



LA Coupler

The Newsletter of the Los Angeles Division of the NMRA



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Los Angeles Division
Pacific Southwest Region
National Model Railroad Association, Inc.
www.ladiv-nmra.org



National Convention Recap

Division Updates

...and more!



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On the Cover...

*My experience at the
SurfLiner2024 NMRA National
Convention*

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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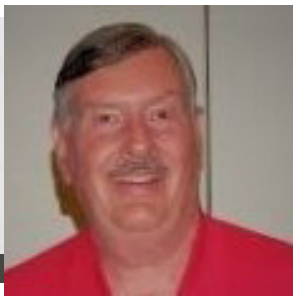
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Thank you for supporting the LA Division!



Director's Report

- Vic Cavalli

What an impressive convention SurfLiner 2024, the National Model Railroad Association's (NMRA) annual showcase, was! If you didn't attend, even for just a single day or two, you blew it! There was so much to see and do. For example, with clinicians coming from all parts of the country, more than half the presentations had never been seen within the PSR.

To everyone involved with this grand success, whether volunteer or planning committee member, "Job well done! Thank you."

While most of the convention was designed for a national audience, two specific events were entirely of regional focus. The first was the Pacific Southwest Region's (PSR) annual Board of Director's (Board) meeting, held Sunday afternoon, August 11th. Here are some highlights:

- Submission, by John McGreevy (Nominations and Elections Chair), and certification, by the Board, of the recently concluded Region's annual election results.
- Announcement of new Regional committee chairs by President Raymer: Brian Neely (Historian), Karie Neely (Plus-One), and John McGreevy (Treasurer). [The latter announced by President Morse after being installed as the Region's new President].
- Resolution of the PSR's 2023 tax filing dilemma was obtained by unanimously vote of the Board. Terms are as follows: Cabrillo Consulting (Cabrillo) will be awarded a contract for \$4,950.00 to complete and file the Region's 2023 tax forms (state(s) and federal). Cabrillo also will receive an additional \$1,000.00 to create a new tax filing system for the PSR's future use. Payment of Cabrillo fees will be paid for exclusively by the Region. In return, the Region shall suspend distribution (to its four Divisions) of membership rebates received from National for the remainder of 2024 and all of calendar year 2025.
- Outgoing Treasurer Joel Morse estimates future tax assistance fees (if the PSR elects to continue using Cabrillo) would likely be between \$500.00 and \$1,000.00 annually.
- Treasurer Morse also recommended the PSR "authorize [its] Treasurer to research, identify, and propose to the Board, appropriate FDIC insured investment vehicles that the Region might invest in." Motive was passed unanimously.

As you have likely concluded, financial issues constituted a majority of the time spent by the Board during our gathering.

Director's Report

- continued

The second PSR specific event was our annual General Membership Meeting, held Wednesday evening, August 14th. Items worth noting included:

- Installment of newly elected PSR President, Joel Morse, and Vice President, Frank Kenny.
- Awarding of the Past President's Pin, by President Morse, to outgoing, two-term President Pat Raymer.
- Achievement Program (AP) certificates presented to: Pat Rogan (Cajon) – Volunteer, Steve Bradley (San Diego) – Chief Dispatcher, Paul Buhrke (Arizona) – Volunteer, and Stephan Drees (Arizona) – Prototype Modeler.
- Carl Heimberger (AP Chair) also announced Stephan Drees has earned the Master Model Railroader (MMR) award.
- Division Member of the Year awards were presented by each Division's Director to: Chris Thompson (Arizona), Gary Butts, MMR (Cajon), John McGreevy (Los Angeles), and "Shotgun" Tom Kelly (San Diego).
- The PSR Member of the Year award was presented to Don Fowler (San Diego).
- The final order-of-business was a preview of next year's 2025 PSR convention, the Pacific Southwest Express, to be held September 3rd- 6th, at the Hilton Hotel – John Wayne Airport, Irvine, CA.

A quick backtrack: In my previous report I asked for your ideas or references with regard to the PSR's 501(c)3 tax filing assistance problem. I want to thank several of you – Chuck Fisher, Jeff Herrmann, Frank Kenny, Nick Liscia and Pat Rogan – all of whom responded back to my request. Your suggestions and inputs were truly helpful.

In closing, a lot of great activities lined up between now and the end of 2024. Check them out in the "Events" page(s) at the end of this newsletter. Hope to see you at one or more of them.

Thanks for reading along. Until next quarter, happy model railroading to you.

Cajon Division- NMRA

FALL - 2024

Saturday

October 19, 2024



8:30 AM-4:30 PM

SAVE THE DATE!

Clinics

Swap Meet

Hobo Auction

Modelers - Show & Tell

Celebration of Model Railroading

General Membership Meeting

Awards Ceremony

TARIFF

Event Registration

- NMRA Member: \$10.00
- Non-Members: \$15.00
- 18 and Under Free *with Parent/Guardian Only*

Pizza and soft-drink lunch provided

Swap Meet Space:

- Free for NMRA Members
- Others: \$5.00 / 6' space
- Bring your own tables, chairs, shade

MODELS: Bring a model for contest, AP judging or Show & Tell and get one free Hobo Auction ticket sheet!

**Messiah Lutheran Church
Courtyard**

6625 Dale St, Buena Park

Near the 5 and 91

Free parking



Superintendent's Report

- Jeff Smith

Calling All Model Railroaders!

All aboard! The LA Division is cruising down the track toward an even brighter future, but we can't do it without YOU! Whether you're a master of scenery, a whiz with electronics, or the kind of person who can spot the difference between a GP9 and a GP20 from a mile away—your skills and passion are what make our community run on time.

Members—Your Division Needs You!

The train can't leave the station without its crew! We need your creative energy and enthusiasm to assist our Region and make the LA Division the best in the West. We're on the hunt for fresh ideas to unite us modelers, with a goal of hosting a new event each quarter. Your imagination is the only limit—how about a steam-powered picnic in the park? A scenic clinic at the coast? A night tour of layouts under twinkling stars? Whatever your idea, we want to hear it!

What's Your Latest Project?

We know you're busy building your own miniature worlds, so why not share them with us? Snap some pictures, jot down a few words, and tell us about the masterpiece you're working on. Whether it's a bustling urban scene or a quiet countryside layout, let's celebrate your work and inspire others. Remember, in our community, no project is too big or too small—it's all about the journey!

Upcoming Events—Get Involved and Have Fun!

Our event schedule is starting to take shape, and we want YOU on board!

Layout Tour: Wandering Spruce

Oct 26, 10am to 2pm, Did you RSVP already?—we'll be exploring this hidden gem of a layout, with plenty of surprises around every corner.

Elections - January 2025

Who will be steering the locomotive into the new year? Details coming soon.

Membership Banquet - March 2025 - Date TBD

A night of camaraderie, great food, and even better stories—mark your calendars for this can't-miss event!

Recap of the LA Prototype Modelers RPM Meet

I had a chance to attend the recent RPM meet on October 5th and it was a runaway success! They had fantastic models on display, a swap meet that was the perfect spot for treasure hunters, and raffle prizes that would make any model railroader jump for joy. Thanks to everyone who came out—let's keep the momentum rolling!



Superintendent's Report

- Jeff Smith

Your Division—Your Ideas!

We're all about collaboration and making the LA Division a place where every modeler feels welcome and involved. Got an idea for an event or a way to increase our membership? Let's hear it! We're on track to make this division better than ever, but the whistle doesn't blow without your input.

So, let's team up, spark some new ideas, and keep the LA Division steaming ahead. After all, the best part of our hobby is the friends we make and the tracks we build together!

Stay on track, get involved, and keep those trains rolling! 🚂

LA Division NMRA Layout Visit

The Los Angeles Division of the NMRA would like to invite you to come visit the Wandering Spruce Railroad from 10:00 to 2:00 on October 26th, 2024 located in Claremont, CA. This is an open invitation for all LA and Cajon Division members of the NMRA. Each member is welcome to bring one additional guest. Lunch and beverages will be provided.

The Wandering Spruce Railroad is a joint modeling effort by Sean Williams and Kevin Spady that is gradually nearing completion. This is a 5 x 10 - On30 layout representing a mining/logging industry setting in the Pacific Northwest and is highly detailed. It is a work in progress with much detail still to be accomplished but represents what can be achieved in a small area in a relatively large scale.

Please RSVP to the email below no later than October 15th to the following email so that we can determine how many will attend and so we can provide you with exact location and directions: kspady@att.net.



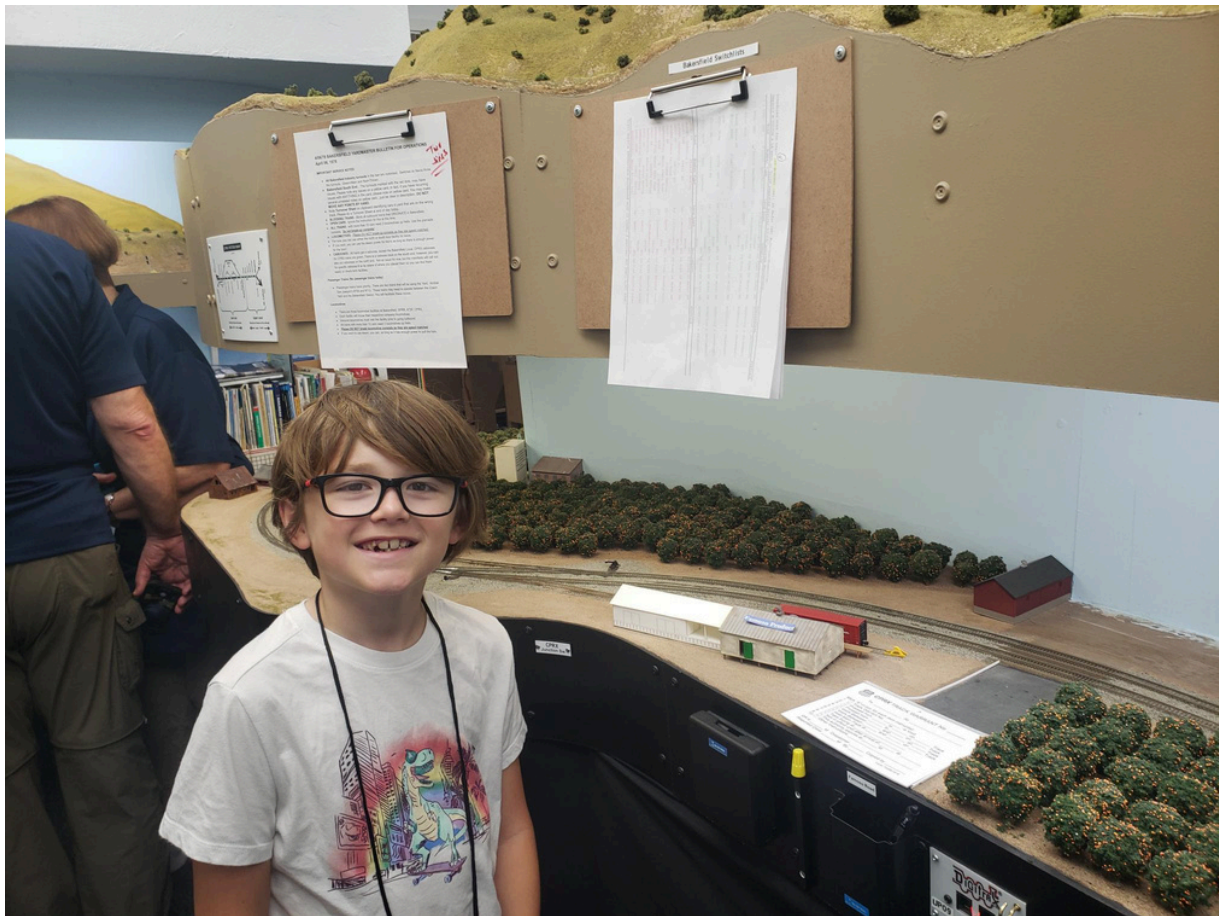
**Still
Accepting
RSVPs!**

Please join us!



SurfLiner2024

-Nick Lisica



Visiting Frank Kenny's N scale Central Pacific Rwy

I spent the last three or so years working with the numerous volunteers on the SurfLiner2024 NMRA National Convention held in Long Beach this past August. Many, many, hours were spent discussing the big picture, small issues, and every other imaginable detail. It was exhausting, (and I didn't even do very much!)

When the event finally came, I brought my 8yr old to a number of layout tours, clinics, the banquet, and whatever else he wanted to check out. He's also been to a handful of operating sessions outside of the convention. He can't get enough!

At the end of the week, he immediately ran up to his layout and got to work. He added scenery, came up with an operating plan, and even created a website for his railroad. He was thrilled at the idea of one day opening our layouts to a tour, and even gushed at the thought of being in the NMRA calendar.

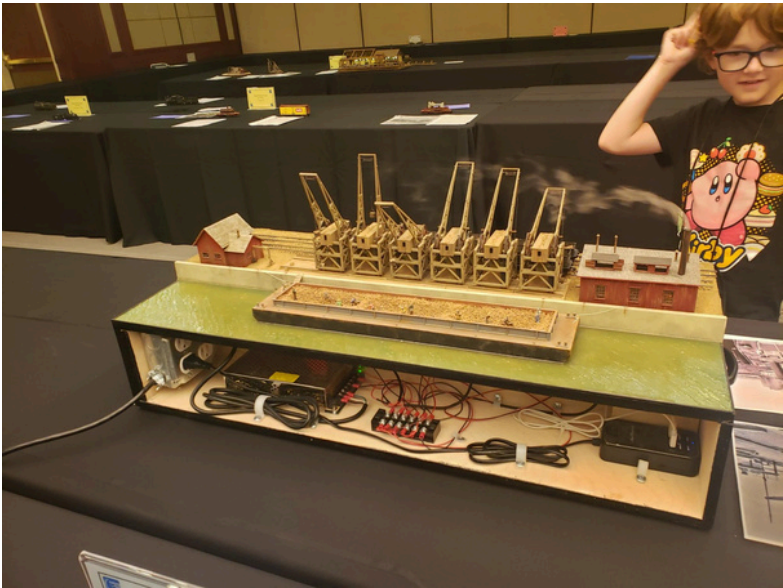
This enthusiasm made the entire process worth it. I hope those of you who attended had a similar experience, and I look forward to seeing the work the convention inspired.

SurfLiner2024

-Nick Lisica



Craig Martyn's N scale Afton Canyon



David Sheegog's G scale Castle Peak & Thunder RR

SurfLiner2024

-Nick Lisica



Arthur Lisica's N scale Cheesy & Western Railway





Financial Report

9/30/2024

-Kevin Spady

U.S. BANK SILVER - BUSINESS CHECKING

U.S. Bank National Association

Account Summary

Beginning Balance on Sep 3	\$	15,738.42
Ending Balance on Sep 30, 2024	\$	15,738.42

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 for your *free* link

Advisory Board Contact List

OFFICERS

Director Vic Cavalli director@ladiv-nmra.org (805) 680-5826	Superintendent Jeff Smith superintendent@ladiv-nmra.org (562) 867-5627	Paymaster Kevin Spady kspady@att.net (818) 644-7170	Chief Clerk Nick Lisica 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 - Vacant

Events Scheduling - Vacant

Communications Team

Team Chair and LA Coupler Editor - Nick Lisica

lisican@gmail.com (831) 594-7640

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

Upcoming Model Railroad & Prototype 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: 9/07/2024

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

Upcoming

October 19 – Cajon Division Fall Meet, Messiah Lutheran Church, Buena Park
October 19 – Roundhouse Gang Model Railroad Swap Meet, Old Santa Fe Station, San Bernardino
October 26 – L.A. Division Sponsored Open House, the Wandering Spruce On30 Layout, Claremont (*NMRA Members Only, RSVP by October 15*)

November 2 – Santa Susana Railroad Historical Society Swap Meet & Open House, Simi Valley
November 9 – San Diego Division Fall Meet at the San Diego Model Railroad Museum, Balboa Park, San Diego
November 9, 10 & 12 – California Southern Model Railroad Club Open House, Norwalk (Times vary by day)

December 14 – Ops Session on the CPRX, Torrance (Contact Frank Kenny for details)

Upcoming Model Railroad & Prototype Events

2025

February 15-16 – Great Train Show & World’s Greatest Hobby, Orange County Fair & Event Center, Costa Mesa

February 23 – California Express Railroadiana & Transportation Show, Buena Park

March 1-2 – GEHAM Model Train Show, Bakersfield

March 8-9 – Great Train Show, Ventura County Fairgrounds, Ventura

March 27-30 – PCR Annual Convention, *Daylight Limited*, San Luis Obispo

July 14-19 – NMRA National Convention, “Station No. VI”, Novi, MI

September 3-6 – PSR 2025 Convention, *Pacific Southwest Express*, Irvine Hilton John Wayne Airport, Irvine

2026

September 8-13 – PSR Annual Convention, Double Tree Hotel, San Diego/Mission Valley

*For inclusion, please send announcements at least 3 months in advance to:
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

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**

Special Thanks to Railmaster Hobbies

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

Thank you for supporting the LA Coupler!

