th. This event will start with a swap meet at 7:00 am, then 4 clinics before lunch, a box lunch for a minimal cost, the Hobo Auction (over 125 items, including some brass items, as well as several nice raffle items). We will also have a contest table so bring something to show off. An award will be given to the best of Show. The day will end with 4 more clinics. Here is a sampling of the clinics so far; How to detail your layout or modules, Making rubber molds and casting with resin and Hydrocal, Make a tree, DCC Camp (bring a locomotive you are having difficulty programming and our experts will help you program it), and a pictorial overview of the LAJ ALCOs – both steam and diesel. See flyer in this publication for more details.

The best news is this year's SpringRail admission is FREE to all NMRA Members, and \$10 for non-members (cost for a NMRA Rail Pass) and for just an additional \$10 you can get morning coffee and donut, lunch, and afternoon soda or water as well as one sheet of 25 Hobo Auction Tickets. So do not miss this great event and come join the fun.

Carl Heimberger
Los Angeles Division Superintendent

Directors Report

At our recent Los Angeles Division Board meeting we discussed what we could do for our members, and in turn hopefully increase membership. Because we are competing against the Internet and model railroad magazines, the NMRA on the division, regional and national levels has been losing members.

We also know that many model railroaders are of the older generation but fewer of the younger generation getting involved. The LAMRS club in Hawthorne has a youth program, with more applicants than it can handle. Each applicant has to have a member sponsor, to supervise and to teach the applicant into the different phases of model railroading. But they don't have enough sponsors, so some sadly don't get admitted. They have had several youths, work their way up to being full club members. So now that we know there is a younger generation, that has an interest in Railroads and not just computers, we need to get them involved.

So what can the local Division do?

The Los Angeles Division Board needs to provide what the Internet, the magazines and hobby shops don't provide. And that is to provide first class events for our members, such as **SPRINGRAIL**, on April 20th. Also we want to improve our **South Coast Botanic Gardens Model Railroad Train Show** in October. We are going to increase advertising, so hopefully it will increase attendance. We want to improve the quality of clinics for beginners and experienced model Railroaders. There also needs to be an improvement in the quality of layouts by having well finished modules. The "plywood centrals" should be limited to demonstrating things like scenery. And to attract the youngsters we should let them run trains, with the guidance of an experienced modeler and have clinics for them also.

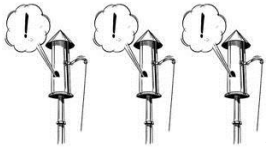
Bob DeMoss

L.A. Division Director.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

The Los Angeles Division would like to welcome the following new members:

Roger Pearson of Whittier, **Scott Weber** of R.P.V. **Willima Mc Ewan** of Beverly Hills, **Steve Frediani** of Claremont, **James Plisky** of Oxnard, **Swenson Family** of West Covina, **Eugenie Fasulo** of Lancaster, **Marc Rosenberg** of Ventura, **Dominick Cistone** of Glendale, **Philip Cramer** of Valencia.



STATION STOP Mike Allee

Our fellow modelers in the Cajon Division will have held their Temecula meet by the time you read this. If you attended I'm sure you felt the drive was well worth it.

The next stop is SpringRail '13. Same place, the Christian Church in Alhambra April 20th. Your Board has made some changes that they feel will make for an even better meet than past years. Yes, there will be a swap meet. Yes, there will be clinics. Yes, there will be food. Yes, there will be a hobo auction. Swap meet starts at 7. There's bound to be something there you've been looking for. Eight clinics presented two at a time to choose from. Coffee & donuts will be available in the AM, Lunch will be a choice of sandwiches, of course a soft drink, and 25 tickets for the hobo auction. It's \$10 at the door which will just offset all the costs to provide a great railroading day. It's a deal you shouldn't pass up. Or, is that a steal?

There's sure to be something in the auction you'd like to have not to mention a good deal at the swap meet. I always learn something from the clinics. Even ones I've attended in the past. Sitting around at lunch sharing with other railroaders you don't get to talk to otherwise, has got to be a perk. At the last SpringRail I sat with a bunch of guys and made some new friends that I now enjoy sharing the hobby with frequently. One of the better ways to spend a Saturday for a model railroader I think.

The details can be found on the front page in this Coupler.

We'd like to have a general idea of how many to plan for so, if you'd email a Board member to let us know you are coming we'd appreciate it. My email is RMALLEE@ME.COM

See you there.

Mike Allee



FROM THE PAST Mike Allee

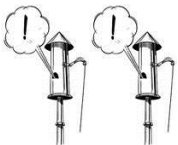
There was a time, not too long ago, that a major part of the hobby was serious model building, a lot of the time that meant scratch building. You can still be a serious model builder but the industry that supplies us has made it easy to just take what we want off the shelf or click “add to cart.” Early brass models were crud and they continued developing until they became almost works of art. That many of us could only wish for. Plastic has taken the same path until now it’s not always easy to tell whether it’s brass or plastic. Here’s an old tip, **BENDING BRASS**.

Bending brass cabs, grabs or wire in hard brass, nickel silver and wire in more complicated shapes above .018 in diameter; heat the stock cherry red in dimmed light. This helps you see the color better. Quench in water or better yet acid pickle or sparex. This ANNEALS it. Bend, then heat and let stand on the fireproof block to “put the starch back in”.

Maybe there’s an aspiring MMR out there thinking about building a steam locomotive.

Mike Allee

Activities Chairman



MODEL RAILROAD & TRAIN EVENTS

- April 6 & 7 **Los Angeles Model Railroad Society**
Open House & Swap Meet (both days)
- April 20 **SPRINGRAIL, L.A. DIVISION, NMRA** First Christian Church
Sat, Swap Meet, Clinics, **Free to** 220 So 5th St Alhambra CA 91801
Members, See front page for details
- April 27 – 28 **SAN BERNARDINO RAILROAD DAYS** 1170 W. 3rd St San Bernardino CA
Sat.-Sun. **Free**
- May 4 – 5 **FULLERTON RAILROAD DAYS** 120 Santa Fe Ave Fullerton CA
Sat.-Sun. 9AM – 5 PM Layouts, Full
Size trains, other Activities **Free**
Donations accepted
- May 18 Sat. **Layout Tour #38 Long Beach/South Bay**
- July 14 - 20 **PEACHTREE EXPRESS, NATIONAL** Atlanta GA
MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION WWW.NMRA2013.ORG
ANNUAL CONVENTION
- July 31-Aug 4 **SANTA FE RY HISTORICAL &** Flagstaff AZ
MODELING SOCIETY CONVENTION www.atsfrr.com/convention
- Aug. 28 - 30 **NATIONAL NARROW GAUGE** Hilton Hotel Pasadena CA
CONVENTION \$95
- Sept. 25 - 29 **PACIFIC SOUTHWEST REGIONAL** Hilton Hotel 285 E Hospitality Ln
NMRA CONVENTION \$-65 San Bernardino CA
- Oct. 19 – 20 **BANNING CENTENNIAL TRAIN** Admission \$5.00 10AM – 4 PM
FESTIVAL Layouts, Swap Meet Banning Community center
Other related activities 789 N San Gorgonio Ave
Sat 10 AM-5PM Sun. 10 AM–4PM Banning CA

NMRA~PSR Regional Convention

Gateway to Cajon Pass

San Bernardino Hilton Hotel September 25th thru the 29th

Highlights:

Prototype Modelers ~ Non-Registered Public Welcome

Awards Banquet and Guest Speaker

Clinics ~More than 50 Different Clinics by Some of the Top Pros from 5 Different States.

Ops Session Layout Wednesday and Thursday Afternoons in Beaumont, CA ~ This Large layout has never been displayed before and operates like a Dream ~ Limited Sign-ups

On Site Club Layouts Wednesday night thru Saturday afternoon at the Hotel will see operating H0 and Z modular layouts.

Schedule:

Wednesday: Clinics start at 6:00 pm **Model Contest ~ Entries start Wednesday Night**

Thursday: Clinics start at 8:30 am and continue until 9:00 pm

Union Pacific Colton Hump Yard Tour and Tower Operations

Layout Tours all Afternoon

Friday: Victorville Clinics start at 8:30 am until 4:30 pm

More than 200 Items will be available for you to win. Including a Large Selection of Brass Locomotives and other High Quality Items **Chinese Auction**

Banquet Begins at 6:00 pm ~ Always a Great Time

Layout out Tours all Day

CEMEX Plant Tour

Saturday: Columbia Park Live Steamers Park BBQ ~ Featuring their UP Big Boy and UP Challenger

Saturday Morning Swap Meet by the Round House Gang and

Sunday Morning starting at 8:30 am until Finished **Annual Membership Meeting**

NMRA~PSR Regional Convention

Gateway to Cajon Pass

San Bernardino Hilton Hotel

September 25th thru the 29th

Registration - Includes a free 6 month NMRA Membership for non-members

Registration Fee is \$65 (Limited Time Offer) which includes the Banquet, go to the Convention Website

<http://www.psrconvention.org/sb13/index.html>

And Register Early – Money back Guarantee if for any reason you cannot attend

Need Additional Information? Contact: Bob Mitchell at cajondivision@coastinet.com

SPRINGRAIL 2013



Swap Meet
Clinics
Lunch
Hobo Auction

April 20, 2013

Swap Meet 7:00-10:00 AM,
Clinics from 8:00 until 4:00

Coffee & Donuts available in the morning.

Bring a model or two to show
Prizes determined by popular vote
(If desired, judged by NMRA Standards)
Module Layouts, Hobo Auction
Lunch included

See Other Side of Flyer for Details



First Christian Church
220 S. 5th Street
Alhambra, CA 91801
Corner of 5th & Commonwealth

SPRINGRAIL 2013

SPRINGRAIL MEET & SWAP MEET

Clinics for the beginner to
the advanced railroad modeler .

Bill of Fare

NMRA MEMBER - SWAP MEET, CLINICS, DAY EVENTS,
LUNCH, & 25 HOBO AUCTION TICKETS
\$10.00

NON-NMRA MEMBER - SWAP MEET, CLINICS, DAY
EVENTS, LUNCH, 25 HOBO AUCTION TICKETS,
+ 6 MONTHS NMRA MEMBERSHIP (A \$9.95 VALUE)
\$20.00

Swap meet entrance only, \$5

Children 12 & under Free

SWAP MEET VENDORS

Setup 6:30 am

Seller Pre-Registration \$10/8' space, your table
Day of Event Registration \$15/8' Space, your table
Rent 8' table & chair \$12 by advanced registration
If you pay for SpringRail registration fee waived.

Contact Mike Abee at

RMALLEE@mc.com or 626-446-3946

Please include "SpringRail Swap" in your email title.