



# LA Coupler

*The Newsletter of the Los Angeles Division of the NMRA*

## Member Spotlight: Jeff Traintime

Page 6



Los Angeles Division  
Pacific Southwest Region  
National Model Railroad Association, Inc.  
12341 Heritage Springs Drive  
Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670  
www.ladiv-nmra.org

### *In This Issue*

Mastering the "Structures" AP Certification

Member Spotlight

PSR Convention Countdown

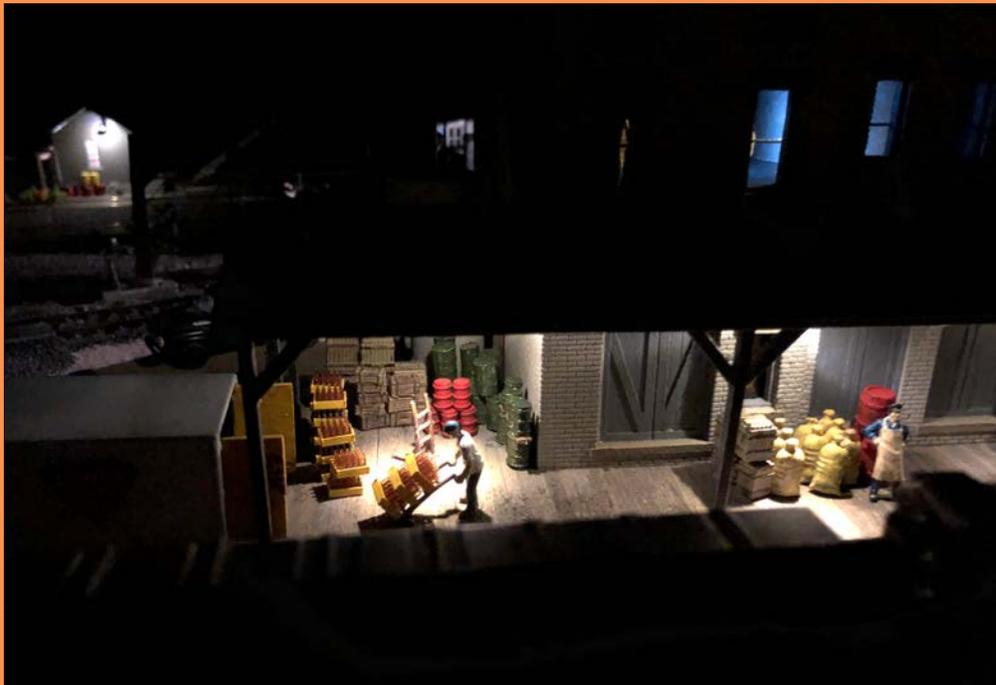
...and more!





# Features

- Superintendent's Report..... 4
- Member Spotlight...*Jeff Traintime*..... 6
- Director's Report..... 7
- NMRA Partnership Program..... 9
- How to...*Create a Sense of Era*..... 12
- Members' Services..... 13
- Achievement Corner...*AP Certification: Structures*..... 14
- Member Spotlight...*Jeff Traintime*..... 19
- Financial Report..... 20
- Advisory Board Contact List..... 22
- Schedule of Events..... 23



## On the Cover...

*Jeff Traintime's terrific modeling on his Milwaukee Road layout*

Photos by Jeff Traintime  
See pages 6 & 19

## LA Coupler Deadlines

## Publication Team

*The LA Coupler is always looking for submissions, articles, photos, or ideas. Please reach out to the Editor for more information:*

**Lisican@gmail.com**

### Submission Deadlines

*Spring Issue: February 1*

*Summer Issue: May 1*

*Fall Issue: August 1*

*Winter Issue: November 1*

*Editor:*

**Nick Lisica**

**2709 E 2nd St**

**Long Beach, CA 90803**

**Lisican@gmail.com**

*Issue Photographers:*

**James Keena**

**Jeff Traintime**

**Nick Lisica**

*Electronic PDF Distribution:*

**Kevin Spady**

## Publication Information for the LA Coupler

The official publication of the Los Angeles Division, Pacific Southwest Region (PSR), National Model Railroad Association (NMRA). The LA Coupler is published quarterly by the Los Angeles Division of the National Model Railroad Association and is available online at: [www.ladiv-nmra.org](http://www.ladiv-nmra.org)

All materials, articles, and advertising must be submitted to the Editor and in an electronic format. Contact us for a copy of our submission guidelines. Advertisers may contact the Editor to request guidelines and a rate card. Subscribers with an e-mail address on file will receive the PDF version. Copyright 2020, LA Division Pacific Southwest Region, National Model Railroad Association.

Permission to reprint granted to all affiliates of the NMRA. Others may request permission to reprint from the Editor.

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

Thank you for supporting the LA Division!



# Superintendent's Report

- Vic Cavalli

## What You Said About Your Division

Last year, when it became apparent COVID-19 was going to disrupt our “traditional” ways of life, I asked Advisory Board member Kevin Spady if he would conduct a survey regarding our Division’s acceptance of interacting via the internet. The results were wide spread and mixed. Here are a few examples based on 66 responses (roughly 40% of our total membership):

### **How do you primarily use the internet with regards to model railroading?**

Top responses: 30% - research/information gathering, 25% - e-mailing with fellow modelers; 24% - participating in virtual events/video conferences

### **Do you ever participate in virtual events?**

Response: 71% stated “yes” they do

### **What type(s) of virtual offerings would interest you?**

Top responses: 22% - clinics, 21% - virtual layout tours; 17% - show-and-tells

### **If the L.A. Division were to offer virtual events, would you attend regularly?**

Response: ~8.5 on a scale of 1 (“never”) to 10 (“always”)

Given these results, the Advisory Board decided to start holding quarterly interactive members-only Zoom sessions. After two (2) lightly attended sessions, and receiving no interest for a planned third, it was decided to scale back these events to a more informal, monthly “sharing” session, simply called Sand House Chat. Maybe you recall receiving an invite, or two, via MailChimp recently.

“Chats” thus far have included: creating plans for a speeder shed (from photos), pros and cons of various types of bench work for an around the wall layout, the assembly/upgrading of an older (Red Ball in this case) commercial HO car kit; modeling company-town houses – to mention but just a few. Whether these sessions will continue to be held, however, is up to you, the members of our Division. If only the same, few attend each month’s Zoom event, chances are interest will wane and die.

On a different note, have you taken a moment to explore the Division’s newly redesigned and expanded website? A bit of background: again, using feedback provided from the previously mentioned internet usage survey, the Board learned 77% of those responding had visited the Division’s website at least once. From comments left however, members shared they either didn’t know the site existed, or did not feel it contained enough renewing value to make it worth visiting frequently.

...continued page 5

# Superintendent's Report

- Continued

Given this feedback, it was obvious a thorough review of our “then” existing website needed to be performed. The results leading the Board to agree it was time to start afresh, i.e., to design an improved, expanded upon, more up-to-date site; one in-line with the best practices already being practiced by the PSR and some its Divisions.

I'm extremely pleased to announce that after several long months of dedicated work by our Division's new Webmaster, Kevin Spady, along with oversight and assistance from the PSR's Webmaster, Dan Moran, the Los Angeles Division's new website is now on-line! If you haven't already, give it a look at <https://www.ladiv-nmra.org>. I'm sure you'll be impressed.

Last, but not least, don't forget the PSR's Annual Convention, *The Orange Blossom Special*, September 8th – 11th, is less than a month way. The Cajon Division, along with many volunteers, has been working hard to offer a great event. Hope to see you there.

Until next quarter, happy modeling to you! And remember, COVID variants are still out there... so, please, be safe and remain vigilant.

- Vic Cavalli

Superintendent, Los Angeles Division of the PSR/NMRA

*First Thursday of Each Month*

## **Sand House Chats!**

**WHAT:** Sand House Chats is your chance to find out what others in the Los Angeles Division have been up to the previous month

**WHEN:** Held the first Thursday evening of each month starting at 7:00 p.m.

**FORMAT:** Roundtable style, very informal, no agenda ...via the Zoom app

**WHO:** Available to all members of the Los Angeles Division

**HOW TO JOIN:** Contact [superintendent@ladiv-nmra.org](mailto:superintendent@ladiv-nmra.org) for your *free* link

Member Spotlight...

# Jeff Traintime



Photo: Jeff Traintime

*"Through grade school I lived in Fox Lake where my Dad was the RR station agent. The main street buildings looked a lot like what you see on the right, except the real scene has a lot more taverns."*

Jeff models the Northern Division of the Milwaukee Road in HO scale. The layout was built with the help of Jack Paul Miller, an artist and fellow modeler. Together the two have built this fantastic 13' x 30' double decked layout depicting the scenes Jeff remembers from childhood.

*In each issue we would like to feature the work of one or two LA Division members. If you'd like to be featured, please email a few images (of anything hobby related!) and a brief caption to our editor.*



# Director's Report

- Mona Raymer

Hello Los Angeles Division Members,

I hope you have been enjoying your summer and modeling!

Emails have gone out to advise all of you that our new website is up and running! If you missed the email, remember to check your spam folder and add the Los Angeles Division to your accepted contact list. You can check out the new website at: [www.ladiv-nmra.org](http://www.ladiv-nmra.org). A big thank you goes out to Kevin Spady and Dan Moran to get this project completed!

The Los Angeles Division Advisory Board will continue with virtual meetings via the ZOOM app. The Board has also implemented a new type of gathering for fellowship and sharing called "Sand House Chat". It is a very informal gathering that happens on the first Thursday of every month at 7:00 pm. Watch your email for the ZOOM notification to join in!

As you know, the Cajon Division is hosting this year's Pacific Southwest Regional convention, the Orange Blossom Special. Everything is moving along full steam ahead! It is being held September 8 – 11, 2021 in Irvine, CA. If you have not registered yet there is still time to do so by logging on to: [www.psrconvention.org/OrangeBlossomSpecial2021](http://www.psrconvention.org/OrangeBlossomSpecial2021). Also, see the Convention flyer in this newsletter.

If you have not registered yet there is still time to do so by logging on to: [www.psrconvention.org/OrangeBlossomSpecial2021](http://www.psrconvention.org/OrangeBlossomSpecial2021). Also, see the Convention flyer in this newsletter.

PSR Board News: Several members of the Board had a meeting on July 23 to discuss improving the Convention Committee to follow through with assisting all Divisions in presenting Regional Conventions. President, Pat Raymer, is rewriting the Convention Manual which is very outdated. A draft will be sent to the Board Members that are part of the committee for input before it is completed. This manual will serve as a template to make things easier on the host Division.

An election notification for the position of Director will be going out soon so please watch for the email and cast your ballot!

Currently planned and scheduled in person events coming up are:

- October 2, 2021 – L.A. Area Prototype Modelers meet – Bellflower
- October 23, 2021 – FallRail – Whittier

We also have the following event planned for 2022

- April 23, 2022 – SpringRail – Whittier

Please add these events to your calendar – we look forward to seeing you there!

*continued page 8*

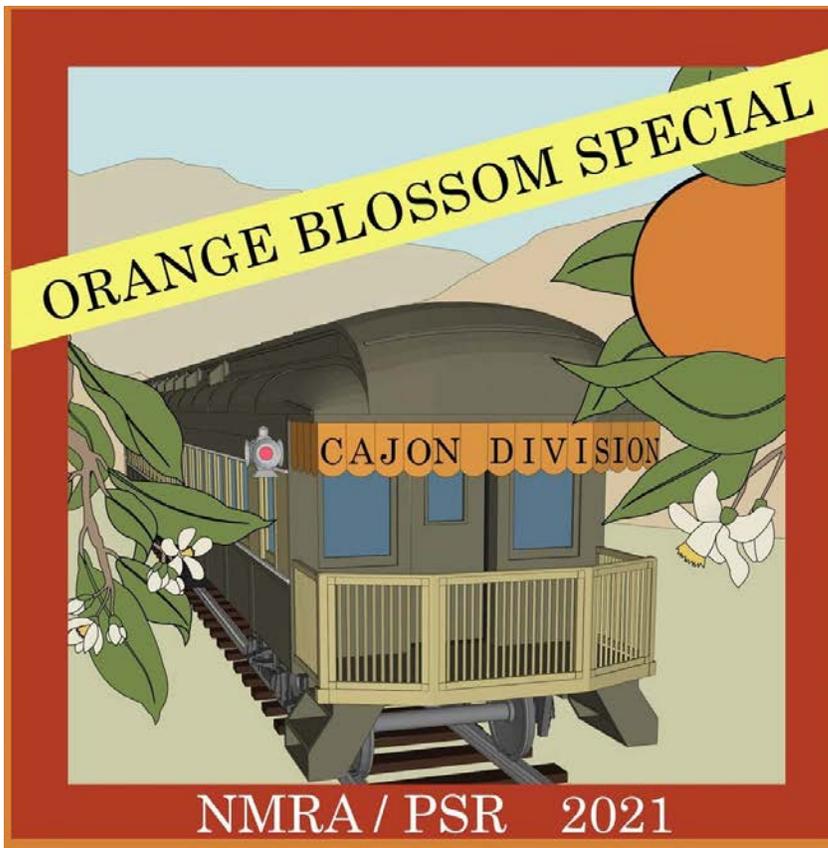
# Director's Report

- Continued

As I had mentioned in my last article, even though I am still eligible, I have made the decision not to run as Director again. It has been my pleasure to serve as the Director of the Los Angeles Division for the last three years. I hope to see you all at upcoming events!

Happy Modeling and, above all else, stay safe!

Mona Raymer, Director, Los Angeles  
Division, PSR, NMRA



National Model Railroad Association  
Pacific Southwest Region

2021

## *"Orange Blossom Special"* **MODEL RAILROAD CONVENTION**

September 8 - 11, 2021

Hilton Irvine/Orange County Airport Hotel  
Irvine, Ca

- Welcome Reception
- Modeling Clinics
- Prototype Tours
- Swap Meet
- Operating Sessions
- Contest Room
- Non-Rail Activities
- Awards Banquet
- Layout Tours
- Keynote Speaker Charlie Getz

[www.PSRConvention.org](http://www.PSRConvention.org)

# NMRA Partnership Program

The NMRA Partnership Program is a member benefit that truly has a tangible payback. We've partnered with model railroad manufacturers of all sizes, giving them exposure on our website in return for receiving generous discounts for NMRA members all year long. Some provide members with special codes, others prefer a phone or email order, but all appreciate the additional business from our members. And of course, our members appreciate the extra savings...savings that can actually pay the cost of NMRA membership!

Partner	Website
Bear Creek Model Railroad LLC	<a href="http://www.bearcreekmodelrr.com">http://www.bearcreekmodelrr.com</a>
CatzPaw Innovations	<a href="http://www.catzpaw.com">http://www.catzpaw.com</a>
Clever Models LLC	<a href="http://www.clevermodels.net">http://www.clevermodels.net</a>
CMR Products LLC	<a href="https://www.cmrproducts.com/store/">https://www.cmrproducts.com/store/</a>
Daylight Sales	<a href="https://www.daylightsales.com/">https://www.daylightsales.com/</a>
Deepwoods Software	<a href="http://www.deepsoft.com">http://www.deepsoft.com</a>
Deluxe Materials	<a href="http://www.deluxematerials.com">http://www.deluxematerials.com</a>
Digikeijs	<a href="http://www.digikeijs.us">http://www.digikeijs.us</a>
East Coast Circuits	<a href="http://www.eastcoastcircuits.com/nmra">http://www.eastcoastcircuits.com/nmra</a>
Gatorfoam	<a href="https://www.gator-board.com/">https://www.gator-board.com/</a>
Great Decals!	<a href="http://www.greatdecals.com">http://www.greatdecals.com</a>
Green Frog Productions	<a href="http://www.greenfrog.com">http://www.greenfrog.com</a>
HobbyWorx	<a href="https://hobby-worx.ca/">https://hobby-worx.ca/</a>
Hot Wire Foam Factory	<a href="http://www.hotwirefoamfactory.com">http://www.hotwirefoamfactory.com</a>
K.I.S.S. Method Inc.	<a href="http://www.kissmethodinc.com">http://www.kissmethodinc.com</a>
LaBelle Woodworking Co.	<a href="https://www.labellemodels.com/">https://www.labellemodels.com/</a>
LARC Products	<a href="http://www.larcproducts.com">http://www.larcproducts.com</a>
Logic Rail Tech	<a href="http://www.logicrailtech.com">http://www.logicrailtech.com</a>
MAC Rail, LLC.	<a href="https://macrailproducts.com/">https://macrailproducts.com/</a>
Micro-Mark	<a href="https://www.micromark.com/">https://www.micromark.com/</a>
Mine Mount Models, LLC	<a href="http://www.minemountmodels.com">http://www.minemountmodels.com</a>
Miniprints	<a href="http://www.miniprints.ca">http://www.miniprints.ca</a>
Minute Man Scale Models	<a href="http://www.minutemanscalemodels.com">http://www.minutemanscalemodels.com</a>
Model Railroad Benchwork	<a href="http://www.modelrailroadbenchwork.com">http://www.modelrailroadbenchwork.com</a>
Model Train Catalogue	<a href="http://www.modeltraincatalogue.com">http://www.modeltraincatalogue.com</a>
Modelers Decals & Paint	<a href="http://www.modelersdp.com">http://www.modelersdp.com</a>
Motrak Models	<a href="http://www.motrakmodelsusa.com">http://www.motrakmodelsusa.com</a>
Model Rectifier Corp. (MRC)	<a href="http://www.modelrectifier.com">http://www.modelrectifier.com</a>

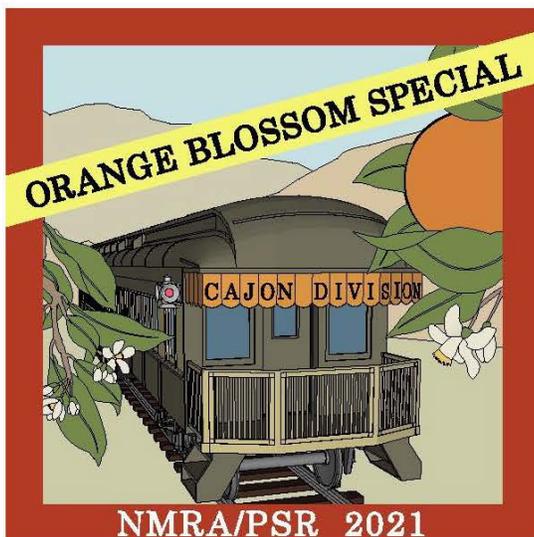
# NMRA Partnership Program

...Continued

Partner	Website
Nick & Nora Designs	<a href="http://www.nickandnoradesigns.com">http://www.nickandnoradesigns.com</a>
Northlandz	<a href="https://northlandz.com/">https://northlandz.com/</a>
NScaleWorks by Mike Holly	<a href="http://www.nscaleworks.com">http://www.nscaleworks.com</a>
Old West Scenery	<a href="http://www.oldwestscenery.com">http://www.oldwestscenery.com</a>
Ram Track	<a href="http://www.ramrcandramtrack.com">http://www.ramrcandramtrack.com</a>
RR-CirKits	<a href="http://www.rr-cirkits.com">http://www.rr-cirkits.com</a>
Rusty Stumps Scale Models	<a href="https://www.rustystumps.com/index.php">https://www.rustystumps.com/index.php</a>
Scale Model Plans	<a href="https://www.scalemodelplans.com/">https://www.scalemodelplans.com/</a> <a href="https://www.scalemodelplans.com/nmra2/order_form.html">https://www.scalemodelplans.com/nmra2/order_form.html</a>
Scalecoat Paint	<a href="http://www.minutemanscalemodels.com">http://www.minutemanscalemodels.com</a>
Scenery Solutions	<a href="http://www.scenerymadeeasy.com">http://www.scenerymadeeasy.com</a>
Showcase Miniatures	<a href="http://www.showcaseminatures.net">http://www.showcaseminatures.net</a>
Team Track Models	<a href="http://teamtrackmodels.com">http://teamtrackmodels.com</a>
The N Scale Architect	<a href="http://www.thenarch.com">http://www.thenarch.com</a>
The Old Depot Gallery	<a href="https://www.olddepotgallery.com">https://www.olddepotgallery.com</a>
Tichy Train Group	<a href="http://www.tichytraingroup.com">http://www.tichytraingroup.com</a>
Touch of the Brush Model Weathering	<a href="http://www.facebook.com/totbmodelweathering">http://www.facebook.com/totbmodelweathering</a> <a href="http://www.instagram.com/totbmodelweathering">www.instagram.com/totbmodelweathering</a> <a href="https://www.youtube.com/c/TouchoftheBrushModelWeathering">https://www.youtube.com/c/TouchoftheBrushModelWeathering</a>
Train Installations LLC	<a href="http://www.traininstallations.com">http://www.traininstallations.com</a>
Train Show, Inc.	<a href="http://www.trainshow.com">http://www.trainshow.com</a>
Trainmasters TV/Model Railroad Hobbyist Store	<a href="https://trainmasters.tv">https://trainmasters.tv</a>
TSG Multimedia	<a href="http://www.tsgmultimedia.com">http://www.tsgmultimedia.com</a>
UGEARS	<a href="http://www.ugearsmodels.com">http://www.ugearsmodels.com</a>
Unreal Details	<a href="http://www.unrealdetails.com">http://www.unrealdetails.com</a>
USA Airbrush Supply/Badger Airbrush	<a href="http://www.USAAirbrushSupply.com">http://www.USAAirbrushSupply.com</a>
WiFi Model Railroad LLC	<a href="http://www.wifimodelrailroad.com">http://www.wifimodelrailroad.com</a>

This list is likely to change as more partners are added. For the most up to date listing, please visit:

[www.nmra.org/partnerships](http://www.nmra.org/partnerships)



National Model Railroad Association  
Pacific Southwest Region

2021

“Orange Blossom Special”  
**MODEL RAILROAD  
CONVENTION**

September 8 – 11, 2021

Hilton Irvine/Orange County Airport Hotel  
Irvine, Ca



❖ Keynote Speaker Charlie Getz  
*Past President of the NMRA*

❖ Operating Sessions  
*Featuring: 10+ Layouts*

❖ Prototype Tours  
*Including: The UPRR Gemco Yard*

❖ Non-Rail Activities & Tours  
*Including: The Nixon Library*

❖ Welcome Reception

❖ Private Layout Tours

❖ Railroad Modeling Clinics

❖ Hobo Breakfast

❖ Model Railroad/Railroadiana Swap Meet

❖ Railroad Model Contest Room

❖ Model Railroad Auction

❖ Awards Banquet

**Hotel Reservations:** You can now reserve your room on-line by going to the convention website and clicking on the ‘Hotel’ link. The convention rate rooms at the Hilton are guaranteed to fill up, and you don’t want to miss out on the discount, or worse, be trying to find a last-minute hotel deal. Hilton Reservations: 949-833-9999 – Group Name: 2021 PSR Convention / Group Code: PSRC

**Convention Tours:** Convention staff is working on securing additional rail and non-rail tours. Currently, the list of tours includes the UPRR Gemco Yard in Van Nuys, as well as a trip to the Nixon Library for the non-rail attendees. Check the website for additional information and updates.

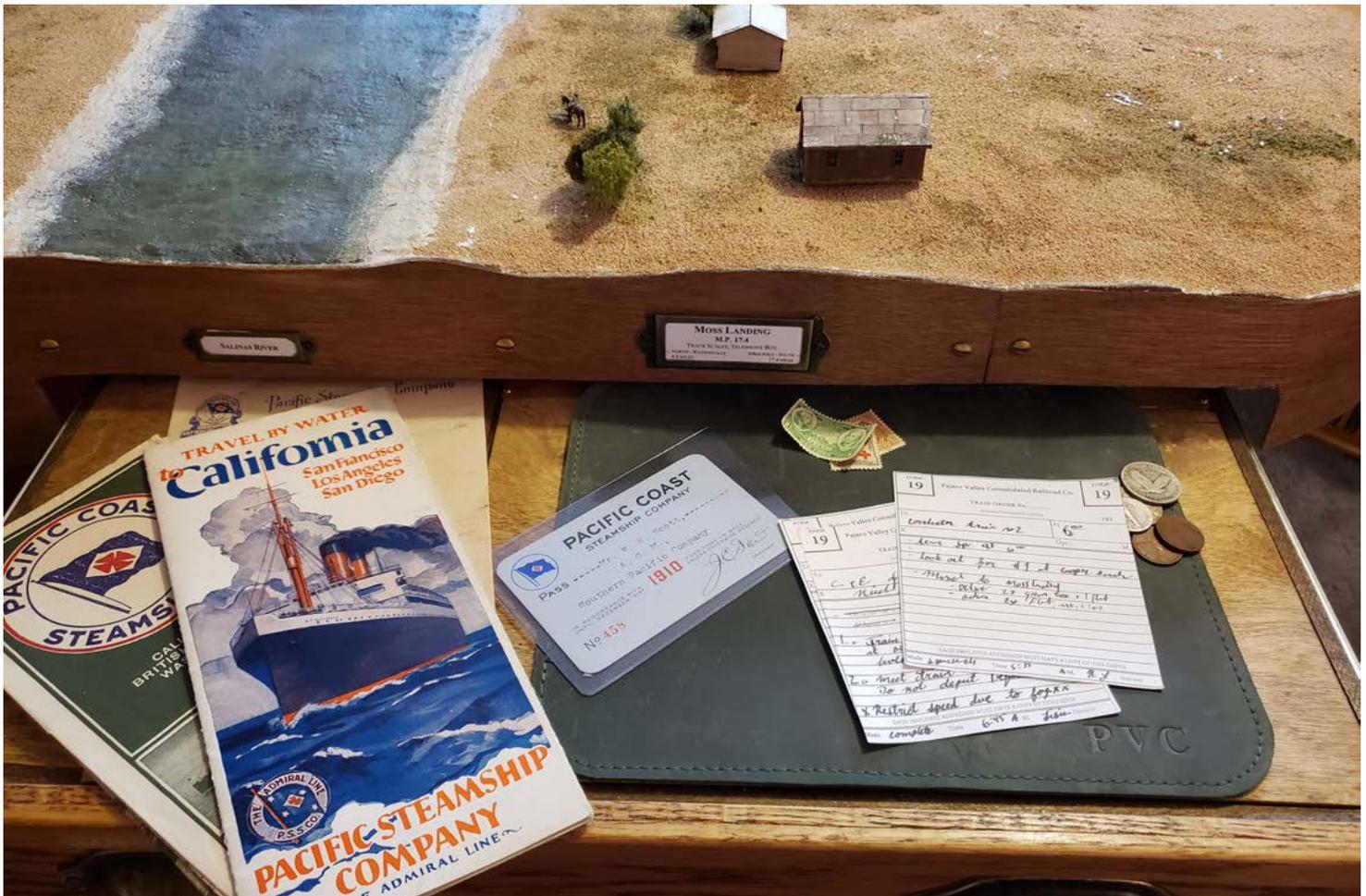
**Convention Goodies:** Don’t forget to check out the Company Store, where you will find shirts, pins, patches, as well as our special run model railroad cars.

**Registration:** The full fare rate of \$125 covers your convention registration and the awards banquet. See the convention website for complete registration and convention details.

[www.PSRConvention.org](http://www.PSRConvention.org)

# Create a Sense of Era

- Nick Lisica



My model railroad terminates in a town called Moss Landing, which at the time I model, was a large port of call for the Pacific Coast Steamship Company (by this point they were the Pacific Steamship Company). The wharf had a large warehouse on it, primarily used for storing grain before shipment. The Pajaro Valley Railroad used the port and its ships as a means of getting unrefined sugar north to San Francisco for refinement.

I installed a small operator's desk/drawer at this site for use while running the railroad. I added a few pieces of memorabilia and items from the 1920s as a way to help create the feeling of running a railroad in the early part of the 20th century. I've got a couple of PCSS maps, note paper, stamps and coins from the 1920s, and a PCSS pass issued in 1910. I tried to imagine what might have been in a desk at that time. It's a simple way to incorporate our collections into our railroads.



# Members' Services

By the Members' Services Team:  
Vic Cavalli, Bob DeMoss, Lloyd Lehrer, and Mike O'Brien  
Assembled by Vic Cavalli

Welcome to the **Members' Services Team** quarterly column. Here is what's new:

## ***Upcoming L.A. Division Sponsored Events:***

Now that State imposed COVID-19 restrictions have been relaxed for "in-person" events, items are starting to be scheduled again. (Note: Due to the recent surge of the Delta Variant, new restrictions, guidelines and/or cancelations may occur at any time in the future.) Here are the meets and shows currently planned, or sponsored, by the L.A. Division:

1st Thursday, each month – Los Angeles Division Sand House Chat Zoom Session

October 2 – Los Angeles Area Prototype Modelers Meet, Bellflower

October 23 – Los Angeles Division FallRail Meet, Whittier

Regrettably, there will be no South Coast Botanic Gardens modular layout gathering this year.

## ***Welcome New Members:***

Members' Services is pleased to announce the Division's newest members. Please welcome:

**Karl Wilvert** of Carson, CA. Karl joined 6/1/2021

**Sean Williams** of Temple City, CA. Sean joined 7/1/2021

## ***Membership Barometer:***

Division membership, as of June 2021, is 192. A decrease of two (2) from last quarter.

## ***PSR Annual Convention Swap Meet:***

As part of the 2021 PSR Annual Convention, the *Orange Blossom Special*, a swap meet will be held the morning of September 11th. Come and check out what the L.A. Division will have for sale. Meet starts at 8:30 am (for Convention attendees); 9:30 am (for the general public). General public entrance fee is \$3.00, and \$7.00 for hotel parking (but no in-and-out privileges). Entrance fee does not include any other convention activities. For more information, visit: [www.psrconvention.org/OrangeBlossomSpecial2021/index.php/swap-meet](http://www.psrconvention.org/OrangeBlossomSpecial2021/index.php/swap-meet)

- - -

Should you have questions regarding your NMRA membership or related benefits, Members' Services Team contact information can be found in the rear of each *LA Coupler* issue.



# Achievement Corner

- James Keena

## AP Program - Structures

This time let's look at the requirements for one of the other most popular categories, Structures. Structures are just about anything on the layout that was man made and doesn't fit into one of the other Master Builder categories. These are just some examples of the types of 'structures' that you could build to earn this certificate: buildings (all kinds), factories, bridges (all kinds), signal towers, oil derricks, docks, power line towers, cranes (stationary or mobile), ships, cars, trucks, etc. Many times, this category is divided between structure that would be found on-line (adjacent to or serviced by a railroad) and off-line, which is anywhere else.

Of course, there is a certain level of complexity expected to qualify for a merit award. To obtain an AP Certificate for Master Builder of Structures, you will need to assemble kits or scratch build the following minimum number and types of models:

**To qualify for the Master Builder - Structures certificate:**



"Kimball Print Shop" by Dave Arendes

1. You must construct twelve (12) scale structures:

**a. At least six (6) different types of structures must be represented in the total.**

The intent of this requirement is show that you can model a variety of types of structures, not just several variations of the same type. For example: a wood frame station and a brick station would be different types, but a wood frame station from Kansas and wood frame station from California would probably not, unless you could show that there was a substantial difference in the construction. When in doubt, why try and split hairs? Instead, try your hand at building something completely different. You might learn some new modeling skills in the process, and who knows? You could even have fun doing it!

*...continued on page 15*

# AP Program - Structures

- Continued

## b. One of the six types must be a bridge or trestle.

Before you panic with visions of elaborate wooden trestles dancing in your head, stop for a moment and consider just how many different types of bridges and trestles there are on or around a railroad. Remember, your bridge doesn't have to span the Grand Canyon; a short span over a creek or dirt road may be enough. The point is to demonstrate that you know how to build a bridge that is appropriate and will support the load that it has to carry. If there is no place on your layout for the tracks to cross a bridge, how about a bridge that carries something else? You could replace a grade crossing with a bridge that carries the road up and over the tracks (as many prototype railroads have been doing in recent years), or build a foot bridge like the ones over many rail yards. Finally, remember that you can even build the bridge as a separate model - it doesn't have to go on your layout.

## c. At least six of the models must be scratch built.

The following parts are specifically excluded from the scratch-built requirement:

- Light bulbs & electronics
- Paint, decals, etc.
- Figures
- Basic shapes of wood, plastic, metal, etc.

## d. The remaining six, if not scratch built, must be super detailed with scratch built or commercial parts.

There are all sorts of ways to super detail structures. Look closely at what you are trying to model, and see the little details: signs, ladders, electrical fixtures, window details, roof details, etc. For buildings, including an interior (and a way to see it) is definitely recommended, with as much of it as possible scratch built for extra points. Including some sort of "scene within a scene" is a good way to catch the judges' eye. Adding detail to your structures will not only meet this part of the requirements, but will also add to your score, and to the overall appeal of your model.

...continued on page 16



Vehicles and bridges fall into the "Structures" category

# AP Program - Structures

- Continued

One way to save money and increase your scratch building score is to buy only one of a particular detail part, and use it as a model to make the rest yourself. This means build the others yourself from scratch, NOT to use the commercial part as a master to make a mold to cast copies of it.

2. You must earn a score of at least 87-1/2 points on six of the twelve models in either an NMRA sponsored contest or in AP Merit Award evaluation. Note that only six of the twelve must earn 87-1/2 points. The others don't even have to be evaluated! They do all have to be described on the Statement of Qualification (SOQ).

3. You must submit a Statement of Qualification (SOQ, see below) which includes the following

a. **An attachment giving a detailed description of each of the twelve models, including:**

- Identification of all scratch built features
- All commercial components used
- Materials used in building the model
- A notation that the model is operational, if it is intended to be
- If the model is a kit, whose kit is it?

b. **Verification of the Merit Awards (photocopies of the certificates or signed Judging Forms)**

c. **Photos of the model are helpful, though not required.**

d. **Your twelve structures do not all have to be of the same scale or era, or on the same layout. In fact, in most cases, it's better to build the structure separately, have it judged (either in a contest or in separate Merit Judging), and then install it in its final location. In this way, the judges can get a better look at it.**



"Coco-Cola Bottling Works" by Paul Stoner

Many contests require that structures NOT be mounted on any kind of scenic base, or they will be considered "Displays". However, for separate Merit Judging, they can be part of your layout.

For a refresher, you need to build only a total of twelve (12), with six (6) of them being different types of structures, bridges, cars, trucks, etc. Six (6) of models need to be scratch-built. Only six (6) of the models need to obtain Merit Awards with scores of 87.5 points or greater.

As your LA Division Achievement Chair, I am here to help answer any questions you may have or provide addition clarifications regarding the NMRA AP.

Sincerely,

James L. Keena  
LA Division Achievement Chair

# Statement of Qualifications - Structures



## ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM MASTER BUILDER STRUCTURES STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS FORM FEBRUARY 2019

page 1 of 2

(NOTE: The Record & Validation (R&V) Form is no longer required for this certificate as of 1/1/2017.)

Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_ NMRA #: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp: \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State/Prov: \_\_\_\_\_

ZIP/PC: \_\_\_\_\_ Country: \_\_\_\_\_ NMRA Region: \_\_\_\_\_ Division: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Submitted: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

### To qualify for this certificate, you must:

1. Build twelve (12) scale structures. At least six (6) different types of structures must be represented in the total. One (1) structure must be a bridge or trestle. At least six (6) structures must be scratchbuilt. The remaining six (6) structures, if not scratchbuilt, must be super-detailed with either scratchbuilt or commercial parts as defined in the AP Regulations "DEFINITIONS" section.

2. Earn a Merit Award of at least 87.5 points with any six (6) of the above models; either via an NMRA sponsored contest or AP Merit Award Evaluation.

3. Submit a completed Statement of Qualifications (SOQ) which shall include the following:

- Attachment giving detailed descriptions of each of the models.
- Identification of the scratchbuilt features for each of the models.
- List of all the commercial components appearing on each model.
- List the materials used in building each of the models.
- Verification of the Merit Awards – copies of the evaluation sheets or the Merit Awards.

# Statement of Qualifications - Structures



**ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM  
MASTER BUILDER STRUCTURES  
STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS FORM  
FEBRUARY 2019**

page 2 of 2

	DESCRIPTION	SCRATCH BUILT?	MERIT AWARD?	VERIFIED BY	DATE	NMRA #
1						
2						
3						
4						
5						
6						
7						
8						
9						
10						
11						
12						

**Member Statement and Agreement:**

I certify that I have completed all of the requirements for this Certificate of Achievement as listed above and that I will agree to assist other members in this subject whenever possible, whether or not they are participants in the Achievement Program.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Certification of Region Achievement Program Chair**

As the NMRA Region Achievement Program Chair of the \_\_\_\_\_, I certify that I have examined this SOQ and, having compared it to the stated requirements for this certificate, I am satisfied that the stated requirements have been met.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Region Certificate #: \_\_\_\_\_

**Approval by AP National Executive Assistant Manager**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Jeff Traintime



Photo: Jeff Traintime

*"I'm sure none of you have ever experienced this — as Jack Paul Miller and I neared the layout's completion, I realized I had purchased way more locos and rolling stock than would fit on the layout. We squeezed this engine facility onto a 2' X 2' area of bare plywood to ease the crowding around the turntable in Portage."*

*In each issue we would like to feature the work of one or two LA Division members. If you'd like to be featured, please email a few images (of anything hobby related!) and a brief caption to our editor.*



# Financial Report

08/08/2021

- James Keena

<b>ASSETS</b>	
<b>Current Assets</b>	
<b>Checking/Savings</b>	
<b>Checking</b>	
Advisory Board Expenses	1,050.01
Total Advisory Board	1,050.01
Bank Fees	2,260.71
Banquet Expenses	3,398.09
Income	-2,385.00
Total Banquet	1,013.09
Build a Memory Income	-1,200.89
Total Build a Memory	-1,200.89
Childrens Coloring Boxcar Expenses	506.37
Total Childrens Coloring Boxcar	506.37
Coupler Elections Expenses	1,042.49
Total Elections	1,042.49
Freight Fright Modular Meet Expenses	1,224.12
Income	-851.43
Total Freight Fright Modular Meet	372.69
NMRA Promotional Events Expenses	2,354.43
Income	-1,850.15
Total NMRA Promotional Events	504.28
Regional Convention Expenses	42,245.07
Income	-45,721.31
Total Regional Convention	-3,476.24
SpringRail Expenses	6,625.13
Income	-9,400.40
Total SpringRail	-2,775.27
Checking - Other	8,296.13
Total Checking	7,705.01
Savings Intrest	-6.92
Savings - Other	5,107.56
Total Savings	5,100.64
Total Checking/Savings	12,805.65
Total Current Assets	12,805.65
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>12,805.65</b>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	
<b>Equity</b>	
Opening Balance Equity	12,805.65
Total Equity	12,805.65
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b>12,805.65</b>

## Los Angeles Division PSR NMRA



# NEEDS YOUR HELP!



The Los Angeles Division PSR NMRA is currently in the need of some extra help and volunteers. We try to actively promote the Model Railroad Hobby and community through our Spring Rail Meets, Social Media events, Freight Fright, Regional Conventions, "Coupler" Newsletter, Website and involvement with the other Southern California Divisions, Model Railroad Clubs, and Home Layouts. We are looking for volunteers to spend maybe a few hours each week or so helping in these areas. Your contribution and participation would be greatly appreciate, helping to secure the long-term success of the Los Angeles Division PSR NMRA!

**Assistant Webmaster** – working with the L.A. Division Webmaster, the assistant webmaster helps to keep the Division's website working smoothly, its contents up-to-date; adding new (or deleting old) contents to its pages in a timely fashion.

**Social Media Coordinators** – Social Media Coordinators act as the caretakers, overseers, and moderators of the L.A. Division new and expanding Zoom media capabilities. Currently used only for audio/visual meetings, the L.A. Division envisions Zoom as becoming the vehicle by which members may participate in Chat Groups, Special Interest Groups (SIGs), Show-and-Tells, Clinics, Prototype and/or Model Railroad Tours, ... The limiting factor here is only the collective imaginations of the team's coordinators.

**Historian** – a new (or possibly old one being brought back) position. It's holder will be responsible for collecting and archiving Division history; physically, within the pages of the Division's quarterly newsletter The L.A. Coupler, and (working with the Division's webmasters) on the pages of the Division's website. Areas of history that the Division would like preserved include (but are not limited to): previous issues of the L.A. Coupler, Members' Honors (i.e., MMRs, Officers, Golden Spike recipients, Member of the Year recipients), photos of meets, conventions, and/or shows, ...

**L.A. Coupler/Social Media Contributors** – though not a "staff" member of the L.A. Division Advisory Board, the Division is always in need of individuals who are willing to share articles and/or photos of their model or prototype railroading interests. Should you think you have something to share, please contact the Division's Superintendent, any member of the L.A. Coupler's staff, and/or any of the Social Media Team's coordinators.

**Outreach Volunteers** - We are looking for someone to make calls to members inviting them to participate in upcoming events and meetings. This would require a very social individual with an interest in chatting. They could also promote articles for the Coupler from Members.

**Please Contact [Superintendent@ladiv-nmra.org](mailto:Superintendent@ladiv-nmra.org)**

# Advisory Board Contact List

## OFFICERS

**Director**  
**Mona Raymer**  
director@ladiv-nmra.org  
(818) 957-7351

**Superintendent**  
**Vic Cavalli**  
superintendent@ladiv-nmra.org  
(805) 680-5826

**Chief Clerk/Paymaster**  
**James Keena**  
pjkeenawhittier@msn.com  
(562) 325-3846

## TEAMS, COMMITTEES, and CHAIRS

### Members' Services Team

**Membership Recruitment Chair - Robert 'Bob' DeMoss**

bob.SFSCRR@yahoo.com (562) 760-5387

**Members' Aid Chair - Lloyd Lehrer**

lloydlehrer@gmail.com (310) 951-9097

**Buddy Program - Mike O'Brien**

mike@corbu.us (626) 487-8768

**Membership Retention Chair - Vic Cavalli**

viccavalli@comcast.net (805) 680-5826

### Communications Team

**LA Coupler Editor - Nick Lisica**

Lisican@gmail.com (831) 594-7640

**LA Coupler Assistant Editor - *Vacant***

**Social Media (Zoom) Managers**

**Coordinator – Kevin Spady**

kspady@att.net (818) 644-7170

**Coordinator – Scott Sackett**

sirbustor@hotmail.com (818) 846-1735

**LA Division Webmaster - Kevin Spady**

kspady@att.net (818) 644-7170

**LA Division Assistant Webmaster - *Vacant***

**Publicity/Graphics Manager – Scott Sackett**

sirbustor@hotmail.com (818) 846-1735

**Distribution Manager - Kevin Spady**

kspady@att.net (818) 644-7170

**Contest / Achievement Chair - James Keena**

pjkeenawhittier@msn.com (562) 325-3846

**LA Division Historian - *Vacant***

**Nominations and Elections Chair - Vic Cavalli**

VicCavalli@comcast.net (805) 680-5826

**Non-Rail Coordinator - Edna Keena**

(562) 303-6585

# Schedule of Events

## Areas Covered:

**Counties of Imperial, Inyo, Kern, Mono, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara & Ventura + National Conventions**

*Last updated: 08/05/2021*

*Due to the ongoing public health concerns, we recommend checking with organizers to confirm event status.*

## Reoccurring

Saturdays, July - May - Belmont Shore Model Railroad Club Visitation, San Pedro  
1st Thursday of Each Month - Los Angeles Division "Sand House Chat" Zoom Session  
2nd Saturday of Each Month - Trains & Coffee Swap Meet, Placentia  
4th Sunday of Each Month - Southern Pacific Division of TTOS Meet, Anaheim

## 2021

August 14 - San Diego Division Virtual Zoom Meet, Members Only, San Diego Area  
August 14 - 15 - Tehachapi Loop Railroad Club Show, Tehachapi  
August 28 - Santa Susana RR Historical Society Swap Meet, Simi Valley

### **September 8 - 11 - PSR Convention, *Orange Blossom Special*, Irvine**

September 25 - 26 - Great Train Show, Victorville, San Bernardino County Fairgrounds  
September 25 - 26 - Pasadena Model Railroad Club Open House, Pasadena

October 1, 2, & 3 - Central Coast Railroad Festival, San Luis Obispo Area  
October 2 - Los Angeles Area Prototype Modelers Meet, Bellflower  
October 9 - San Diego Division Virtual Zoom Meet  
October 23 - Los Angeles Division FallRail Meet, Whittier

November 3, 6, & 7 - Highland Park Society of Model Railroad Engineers, Inc, Open House, San Gabriel  
November 6 - Santa Susana Railroad Historical Society Swap Meet, Simi Valley  
November 20 - 21 - Pasadena Model Railroad Club Open House, Pasadena

December 18 - 19 - Pasadena Model Railroad Club Open House, Pasadena

## 2022

April 23 - Los Angeles Division SpringRail Meet, Whittier



**For more information on the NMRA  
please visit [www.NMRA.org](http://www.NMRA.org)**

*Special Thanks to Railmaster Hobbies*

*9812 Belmont St.  
Bellflower, CA 90706  
(562) 867-5627  
[www.railmasterhobbies.com](http://www.railmasterhobbies.com)*

Thank you for supporting the LA Coupler!

