

# LA COUPLER



[HTTP://WWW.LADIV-NMRA.ORG](http://www.ladiv-nmra.org)

FALL/WINTER 2017



*Ontario Manifest Contest Winners!  
History of Roundhouse Hobbies!  
Save the Date - SpringRail 2018!!*



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The L. A. Coupler

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# FALL/WINTER EDITION 2017

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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...*



A beautiful set of Union Pacific SD40's power up through the scenic Fairplex Garden Railroad, in Pomona CA.

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# SUPERINTENDENTS REPORT

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*To:*

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Dear Members...

Your LA Division of the NMRA has a bunch of upcoming events planned for model railroaders early next year. In February we will help promote Bob Chaparro's all-day tour of local layouts in the Burbank-San Fernando Valley area. In March we will have our annual banquet and membership meeting which will be in Burbank. Then in April we will head over to the eastern part of our division and have our SpringRail 2018 event in the same excellent facility in Whittier as last year. For details of these events see the notices in this newsletter, or our website.

Our LA Division puts on the PSR regional convention every four years, in sequence with the three other Divisions (San Diego, Cajon, and Arizona). Our turn comes quickly, as it is just about two-plus years until we get to put on the next regional convention in 2020. These arrangements must be made very early, so the LA Division Board of Directors has researched our options and gone ahead and signed the contract for the convention hotel in 2020. It is the *Airtel* in Van Nuys, beside the Van Nuys Airport, and has all the facilities we need at an attractive price and a great location. It is a great venue for our convention.

In addition to our major events mentioned above, the LA Division has been participating in various club, swap meet and hobby shop events around our division area by setting up an information table and promoting our hobby and the NMRA. Look for us, stop by and say hello. Better yet, get your friends to join the NMRA and be involved that way in our hobby.

In conclusion, let me posit a challenge to our members: we need a catchy name for our 2020 regional convention. We are looking for suggestions. Our 2016 convention was "*LA Junction*." This one will be in Van Nuys, in (of course) the San Fernando Valley. What comes immediately to my mind is "*The Valley Flyer*" but that is just one of manifold possibilities. Unfortunately, the Santa Fe's "Valley Flyer" train did not run in the San Fernando Valley, anyway. So we need a nice railroady name, hopefully one that suggests Van Nuys or the San Fernando Valley, or even just Los Angeles.

Looking forward to a great 2018,  
Cheers,

Mike O'Brien,  
*Superintendent, Los Angeles Division*

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## DIRECTOR'S REPORT

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Happy New Year to all our members! I hope you all have had a very happy holiday season.

This edition of The Coupler is just a bit tardy – we are an all-volunteer organization and these things happen.

This brings me to the results of our request for nominees for the Superintendent and Chief Clerk/Paymaster positions on the L.A. Division board. I am disheartened to report that, out of 222 rostered members, *there was not a single response*. There are only six of us now (including myself) that regularly meet to conduct the business of the Division. Three of us are the elected officials and the other three are the dedicated: Coupler editor *Scott Sackett*, Webmaster *Tim Johnson*, and Membership chair *Mona Raymer*. It appears that Superintendent *Mike O'Brien* and Chief Clerk/Paymaster *James Keena* are offering to serve another term in their respective positions. I don't believe either were planning to serve another term. If the L.A. Division is to survive, we will need members who are willing to make that happen. I will term out as director in 2019 and will not be eligible to run again. Without volunteer help from the membership, the Division board (and thus the Division) may not survive. The NMRA is a great organization, and has provided you with more benefits than you may realize, but without members willing to step up and continue that great tradition, the Division is on borrowed time. Currently, the board meets once a month for 2 hours or less on the second Thursday of the month-about 3 ½ hours if you include our pre-meeting dinner (not required). It's not a large commitment of time and, like model railroading, it's fun! We plan our activities at these meetings and, as I have said before, this is your chance to determine how the Division is run. Yes, the Division officers and chairpersons are expected to attend the Division functions throughout the year,

but these functions are all about meeting current members and hopefully showing non-members the value of the NMRA. The 2020 regional convention (which falls to the responsibility of the L.A. Division) is approaching, and the Stalwart Six will not be able to conduct it alone. I highly recommend that you read webmaster Tim Johnson's letter to the membership, elsewhere in this edition of The Coupler.

A brief review of autumn activities:

The regional convention was a success from all accounts. I was unfortunately (tongue firmly in cheek) unable to attend due to our 20th wedding anniversary celebration in Hawaii. It was a tough decision but...

I was able to attend one day of our annual Freight Fright event at the South Coast Botanical Gardens. Saturday was well attended and I saw many future model railroaders enjoying the layouts.

And so it is a new year, and we begin anew.

First up is the **Annual Membership Banquet** on Saturday, March 24th at 6:00 PM. The venue this year has changed from Burbank to Glendale. The banquet will be held this year at the Central Grille, 801 N. Central Ave., Glendale 91203. This restaurant is very close to the 134 freeway, and has ample parking. The food is outstanding and there will be a special presentation by Tim Johnson after the meal. There will also be a special "mystery gift" for everyone in attendance. There are only 30 seats available for this year's banquet, so get your RSVP in soon!

**SpringRail 2018** will be held Saturday, April 21st at the same venue as last year: College Avenue Church of the Nazarene, 8221 College Ave., Whittier CA. 90605. This is our premiere annual event with hands-on clinics, swap meet, our famous hobo auction, operating layouts,

*Continued on Page 12*



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# HELLO FROM THE WEBSITE GUY

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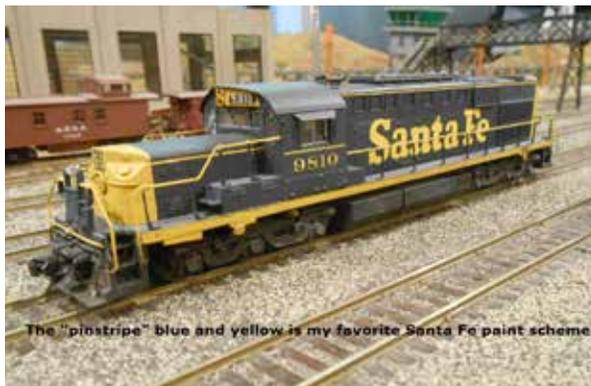
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## *Some Thoughts to Share*

After attending the “*Ontario Manifest*” convention in Ontario and although I was only able to be there for one day (Saturday) it was very enjoyable. Scott Sackett and I visited the Corona Model Railroad Society, where we were greeted with true hospitality and had the opportunity to run trains there. Our next stop was to the Riverside Live Steamers, where we also found excellent hospitality and enjoyed a really nice ride on one of their trains. The banquet was well worth the price with very good food and an excellent guest speaker. After the banquet I was speaking with Don Fowler about the camaraderie that these events encourage. I was telling Don that each time I attend an NMRA function there are more people I know and enjoy seeing and at the same time had another thought. Most of the people that I now look forward to seeing at these events have absolutely no idea what kind of modeler I am, how I got into the hobby or even what part of the hobby I enjoy most. What also occurred to me is that as I am getting to know more people the more I want them to know these things about me and I want to know same about them as well. The last Saturday of each month Jeff Smith at RailMaster Hobbies has a model railroad fellowship day where he encourages model railroaders and train enthusiasts to

gather and share. I need to be honest and admit that I have not yet been able to attend one of these fellowship days but I am going to do that before the year is out. I have always thought his model railroad fellowship day was an excellent idea and perhaps could be incorporated into future NMRA events, such as SpringRail and conventions. The thought I had about this is fairly simple, set a room aside for attendees to gather and even have tables set up for whoever would like to bring modeling projects to share or show off. The hope is that conversations would be sparked and people would find that no matter how diverse our interests in the hobby may be we also have a tremendous amount in common regarding our love for trains and model railroading. Being someone who grew up with trains, a volunteer at the Orange Empire Railway Museum working on diesel locomotives, a very active model railroader and railroad photographer I have a wealth of stories I would love to share. In return I would love to hear your stories and see your models. We are involved in a fascinating hobby and that fascination is well worth sharing.

Tim Johnson  
*Webmaster, Los Angeles Division*





## Los Angeles Division Coming Events. Mark the Date!

*Dear NMRA Los Angeles Division member,*

Please allow me to introduce myself, my name is Tim Johnson, I am the webmaster for the Los Angeles Division of the NMRA and have been active with the division since 2013. I have found my participation in the division very rewarding and have made many friends. The reason I am writing to you is to encourage you to come join us at the events we put together each year. We have two coming up that are well worth attending. On Saturday, March 24<sup>th</sup> 2018 we are having our annual banquet, which features a wonderful meal and a very enjoyable program afterwards. The banquet is tentatively set to be held at the Central Grill in Glendale. Details will be posted on the website when the venue has been confirmed and the menu is available. An email will be sent to all of you as well. Please come and be with us!! The other upcoming event is SpringRail, which is on Saturday April 21st. 2018. There will be a swap meet, clinics, lunch and Hobo Auction. In case you have never been to a Hobo Auction they are a lot of fun and you have a very good chance at walking away with an excellent prize.

The SpringRail will be held at:  
*College Avenue Church of the Nazarene, 8221 College Avenue, Whittier, CA.* As soon as we have a flyer for this event it will be posted on the website and emailed too.

The other reason for this letter is to ask for your help. In 2020 the Los Angeles Division will be hosting a regional convention and we need LA Division members to help us put it together. I was on the convention committee for LA Junction in 2016 and it was a really great experience. You don't need anything but enthusiasm to be on our convention committee and we have plenty of things we need help with. I think helping with the convention and getting to know your fellow LA Division members is an excellent way to see the true value of belonging to the NMRA. If you are interested in joining our convention committee please contact: Pat and Mona Raymer at [membership@ladiv-nmra.org](mailto:membership@ladiv-nmra.org), Mike O'Brien at [mike@corbu.us](mailto:mike@corbu.us), James Keena at [pjkeenawhittier@msn.com](mailto:pjkeenawhittier@msn.com) or me (Tim Johnson) at [airplanedad@yahoo.com](mailto:airplanedad@yahoo.com).

Thank you!!

## LA Division FaceBook!!!



Always on the cutting edge, the Los Angeles Division is now on FaceBook! Please check it out and watch for more and more content. We also appreciate your thoughts, comments, or suggestions for new events and excitement!

<https://www.facebook.com/nmrala/>

# FINANCIAL REPORT

6:59 AM  
 11/09/17  
 Accrual Basis

**LADivPSRNMRA**  
**Balance Sheet**  
 As of November 9, 2017

	Nov 9, 17
<b>ASSETS</b>	
<b>Current Assets</b>	
<b>Checking/Savings</b>	
<b>Checking</b>	
Advisory Board Expenses	697.42
<b>Total Advisory Board</b>	697.42
Bank Fees	819.31
Banquet Expenses	1,330.41
Income	-810.00
<b>Total Banquet</b>	520.41
Build a Memory Income	-1,200.89
<b>Total Build a Memory</b>	-1,200.89
Childrens Coloring Boxcar Expenses	506.37
<b>Total Childrens Coloring Boxcar</b>	506.37
Coupler Elections Expenses	913.89
<b>Total Elections</b>	913.89
Freight Fright Modular Meet Expenses	701.34
Income	-684.43
<b>Total Freight Fright Modular Meet</b>	16.91
NMRA Promotional Events Expenses	725.90
Income	-348.00
<b>Total NMRA Promotional Events</b>	377.90
Regional Convention Expenses	29,081.29
Income	-30,912.58
<b>Total Regional Convention</b>	-1,831.29
SpringRail Expenses	5,433.39
Income	-7,043.10
<b>Total SpringRail</b>	-1,609.71
Checking - Other	8,398.55
<b>Total Checking</b>	7,705.01
<b>Savings</b>	
Intrest	-2.87
Savings - Other	5,103.51
<b>Total Savings</b>	5,100.64
<b>Total Checking/Savings</b>	12,805.65
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	12,805.65
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>12,805.65</b>

James L. Keena  
 Chief Clerk/Paymaster  
 .....  
 LA Div. PSR NMRA

# How to print the “Coupler”:

## 1) *From the Webpage:*

Open the “Coupler” issue which should come up as a PDF file. Right-click, or hover cursor over top of document - and choose “Print File.”

## 2) *From the PDF:*

Once you have download the PDF, or able to open the “Coupler” in a PDF reader, you should be able to select “Print File” and choose options like Color/B&W - and print quality.



Los Angeles Division NMRA  
Next Board Meeting

**Thursday**  
**February 8<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 PM**  
619 Hahn Ave.  
Glendale CA 91203

Nominations are open for election of the *Division Superintendent* and *Chief Clerk Paymaster*.

Here your chance to become involved in promoting model railroading in the greater Los Angeles and Ventura areas. Enjoy fellowship with other model railroad enthusiast in various scales from Z to G.

This is a great opportunity to meet and create new friendships while planning local events to support, mentor, share and encourage the hobby of model railroading. Other volunteer positions are available as well on the Advisory Board for planning upcoming Regional Conventions.

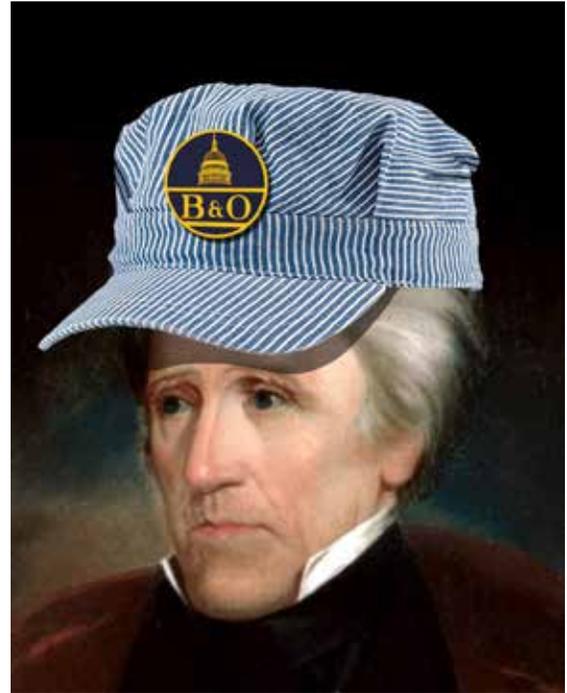




# RAILROAD TRIVIA

On June 6, 1833, President Andrew Jackson became the first President to travel by railroad. He rode a Baltimore & Ohio train from Ellicott's Mill to Baltimore, a distance of 13 miles.

The first railroad to reach the "Father of Waters" was the Chicago & Rock Island completed to Rock Island, Ill. in 1854.



## *What is demurrage?*

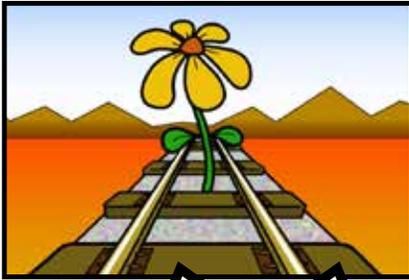
A consignor or consignee is usually allowed two days' free time, excluding Saturdays and Sundays and the seven national holidays, in which to load or unload a car of freight. After that a demurrage charge is made for each day the car is held. If a car is held for a specified period beyond the free period, the demurrage charge per day is increased. In normal times, the penalty period usually starts four days after the free period.



## *How many troops did the railroads carry during World War II?*

From December 1, 1941, to the end of August, 1945, the railroads transported approximately 43,700,000 members of the armed forces in special troop or hospital trains or in special cars attached to regular trains. The average monthly movement during this 45-month period was 971,110 troops. This was more than twice the average during World War I.

In addition, many millions of railway trips were made by uniformed men and women traveling singly or in small groups in line of duty, on furlough or returning to their homes after being discharged.



Los Angeles Division - NMRA

# SPRINGRAIL 2018

• *Swap Meet* • *Clinics* • *Lunch*



## Saturday April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2018

Swap Meet 7:00am - 11:00am

Clinics from 8:00am until 5:00pm

FREE COFFEE & DONUTS AVAILABLE IN THE MORNING

\*\*\* PIZZA LUNCH AVAILABLE - \$7.00 \*\*\*

### **Clinics for the Beginner to Advanced Railroad Modelers!**

- \* *Make Your Own Deciduous Trees*
- \* *Build a Realistic City Street*
- \* *Lighting and Photography  
of Model Railroads*
- \* *Easy Soldering for 'Fraidy-Cats*
- \* *Weathering Using Pan Pastels*
- \* *Railroads of California, Oregon &  
Washington*
- \* **PLUS MUCH MUCH MORE!**

**Ample parking Available!  
Children 12 and under Free!!!**

**Model Judging!  
Bring a Model  
Get a Free Lunch!**

**Entrance: NMRA \$20**

**Non-NMRA \$25**

**Swap Meet Admission Only \$3**

### Vendors:

**Swap Meet Spaces available  
\$10 per space.**

**Tables Provided!**

Swap Meet Vendor Information/RSVP to:  
James Keena: [pjkeenawhittier@msn.com](mailto:pjkeenawhittier@msn.com)



**College Avenue Church of the Nazarene**  
8221 College Avenue, Whittier, CA 90605



# 2018 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.***

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## DIRECTOR'S REPORT

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and more. Any of you who have attended past SpringRails know what a good time it is, and this year will be no exception. We are currently looking into the possibility of running the modular layouts on Sunday as well. To RSVP or arrange for a swap meet table, please contact our Chief Clerk/Paymaster James Keena at: [pjkeenawhittier@msn.com](mailto:pjkeenawhittier@msn.com). I look forward to seeing you there! Please come up and introduce yourself.

We are currently working on more events for 2018.

The regional convention "**Beach Op's 2018**" is being hosted this year by the San Diego Division, Sept. 12th through the 16th. As is indicated in the name, this year's convention will be focusing on operations. If you have ever considered operations on your layout or becoming involved in operations groups such as OpSig, this is the convention for you. There will be clinics, operating sessions on local layouts, the contest room, Railette events, and a swap meet. The convention is being held at the Marriott Courtyard in San Diego. For more information and to register for the convention go to: [www.psrconvention.org](http://www.psrconvention.org).

The Los Angeles Division will be hosting the 2020 regional convention (as yet unnamed), September 9th through 13th. We have entered into a contract with the Air-Tel Plaza Hotel in

Van Nuys. The board feels that this is a good central location and has secured a very good room rate. Ironically, the theme of the hotel is aviation, as it is directly adjacent to the Van Nuys airport. Don't be concerned that you will be hearing jumbo jets all the time. Van Nuys is a general aviation airport, so you will more likely hear the occasional Lear jet or Cessna. If any out-of-town attendees are private pilots, this couldn't be a more convenient venue. As I mentioned earlier, this is an undertaking that can't be accomplished by the Stalwart Six alone. There are several positions available, some requiring less time than others. Please consider helping us produce an excellent convention in 2020. Contact information for the board members is in the directory section of "The Coupler."

The L.A. Division Facebook page is up and running! Yes, we have boldly launched into the 21st century and embraced this new technology! (You can stop chuckling now). Although it is in it's infancy, I have high hopes for the future, so please feel free to post. It really needs fleshing out. Our Facebook page is: [@nmrmla](https://www.facebook.com/nmrmla). I look forward to seeing what turns up!

Pat Raymer  
*Director-Los Angeles Division*  
*PSR-NMRA*

GP-30 WIDE RANGE DIESEL, GEARED With headlight

Dummy, kit	\$2.95	Ready to run	\$10.95
		Kit	8.95

GP-30  
ATSF UP  
CB&Q

GP-30  
B&O UP  
ATSF SP  
CB&Q GN  
Wab.  
Milw.

SEE and BUY AT HEARN MODEL RAILROAD SETS OR INDIVIDUAL LOCOS AND CARS AT YOUR DEALER



## Los Angeles Division Annual Membership Meeting and Banquet



The Los Angeles Division Annual Membership Meeting and Banquet will be held at the Central Grill, 801 N. Central Avenue, Glendale, CA 91203 at 6:00 P.M. on Saturday, March 24, 2018.

Meal Choices are Beef Short Ribs, Almond Crusted Salmon or Vegetarian Pasta. Price is \$25 per person, which includes coffee, tea or sodas and gratuity. Adult beverage will be available at additional cost.

Meeting program includes PowerPoint slide presentation by Tim Johnson on modern and historic railroads of Northern California, Oregon and Washington.

For reservations, please contact: James Keena, Chief Clerk Paymaster at [pjkeenawhittier@msn.com](mailto:pjkeenawhittier@msn.com)

### KlinKers



I see you also faithfully model the prototype when it comes to spending **MONEY!!!**

*S. Sackett*

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# FROM THE ROUNDHOUSE

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**WHAT'S HAPPENING AT YOUR LOCAL MODEL RAILROAD CLUB:**

## California Southern Model RR Club



The California Southern Model RR Club is located in Norwalk's historical downtown; The CSMRRC was formed in 1984. The purpose was to build and operate a large permanent HO scale railroad for the enjoyment of its members. The HO scale layout presently under construction is our second one. The new layout includes an innovative "mushroom" design with two levels, stacked one on top of the other, but with the aisle ways reversed. This design maximized the utilization of the space available making a longer linear run we have, 4.8 scale miles of mainline track. In 2005, we switched from its conventional DC system to Digitrax DCC setup. We are now in the process of completing the second level and installing signaling and computer control systems.

We have our business meeting the first Tuesday of the month starting at 7:30 pm. General membership in the California Southern Model Railroad Club is open to anyone over 18 years of age with an interest in HO scale model railroading. Persons over 12 years of age, but not yet 18 are eligible for a junior membership provided a regular club member accepts the responsibility of sponsorship. Dues for membership are \$30.00 per month. There is a four month probationary period, after which a vote by the membership on acceptance is mandatory.

We do not have regular operating times, however member usually run Wednesday and Saturday nights. And invite those interested in model railroading to come and visit.

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# FROM THE ROUNDHOUSE

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**WHAT'S HAPPENING AT YOUR LOCAL MODEL RAILROAD CLUB:**

## **Highland Park Society of Model Railroad Engineers, Inc.**



The Highland Park Society of Model Railroad Engineers Inc. is open year-round on almost every Wednesday night from 7:00 to 10:00 P.M. We are always looking for new members to become part of this group of model railroaders where you can enjoy fellowship, model railroad craftsmanship, sharing and learning. Come and join the fun. We have one of the lowest monthly dues in the Los Angeles area at just \$30 per month.

The club has been in existences for more than 67 years, but we are still improving and expanding the Highland Pacific Railroad. We have implemented and expanding block assigned DC and NCE DCC throughout the entire railroad. Through our block assignment control method, both DC and DCC locomotives can operate together on along separate portions of the railroad. Your prized DC locomotives

can work alongside new advanced DCC decoder and sound equipped locomotives. This way no one is left out of the fun of model railroading.

Every 5th Wednesday that occurs in a month is where we operate the railroad utilizing timetables and dispatcher to move scheduled trains across the railroad. Simple card cards and way bills are used for delivery and pickup of cars from various industries.

The Highland Pacific never charges an admission fee for our annual open houses, but donations are always welcome. We are here to promote the hobby of model railroading and have fun at the same time. Additional information is available on our club website: <http://www.highlandpacificrr.com>

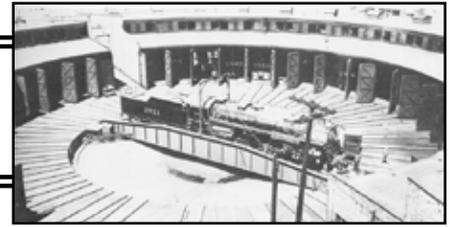
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# FROM THE ROUNDHOUSE

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**WHAT'S HAPPENING AT YOUR LOCAL MODEL RAILROAD CLUB:**

## **Santa Susana Railroad Historical Society**



The Santa Susana Railroad Historical Society's DCC controlled (Digitrax) HO scale layout loosely models the Southern Pacific's coast line between Los Angeles and Portland in the early 1950's during the time when the railroad was transitioning from steam to diesel locomotives. The layout has over 400 feet of mainline on two levels of wall-mounted shelf along with two free standing peninsulas. Special emphasis is placed on the fictional Santa Susana Pacific Railroad serving the needs of Ventura County farms and industries. Features include Cuesta loop that climbs from the lower to upper level of the layout, four freight classification yards and three passenger stations along with numerous bridges, sidings and industrial spurs.

Although the scenery on the layout is 100 percent complete, the club is constantly planning and implementing improvements to enhance both the visual and operational aspects of the layout. Recent scenery updates include downtown Los Angeles, Corriganville Santa Susana, Moorpark, and Mount Shasta. A photo backdrop behind the

upper shelf from San Ardo through Salinas was recently added and the club's scenery committee is currently working on updating the Salinas area of the layout. A large sugar beet processing plant will soon be added to this area.

The club is presently in the process of installing CTC signaling throughout the layout, and has implemented a software program (Train Controller) that provides a means to run trains on the layout at several levels including total automation. The club recently added a cutting edge overhead LED lighting system that simulates outdoor lighting from dawn to midnight. This lighting is operated by a programmable controller that will eventually enable switching the layout's scenery lighting features on and off.

The club's layout is located in the freight room of the former Southern Pacific Railroad's Santa Susana depot. The railroad built this depot in the early 20th century in order to serve eastern Ventura County. The depot opened for business in 1903 and remained in service until the late 1960's. The building was slated for demolition by Southern

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# FROM THE ROUNDHOUSE

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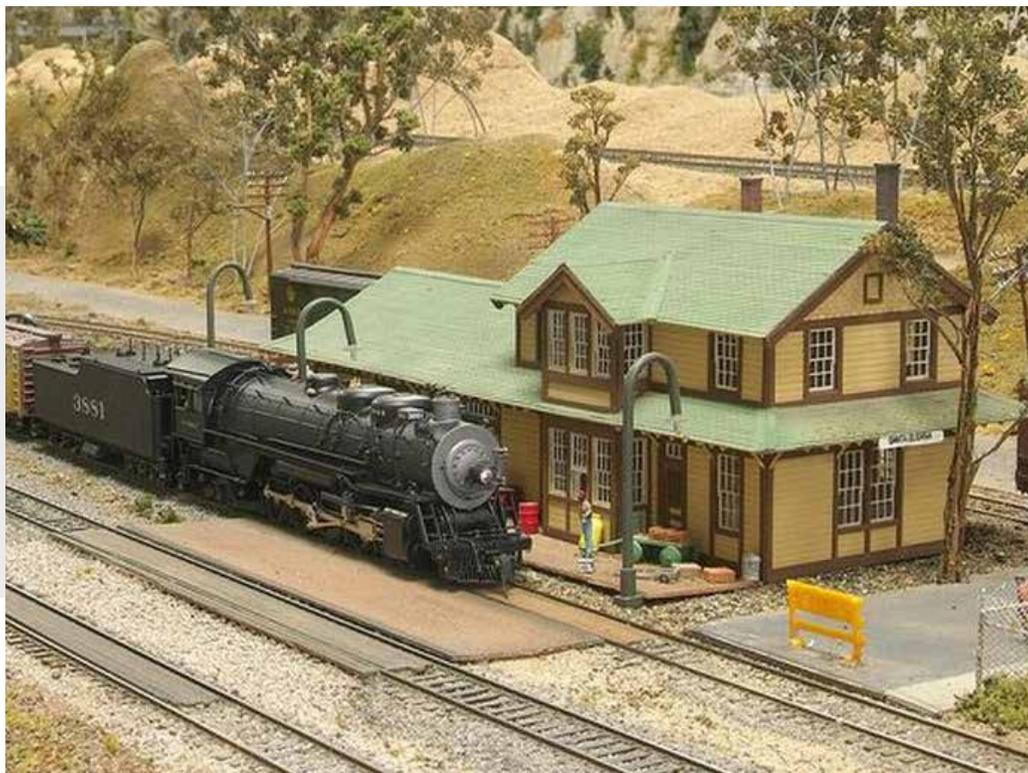


## WHAT'S HAPPENING AT YOUR LOCAL MODEL RAILROAD CLUB:

### Santa Susana Railroad Historical Society

Pacific before it was purchased by Ventura County for \$1.06 and was moved by truck to park property in 1974. Guests of the Society are encouraged to visit the museum located in the passenger section of the depot to view several artifacts and photos that detail the history of railroading in Southern California. There is also a large collection of vintage Lionel O gauge locomotives and cars on display in the meeting room. The depot is open to the public every Saturday and Sunday except for national holidays from 1 pm to 4 pm.

Regular members of the Society are also volunteers with the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park's District. Membership in the Society is open to the public. All potential members are required to successfully pass a background and fingerprint check before submitting a membership application and initiation fees to the Society in order to be considered for membership.



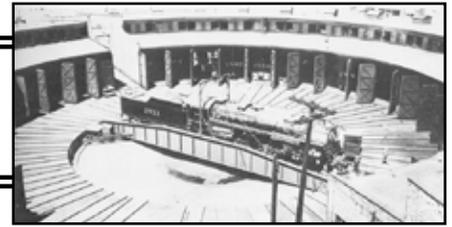
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# FROM THE ROUNDHOUSE

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## WHAT'S HAPPENING AT YOUR LOCAL MODEL RAILROAD CLUB:

### Los Angeles Model Railroad Society (LAMRS)



#### Enhanced Operations at the Los Angeles Model Railroad Society (LAMRS)

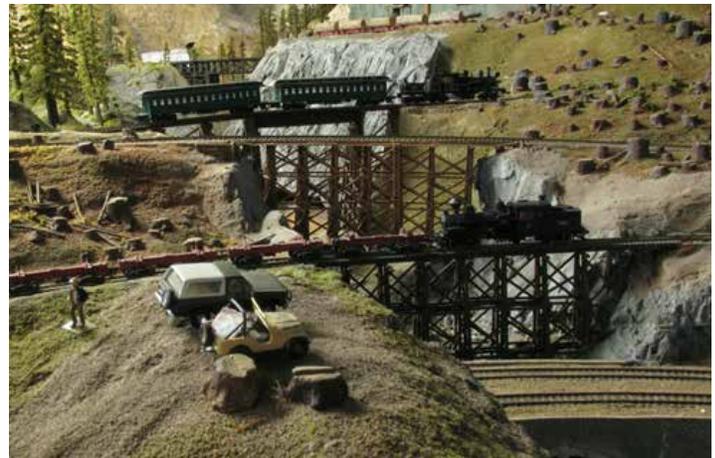
Since being featured in the September 2015 issue of Model Railroader, and especially in the last year, the Los Angeles Model Railroad Society in Hawthorne has focused on layout updates that enhance our



reinvigorated monthly operating sessions. We upgraded our Digitrax system to the newest DCS240 command station and experimented with improved track cleaning and application of graphite and CRC 2-26 and have seen improved reliability during operating sessions.



1) Modern Operations: We have finally conducted centralized traffic control (CTC) sessions that take full advantage of our train detection, operational signaling, and dispatching software. We expanded track in our main classification yard to accommodate



longer trains and more switching. We also found that running modern operations is a good way to increase participation from our teenage junior members who like to run modern equipment.

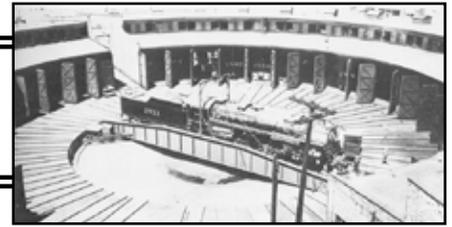
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# FROM THE ROUNDHOUSE

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**WHAT'S HAPPENING AT YOUR LOCAL MODEL RAILROAD CLUB:**

## **Los Angeles Model Railroad Society (LAMRS)**



2) TT&TO Operations: We developed simplified steam-diesel transition era timetable and train order sessions with less paperwork and simplified switching. We added track and structures to support more passenger train front-end switching.

3) Narrow Gauge Operations: We have simplified paperwork, expanded the number of industries, and added more yard tracks to enhance operations.



4) Logging Branch Operations: On our standard gauge logging branch we conduct our simplest TT&TO sessions. These are a great introduction to TT&TO operations.

Our operating sessions are usually held on the last Sunday of month and the session type varies each month. There are usually, but not always, some slots available for guests. You can also visit our layout at our Open Houses in April, October, and December or our run nights on the 2nd Tuesday of every month.

**Come visit us and get involved in operations!**

***www.lamrs.org***  
***infoatlamrs@aol.com***  
***Also Facebook and YouTube***



# Ontario Manifest Pacific

## The Show Room

The recent 2017 Ontario Manifest Pacific Southwest Region (PSR) Convention was jointly sponsored by the Cajon Division and the Orange County Modular Railroaders. Corporate sponsors included Arnie's Trains in Westminster, RailMaster Hobbies in Bellflower and the Train Crossing in Costa Mesa. The Convention was enjoyed by many participants from our four PSR Divisions of Cajon, Los Angeles, San Diego and Arizona as well as some from the Pacific Coast Region and guests from Canada. The Convention Show Room was again open for display, people's choice popular vote and NMRA Merit evaluations.

There were a total of 51 entries into the Show Room comprised of 11 Models, 13 Photographs, 7 General Arts & Crafts, 4 Needlework and 16 Railroadiana. Five Merit Awards were presented for outstanding model craftsmanship and workmanship that gained merit evaluation scores of 87.5 points of greater. Results of both the model evaluations and people's choice popular votes are as follows for the various entered categories:

## Steam Locomotives



1st Place & Merit Award for D&RGW 378 2-8-0 by Norm Suydam  
2nd Place for ATSF 9446 2-6-0 by Nick Lisica  
3rd Place for ATSF 4113 2-8-4 by Nick Lisica

## Freight Cars



1st Place & Merit Award for Arrowhead Water Car by William Chappell  
2nd Place for SP 42739 Flatcar with Railway Express Load by Nick Lisica

## Structures On-Line



1st Place & Merit Award for "Saccara Station" by Nick Lisica  
2nd Place for V & T Tin Shop by Dave Arendres





# Southwest Region (PSR) Convention

## Structures Off-Line



1st Place, Merit Award & Best of Show for Logging Tug "Alexandria" by Nick Lisica

## Displays On-Line



1st Place for "Juniper Freight Station" by Jim Herrmann



## Displays Off-Line



1st Place & Merit Award for "Bernard Tractor Repair" by Jim Herrmann

## Photographs Model Color

1st Place for "Burlington 9280" by Roberta Fleishmann

## Photographs Prototype Black & White

1st Place for "Loco 315 in Morning Light" by Don Stewart

2nd Place for "RGS Freight Train Nearing Cut" by Don Stewart

3rd Place for "Narrow Gauge Double Header" by Don Stewart

## Photographs Prototype Color

1st Place for "RGS 455 Coming Around the Corner" by Don Stewart

2nd Place for "RGS Freight Train" by Don Stewart

3rd Place for "Engine 455 at Sunrise" by Don Stewart

## Arts & Crafts General

1st Place for "Dr. Seuss Quilt" by Kimberly Fowler

2nd Place for "Table Topper" by Kimberly Fowler

2nd Place for "Steam Train Pillow" by Annette Palmer

3rd Place for "Bow Tie Pasta Angels" by Annette Palmer



# Ontario Manifest Pacific

## Arts & Crafts Needlework

- 1st Place & Best of Show for “Stuffed Dog” by Roberta Fleishmann
- 2nd Place for “Musical Themed Quilt” by Kimberly Fowler
- 3rd Place for “Mickey Mouse” by Annette Palmer

## Railroadiana

- 1st Place for CMStP&P Switch Stand Lantern by Annette Palmer
- 2nd Place for Locomotive Oil Can by Annette Palmer
- 3rd Place for Milwaukee First Aid Kit by Annette Palmer

## Thumbs Levity Award



- 1st Place for “Bunny Luv Baby Carrots” by Steve Pepin

In response to suggestions from various individuals, the PSR will be adding an additional category of Vehicles to the Model and Popular Vote Contests. There are so many cars, trucks, buses and construction equipment that are now being built by members in various scales from Z to G to complement model railroads that we need to acknowledge, recognize and award these talented individuals.

It is very simple to participate and display your models, photographs, etc. in the Show Room. You just need to fill out the NMRA Form 901 so that we know the title of your entry including your contact information so that we can forward any awards you receive to you. Railroad Prototype Modelers are encouraged and welcome to display their models as well for the enjoyment of those in attendance. If you would like merit evaluation of your models, you will need to complete a NMRA Form 902 to submit with your entry.

Local area Divisional meets many times include Show Rooms to display, conduct popular vote and well as provide merit evaluations of your models. At Regional Conventions, entries can be accepted typically beginning on Thursdays through Saturday mornings to just prior to the start of judging and popular vote tabulation. If you are only able to make to the Convention for one day on Saturday, you still have an opportunity to display and enter your models.

Remember to bring your models, arts & crafts, etc. to your next nearby event to share with your fellow model railroaders and spouses. Your entries provide opportunities for recognition of your talents, obtain constructive ideas and suggestions, stimulate conversations and inspire others to expand their creativity as well. Hope to see both you and your entries soon.

Sincerely,

James L. Keena  
PSR Contest Chair





# 2017 POMONA GREAT TRAIN EXPO



Images from the "Great Train Show" in Pomona California on the weekend of July 9th, 2017. The show featured vendors with tables full of trains for sale, exhibitors from across the country, huge operating model train displays, and free door prize giveaways .



# 2017 Freight Fright

On the weekend of October 28th and 29th, the LA Division hosted the 2017 “**Freight Fright**” at the South Coast Botanical Gardens in Palos Verdes, California. The 2-day event was attended by a great deal of people on both days who were interested in the wide variety of model railroading.

There were 8 different Model Railroad Groups setting up layouts in many different gauges and eras. We had a G-Scale garden railroad setup— and even a modular, live-steam railroad next to the Japanese Gardens.

Setup was on a Friday night - coincidentally there were Wedding and late night Wedding parties. We didn’t get any leftover cake - but had a number of well-dressed visitors who took a break from the festivities and were extremely impressed and interested in the running trains.

On Sunday the Botanical Gardens held a Pumpkin Patch and Halloween costume party for the kids – so there was plenty of interesting costumes to go around. Also we had a special visit from the Railroad Ghost!



Big thanks to the local Model Railroad groups that sent up layouts were:

- \***Southern California “S” Gaugers**
- \* **N-Trak Express**
- \* **N-land Pacific**
- \* **Southern California Traction Club**
- \* **Orange County “O” Scalpers**
- \***20/30’s Modular**
- \***South Coast ON30**
- \***ZOCAL**
- \***John Pollen - Live Steam Group**
- \***Jay Kelly - Garden Railroad Group**

Overall it was a great event and a great crowd for all who attended. We will be hosting the 2018 “Freight Fright” on Saturday and Sunday 27th and 28th. Mark your calendar and hope to see you there.



# 2017 Freight Fright



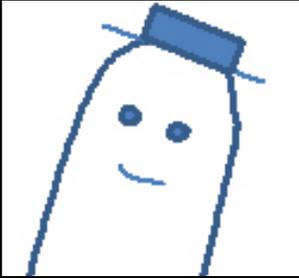


# 2017 Freight Fright



Young Aiden sports a NMRA division shirt that he won at one of the Freight Fright hourly drawings. The smile says it all!

# 2017 Freight Fright



## RAILROAD GHOST

I have been asked about the “Railroad Ghost” who made several appearances at our recent “Freight Fright” train show at the South Coast Botanical Gardens in November.

Perhaps the “Railroad Ghost,” is trying to remind us of the many Railroads that have gone Bye, Bye, over the last many years, either due to money problems and being taken over by other Railroads.

This includes the Southern Pacific, Eastern Pacific, Northern Pacific, Western Pacific, Erie, Maryland and Pennsylvania,, Great Northern, Chicago Great Western, Baltimore and Ohio, Burlington, Denver and Rio Grande, Duluth, Missabe and Iron Range, Grand trunk Western, Lehigh Valley, Maine Central Railroad, New Haven, and Santa Fe, are some of the many Railroads that have gone bye, bye.

Many model Railroaders have been raised next to the tracks, or have ridden these trains, therefore we model that Railroad, because it remains us of these good times. We may also have had a family member that worked for a peculiar Railroad; therefore we may model that Railroad.

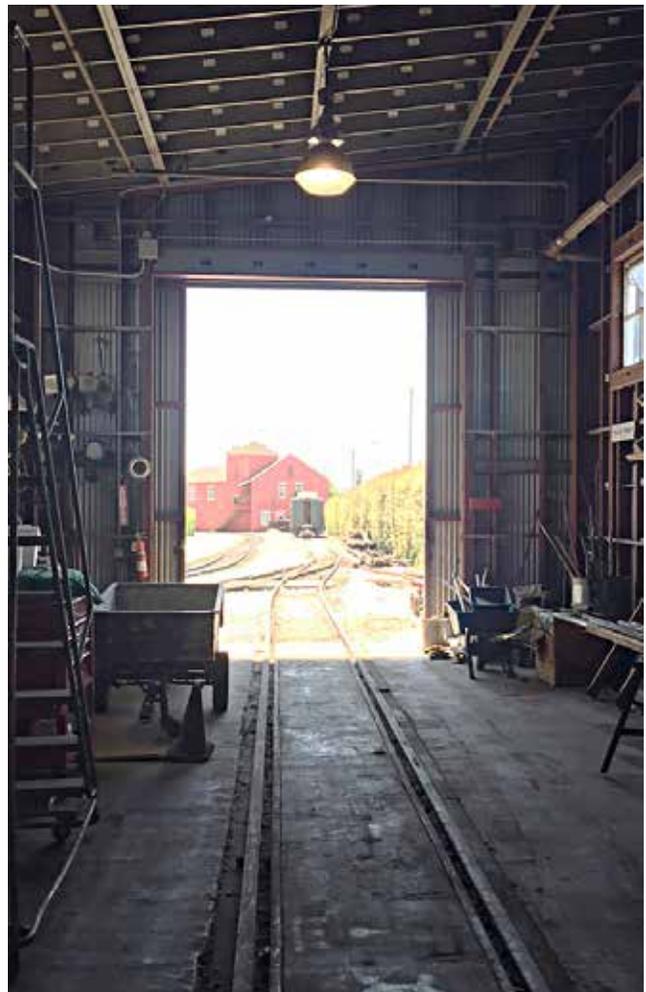
Since Halloween is when “Ghosts” appear, this is “its” day to appear and remind us of these bygone Railroads and how we enjoyed watching and riding them. Our model railroads reflect this and are fun for us and joy to our children, who admire and run our model railroads with “TREATS” from the ”Railroad Ghost” and these Bye, Bye Railroads.

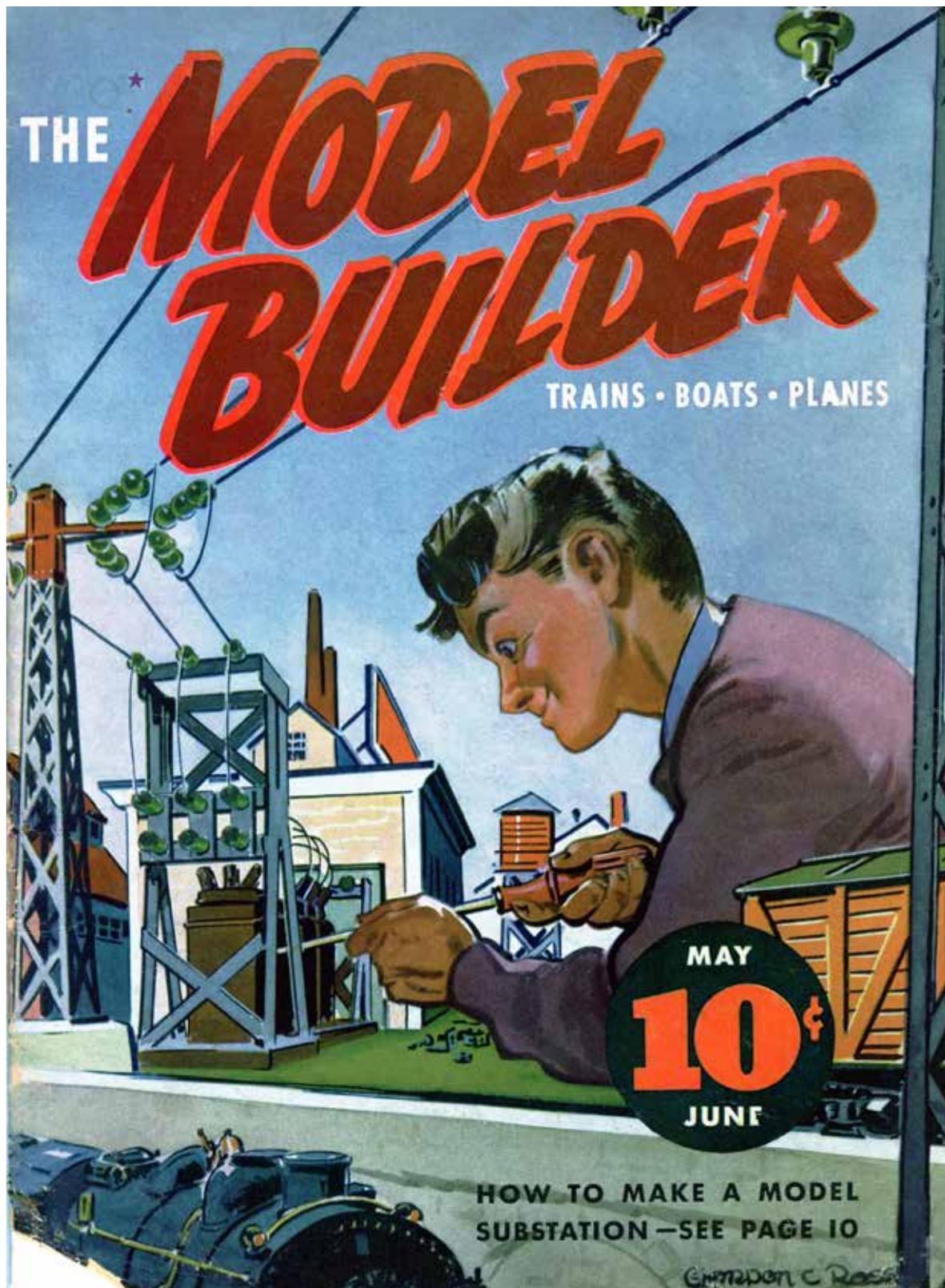




# BOY SCOUT DAY

The Boy Scouts Merit Badge Event was held at Knott's Berry Farm on Saturday, June 17, 2017. It was jointly sponsored by the Cajon Division with support of the Los Angeles and San Diego Divisions. Over 200 Boy Scouts Earned their Railroading Merit Badge at this event. Include as part of the days activities was a tour of the narrow gauge private car "Edna" and the Knott's Berry Farm locomotive shops.

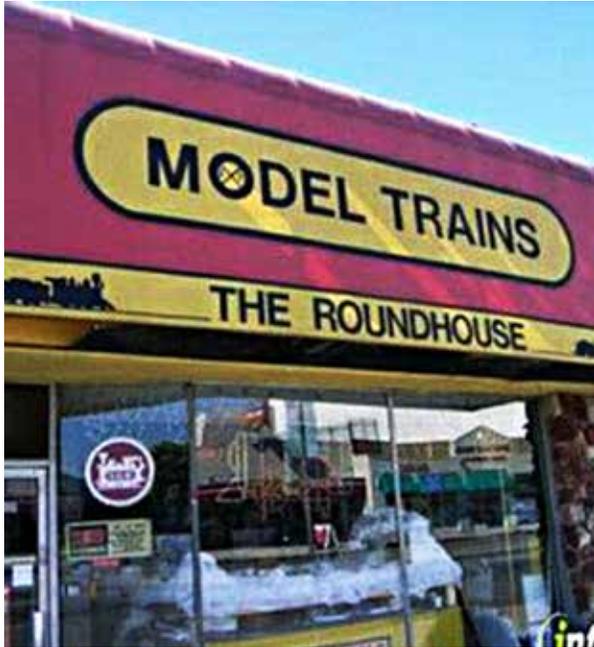




“The Model Builder” magazine, May-June 1937.  
Published Bi-Monthly by the Lionel Corporation.



# HISTORY OF THE ROUNDHOUSE



Over 40 years ago Alan Keesling had a dream and desire to open a hobby shop in the San Fernando Valley, to create a positive place of community for people to hang out and enjoy the Model Railroad Hobby. Alan grew up Hollywood, California and was always interested in cars, trains, and anything else mechanical. He was also very artistic and had a keen eye for lighting and design. In the 1960's Alan was part of the famous "Hog-Farm" hippie commune (think Wavy Gravy), and became a liquid light show artist at the LA's Shrine Exposition Hall doing shows for such icon bands such as Janis Joplin. In 1968 he joined the light show group, "Single Wing Turquoise Bird." Single Wing Turquoise Bird was formed to create light shows at the Shrine Auditorium for band like "Pink Floyd," "The Grateful Dead," "Cream", and "The Who". In 1973, after moving to the valley with his wife and starting a family, Alan bought The Roundhouse from Mort Conklin, which was located on Lankershim Blvd, just south of Magnolia in what now is the fashionable Noho District. His neighbors were the Woolworth Department store and Nudie's Western Wear, which provided flamboyant rhinestone suits to the

movie studios and celebrity alike. In the 1980's, the entire block was torn down and replaced by a large office building for Hewlett Packard, and he was forced to relocate.



*Alan with his caricature that was done by Gabi Payne- a customer and animator.*

Alan found his next location which ultimately would become the permanent home for The Roundhouse Train Store on the 12000 block of Victory Blvd near Coldwater Canyon in North Hollywood. His neighbor was the "Tonga Hut", an authentic Tiki Cocktail bar which is famous for its Hot Buttered Rum drinks. The Roundhouse quickly became a popular hangout for modelers and idiosyncratic people alike, which was affectionately known as "The Hippie Train Store." Alan loved his customers, and was very hospitable to them- there was always a pot of fresh coffee, donuts, cookies, and sodas available for anyone who shopped in the store or just came in to hang out. On Friday nights, they often stayed open until 9pm, and during holiday

# MODEL TRAINS

season, Alan could be found at The Roundhouse until 2:00am or later. If you happened to call the store after hours, Alan would answer the phone and say, "Roundhouse All Night!" There was always a regular group hanging out chatting about the latest train offering and competing hobby tips. It really was the train store version of TV Show "Cheers"



*35th Anniversary of The Roundhouse with cake and daughter, Brooke.*

To boost sales, Alan started holding a raffle every month. For every \$10.00 a customer spent, they would receive a raffle ticket. On the last Saturday each month, Alan would host the raffle drawing, giving away gift cards with monetary values to spend at his store. These were hand-written gift cards, that featured notes and drawings by Alan himself. It was usually quite the party atmosphere, and if children were ever present, he would let them choose the tickets out of the bin. Also for the holidays, Alan would never miss the opportunity to dress up for the occasion. In addition to the train crowd, The Roundhouse also attracted the attention of the local Animators from

nearby studios like Walt Disney, Hannah Barbera, and Filmation Studios. Flintstones director Alex Lovy was a regular customer, Ward Kimball came in on occasion, in addition to some actors and performers such as Gary Coleman, Billy Barty, Rod Stewart, Kate Jackson, among others. Alan often did repairs for customers, fixing their trains. He was especially busy during the holidays helping people getting their train running for Christmas. He often would take on customer's trains for consignment for months at a time – sometimes at the sacrifice of his own retail space. Alan was known for his penchant for painstakingly handwriting all sales receipts, even in the era of computerized cash registers, which is the way he preferred things. Alan was a true analog and mechanically inclined person, but not so savvy with computer technology, so his store definitely felt like a blast from the past. The Roundhouse may have been the last train store to still use a microfiche machine!



*Alan often loved to goof off, here with light-bulbs in his ears.*

# MODEL TRAINS

In the early 2000's the Roundhouse began to suffer from competition from the newest fad, Internet Sales. Loyal customers began to age and thin out,



Alan shown here entertaining customers, Deyo and Luis.

resulting in fewer and fewer people being interested in the Model Railroad hobby. Young people began to have competing interests from video game consoles and social media. The Roundhouse was never a major money-maker, but it always supported his family, and Alan persevered and continued to focus on his customers, who he treasured.



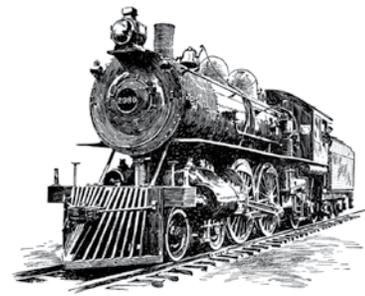
Luis and son, Luis Jr. - two of his many regular customers who hung out frequently.



Alan and his daughter, Brooke.

Unfortunately, bad health took Alan Keesling and he passed away in July 2013 at the age of 77. The Roundhouse was taken over by his brother, Bill, but the store never regained its preeminence and was closed in May 2016, and sadly another iconic train store disappeared from the San Fernando Valley landscape. In the end, Alan was very proud of The Roundhouse, and he was especially fond of his regular customers who helped keep The Roundhouse afloat through both easy and hard times. He built a family out of friends in the model train enthusiast community, many who loved Alan as much as he loved them.

- Scott Sackett  
Brooke Keesling



Special thanks to Alan Keesling's daughter, Brooke for providing her unique perspective on the Roundhouse story, Keesling Family and the fantastic photos.





# MODEL TRAIN & RAILROAD EVENTS:

## 2018

### *February*

- 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> ..... Great Train Show, Costa Mesa
- 10<sup>th</sup> ..... San Diego Division Winter Meet
- 17<sup>th</sup> ..... Layout Tour #54, Greater Burbank Area
- 18<sup>th</sup> ..... California Express Railroadiana Show, Buena Park
- 24<sup>th</sup> ..... Roundhouse Gang Swap Meet, San Bernardino (Tentative)

### *March*

- 3<sup>rd</sup> ..... Orange Empire Swap Meet, Perris
- 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> ..... Golden Empire Historical & Modeling Society Train Show, Bakersfield
- 24<sup>th</sup> ..... Los Angeles Division Banquet, Burbank
- 24<sup>th</sup> ..... Santa Susana RR Historical Swap, Simi Valley
- 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup> ..... San Bernardino Co. Museum Train Days, Redlands

### *April*

- 14<sup>th</sup> ..... North County Model Railroad Society Swap Meet, Oceanside
- 21<sup>st</sup> ..... L.A. Division SpringRail Meet, Whittier
- 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> ..... Cajon Division Meet, Perris
- 28<sup>th</sup> ..... Railroad Prototype Modelers Meet, San Bernardino

### *May*

- 19<sup>th</sup> ..... Daylight Division Meet, Bakersfield (Tentative)
- 19<sup>th</sup> ..... Layout Tour #55, Bakersfield (Tentative)
- 19<sup>th</sup> ..... Santa Susana RR Historical Swap, Simi Valley

### *August*

- 25<sup>th</sup> ..... Santa Susana RR Historical Swap, Simi Valley

### *September*

- 12<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> ..... Pacific Southwest Region Convention, San Diego
- 15<sup>th</sup> ..... PSR Convention Swap Meet, San Diego

### *October*

- 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> ..... L.A. Division Freight Fright

### *November*

- 3<sup>rd</sup> ..... Santa Susana RR Historical Swap, Simi Valley

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# MODEL TRAIN & RAILROAD EVENTS:

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## 2019

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### *April*

20<sup>th</sup>..... Spring Rail Meet, Whittier

## 2020

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### *April*

18<sup>th</sup>..... Spring Rail Meet, Whittier

### *September*

9<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup>..... PSR Convention, Van Nuys, CA.

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*Special Thanks to Jeff Smith, RailMaster Hobbies  
for printing of this issue of the "Coupler"*

