

LA Coupler

The Newsletter of the Los Angeles Division of the NMRA



Achievement Corner: Mastering the "Cars" AP Certification Page 16

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 "Cars" AP Certification

NMRA Partnership Program

Fascia Upgrades

...and more!



Features

- Superintendent's Report..... 4
- Orange Blossom Special Update..... 6
- Director's Report..... 7
- NMRA Partnership Program..... 10
- How to...*Upgrade Your Fascia*..... 12
- Members' Services..... 13
- Achievement Corner...*AP Certification: Cars*..... 15
- Member Spotlight...*Jim Lancaster*..... 20
- Financial Report..... 21
- Advisory Board Contact List..... 23
- Schedule of Events..... 24



On the Cover...

A sampling of some of the models displayed at past LA Division meets

Photos by James Keena
See page 16

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

Jim Lancaster

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

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

Hey Buddy, Could you Spare an Hour?

by Vic Cavalli

I'm writing this message a few days prior to the end of April and, like many of you, each Tuesday evening finds me visiting the State of California's COVID-19 website, covid19.ca.gov, to see how we're doing against this deadly pandemic. It's encouraging to see the "numbers" moving downward. Just think, Los Angeles County may be at the State's Yellow Tier by the time you read this column. It's been a long time in coming! And, hopefully, the other half of our Division, Ventura County, as well as our neighboring Counties – Kern, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, and Santa Barbara – will each be achieving Yellow Tier status soon too!

Other indicators that an "end" may soon be in sight also continue to appear more frequently.

For example: "California aims to fully reopen by June 15th" or "GTS [reorganized as the Great American Train Show] to Hold Show at the Pomona Fairplex, August 21st –22nd". Which brings me to the "meat" of this quarter's message: ***The Los Angeles Division needs you now!*** *Couldn't you volunteer a couple of hours for the group's total betterment?*

It's really pretty simple; as COVID-19 restrictions continue to be rescinded, our Division's ability to re-start meeting socially, face-to-face, increases. But we need people, members like you, so as to be ready when the opportunities return. Examples:

- Spend a hour (or two) manning a recruitment table at an upcoming public show
- Help oversee the safety of others or the security of models displayed at sanctioned events
- Assist in setting up and/or holding Hobo or on-line auctions
- Clinicians willing to share their knowledge and answer questions
- Private and club layout owners eager to display the "fruits of their labor"

There are many more examples, each vital, where you could assist in promoting our wonderful hobby, but I'm sure you've got the idea.

As you continue to read through the pages of this issue of the LA Coupler, you'll find other areas where you may volunteer for an hour or two. Please, ask yourself, "Couldn't I do that?"

Until next quarter, happy model railroading!
Be safe and remain vigilant,

- Vic Cavalli

Superintendent, Los Angeles Division of the
PSR/NMRA

The LA Division is Looking for You!

Call for Candidates

Nominations

for the Office of

Los Angeles Division Director

are now being accepted
through June 30, 2021.

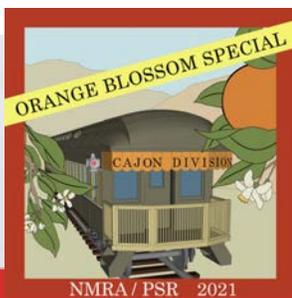
Contract: Vic Cavalli

at nominations@psrnmra.org

for additional information

Call for Candidates

Volunteering is a great way to get involved in the hobby, meet like minded friends, and earn AP points toward your Association Official AP Certificate



2021 Orange Blossom Special

- Carl Heimberger

Critical Registration Information: Please Read

First the Orange Blossom Special Website is completed and up and running. If you have any questions about the convention, this site should answer them. The site contains information about the hotel, a final convention event schedule, clinic descriptions, extra fare tours and items, layouts and Op's sessions, Non-Rail events, contest room, etc.

Next and critical for you members who had your 2020 LA Convention registration transferred to the 2021 Orange Blossom Special. There is some confusion as to what was actually transferred. The 2021 Orange Blossom Special convention only accepted your convention registration and your banquet, all other items you purchased for the 2020 convention you should have been given a refund. If you have questions about the refund, please contact the Los Angeles Convention Committee. So, what does that mean to you? If you transferred, you are ONLY signed up to attend the convention and banquet, NO tours, or extra fare clinics were transferred to 2021. By now you should have received an email from the 2021 registrar telling you how to go into the registration system and add extra fare clinic, tours, and events.

Cannot find that email, please contact 2021registrar@psrconvention.org and he will resend it to you. We are asking for you to please update your registration this month as we want to finalize that part of your registration.

You have not registered yet? Well now is the time, it is simple just go to the convention website www.psrconvention.org. there you will find all the information about the convention and you can register on-line by just clicking on the registration link. Several critical things we do need from you are your NMRA Number, division, (or region if not PSR member), will you attend the welcome reception, and of course all the extra stuff you want. Once you have registered you will receive a confirmation email with information about what you have signed up for and how to go back and add or modify your registration. Please keep that email.

It has been a long 15 months of lockdowns and it will sure be nice to finally get back together and enjoy this great hobby. We look forward to seeing all of you in September at the Orange Blossom Special 2021 PSR/NMRA Convention.

- The 2021 Orange Blossom Special
Convention Team



Director's Report

- Mona Raymer

Hello Los Angeles Division Members,

I hope you are safe and healthy...and received your vaccine, if you've chosen to get it!

With the continuing uncertainty of Covid-19, this year's National Convention, Rails By The Bay, will be held virtually on July 6 – 10, 2021. You can obtain more information and register for the event at www.pcrnmra.org/NMRA2021 .

News from the Regional Board: The process for the Pacific Southwest Regional Board of Directors to obtain a 501c3 status for our Region, encompassing all four Divisions, has now been completed! The Pacific Southwest Region By-Laws and Manual of Operations have been updated to comply with the filing of the 501c3 status.

The L.A. Division Advisory Board will continue to hold virtual meets via the ZOOM app. If you would like to present a "show and tell" item to let everyone know what you've been working on, do a clinic or show us your layout, please contact us here at the L.A. Division to let us know. We will be happy to add you to the lineup of presenters!

On April 17, 2021, I "attended" the virtual train show put on by the World's Greatest Hobby "group".

(For those of you that don't know, five train show groups have joined together as one group but are continuing to operate train shows under their original names.) There was a showroom, clinics and live chat opportunities, as well as same day specials by the vendors. The good news is that the group is moving forward with live, in person shows and the Great Train Show is scheduled for August 21 & 22, 2021 in Pomona! The CDC, California and Los Angeles County safety guidelines and protocols will be in effect. If you would like additional information, it can be found on the new website for the train shows at: <https://www.trainshow.com/> .

More good news! At this time, the planning of this year's Pacific Southwest Regional convention, the Orange Blossom Special, is moving forward and being hosted by the Cajon Division. It is being held September 8 – 11, 2021 in Irvine, CA. If you have not registered yet or would like more information, you can log on to: www.psrconvention.org/OrangeBlossomSpecial2021 . Also, see the Convention flyer in this newsletter.

As Los Angeles County moves forward with less restrictions, the Los Angeles Division Board is having discussions about the possibility

...continued page 8
LA COUPLER | Q2 2021

Director's Report

- Continued

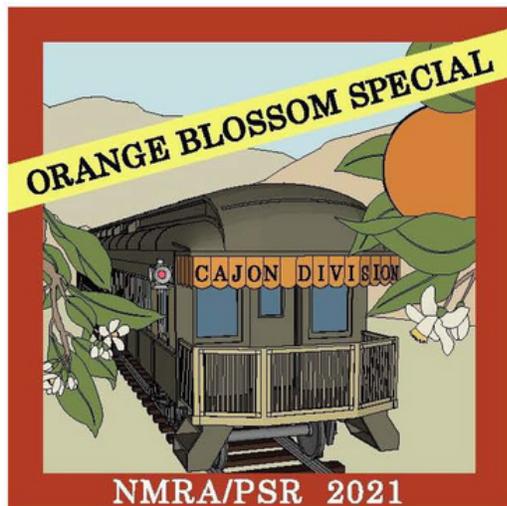
of having a FallRail event. It would follow the format as our annual SpringRail meets that we have not been able to have due to the Los Angeles County restrictions that were in place.

This year, elections will be held for the position of Director (For those that are not familiar with what the Division Director is, the Director is the liaison between the Region and the Division and is a voting member of the Regional Board of Directors.) Even though I am eligible to run again this year, I have made the decision not to run. So, I hope you will all watch for an email that will be sent out requesting candidate nominations and send them in!

Until next time....Happy Modeling! And, above all else, stay safe!

Mona Raymer
Director, Los Angeles Division of the
PSR/NMRA, Inc.





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: **Whale Watching**
& **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 and a Whale Watching Tour 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

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

NMRA Partnership Program

...Continued

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

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

www.nmra.org/partnerships

Upgrade Your Fascia

- Nick Lisica



As the scene shows, my N scale layout is far from finished. The town of Spreckels, shown above, was home base for the Pajaro Valley Consolidated Railroad from the 1890s through the end of the railroad in 1929. You wouldn't know that from looking at my model, however.

The structures are all stand-ins or half built models. While the town comes together, I wanted something to highlight the importance of the area. I did that by including station signs on the fascia. These call out the station name as it reads on the time table, the mile post, what can be found there (scales, train register, telephone), and it lays the town out in relation to the rest of the railroad. The signs are printed on paper and placed in file cabinet label holders. I chose an antique bronze finish to tie-in the motif of a railroad set in the 1920s. This simple addition, along with staining the fascia, adds a finished look to an unfinished layout.



Members' Services

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

Welcome to our second **Members' Services Team** column. Here's what's new:

Recruitment:

Though COVID-19 guidelines continue to restrict our ability to meet locally in Ventura or Los Angeles Counties, statistics indicate progress is being made at overcoming this deadly virus. As this column is being assembled (late April), Los Angeles county is on the verge of entering the State of California's Yellow Tier; with Ventura county, hopefully, only a few weeks behind. Won't it be great when we can meet together, face-to-face, again!

It is with this optimism the Members' Services Team is pleased to announce the Division's newest members: Please welcome:

Donald Fairley of Long Beach, CA. Donald joined 3/1/2021

Gary Runnalls of Lawndale, CA. Gary joined 3/1/2021

John Sturman of Claremont, CA. John joined 3/1/2021

Brian O'Donnell of El Segundo, CA. Brian joined 5/1/2021

Retention:

As of March 31, 2001, the Los Angeles Division's membership count is 194, a decrease of 9 from the previous quarter. The beginning of each new year, historically, is always a period of greater membership renewals. Therefore, as a standard monthly procedure, the Division reaches out to each of these members; to remind them their membership has lapsed. If history holds true, most will renew in the next couple of months.

Regrettably, we must also share the passing of fellow L.A. Division members:

David Holmes, a lifetime member, who joined the NMRA on 1/1/1975

Larry Kedes, who joined the NMRA on 8/10/2001

Julian Phillipson, a lifetime member, who joined the NMRA on 1/1/1956

Members' Services

...Continued

Member's Aid (including the Buddy Program):

The L.A. Division, a 501(c)3 organization, has had a whole bunch of neat stuff generously donated to it from its members and local/national hobby enterprises. These items are used to supply our raffles, hobo auctions, and other face-to-face event prizes. But, with COVID group-gathering restrictions in place for over a year now, a suggestion was offered that there may be one additional use for these items.

Specifically, we could offer some of them on-line, for sale to you and/or the rest of the world. Not only would it help to find “new” homes for desirable items now, but it might increase our Division's cash reserves too (so more or better activities might be planned for our members).

To get things started on this undertaking, however, we need your assistance, i.e., volunteers willing to sort, organize, describe, and photograph selected donations. The task is only a bit time consuming; yielding potentially significant benefit to our Division. Call, text, or email Lloyd Lehrer at (310) 951-9097 or hon3.guy@gmail.com, and he will get back to you with dates and times we'll be gathering together.

And remember, if you have questions or want help in any way with your model rail recreation, don't be afraid to contact Lloyd. He has over 60 years of experience in the hobby, many friends, and a number of knowledge bases to draw on.

- - -

That's it for this quarter's column. Should you have any question regarding your NMRA membership or related benefits, feel free to contact any Members' Services Team member. Our contact information can always be found in the rear of each issue of the LA Coupler.



Achievement Corner

- James Keena



AP Program - Cars

by James Keena

Previously in the last edition of the LA Coupler we looked at the requirements for obtaining your Golden Spike for model railroad layout construction. This time we will focus on the various categories of the NMRA Achievement Program or AP for short. The NMRA AP is divided into the following four (4) categories and subsequent sub-categories:

- 1. Model Railroad Equipment**
 - a. Master Builder – Motive Power
 - b. Master Builder – Cars
- 2. Settings**
 - a. Master Builder – Structures
 - b. Master Builder – Scenery
 - c. Master Builder – Prototype Models
- 3. Engineering and Operation**
 - a. Model Railroad Engineer – Civil
 - b. Model Railroad Engineer – Electrical
 - c. Chief Dispatcher
- 4. Service to the Hobby**
 - a. Association Official
 - b. Association Volunteer
 - c. Model Railroad Author

As you can see there are a total of eleven (11) different sub-categories of the NMRA AP. For those looking to obtain a Master Model Railroad Certificate, you must receive seven (7) AP Certificates with at least one (1) from each of the main categories. This means that you have to have at least one (1) AP Certificate from each of the four (4) main categories. This is intended to provide participants a well-rounded grasp of the different facets of the hobby of model railroading as well as encouraging the promoting of the hobby either through volunteerism or authorship.

For the Motive Power, Cars and Structure categories, these AP certificates are obtained through the process of Merit Evaluation of the models you enter into the Show Room where they are evaluated by a team of evaluation judges to obtain Merit Awards. Not all of your models need to be Merit Award minimum requirements of 87.5 points out of an available 125 points, but half of them do in order to obtain an AP Certificate.

Let's first look at the requirements for one of the most popular categories, model railroad equipment such as cars. To obtain an AP Certificate for Master Builder of Cars, you will need to assemble kits or scratch build the following minimum number and types of car models:

...continued on page 16

AP Program - Cars

- Continued

1. You must build eight (8) operable scale models of railroad cars:

"Operable" means that they must be able to roll on the track, negotiate a curve, be pulled by something, etc. It doesn't mean that every door, valve, or other moving feature of the car must work as the prototype does.

1.1 There must be at least four different types of cars represented in the total of eight. One of these must be a passenger car.

The intent of this requirement is show that you can model a variety of types of cars, not just several variations of the same type. For example: a 40' steel-side box car and a 36' wood side reefer would be different types of cars, but a 40' steel-side box car and a 50' steel-side box car probably would not (unless you can show that there was a substantial difference in what it took to build them). Similarly, a wood deck flat car and a steel deck flat car would not be considered "different" types of cars, but a regular flat car and a depressed center flat car would, because it is a substantially different type of car to build.

"Passenger cars" include anything that would normally be found in a regular scheduled passenger train including baggage cars, express reefers, business cars, or other passenger carrying cars like drover's cabooses.

Remember, it is only four different types that are required: you could build a set of five identical passenger coaches, a box car, a tank car, and a gondola, and satisfy the requirement.

1.2 Each of the eight models must be super detailed with either commercial parts or scratch-built parts.

When looking for ways to super detail your cars, brake wheels, grab irons and ladders are good places to start - particularly by replacing the "molded on" ones that the car came with. That's where many judges start looking. Another area that many judges look for is the under-frame brake gear.

1.3 In addition to being super detailed, at least four of the eight models must be scratch built. The term "scratch built" implies that the modeler has done all of the necessary layout and fabrication that produce the final dimensions, appearance, and operating qualities of the model.

This is a good statement of the intent and spirit of the "scratch built" requirement. Notice that it does NOT say that the use of a few commercial detail parts will disqualify the model as being "scratch-built". In general, the same standard applies that is used in contest judging: "Completely Scratch-Built" means that 90% or more of the model was scratch built.

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

- Wheels
- Couplers
- Light bulbs & electronics.
- Trucks.
- Brake fittings.
- Marker lights & drumheads.
- Paint, decals, etc.
- Basic shapes of wood, plastic, metal, etc.

("Basic shapes" are things that the builders of the prototype would have used as raw materials. For example, an "I" beam would be a basic shape; a commercial door or window casting would not.)

...continued on page 17

AP Program - Cars

- Continued

Something that you should remember if the idea of 'scratch building' intimidates you: There is very little difference between scratch building and building most craftsman kits. The big difference is that in a kit, the manufacturer has assembled the materials that you will need for you. Only the construction needs to be done from scratch. If you take someone else's plans and instructions (even those from a kit) and go to the hobby shop and buy the materials yourself and assemble them, that qualifies as scratch building. On the other hand, if you do develop your own plans, make sure that you tell the judges that, as it will earn you extra points.

2. You must earn a score of at least 87-1/2 points on four of the eight models in either an NMRA sponsored contest or in AP Merit Award judging.

Note that only four of the eight must earn 87-1/2 points. The others don't even have to be judged! They do all have to be described on the Statement of Qualification (see attached).

3. You must submit a Statement of Qualification which includes the following:

3.1 An attachment giving a detailed description of each of the eight models, including:

- Identification of all scratch-built features
- All commercial components used
- Materials used in building the model
- If the model is a kit, whose kit is it?



3.2 Verification of the Merit Awards (photocopies of the certificates)

3.3 Photos of the model are helpful, though not required.

Remember that your eight cars do not have to be from the same era, or part of the country. They don't even have to be the same scale. You also don't have to earn your four Merit Award certificates at the same time - you can earn one this year, another two years from now, and another the year after that.

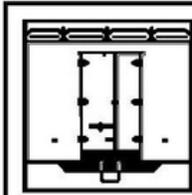
For a refresher, you need to build only a total of eight (8) cars, with four (4) of them being different types of cars. Four (4) of models need to be scratch-built. One (1) of the models needs to be passenger related such as some type of passenger car or headend equipment that is used in passenger trains. Only four (4) 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
Achievement Chair
Los Angeles Division

Statement of Qualifications - Cars



ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM MASTER BUILDER CARS 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's 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 eight (8) operable scale models of railroad cars. There must be at least four (4) different types of cars represented in the total of eight (8). One (1) of these must be a passenger car and at least four (4) cars must be scratchbuilt. The remaining four (4) cars, if not scratch built, must be superdetailed either with scratchbuilt parts or with commercial parts as defined in the AP Regulations "DEFINITIONS" section.

2. Earn a Merit Award with any four (4) of the above models either via an NMRA sponsored model contest or AP Merit Award Evaluation.

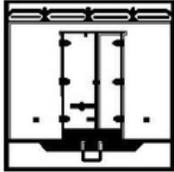
3. Submit a completed Statement of Qualifications (SOQ) which shall include the following:

- Attachment giving detailed descriptions for 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 - Cars

- Continued

	<p style="text-align: center;">ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM MASTER BUILDER CARS STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS FORM FEBRUARY 2019</p> <p style="text-align: right; font-size: small;">page 2 of 2</p>
---	--

1	Description of Model	Scratch Built?	Merit Award?	Verified By	Date	NMRA #
2						
3						
4						
5						
6						
7						
8						

Member's 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 Vice-Chair

NAME: _____ SIGNATURE: _____ Date: _____

Jim Lancaster



Photo: Jim Lancaster

Jim models Southern California in the 1950s. Unlike the prototype, which was a Santa Fe only line between Riverside and Orange County, Jim's railroad features the Santa Fe, Southern Pacific, and Union Pacific. The focus of the railroad is on a Southern Pacific subsidiary, named the Los Angeles and San Diego Railroad. While Jim isn't a member of the Los Angeles Division, we couldn't pass up the opportunity to share his outstanding modeling.

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

05/03/2021

- James Keena

ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
Checking	
Advisory Board Expenses	1,050.01
Total Advisory Board	1,050.01
Bank Fees	2,230.71
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	111.64
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	8,326.13
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
TOTAL ASSETS	12,805.65
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Equity	
Opening Balance Equity	12,805.65
Total Equity	12,805.65
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	12,805.65

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

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: 05/10/2021

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

2021

May 15 - Santa Susana Railroad Historical Society Swap Meet, Simi Valley

May 22 - Trains & Coffee Swap Meet, Placentia

June 12 - San Diego Division Virtual Zoom Meet

July 4 - July 11 - NMRA National Convention and Train Show, Santa Clara **Virtual Convention**

July 10 - San Diego Division Virtual Zoom Meet

August 14 - San Diego Division Virtual Zoom Meet

August 21 & 22 - Great Train Show, Pomona Fairplex, Pomona

August 28 - Santa Susana RR Historical Society Swap Meet, Simi Valley

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

September 11 - San Diego Division Virtual Zoom Meet

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

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 13 - San Diego Division Virtual Zoom Meet

November 20 - 21 - Pasadena Model Railroad Club Open House, Pasadena

December 11 - San Diego Division Virtual Zoom Meet

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



**For more information on the NMRA
please visit www.NMRA.org**

Special Thanks to Railmaster Hobbies

*9812 Belmont St.
Bellflower, CA 90706
(562) 867-5627
www.railmasterhobbies.com*

Thank you for supporting the LA Coupler!

