

LA COUPLER



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

Winter 2019



***Inside this issue:
Freight Fright, Brazilian
Model Railroading and
more !!***



Publication Information The L. A. 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:
<http://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 will automatically receive the PDF version. Copyright 2019, LA Division Pacific Southwest Region, National Model Railroad Association.

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Winter Edition 2019

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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;
[**airplanedad@yahoo.com**](mailto:airplanedad@yahoo.com)

On the Cover...

Los Angeles Division Superintendent Mike O'Brien shows young visitors how to run the time-saver at our Freight Fright event.

Photo by Bob DeMoss.

Superintendent Report





Directors Report

Hello Los Angeles Division Members,

First off, I would like to thank you for your vote of confidence in electing me as the Los Angeles Division Director for the next two years. I was officially installed at the PSR Regional Convention in Arizona.

Since my last article, Pat & I attended the PSR Convention hosted by the Arizona Division and held in Scottsdale, AZ September 25th through 29th. It was a wonderful convention and everyone in attendance enjoyed themselves. I spent most of my time manning the registration table for our Van Nuys Local 2020 Convention and was very happy with the registrations that were obtained there!

At the convention the Director from each Division has the honor of selecting someone from their Division to receive an award for being “Member of the Year”. The person I selected from our Division is Vic Cavalli. Vic returned back into our Division and attended our Annual General Membership Meeting and Banquet on March 24, 2018. At the banquet I spoke (numerous times) about becoming a volunteer for the NMRA and specifically within the Los Angeles Division. Vic took this to heart and volunteered and become part of the Advisory Board. He started attending our monthly meetings offering input and suggestions to help the Los Angeles Division. He did an audit of our Division that was needed. He also attended train shows where we set up to obtain new members for the NMRA. Since I took over as Director when Pat was elected as Vice President for the Pacific Southwest Region, Bob De Moss took over as Membership Chair and Vic became Co-Membership Chair for the Retention portion. Vic also agreed to take over the Nominations and Elections Chair position in my stead when I decided to run for the position of Director. Vic is also on our Van Nuys Local 2020 Convention Committee as Layout Tour Chair. He also joined the Pacific Southwest Regional Board of Directors as Nominations and Elections Chair. Vic was very surprised when his name was called and honored to be selected as “Member of the Year”.



The Los Angeles Division co-sponsored the L.A. Area Prototype Modelers Meet held in Bellflower on October 5th. The offerings included a swap meet, clinics, door prize drawings and numerous prototype models on display. The attendees had a great time!

On October 26th and 27th, the Los Angeles Division held our Annual Freight Fright event at the South Coast Botanic Gardens in Palos Verdes. There were 5 modular groups in a variety of scales as well as a live steam group and a garden railroad set up. There was also a time saver and toy train layout for the children to play with. This event is put on to show the general public the wonderful world of model railroading and is very well attended. We hope to inspire lots of future model railroaders!

Directors Report

Please “Save the Dates” for the following 2020 Los Angeles Division events ~ hope to see you at them!

February 22: Annual General Membership Meeting and Banquet: Central Grille, 801 N. Central Ave.

Glendale, CA 91203

April 18: Annual SpringRail Meet: College Ave. Church of the Nazarene, 8221 College Ave. Whittier, CA 90605

Sept. 9th – 13th: Van Nuys Local 2020 PSR Convention: Airtel Plaza Hotel, 7277 Valjean Ave. Van Nuys, CA 91406

If you haven't already done so, be sure to register for our Convention soon to get the best price!

Wishing you and yours a very Happy Thanksgiving and wonderful holiday season!

Until next time...Happy Modeling!

Mona Raymer

Director, Los Angeles Division, PSR, NMRA

From the Website Guy



Conventional Thinking

In September 2020 the Los Angeles Division is hosting the “Van Nuys Local” PSR convention. Personally, I am really looking forward to this convention. I have my room reserved, have registered and purchased a convention car (which are VERY nice, by the way). I have come to really enjoy NMRA conventions and when my business becomes successful and I have the income, I am going to attend more of them. There are so many aspects of conventions that are appealing, starting with being able to stay at a hotel. At this point in my life I don't get to travel much, so it is a treat to be able to be away from home for a few days, even if home is just a 30-minute drive away. This time the convention hotel has special meaning for me. For 22 years I was a volunteer crew member on a W.W.II B-25 Mitchell that was based at Van Nuys airport, hangered just up the street from the Airtel Plaza Hotel. The wife of our pilot worked there, and we had many dinners in the hotel restaurant. Lots of fond memories are there for me, but I digress. Having been on the 2016 convention planning committee and now the one for this convention I can say truthfully that a lot of thought is put into choosing a good hotel for the convention, this one is no exception..

Another thing I really enjoy are the prototype tours. The chance to go see local railroading with a group of enthusiasts is very special to me. Throughout the 80's I spent many wonderful weekends railfanning with a group of friends, mostly from my model railroad club. That was always great fun but as life went on and things changed, those outings got fewer and farther between. So, going on the prototype tours with you guys really means a lot to me.

No less interesting are the layout tours. Many of the layouts on the tour are private and not normally accessible unless you know the owner or are invited by one of their guests. These layouts are not only amazing but a really great source of modeling ideas. Seeing different people's approach to model railroading is a reminder as to how diverse this hobby is. As a photographer I love the opportunity to capture the wonderful atmosphere of the layouts I am visiting. The variety of layouts is truly amazing and there will be plenty to see at this convention.

Sharing the hobby with others is probably one of the most important aspects to me so the convention clinics are what I look forward to most of all. There are a ton of great “how to” videos on YouTube that I turn to when I need some help with a project, but there is nothing like being in a room with other model railroaders and getting this information from a real live person. I have been to some truly exceptional clinics and continue to look forward to learning new things from the masters.

The contest room is another great way of sharing this hobby with others. I have been model railroading for a long time and am very proud of my models. I really enjoy showing them off and having them in the company of other truly extraordinary models. I find that looking at what other people do is very inspiring, seeing contest models has led me to new weathering techniques, but more importantly shown me how dedicated people are when building their models. That in turn has allowed me to do better with mine.

From the Website Guy

Last, but not least is the banquet. What a great way to finish out a convention!! It is the only time when all of us are at the same place at the same time and can reminisce about the things we have done and seen during the convention. It is a very relaxing time and a final chance to talk with people we might not see until the next convention. I just love the banquet and what it means to just sit with you all for a nice meal.

I look forward to this event, which myself and the others on the convention committee will be working extremely hard on. We are working to make this event a complete success and our #1 focus is doing that by making the convention something that you attendees will truly enjoy. If any of you have never been to a convention before I encourage you to come and see for yourself what all of the fuss is about. If any of you are undecided, come visit the website (<https://psrconvention.org/VanNuysLocal2020/>) and see what awesome things we have going on. I look forward to seeing you in September (which will be here before you know it!).

Here are some photos of highlights from the 2016 convention, plus one of me and my B-25 (I am the scruffy looking guy in the middle).



Ron Varnell hosted the welcome reception at his wonderful layout.



The Metrorail facility tour was amazing.



Pat, Mona and friends having a “pop up” meeting in the hotel lounges.



Here I am with the B-25 I worked on. I am the scruffy looking guy in the middle.



Membership

Membership - Promotion:

by Robert (Bob) DeMoss

We had our Membership table set up at the **Santa Susana Railroad Historical Society** swap meet on November 2, 2019. While attendance was down a bit – likely due to the nearby fires – many dealers came out bring with them some great bargains.

Up Coming Shows and Swap Meets

February 1 & 2: Great Train Show – Ventura

www.greattrainshow.com

Seaside Park/Ventura County Fairgrounds

10 W. Harbor Blvd. Ventura, CA 93001

10:00 am – 4:00 pm.

Online Tickets, \$11.00 for Saturday and Sunday, \$10.00 Sunday only.

February 8 & 9: Great Train Show – Costa Mesa www.greattrainshow.com

Orange County Fairgrounds,

88 Fair Drive, Costa Mesa, CA 92626

Online Tickets, \$11.00 for Saturday and Sunday, \$10.00 Sunday Only.

Santa Susana Railroad Historical Society – 2020 Swap Meet Schedule

May 16th, August 22nd and November 7th

6503 Katherine Road, Simi Valley, CA

8:00 am – 11:00 am (in the park)

Depot and club layout open after meet.

September 9th -12th : PSR Annual Regional Convention – Van Nuys Local 2020

AirTel Plaza Hotel, Van Nuys, CA

Your LA Division will be at each event. Stop by and say “Hello.”

Membership

Pending Dues Increase

In case you haven't heard, NMRA annual dues will increase after the first of the year. Now might be a good time to add an extra year (or two) to your membership at the current lower prices.

Membership - Retention:

by Vic Cavalli

Welcome! This is my first column as your new Membership Co-Chairman and I get to start with a bit of good news.

Over the last two months, our Division has had a net membership increase of three (3) members. Additionally, we have not lost a single person! As such, we are now 220 members strong.

Please join me in welcoming our newest members to the Los Angeles Division:

September:

Simon Hessabi - Hacienda Heights

Scott Pogolian - Whittier

October:

Jim Eldridge - Burbank

Benefits of Membership. As a member of the National Model Railroad Association you have access to both the *NMRA Partnership Program* and the *Members' Discount Program*. Each offers exclusive savings via either reduced (or free!) admissions and/or monetary discounts – from 5, 10, 15, 20, even 25 percent. Just because you are a member.

Check it out at (login required):

<https://www.nmra.org/members/member-discount-program>

and ...

<https://www.nmra.org/partnerships>

2020 Convention Chairman Report

Hello L.A. Division members!

As Chairman of the PSR 2020 convention, I am proud to present Van Nuys Local 2020, hosted by the Los Angeles Division. If you did not attend the Arizona Junction 2019 convention, you may not yet be aware of the L.A. Division's convention plans for next year. Van Nuys Local 2020 will be unlike any previous PSR convention.

Let's begin with a brief overview of our convention location. Van Nuys, California is centrally located in the San Fernando Valley. It has gone from a Spanish rancho to many acres of orange groves to a major metropolitan area of greater Los Angeles. There is a long railroad history here. The Southern Pacific and Pacific Electric inter-urban lines once crossed the valley. Now, Union Pacific freight, Amtrak, and Metrolink commuter trains ply the rails.

Don't let our Pacific Electric Red Car logo mislead you. This convention isn't just about street cars. We are offering a wide variety of activities-something for just about everyone. My goal for Van Nuys Local 2020 is affordability and accessibility.

Our convention venue is the Airtel Plaza Hotel, adjacent to Van Nuys Airport. It offers all the amenities you would expect for a PSR convention. We have secured an outstanding rate of \$119.00 / night with a \$4.00/day parking fee including in and out privileges. This is a truly remarkable rate for the Los Angeles area.

One of the comments (complaints?) I often hear about the Los Angeles area is the traffic. As a native Southern Californian, I can tell you that I am no happier about the traffic situation than you are. Although we can't eliminate the traffic, we can do our best to alleviate its impact on you. One possibility is to take the Surfliner or Metrolink to the Van Nuys station where the hotel shuttle will pick you up and take you to the hotel. No need to deal with the traffic!

If you recall, I said this would be unlike any previous PSR convention. Our plan is to hold clinics and non-rail activities at the hotel in the morning and evening times, leaving the afternoons open for layout tours, prototype tours, and non-rail activities, all by bus. Again, no driving necessary! Any evening layout tours or operating sessions will be accomplished by ridesharing.

As far as clinics are concerned, we have a great line-up, with many new offerings. There will be several hands-on make and take clinics, including a start to finish structure build and an amazingly realistic yet simple method for making surf or rapids water effects.

One of our prototype tours will be to a working Union Pacific freight yard. Our clinician, a Union Pacific freight conductor, will present a clinic at the hotel describing the activities at the yard, and then we will visit the yard to see the action.

Our non-rail offerings include a visit to San Antonio Winery, L.A.'s oldest continuously operating winery, and a trip to the beautiful and tranquil Suiho-En Japanese Gardens. At the hotel there will be a ladies boutique, Wine and Paint, yoga, bingo, and more.

Other features of our convention include the welcome reception at the hotel with surprise entertainment, the awards banquet, contest room, vendor room open throughout the convention, hobo auction, Saturday morning swap meet, and operating sessions at home and club layouts and on a modular layout at the hotel.

There is so much more to the Van Nuys Local 2020 PSR convention than I have room to describe here. Our convention committee is working diligently to add more exciting activities. Watch your email for updates. Register soon and the welcome reception, awards banquet, and membership meeting breakfast will be included in your registration fare. To register and make your hotel reservations go to: www.psrconvention.org/VanNuysLocal2020/. I look forward to seeing you at Van Nuys Local 2020, being held September 9th-13th, 2020.

Pat Raymer, Chairman
Van Nuys Local 2020 PSR Convention



Financial Report

4:00 PM
11/11/19
Accrual Basis

LADivPSRNMRA Balance Sheet As of November 11, 2019

	Nov 11, 19
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
Checking	
Advisory Board Expenses	934.87
Total Advisory Board	934.87
Bank Fees	1,359.82
Banquet Expenses	2,739.32
Income	-1,885.00
Total Banquet	854.32
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	1,023.49
Total Elections	1,023.49
Freight Fright Modular Meet Expenses	1,087.01
Income	-851.43
Total Freight Fright Modular Meet	235.58
NMRA Promotional Events Expenses	2,008.97
Income	-1,420.15
Total NMRA Promotional Events	588.82
Regional Convention Expenses	33,111.11
Income	-35,869.50
Total Regional Convention	-2,758.39
SpringRail Expenses	6,625.13
Income	-9,400.40
Total SpringRail	-2,775.27
Checking - Other	8,824.65
Total Checking	7,705.01
Savings	
Intrest	-6.74
Savings - Other	5,107.38
Total Savings	5,100.64
Total Checking/Savings	12,805.65
Total Current Assets	12,805.65
TOTAL ASSETS	12,805.65

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

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Model Railroading in Brazil

Ferromodelismo

Ferromodelismo is alive and well in Brazil. What is Ferromodelismo? Well if you use Google Translate, it directly translates from Portuguese to English as Iron Modeling. The more correct translation is Modeling of Miniature Railroads or what we commonly refer to as Scale Model Railroading. Brazil has just one major model railroad manufacturer, which is Fracteschi Trem Electro, which is based in Sao Paulo, Brazil. Fracteschi was established in 1958 and exports HO Scale trains to Argentina, Chile, Uruguay, United States, France, Spain, Switzerland, South Africa, Indonesia, Taiwan, New Zealand and Australia.

Fracteschi manufactures various locomotives from small Baldwin steam locomotives, heavy electric EP4 "Little Joes", GE 5200, EMD, Alco and GE export diesel locomotives to modern GE U23, C30-7 and AC44i diesel locomotives. You may be familiar with the Model Power Baldwin 2-8-0 tender drive locomotive that was available many years ago, this model was produced by Fracteschi. It is still available from Fracteschi lettered for Pennsylvania, Atchison Topeka, Baltimore & Ohio and Denver & Rio Grande.

In addition, they do offer Pullman Standard, Budd and old time passenger cars painted and lettered for North American Railroads. The freight cars are all models of South American prototypes. The models utilize a hook and loop coupler system, but provisions are incorporated in the newer designs to accommodate the mounting of NMRA standard coupler boxes and Kadee Couplers.

Due to the high import expense costs and the limited availability of model railroad items in Brazil, many of the model railroaders in this country have to scratch build most of their buildings and structures. Like as in Europe and Australia, many Brazilians prefer to model North American prototype railroads as well.

While on my recent vacation in Belo Horizonte, Brazil, I had the opportunity to visit two hobby shops and the model railroad club known as the Associacao Mineira de Ferromodelismo (AMF) or Mineira Association of Model Railroaders. This club is located within a former railroad administration office building, which has a 30" gauge Baldwin outside frame 4-4-0 locomotive and an older passenger car displayed in front. The club has been in existence since 1964 and has been located in its current location since 1982.

The model railroad is housed in a large open space room and is primarily designed as a large walk around folded dog bone. The layout is set fairly low to the ground to allow easier viewing of tour groups of children to see the railroad. Both Brazilian and North American prototype trains can be seen operating on the layout. Scenery depicts the mostly rural towns, countryside, forests and mountains of the south east Brazilian State of Minas Gerais. If you have the opportunity to travel to other State or Countries, make sure to pay visit to your fellow model railroaders. You may or may not speak the same language, but we all share the same passion for model trains.

James Keena

Model Railroading in Brazil



AMF club members and James Keena.



AMF overview.



AMF RFFSA locomotives.



UP on the AMF.



VALF locomotive.



VLI locomotive.

Freight Fright 2019

Freight Fright 2019

Ghosts and Goblins – witches and warlock of all ages attended the 2019 Los Angeles Division NMRA “Freight Fright.” Held at the South Coast Botanic Gardens in Palos Verde, California on Saturday October 26th and Sunday 27th – the Freight Fright is a collection of modular railroads representing model layouts of all scales and gauges. Of course, the theme was Halloween and all the railroads were colorfully adorned with festive trains, structures, and scary details.

We were privileged to have the following groups attend and represent the NMRA as well as introduce the hobby to a new audience of family and friends;

Orange County HO Module Railroaders, Inc.

N-Trak Express

Pacific Coast Modular Club

Orange County “O” Scalers

ZoCal “Z” scale

John Pollen Live Steam Group

Jay Kelly Garden Railroad Group

There was a daily raffle drawings for the children to win model railroad kits. In addition to the trains, the Gardens provided a “Fall Movie Night” where they screened Tim Burton’s 1993 classic, “The Nightmare Before Christmas.” There was also a “Great Pumpkin Hunt” which was a huge success.

So it was a very busy weekend for both young and old with plenty of trains running. Beautiful things to see in the Gardens itself. A great weekend for all.



Halloween themed layouts make this event fun for kids.



Night time harbor scene on the ZoCal Z scale modular layout.



Ron Westlund and James Keena man the NMRA table.



The live steam Daylight is always a crowd pleaser.

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.



Train Toons *By Ron Westlund*



Los Angeles Division NMRA
Board Meetings
*7pm on the second Thursday
of each month*
619 Hahn Ave.
Glendale CA 91203

LA Division Facebook Page



Do you want to know more about what's going on in the Los Angeles Division of the NMRA?

Are you searching for more connection with the NMRA? Do you want to hear and learn from others about the Model Railroading Hobby?

Become a part of model railroading in the Los Angeles area and join the NMRA Los Angeles Division Facebook page! Give it a try!

It is open to all NMRA members and provides a valuable tool for learning about local events, activities of your NMRA Division Board, and just general modeling information.

Go to the link and ask to join! No obligation and one of the few things that are free! Be an active part of your local Model Railroading community!

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1960134804039677/members/>



Los Angeles Division Directory

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Raillette Chair & Business/Circulation Manager positions are VACANT.

MODEL TRAIN & RAILROAD EVENTS:

Special Thanks to Bob Chapparo for compiling the Calendar of Events.

2019

September

25th - 29th PSR NMRA Regional Convention, Mesa, Arizona.

October

5th LA Area Prototype Modelers Meet, Bellflower

6th TTOS Southwestern Division Train Meet, Arcadia

12th San Diego Div. Layout Tour, Location TBA

12th North County Model RR Society Swap Meet, Oceanside

19th Southern California Airline, Railroad & Transportation Show, Long Beach

19th High Desert Modular Model Railroad Club Display, California City

26th & 27th L.A. Division Freight Fright

November

2nd Santa Susana RR Historical Swap, Simi Valley

3rd & 5th Slim Gauge Guild Open House, Pasadena

6th, 9th & 10th Highland Park Society of Model Railroad Engineers Annual Open House, San Gabriel

9th San Diego Div. Train Meet, Location TBA

9th & 10th Tehachapi Loop Railroad Club Show, Tehachapi

15th - 17th TTOS Southwestern Division Cal Stewart Meet

16th Pacific Southwest Railway Museum/100th SD&A Completion Anniversary, Campo

December

1st TTOS Southwestern Division Train Meet, Arcadia

14th San Diego Div. Layout Tour, Location TBA

Save the date:

April 18th, 2020 SpringRail Meet, Whittier

September 9th - 13th Pacific Southwest Region/NMRA Convention, Van Nuys



Call for Candidates

The Los Angeles Division (LADIV) of the Pacific Southwest Region (PSR)/ National Model Railroad Association, Inc (NMRA) has the following positions coming open for election:

Los Angeles Division Superintendent

Los Angeles Division Chief Clerk/Paymaster

Each successfully elected candidate will assume their office for a period of two (2) years, coinciding with LADIV's Annual Meeting of Members/Banquet.

Any PSR member in good standing with the NMRA (or who is applying for such membership) and lives within the boundaries of the LADIV (i.e., Los Angeles or Ventura counties) may run as a candidate. As there is no term-limits associated with either office, the current holder of each office may run for re-election.

Duties and responsibilities of each position may be found in Article III – Officers Duties: "Section B – Superintendent" and "Section C – Chief Clerk/Paymaster" in the February 4, 2017 version of By-Laws of [the] Los Angeles Division, Pacific Southwest Region, National Model Railroad Association, Inc. (a copy of this document may be found on our LADIV web site).

Submission of candidacy needs to be delivered to the LA Division Nominating Chairman (see e-mail/physical address details below) no later than November 17, 2019. Included in your submission must be a written consent to serve if elected – form will be e-mailed to you. For Publication, it is strongly encouraged candidates submit a statement (not to exceed 150 words) of their qualifications and/or plans for the office of their choice. A personal photo is optional.

Vic Cavalli, LA Division Nominating Committee Chairman

VicCavalli@Comcast.Net / 3426 Fela Ave., Long Beach, CA 90808

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



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