

# LA COUPLER



<http://www.ladiv-nmra.org>

Fall - Winter 2014



**LA Division - Freight Fright**



**Publication Information**  
**The L. A. Coupler**

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**FALL-WINTER EDITION**  
**DEC 2014**

**FEATURES:**

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**LA COUPLER DEADLINES:**

Winter Issue - December 1  
Spring Issue - March 1  
Summer Issue - June 1  
Fall Issue - September 1

The LA Coupler is also looking for submissions, articles, or photos. Please forward them to the Editor at;

***essaness@pacbell.net***

On the Cover...



Jim Fuhrman's "Freight Fright" locomotive mascots on display at the South Coast Botanic Gardens in Rancho Palos Verdes.



# SUPERINTENDENTS REPORT

*To:*

## Superintendent's Report

Conventions have come and gone I hope you had the opportunity to attend at least one, I got to two the PCR & our PSR. Both were worth my time. I always learn a new trick or two to use in building a model or kit bashing something to appear the way I want it to look. But I think the real reward for attending a convention or even a one-day meet is meeting and sharing with new and old friends.

So it was at the Banning Railroad Days a couple of weeks ago. I'm in the process of moving and meet some fellow modelers that live close to where I'll be living.

The LA Divisions annual Freight Fright, held at South Coast Botanic Garden, was again successful. I think this is a meeting that most of us don't know about and it's been held for twenty-seven years. It's held the weekend before Halloween and modular clubs of every scale assemble a display. It's a great opportunity to see some wonderful modeling and to speak with the builder of a particular scene.

For the past few years the LA Division Advisory Committee has been trying things in the effort to provide more information about modeling rather than just a display event as it has been for many years. This year a couple of John Allen's Time Saver were available for young and old experienced and novice to try, which they did.

It's a great opportunity to bring the kids and grandkids. It costs to get into the LA County garden (less than ten dollars) and the show is free. Besides if you or your significant other is into gardening it's a wonderful place to see beautiful plants.

Your Advisory Committee, which you can belong to, is deep in the planning of the 2016 PSR convention & SpringRail 2015. If you're interested in helping just contact me by email (address located on another page with other peoples you may want to contact). Putting on a convention is a big undertaking. The more people you have the easier it is to get the job done and tasks for each individual become fewer and they can do a better job.

The location for the 2016 PSR convention will be selected in the next few weeks. When it is we'll put out an "e-blast", be looking for it. Finding a place in the LA Division you'd think would be easy but room rate seems to be a major concern amongst the membership and that creates a challenge. A room rate in a "convention providing hotel" of less than a hundred dollars is a thing of the past. Hotels arbitrarily raise their prices by 5% each year.

Find more time to model and share your modeling with others. The holiday season is upon us, and a great opportunity to do so, even if it's just to dust off that Lionel or American Flyer of your youth to display around the tree.

Michael Allee .....  
Los Angeles Div. Superintendent

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# DIRECTOR'S REPORT

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For those who participated in the Rancho Palos Verdes Botanic Gardens Train Show, I and the Los Angeles Division thank the train clubs members and volunteers.

The Model railroad clubs provided me a list of items for the Scavenger hunt. I than prepared a list for each club from which the "Scavenger's" could hunt for scenes or items on the layouts. I prepared little "Pumpkin signs" to assist the scavengers, that were put near the item to be found. I think the parents got as much fun out of the scavenger hunt, along with the youngsters.

We had two time savor switching layouts that many future Railroad engineers found interesting and tried their "Railroad engineer" skills on. Overall I believe it was successful show.

The Los Angeles division is still working on a location for the Regional 2016 convention. All of the Hotels that we have talked to, are expecting large operating increases within the next two years, and are bidding accordingly. We are trying to keep the rates, close to this year's rates with facilities that can accommodate the convention activities.

The Division is also working on SPRINGRAIL 2015 and we have several new ideas, we think will make it better than previous years. So keep checking back for information on SPRINGRAIL 2015.

We have elections coming up, and my term as Director is up next year. So if you would like to be more involved in the Division, being on the inside track, than being Director is a good position to do so. The Directors job is to work with the Division Superintendent in promoting the LA Division and be the representative, between the Los Angeles Division and the Region (PCR). I have been involved with the Division since 1994, worked on two National Conventions and many Region Conventions, along with many LA Division events. It has been fun, and a pleasure, working and playing with so many great MODEL RAILROADERS and being a member of the Los Angeles Board.

Robert DeMoss,  
.....  
Los Angeles Div. Director.

# FINANCIAL REPORT



## Financial Report

Los Angeles Division  
Pacific Southwest Region  
National Model Railroad Association

### Union Bank Checking Account

| Date     | Description            | For                                    | Expense    | Deposit  | Balance  |
|----------|------------------------|--|------------|----------|----------|
| 1/1/14   | Beginning Balance      |  |            |          | 7,705.01 |
| 1/23/14  | NMRA Income BAM        | NMRA Reimbursement for BAM             |            | 1,200.87 | 8,905.88 |
| 2/7/14   | Carl Heimberger        | Election Expense                       | (250.06)   |          | 8,655.82 |
| 3/29/14  | Pat Raymer             | Copies and Stamps                      | (288.79)   |          | 8,367.03 |
| 4/2/14   | Carl Heimberger        | Election Expense                       | (185.01)   |          | 8,182.02 |
| 4/2/14   | Pat Raymer             | Stamps                                 | (21.24)    |          | 8,160.78 |
| 4/2/14   | Scott Sackett          | Spring Rail Flyers Printing            | (130.00)   |          | 8,030.78 |
| 4/17/14  | Daylight Sales, LLC    | LA Div Polo Shirts                     | (104.87)   |          | 7,925.91 |
| 5/17/14  | Carl Heimberger        | Spring Rail Program Printing/Donuts    | (194.67)   |          | 7,731.24 |
| 5/18/14  | Lloyd Lehrer           | Spring Rail Table Rental               | (98.10)    |          | 7,633.14 |
| 5/18/14  | Pat Raymer             | Spring Rail Event Supplies             | (98.21)    |          | 7,534.93 |
| 5/18/14  | Mona Raymer            | Spring Rail Hobo Auction Supplies      | (21.52)    |          | 7,513.41 |
| 5/18/14  | First Christian Church | Spring Rail Facility Rental            | (350.00)   |          | 7,163.41 |
| 5/18/14  | Michael Allee          | Spring Rail Time Saver/Food/\$ Advance | (749.33)   |          | 6,414.08 |
| 5/18/14  | Scott Sackett          | Spring Rail Name Badges & Holders      | (79.56)    |          | 6,334.52 |
| 5/22/14  | Gus's Deli             | Spring Rail Lunches                    | (510.00)   |          | 5,824.52 |
| 5/22/14  | Bob DeMoss             | Spring Rail Water & Sodas              | (52.78)    |          | 5,771.74 |
| 5/22/14  | SpringRail Income      | SpringRail Income                      |            | 1,601.00 | 7,372.74 |
| 6/27/14  | Daylight Sales, LLC    | LA Div Polo Shirts                     | (104.87)   |          | 7,267.87 |
| 6/30/14  | Daylight Sales, LLC    | LA Div Polo Shirts                     | (30.00)    |          | 7,237.87 |
| 6/30/14  | Scott Sackett          | Name Badges                            | (188.00)   |          | 7,049.87 |
| 8/12/14  | Daylight Sales, LLC    | Uncashed Check # 159 Lost in Mail      |            | 104.87   | 7,154.74 |
| 8/14/14  | Lloyd Lehrer           | Insurance for Freight Fright           | (25.00)    |          | 7,129.74 |
| 10/26/14 | Joe Parino             | Donuts for Freight Fright              | (81.00)    |          | 7,048.74 |
| 10/26/14 | Freight Fright Income  | Freight Fright Donations               |            | 108.53   | 7,157.27 |
| 12/10/14 | Ending Balance         |  | (3,563.01) | 3,015.27 | 7,157.27 |

### Union Bank Savings Account

| Date                 | Description          | Expense | Deposit  | Balance          |
|----------------------|----------------------|---------|----------|------------------|
| 12/31/13             | Balance Carried Over |         | 5,100.64 | 5,100.64         |
| 12/31/13             | Interest             |         | 0.09     | 5,100.73         |
| 03/31/14             | Interest             |         | 0.09     | 5,100.82         |
| 06/30/14             | Interest             |         | 0.09     | 5,100.91         |
| 12/10/14             | Current Balance      |         |          | 5,100.91         |
| <b>Total Balance</b> |                      |         |          | <b>12,258.18</b> |





# HELLO FROM THE WEBSITE GUY

In the past two months I have been to as many conventions (the NMRA PSR in San Diego in September and the Southern Pacific Historical & Technical Society in October) and what I enjoyed most about both events was the chance to be with a large group of fellow modelers and railroad enthusiasts. Not only are conventions a great place to pick up information but share it as well. While this is nothing new, what sets a convention apart is the fact that we get to share the older experiences that our closer group of fellow modelers (train club members, etc.) have already heard about. As time goes by we tend to forget about what got us into the hobby and more importantly what keeps it a passion for us. To be able to look back and share what we have learned over the years and to hear from others what they have gained as well is an essential way to keep in touch with our wonderful hobby. When I go to the contest rooms and look at what contestants have brought I can see that these models weren't put together by folks just in to the hobby, the years of experience and knowledge show in each one. The really good thing is that the veterans in the hobby

are normally more than happy to share their techniques with those who are new to model railroading. I remember how much encouragement I got when I was starting out and how that helped keep me interested. Before I learned how to paint and weather my models I admired the ones I saw that had been done by experienced modelers. As the years went by and I got better I began to realize that the model work I was doing was exactly what I had looked up to as a beginner, which I also realized wasn't so much the reflection of an overactive ego but rather a statement about the years of interest I have put into the hobby. I look forward to attending future conventions and being reminded of what a great history I have with the model railroad hobby.

<http://www.ladiv-nmra.org/>

I look forward to setting up this page with your great photos !!!!!

Tim Johnson .....  
Los Angeles Div. Webmaster



## RAILROAD PROHIBITIONS:

AT ONE TIME, THESE WERE (AND SOMETIMES STILL ARE)  
ACTUAL LAWS OR RAILROAD RULES.



- \* A Chicago, Illinois law once prohibited eating in a place that was on fire. After much discussion, a 1912 amendment exempted dining cars on steam trains.
- \* Texas law once said: When two trains meet each other at a railroad crossing: each train shall come to a full stop and neither train shall proceed until the other has gone.
- \* The state of Minnesota enacted a law that defined all railroad cars as buildings, and as such were subject to the same rules and restrictions listed in state building codes.
  - \* It is considered a misdemeanor offense to throw pickle juice at a trolley in Rhode Island.
  - \* In Wisconsin it was once illegal to kiss on a train.
- \* Believe it or not, putting salt on a railroad track in Alabama was once punishable by death.
  - \* It is illegal to place soap on railroad tracks in Mississippi.

Source: [legendsofamerica.com/](http://legendsofamerica.com/)



# FROM THE PAST

## FROM THE PAST

I've once again gone to that old source of "how to's" that I was gifted with oh so many years ago. I've copied the text as it appears in the original except for leaving space after a coma, between sentences, and spelling errors my computer automatically corrects. I suspect a space saving technique. Correcting typos was a chore when making ditto masters and possibly why there are errors. There were no pictures other than one letter "S" with streaks caused by water running down the side of the car.

### GRAFFITI ---

#### THE DIRTY WORDS ON YOUR BOX CARS

There have been several articles on graffiti. I don't think they took the pictures on a railroad. They certainly weren't the same cars I've looked at for years. Graffiti usually comes in two types; railroad oriented, destination, repair, instructions and that which is beyond all propriety. You will note that the latter words of iniquity are usually in the majority. If you are offended by such writing now would be a good time for a break. I will show you some graffiti that would turn a strait of Molacca parot livid red. Not that I advocate X rated box cars, that's just the way it is. When modeling a car how far do we want to go? Will the judges accept a really complete model. The pictures will show weathering and technique.

Use the following colored pencils: Prismicolor white, yellow dark red Venus-then line lemon yellow, col-erase 1275 blue

The Prismicolors are water soluble and some of the weathering can be done with water with a little soap added.

Let's take a good look at the types of chalk used. First the regular blackboard style and then the heavy tapered sticks of industrial chalk about 1" in diameter. The latter leaves a wider line with a slightly lemon yellow cast, about 3/4" wide (.012 in HO). The regular chalk leaves a mark about 3/8 to 1/2" in width (.006 to 008 in HO). Mostly we see the finer whited chalk or the lemon yellow used.

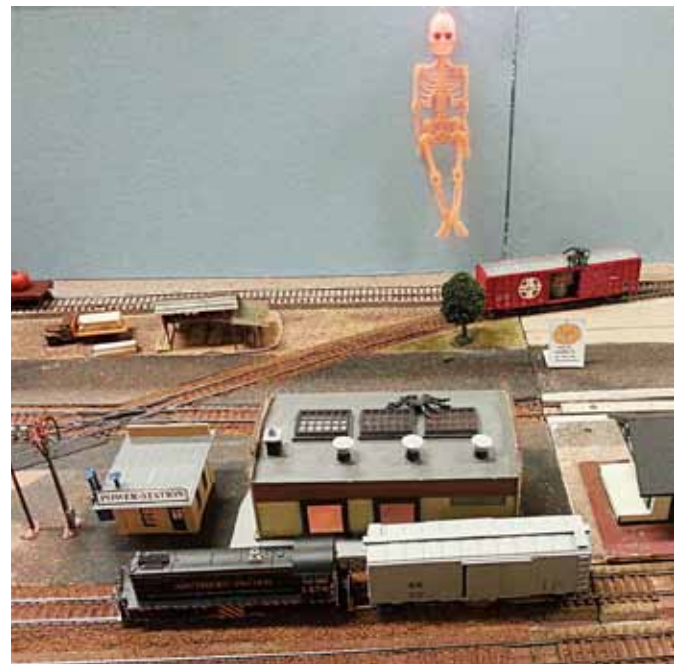
The fine white chalk remains fairly stable but you will find that the heavier chalk will weather down the car side. Most graffiti is clear and concise. You may occasionally see other colors, brighter yellow, blue and rarely red, but never black like the graffiti sets you buy. You are more likely to see white on a light car. Most graffiti is found low on a car, adjacent to ladders or on doors. Most will be found above 3 scale feet and below 7 scale feet. Wherever a man can stand and write with not too much effort. Occasionally you will see one made standing on the coupler pocket, like "Kadee Coupler" with an arrow pointing down. Honnest injun' I saw one like that on a cushion coupler box and didn't have a camera. Sharpen your pencils, then make them sharper on a fine wet or dry 400 grit sandpaper.

Working with a magnifying glass may be helpful. Most graffiti is from 3 to 5" tall (.034 to .057 in HO) Occasionally around mill and mine complexes there is car repair graffiti put on cars with paint, it is usually oxide red, orange or dark grey. Paint for this may be mixed from Gumbrachers Hyplar tube acrylic using polymer matte medium and water to thin. Perhaps a touch of Hy-slo to retard drying. The graffiti may be put on using Hyplar, Hyslo and Hy-gel for transparency. Put the paint, gray to white, on sparingly with an almost dry brush. Clean the brush, dip in water, then blend and drag the color down till it almost disappears. If the color should get too hard before you are done use denatured alcohol to soften the film. Use a 5/0 spotting brush for this work and a #2 sable water color brush to blend the weathering.

- Mike Allee



# LOS ANGELES DIVISION SPONSORED FREIGHT FRIGHT MODULAR MEET AT THE SOUTH COAST BOTANICAL GARDEN







The Los Angeles Division sponsored Modular Meet was held again at the South Coast Botanical Gardens on October 25th and 26th. There was a fairly constant stream of visitors both Saturday and Sunday of the event. The Los Angeles Division provided two TimeSaver layouts that were enjoyed by both children and adults. One TimeSaver was set up as a switching puzzle to provide more of a challenge to older youth and adults. There were six indoor modular layouts ranging from Z to S Scale with two outside G Scale layout for the enjoyment of all.

The LA Division supplied coffee and donuts for modular event presenters on both days. A Scavenger Hunt game for kids to search for various items on the different layouts presented a challenge to the young people to find. Those with completed lists of items locate were rewarded with a candy prize. Lists of Model Railroad Clubs, Modular Groups and Hobby Shops as well as information regarding the NMRA was available to the general public. Free copies of older model railroad magazines were made available to the public to take and enjoy. Mary Barstow stop by the event and during

our Superintendent's discussions with her, it was determined that Los Angeles Division has been sponsoring this event for at least 27 years at the Botanical Gardens.

Next year it was suggested that we possibly rename the event from Freight Fright to possibly the LA Division Fall Train Festival. The scope and advertising for the event will be expanded beyond the reach of families to include more model railroaders activities. We will explore reconfiguring the arrangements of the layouts to see about even including more modular layout groups. The event is planned to include some simple make and take clinics as well as slide, movie or power point presentations as well as other activities for members. Mark your calendars for the last weekend in October 2015 and plan on attending.

Sincerely,

James L. Keena  
Los Angeles Div. Chief Clerk/Paymaster

On October 25th and 26th the Los Angeles Division of the NMRA held its annual running of trains of all sizes at "Freight Fright", the pre-Halloween celebration of scale model trains held at the beautiful South Coast Botanical Gardens in Rancho Palos Verdes.

Families and friends showed up to view "O" gauge to "N" gauge freight and passenger trains, with an added treat of HO scale streetcars that actually get their power from the overhead wire. Also on the bill was an HO scale model railroad hands-on game called "Time Saver" in which a locomotive moves boxcars to different locations on track shaped like two connected 'X's. Young

people and adults raced against the clock as they repeatedly coupled and uncoupled the engine to one or more cars and then moved them from one section of track to another, fastest wins.

Kids simply moved the cars and enjoyed the amazement of how they can move, not virtual but real, scale model railroad equipment like a trainmaster of a railroad yard!

All improved their railroad skills toward maybe, just maybe, running a layout of their own someday.

Bob Maitino

# THE GREAT TRAIN EXPO ANAHEIM 2015







Photos by Joe Parrino

# NMRA ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM



## NMRA Achievement Program

### ***Introduction***

In simple terms, the Achievement Program (AP) is a travel guide, to help you on your journey through the world of model railroading. The AP also provides incentive to learn and master the many crafts and skills necessary in the hobby of model railroading. With the completion of each category, you will be issued a certificate acknowledging your achievement.

The AP requirements are a set of standards, but they can also serve as a set of guideposts for those who are new, near-new, and not-so-new to the hobby. Not because they lead to some sort of official pat-on-the-back, but because they are a source of ideas for projects that can help us learn to become better modelers.

Briefly, the AP is a system of requirements for demonstrating a superior level of skill in various aspects of our hobby. It covers not only building various types of models, but also building other things which are important to the hobby, such as scenery, structures, track work, and wiring. It also recognizes service to the hobby and the NMRA, which are important as well. Use the links on the right to explore the different certificates and requirements.

We hope that you will soon find just how easy it is to participate in the Achievement Program, and if you are not yet involved start you off on the right foot. Please visit the AP Staff Roster page to find contact information for your Regional AP Manager.

### ***Master Model Railroader***

An NMRA member qualifies as a Master Model Railroader when he or she has obtained at least seven of the eleven Achievement Certificates provided that he or she has earned at least one Achievement Certificate in each of the four areas of the Regulations. Earning the title of Master Model Railroader is the ultimate goal for many participants in the Achievement Program.

### ***Golden Spike Award***

Some people may be reluctant to participate in the AP, because the rules seem difficult to understand. The following pages explain each of the different categories in the AP, and what the exact requirements are.

If you are new to the AP, may we recommend that you take a look at the Golden Spike Award, although not an actual AP category its requirements are structured along the same lines.

### **Further Information**

Contact National Achievement Program General Manager, Paul Richardson, MMR, [achiev@hq.nmra.org](mailto:achiev@hq.nmra.org), or your Region or Division Achievement Program Manager for more information.



# 2014 LOS ANGELES DIVISION DIRECTORY

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please also refer to: PSR Dispatch 1446 Paseo Gracia San Dimas, CA 91773-3915

***Raillette Chair & Business/Circulation Manager positions are VACANT***

# I 2015 MODEL TRAIN & RAILROAD EVENTS I

## **March:**

- 3/7.....OERM Spring Swap Meet, Perris, CA
- 3/13 - 3/14 .....Cajon Division Temecula Meet
- 3/14 ..... WinterRail, Stockton, CA
- 3/14 - 3/15 ..... Model Train Show - Kern County Fairgrounds
- 3/18 - 3/21 ..... Bay Rails Operating Sessions, Newark, CA
- 3/28 ..... Western Prototype Modelers Meet, San Bernardino, CA
- 3/28 ..... Simi Valley Swap Meet

## **April:**

- 4/30 ..... Highland Pacific Operating Session

## **May:**

- 5/2 - 5/4 ..... Glendale Model Railroad Spring Open House
- 5/28 ..... Simi Valley Swap Meet

## **June:**

- 6/22 - 6/28 ..... Santa Fe Historical & Modeling Society in Addison, TX

## **August:**

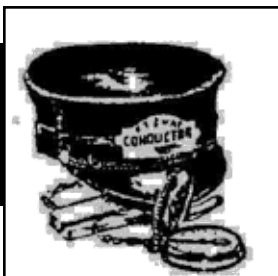
- 8/15 ..... Simi Valley Swap Meet
- 8/23 - 8/29 ..... NMRA National Convention, Portland, OR

## **September:**

- 9/16 - 9/20 ..... PSR Regional Convention, Scottsdale, AZ

## **October:**

- 10/24 ..... Simi Valley Swap Meet
- 10/24 - 10/25 .... LA Division Modular Meet (*Freight Fright*)



Los Angeles Division NMRA  
Next Board Meeting  
**Thursday, March 12<sup>th</sup> 7:00 PM**  
GMRRC  
619 Hahn Ave. Glendale CA. 91203



**NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION, INC ®**

4121 Cromwell Road  
Chattanooga, TN 37421

Phone: (423) 892-2846  
Email: nmrahq@aol.com

Fax: (423) 899-4869  
Website: www.nmra.org

**RENEWAL NOTICE**

|            |  |             |  |        |  |
|------------|--|-------------|--|--------|--|
| Name & ID: |  |             |  |        |  |
| Address:   |  |             |  |        |  |
| City:      |  | State:      |  | Zip:   |  |
| Phone:     |  | Birth Date: |  | Scale: |  |
| Email:     |  | Occupation: |  |        |  |

| <b>NMRA Membership Type</b><br>Circle the option of your Choice   | <b>1 Year</b> | <b>Total</b> |
|---|---------------|--------------|
| <b>Member with NMRA Magazine Subscription</b> ~ All Rights and Benefits;<br>includes NMRA Magazine  | \$ 66.00      |              |
| <b>Member without NMRA Magazine Subscription</b> ~ All Rights and Benefits;<br><u>does not include</u> NMRA Magazine  | \$ 44.00      |              |
| <b>Family</b> ~ Spouse or minor child of above member in good standing;<br>Does not include NMRA Magazine or voting rights. <u>Provide</u> member's name below.<br>Name: _____ DOB: _____ | \$ 9.00       |              |
| <b>Student</b> ~ Anyone under 18 years or student between 19-25 years of age<br>All rights and benefits and includes NMRA Magazine.   | \$ 32.00      |              |
| <b>Sustaining</b> ~ Mandatory for group memberships (Clubs, Associations,<br>Businesses) All Rights and Benefits and includes NMRA Magazine.  | \$110.00      |              |

| <b>Region Subscription Options For Member</b><br>Circle the option of your Choice |             |              |   |             |              |
|---|-------------|--------------|---|-------------|--------------|
| <b>Subscription Type</b>  | <b>1 Yr</b> | <b>Total</b> | <b>Subscription Type</b>  | <b>1 Yr</b> | <b>Total</b> |
| 21 ~ Northeastern Subscription  | \$ 7.00     |              | 30 ~ Mid Eastern Subscription   | \$ 9.00     |              |
| 23 ~ North Central Subscription   | \$10.00     |              | 33 ~ South Eastern Subscription   | \$10.00     |              |
| 24 ~Thousand Lakes Subscription   | \$10.00     |              | 36 ~ Sunshine Subscription  | \$10.00     |              |
| 25 ~ Pacific Northwest Subscription   | \$ 0.00     |              | 37 ~ Pacific South West Subscription                                      | \$12.00     |              |
| 26 ~ Pacific Coast Subscription   | \$ 8.00     |              | * ~ Out of regions subscriptions may be charged additional fees by Region |             |              |
| 28 ~ Midwest Subscription   | \$ 6.00     |              |   |             |              |

|                        |
|------------------------|
| Phone: _____<br>_____  |
| E mail: _____<br>_____ |

|                |                                |           |
|----------------|--------------------------------|-----------|
| <b>PAYMENT</b> | NMRA Membership Total:         | \$        |
|                | Regions Subscription Total:    | \$        |
|                | Merchandise Order Total:       | \$        |
|                | <b>PLEASE INCLUDE SHIPPING</b> | \$        |
|                | Donation Amount:               | \$        |
|                | <b>Grand Total:</b>            | <b>\$</b> |

Go to the NMRA website at [www.nmra.org](http://www.nmra.org) and visit the online store for the latest merchandise updates  
We also accept MasterCard, Visa, American Express and Discover

Credit Card No.                      Verification Code

Expiration Date: 

|       |
|-------|
| Month |
|-------|

|      |
|------|
| Year |
|------|

 Signature \_\_\_\_\_