



# LA Coupler

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



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## *In This Issue*

Pasadena Model Railroad Museum

LA Div. January Layout Tour

...and more!

Los Angeles Division  
Pacific Southwest Region  
National Model Railroad Association, Inc.  
[www.ladiv-nmra.org](http://www.ladiv-nmra.org)





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## On the Cover...

*Photos from the NMRA's visit to the Pasadena Model Railroad Museum*

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## 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*

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**Kevin Spady**

## ***Publication Information for the LA Coupler***

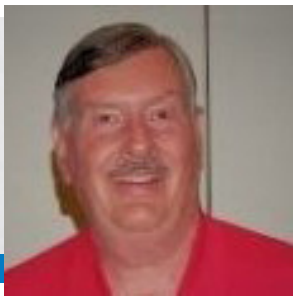
The official publication of the Los Angeles Division, Pacific Southwest Region (PSR), National Model Railroad Association (NMRA). The LA Coupler is published quarterly by the Los Angeles Division of the National Model Railroad Association and is available online at: [www.ladiv-nmra.org](http://www.ladiv-nmra.org)

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 2022, LA Division Pacific Southwest Region, National Model Railroad Association.

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**Thank you for supporting the LA Division!**



# Director's Report

- Vic Cavalli

News from within the Pacific Southwest Region (PSR)... **Regional** updates first. Directors elected earlier this year were installed during a special session Zoom conference call September 15 th . Newly election Directors Chris Thompson (Arizona) and Tim Foote (San Diego), along with incumbents Harold Helland (Cajon) and myself (Los Angeles), were installed by PSR President Pat Raymer.

In other PSR news, President Raymer has announced the appointment of two new Board members: John McGreevy (Nominations and Elections) and Rudy Spano (Membership Services) – replacing Vic Cavalli and Pete Steinmetz respectively. Still vacant is the Non-Rails Chair. Should you be interested in volunteering for this position, contact President Raymer at [President@psrnmra.org](mailto:President@psrnmra.org).

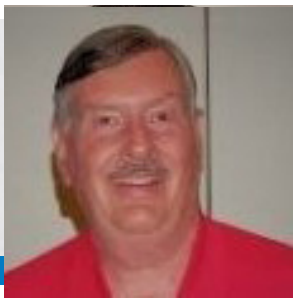
Of course, the biggest Regional activity is associated with preparing to host next year's NMRA National Convention, SurfLiner 2024, August 4 th – 11 th in Long Beach, CA. Much planning has already been completed – did you notice the presentation of Gary (MMR) and Sandy Butts' Gary and Sandy Railroad in the November Issue of the NMRA Magazine? – but, of course, there is always more work to perform. If interested in helping out, contact President Raymer at [President@psrnmra.org](mailto:President@psrnmra.org). One can never have too many volunteers.

Now, onto non-Los Angeles "division" news... Although Arizona Division has just hosted this year's PSR annual regional convention, they aren't slowing down any. Now divided "internally" into four (4) more localized "subdivision" – Sonora (Casa Grande River and south), High Country (New River and north), East Valley (east of Phoenix Central Avenue), and West Valley (west of Phoenix Central Avenue) – each area is holding an additional 2-to-3 "closer-by" events annually for their members.

And don't forget they hold a monthly Division (actually, available to all PSR members) interactive Zoom meet the third Saturday of each month. The next two will be held November 18 th and December 16 th . Check Arizona's website, [www.azdiv-nmra.org](http://www.azdiv-nmra.org), for current events and details.

Likewise, the Cajon Division has been busy too; having just held two (2) day-long mini-meets: one in Nevada, "Las Vegas Hobos and Trains", the other in Buena Park, their annual "Cajon Fall" meet.

Additionally, they continue hosting home/club layout visitations nearly every month year-round. November's featured layout will be Joel Morse's New York, Ontario & Western Railway. Additional information pertaining to Cajon Division activities may be found at [cajondivision.org](http://cajondivision.org).



# Director's Report

- Continued

Like Cajon, the San Diego Division host monthly get-togethers regularly. From their division's Meets/Events web page, [www.sandiegodivision.org/index.php/events](http://www.sandiegodivision.org/index.php/events), here is a summary of what is in the offing for the next six (6) months:

- December 9 – annual holiday party (for division members only)
- 
- January 13 – Friant Branch model railroad layout tour
- February 10 – Winter Meet (location to be announced)
- March 9 – Chris Green's 1-1/2" scale outdoor railroad
- April 13 – Wayne Pierce's On30 model railroad layout tour

As you can tell, the Pacific Southwest Region, and its Divisions, is anything but idle or boring! In closing, may I wish each of you a Happy Thanksgiving, a joyful holiday season, and a healthy, prosperous New Year.

Should you want, drop me a line.

## Save The Date!

***LA Division Annual Membership Meeting  
and Dinner Banquet***

**March 9, 2024**

**Frantone's Pizza & Spaghetti Villa  
10808 Alondra Blvd, Cerritos, Ca  
90703**

***Additional Details to Follow***

H0  
SCALE

# January 21, 2024

11:00am ~ Round Trip Pass ~ 5:00pm

## RON VARNELL'S UNION PACIFIC LAYOUT



Set between 1958 and 1979, this 1,400 square foot layout features both standard and narrow gauge. It features logging, oil extraction, strip and gold mining, plus numerous other rail served industries. Join your fellow NMRA members for hot dogs, camaraderie, and a great model railroad!

2741 Plaza Del Amo, Suite 213, Torrance, Ca 90503



# Superintendent's Report

- Jeff Smith

Dear NMRA LA Division Members,

I am thrilled to address you for the first time as your new Division Superintendent. It's an honor and a privilege to serve in this role, and I'm excited about the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead for our division. Together, we can make 2024 a memorable year for model railroading in the LA Division.

## Events:

We have an exciting lineup of events on the horizon:

**Elections - January 2024:** Our division's leadership for the coming year will be decided during the January 2024 elections. I encourage members to consider running for leadership positions or participate by casting their votes. Your involvement is vital to our division's success.

**Membership Banquet - March 2024:** The Membership Banquet is an excellent opportunity to come together, celebrate our shared passion for model railroading, and recognize the achievements of our fellow members. We will announce a date and location soon.

**National Convention, Long Beach, CA - August 4-11, 2024:** Mark your calendars for the NMRA National Convention, right here in Long Beach.

This is a unique chance to experience the best the hobby has to offer, with workshops, layouts, and camaraderie on a grand scale.

## Member Involvement:

Our division thrives on the active participation of its members. We invite you to assist the Region by volunteering your time and expertise. Your contributions help us maintain the high standards for which our division is known.

## New Event Ideas:

In the spirit of enhancing our community, we're looking for new event ideas to bring modelers together. We aim to host an event each quarter to keep our passion for model railroading alive. If you have suggestions or ideas for such events, please share them with us. Your input is invaluable in shaping the division's calendar.

## Membership Growth:

One of my primary goals is to increase the LA Division membership. We have a vibrant and dedicated community, and I believe there are many model railroaders out there who would benefit from being part of our division. I can't do this alone; I need your help in spreading the word and inviting new enthusiasts to join us. Please remember to renew your NMRA membership for the upcoming year.



# Superintendent's Report

- Continued

Your continued support is essential for our division's success. You can renew online through the NMRA website.

## Get Involved:

The heart of our division lies in the passion and commitment of our members. I encourage you to get involved in the division's activities. Whether you have an ongoing project, a layout tour to share, or a clinic to offer, your contributions are what make our division a dynamic and supportive community. Please let us know about the projects you're working on or any ideas you have to enrich our model railroading experience. If you'd like to get more involved or have suggestions for division activities, please reach out to us. Your input is invaluable.

Stay tuned for more information and updates on our website and social media channels. TheLA Division is a vibrant community of model railroaders, and we're excited to see it continue to grow and thrive.

I look forward to working alongside you all, and together, we can make 2024 a fantastic year for the LA Division. If you have questions, suggestions, or just want to connect, please reach out. Your Superintendent is here to serve you!

Best regards,

Jeff Smith  
NMRA LA Division Superintendent  
Happy railroading!





The 2024 NMRA National Convention  
"Surfliner 2024"  
will be in Long Beach from August 3 to 11, 2024

Did you know that the Pacific Southwest Region will be hosting the National NMRA Convention in Long Beach in 2024? Do you have a layout that you would like to share during the convention layout tours?

***WE NEED LAYOUTS FOR THE LAYOUT TOURS!!!!!!***

If you would like your layout to be on the tour or, if you are building a layout and think it will be tour ready by August of 2024, please contact Tom Selinske at [Layouttours2024@gmail.com](mailto:Layouttours2024@gmail.com), or Morrie Fleishman at [mefleishman@cox.net](mailto:mefleishman@cox.net) (949-351-7715) to get your layout added to our layout list. We will be reviewing all potential layouts over the next year to develop our layout tours and are looking for those awesome layouts that are hiding away in your basement or spare room! Detailed requirements for inclusion in the layout tours will be coming out in the next couple months. This is a first call for layouts and there will be plenty of time to finalize your participation over the next year.

This convention is attended by a huge audience from around the globe and this is a chance to show off your modeling skills and railroad creations! In addition to the recognition of your peers, your layout may qualify for an NMRA Golden Spike award and can earn credit for other NMRA MMR Achievement Awards.

If you, or anyone you know, may be interested, please have them contact Tom or Morrie.



# Pasadena Model Railroad Museum Visit



NMRA Members were recently invited to participate in a unique operating session at the Pasadena Model Railroad Museum layout, the *Sierra Pacific Lines*. The layout was alive with mainline and switching activity, as NMRA members of all ages took to their throttles. What follows are a number of photos taken by PSR President Pat Raymer.

A big thank you to the Pasadena Model Railroad Museum for welcoming our group of modelers.



# Pasadena Model Railroad Museum Visit



# Pasadena Model Railroad Museum Visit



# Pasadena Model Railroad Museum Visit



# Pasadena Model Railroad Museum Visit



# The Los Angeles Division of the NMRA is Looking for YOU!

If You've Ever Wanted To....

*Meet others in the Division!*

*Participate in the Division!*

*Give Back to the Division!*

*Help Lead the Division!*

Then you should consider running for a position on  
the Los Angeles Division Advisory Board

**Superintendent**

**Paymaster**

**Chief Clerk**

Candidates interested in any of the positions  
should reach out to John McGreevy

**[nmrapsrlajohnmc@gmail.com](mailto:nmrapsrlajohnmc@gmail.com)**

**Terms begin upon the completion of the Division's Annual  
Membership Meeting in 2024 and run for 24 months**



# Financial Report

10/02/2023

-Kevin Spady

## U.S. BANK SILVER - BUSINESS CHECKING

U.S. Bank National Association

### Account Summary

Beginning Balance on Oct 2	\$	15,454.37
Ending Balance on Oct 31, 2023	\$	15,454.37

## *First Thursday of the 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 on each month starting at 7:00pm (chats typically last about an hour)

**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 [VicCavalli@comcast.net](mailto:VicCavalli@comcast.net) for your *free* link



# Advisory Board Contact List

## OFFICERS

<b>Director</b> <b>Vic Cavalli</b> director@ladiv-nmra.org (805) 680-5826	<b>Superintendent</b> <b>Jeff Smith</b> superintendent@ladiv-nmra.org (562) 867-5627	<b>Paymaster</b> <b>Kevin Spady</b> kspady@att.net (818) 644-7170	<b>Chief Clerk</b> <b>Nick Lisica</b> Lisican@gmail.com (831) 594-7640
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## TEAMS, COMMITTEES, and CHAIRS

### Members' Services Team

**Team Chair and Membership Recruitment/Retention – John McGreevy**

membership@ladiv-nmra.org (805) 907-2367

**Members' Services Chair - Mike O'Brien**

mike@corbu.us (626) 487-8768

**Events Scheduling - Vacant**

### Communications Team

**Team Chair and LA Coupler Editor - Nick Lisica**

lisican@gmail.com (831) 594-7640

**LA Coupler Assistant Editor - Vacant**

**Social Media (Zoom) Manager - Kevin Spady**

kspady@att.net (818) 644-7170

**L.A. Division Webmaster - Kevin Spady**

kspady@att.net (818) 644-7170

**L.A. Division Assistant Webmaster – Vacant**

**Publicity/Graphics Manager – Nick Lisica**

lisican@gmail.com (831) 594-7640

**AContests/Achievement Program Chair – Gary Butts, MMR**

gary.cajon@gmail.com (714) 842-4980

**L.A. Division Historian - Vacant**

**Nominations and Elections Chair - John McGreevy**

**Non-Rail Coordinator - Vacant**

# 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: 11/01/2023*

## Recurring

Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays - Los Angeles Model Railroad Society "Work" Sessions, Harbor City  
Saturdays - Belmont Shore Model Railroad Club Visitation, San Pedro  
Saturdays - Corona Model Railroad Society Open House, Corona  
1st Thursday of Each Month - Los Angeles Division Sponsored "Sand House Chat" Zoom Session  
2nd Saturday of Each Month - Trains & Coffee Swap Meet, Duke's Cafe Parking Lot, Placentia  
3rd Saturday of Each Month - Arizona Division Zoom Session  
Last Saturday of Each Month - "Model Railroad Fellowship Get-Together" - RailMaster Hobbies, Bellflower

## 2023

December 15 - 16 - TTOS - SP's Super Swap Meet, Anaheim

## 2024

January 13 - Friant Branch Model Railroad Layout Tour, San Diego Area

January 13 - Cajon Division Layout Tour

January 21 - Los Angeles Division Layout Tour, Ron Varnell's HO Scale Layout, Torrance

February 3 - 4 - Great Train Show - Costa Mesa, Orange County Fair & Events Center, Costa Mesa

February 10 - San Diego Division Winter Meet, location TBD

February 17 - 18 - Great Train Show - Ventura, Ventura County Fairgrounds, Ventura

March 2 - 3 - Great Train Show - Victorville, San Bernardino County Fairgrounds, San Bernardino

March 9 - Chris Green's 1-1/2" Scale Outdoor Railroad, San Diego Area

March 9 - Los Angeles Division's Annual Membership Meeting and Banquet, *Frantone's*, Cerritos

April 13 - Wayne Pierce's On30 Model Railroad Layout Tour, San Diego Area

April 24 - 28 - PCR Annual Convention, the *Tech Line*, Milpitas

August 4 - 11 - NMRA National Convention, the "SurfLiner 2024" and Train Show, Long Beach

For inclusion, please send announcements at least 3 months in advance to:  
[VicCavalli@Comcast.net](mailto:VicCavalli@Comcast.net)

# Advertisement Guidelines

## *Interested in Advertising in the LA Coupler?*

Please note that advertisements in the *LA Coupler* need to be related to the hobby of model railroading (including prototype railroading). All ads are to be supplied by the owner and published at the discretion of the *LA Coupler* editor and/or the LA Division Advisory Board. If you have questions about the guidelines, please reach out to the editor at [Lisican@gmail.com](mailto:Lisican@gmail.com)

Publishing guidelines for ads are as follows:

Ad space is sold on an annual basis (four issues, published quarterly), for a full, ½, ¼, or ⅛ page sized ad

**A commitment for two issues is requested up front (totaling 50% of the total costs), a full year commitment would receive a discount of 10% on the price.**

	Full Page Ad	Half Page Ad	Quarter Page Ad	Eighth Page Ad
Annual Cost	\$100	\$60	\$40	\$25
Minimum 2 Issue Commitment	\$50	\$30	\$20	\$12.50
Full Year Discount (less 10%)	\$90	\$54	\$36	\$22.50

**Payments are to be made to the LA Division NMRA. Please contact the editor for details.**

**Funds from advertising go directly toward supporting your Los Angeles Division of the NMRA.**



**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!**

