



# LA Coupler

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



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



## *In This Issue*

Special Offers on Cars

LA Division Banquet

...and more!



## ***Features***

Director's Report.....	4
Superintendant's Report.....	7
Financial Report.....	11
Advisory Board Contact List.....	12
Upcoming Events.....	13

***On the Cover....*** With a new year, come plenty of new opportunities to ask yourself how you can help your Los Angeles Division of the NMRA thrive and prosper. The Division is always looking for volunteers to step up and help out. This can be done in many ways, including plenty that can be done from home! Please see page 11 for a list of open volunteer positions, or reach out to any of the LA Division volunteers for additional information.

# 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**

**1709 E Erie St**

**Long Beach, CA 90802**

**Lisican@gmail.com**

*Issue Photographers:*

**N/A**

*Electronic PDF Distribution:*

**Kevin Spady**

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

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

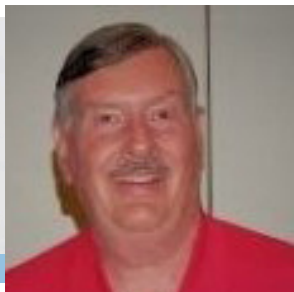
All materials, articles, and advertising must be submitted to the Editor and in an electronic format. Contact us for a copy of our submission guidelines. Advertisers may contact the Editor to request guidelines and a rate card. Subscribers with an e-mail address on file will receive the PDF version. Copyright 2022, 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!**





# Director's Report

- Vic Cavalli

Last report I shared discussions, decisions and highlights from our Pacific Southwest Region's (PSR) annual Board of Directors and General Membership meetings. Now, I would like to "close the books" on the region's hosting of SurfLiner 2024, the National Model Railroad Association's (NMRA) annual convention. [Please note, statistics and numbers provided below are from Final Financial Report, SurfLiner 2024, delivered to NMRA National, by Joel Morse, Treasurer and Co-Chairman of SurfLiner 2024.]

Final registration for the convention totaled out at 604 individuals, broken down as follows: 605 full registrations, 63 1- or 2-day attendees, and 64 cancelations. There were six (6) General Interest, four (4) Prototype, and five (5) Layout tours offered – each included transportation provided – with 83, 154 and 198 individuals participating. Eighty-eight (88) members attended one or more of the eight (8) Modeling with the Masters clinics, and a total of 150 registrants attended the final night's Awards Banquet.

While almost everything associated with the convention itself was VERY successful, merchandise sales through the Company Store lost approximately \$5,500.00, and the minimum number of required convention rooms to-be-booked was not met. (Read further on for this latter point.)

Financially, the convention brought in a Gross Profit (i.e. incomes from all sources) of \$175,707.67. Gross Expenses (i.e., debits) are currently \$157,343.32 with a few reimbursements still outstanding as of the time this report was submitted. This resulted in a "Final" net surplus of \$18,097.21. Payment of \$14,477.77 (80%) has been forwarded to NMRA National Headquarters; the remaining \$3,619.44 (20%) retained by the PSR.

Thank goodness the staff and volunteers of SurfLiner 2024 weren't motivated by only the money to be made?! Instead, to all involved, **THANK YOU;** an excellent job done!

In closing, I want to share a part of the convention's Co-Chairs' "summary" cover letter to National:

*"As we close out the books on the SurfLiner2024 NMRA National Convention, the Host Committee wants the National management team to know that the Convention Chairs, Pat Raymer and Joel Morse, were extremely disappointed with Nationals' refusal to negotiate in good faith to fairly modify the convention agreement in recognition of the potential effect the mismanagement of the National Train Show at the National level (and its downsizing) might, and ultimately did, have on the convention's overall profitability, including attendance and hotel room sales.*

# Director's Report

- continued

*"In fact, in May 2024, only 3 months before the convention and following weeks of good faith efforts on the part of the Host Committee to structure a fair agreement that recognized the unique nature of the circumstances impacting SurfLiner2024, National management presented the Host Committee with a "take it or leave it" ultimatum to sign the agreement as no further negotiation would take place. The final agreement does not specifically protect the Host Committee from significant losses as requested; instead it included a parting insult by changing the Net Surplus Distribution from the historic split of 20% National / 80% Host Committee, to 80% National / 20% Host Committee.*

*"The Host Committee was surprised, disappointed, disillusioned disheartened and insulted, by the National leadership's decision to take this hard line approach and leave us with no choice but to sign the one-sided agreement or cancel the convention at that late date.*

*"The Host Committee chose to sign the agreement, rather than cancel the SurfLiner2024 and disappoint the NMRA membership planning to attend. And despite the roadblocks created by poor management at the National level, we know that we put on a fine convention." [Editor: Underscore added by the author.]*

Thanks for reading along. Until next quarter's report, happy holidays and my wish for a wonderful start to 2025 to you and yours.

**Save The Date!**

**LA Division's Annual Membership Banquet**

*March 15, 2025*

**Frantone's Pizza & Spaghetti Villa**

**Cerritos**

# SurfLiner Convention Cars



***N Surfliner Car***



***HO Surfliner Car***

HO and N Scale *SurfLiner* convention cars are still available! They can be yours for \$15.00 each (originally sold for \$30 at the convention). Each purchase includes a *SurfLiner* convention pin. Please contact Vic Cavalli for information: [director@ladiv-nmra.org](mailto:director@ladiv-nmra.org)



# Superintendent's Report

- Jeff Smith

 All Aboard the LA Division Express! 

From the Desk of Jeff Smith, Division Superintendent

Dear NMRA LA Division Members,

Welcome to the latest edition of the NMRA LA Division Newsletter—a celebration of our incredible model railroading community! From the smallest details of a Z-scale diorama to the sweeping landscapes of G-scale layouts, our passion for railroads unites us, and there's never been a better time to get involved.

 Membership Update: Full Steam Ahead!

Our membership is growing—let's keep that momentum going! A heartfelt thank you to everyone who's helped spread the word about the LA Division. But remember, this is a team effort. My goal for 2025 is ambitious: to grow our community even further. I need your help to make it happen! Invite a friend, share your hobby with others, and let's get more enthusiasts on board.





 Exciting Events Ahead

 Membership Banquet – March 2025

- When: March 15, 2025, 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM
- Where: Frantone's Pizza & Spaghetti Villa
- 10808 Alondra Blvd, Cerritos, CA 90703
- Cost: \$25 per person (includes a fantastic meal)

This meeting is open to all LA Division members and one guest. Yes, everyone is invited—this isn't just for board members!

Here's what you can look forward to:

-  Raffle Prizes: Win some amazing treasures for your layout!
-  Financial Update: See how we're keeping things on track.
-  Year in Review & Plans Ahead: Celebrate last year's successes and hear about what's next for our Division.
-  Camaraderie: Enjoy the fellowship of fellow model railroaders.

RSVP by March 8 via email to [superintendent@ladiv-nmra.org](mailto:superintendent@ladiv-nmra.org).



# Superintendent's Report

- Jeff Smith

## Layout Tours

- Jeff Traintime's Layout Tour: A must-see! Arrangements are underway for this exciting tour.
- G-Gauge Layout at Descanso Gardens: We're working on a 1st quarter visit to this incredible display, which you may have seen on YouTube. Trust us, it's even better in person!

Want to show off your layout? Whether it's finished or a work-in-progress, we'd love to feature it. Reach out to us and inspire your fellow hobbyists!

## Get Involved: We Need You!

As we roll into 2025, our goal is to host at least one event every quarter. But to make this happen, we need your help! This is a team effort, and your ideas and participation are invaluable. Whether you're a master planner or just have a spark of inspiration, we'd love to hear from you.

Some questions to spark your creativity:

- What types of events would you like to see?
- Do you have projects you'd like to share with the Division?
- How can we make the LA Division even better?

Drop us a line at [superintendent@ladiv-nmra.org](mailto:superintendent@ladiv-nmra.org)—we're all ears!

## Our Community: Diverse, Talented, and United by Trains

Our members are as varied as the rolling stock on a busy mainline. From expert model builders and prototype historians to electronics wizards and creative geniuses, we are a community of talents, skills, and shared passions. No matter your scale or focus, there's a place for you in the LA Division.

Let's make 2025 a banner year for the NMRA LA Division. Together, we can create an even stronger, more vibrant community of model railroaders.

Warm regards,

Jeff Smith

Superintendent, NMRA LA Division



# Limited Edition Offer



Add this superb, one of a kind, historical tank car to your collection. The Northern Utah Division of the NMRA is selling a series of HO scale Utah Oil Company (UTOCO) tank cars manufactured by InterMountain Railway. The cars feature a build date of 8/45 and a test date of 9/28/51.

Originally intended to be the convention cars for the 2019 NMRA convention in Salt Lake City, supply chain issues prevented the cars from arriving on time. Offered in six road numbers, the cars have metal wheelsets and Kadee couplers. Priced at \$45.00 each with free shipping, you can get your very own historical tank car before this limited edition is sold out, go to either:

[www.northernutahnmra.org/club-car](http://www.northernutahnmra.org/club-car)

or

<http://northern-utah-division-nmra.square.site/>

**LA Div  
Membership  
Banquet**

**March 15, 2025  
5 - 9pm**

**FRANTONE'S  
PIZZA & SPAGHETTI VILLA  
10808 ALONDRA BLVD  
CERRITOS, CA 90703**

**\$26 per Person, Guests Welcome  
Please RSVP to  
[superintendent@ladiv-nmra.org](mailto:superintendent@ladiv-nmra.org)**



# Financial Report

12/31/2024

-Kevin Spady

## U.S. BANK SILVER - BUSINESS CHECKING

U.S. Bank National Association

### Account Summary

Beginning Balance on Dec 1	\$	15,738.42
Ending Balance on Dec 31, 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](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
--	---	--	---

## 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: 12/31/2024*

## ***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***

January 11 – Dick Trotter's HO Scale model Railroad layout Open House, San Diego County

February 15 – Grand Canyon Model Railroaders' Cactus Winter Train Swap Meet, North Phoenix Baptist Church, Phoenix, AZ

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

February 22 – Roundhouse Gang Model Railroad Club Swap Meet, San Bernardino

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

March 1-2 – Golden Empire Historical & Modeling Society's 31st Annual Model Train Show, Bakersfield

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

**March 15 – LA Division Annual Membership Banquet, Cerritos**

March 18 – Tim Foote's HO Scale model Railroad layout Open House, San Diego County

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

# Upcoming Model Railroad & Prototype Events

April 12 – David Lancaster’s Z Scale model Railroad layout Open House, San Diego County

June 14 – Justin Rasos’ multiple scales modules Open House, San Diego County

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

July 26 – Roundhouse Gang Model Railroad Club Swap Meet, San Bernardino

September 3-6 – PSR 2025 Convention, Hilton Irving – John Wayne Airport, Irvine

October 18 – Roundhouse Gang Model Railroad Club Swap Meet, San Bernardino

## **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](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,  $\frac{1}{2}$ ,  $\frac{1}{4}$ , or  $\frac{1}{8}$  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!**

