

RUNNING LITE

THE CAJON DIVISION NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 49 NO. 1.1

APRIL, 2021

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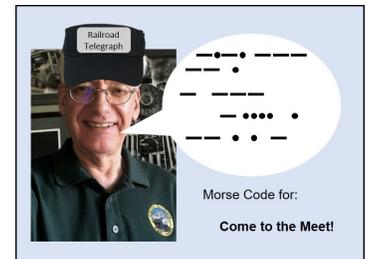
Cajon Spring Event
Buena Park
April 17

PSR Convention
Orange Blossom
Special
Irvine Sept 8-11



From The Director

Richard Hock
Cajon Division Director



It is amazing how our forms of communication has changed over the years. From the first demonstration by Samuel Morse of a transmission of electrical pulses evolved into the a language known as Morse Code. The telegraph became instrumental to the movement of trains in which train orders could override a time table and provide smoother operation of single main-lines. Methods of communication modernized to the telephone and radio transmissions. Fast forward about one-hundred and fifty years from this dot and dash code, electronic on and off pulse signals communicate with our scale locomotives in micro-chips.

Technology effects and changes so many aspects of our daily lives. Railroads moved the mail across the country for decades. Handwritten letters, cards and postcards were the way families would communicate miles apart. Long distance telephone calls were expensive. Railway Post Office cars received, sorted and delivered the mail on passenger service lines. When the Post Office moved its mail contracts to the airlines and to trucks, marked the final end for most passenger rail service, already unable to compete with automobile and air travel. Now, digital media has moved us from the written letter to emails, Skype, Facebook, Face Time and mobile telephones. Landline... what's that? Can't remember the last time I actually wrote a letter to "snail" mail. The only things that come by the post office today is truly junk mail. Besides, we have become a society of instant gratification. Instant gratification with our purchases and even with the response of a social media post or text message. We wait with bated breath. Oh the anticipation or trepidation!

It has been just a year that Zoom has become a household name. Before the pandemic, I did not know what Zoom was nor even cared. With the lock down of our social activities, Zoom has been the source of human interaction. However, nothing can replace the physical interaction of a handshake, pat-on-the-back or a hug. It is the getting together without physically getting together. Social media has it place and can be used effectively. Social media, however, must be kept in its place and acknowledged for what it is.

Cajon Connect is a platform for like-minded model railroaders to come together and share ideas, techniques and resources to advance the hobby or to regularly connect with fellow hobbyists. Groups are forming.

The Buena Park Meet is happening Saturday, April 17th! Events start with a swap meet, the contest room, Modeler's Show-N-tell, hobo auction and meeting for those interested to check out and form interest groups through Cajon Connect.

Come to the Meet! Get Cajon Connected!

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Fly Fishing on the West Branch of the Delaware River – Joel Morse

The Catskill Mountains of New York are famous for excellent fly-fishing locations; mention the Beaverkill, the Salmon, the Neversink and the Delaware Rivers to an eastern fly fisherman, and he or she will probably have a story about the trout they caught on one of these rivers. I had my early fly-fishing experiences on the Beaverkill when I was a kid. The West Branch of the Delaware River is well stocked with steelhead trout, and happens to run through the town of Delhi on my N-Scale New York, Ontario and Western Railway layout (as it does on the prototype). I had a corner spot at the edge of Delhi (6 inches by 6 inches by 2 ½ inches deep) that I always planned to do something with, but put off for a long time. Here's how I created the fly-fishing scene in Figure 1, out of a small wasted space at the end of the benchwork.



Figure 1 Two Fly Fisherman on the West Branch of the Delaware (the second is wearing chest high waders on the right).

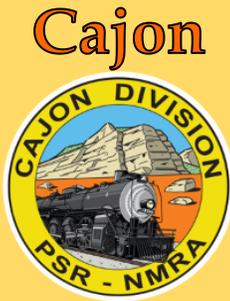
When I created the fascia, I knew I would do something with this area, so I cut the fascia to allow for some kind of depressed scene. When the first layer of scenery went down in Delhi, I envisioned this area as a wooded ravine, maybe with some hikers or a hobos/campfire. It stayed as nothing more than a plaster slope with some grass cover for a number of years (Figure 2).



Figure 2 Basic scenery, the area looked like this for years.

[Continued on page 7](#)

Saturday
April 17, 2021



Division- NMRA
Spring - 2021

7:30 AM

COVID SENSITIVE MEET

**Activities will be outside under cover or in large rooms
with social distancing!**

*******Masks and Social Distancing Required*******

Schedule

Registration Opens: 7:30 am

Swap Meet Setup: 7:30 am

Contest Room Open: 8:00 am to 9:30 am

Swap Meet: 8:00 am to 11:00 am

Hobo Auction: 11:00 am to 3:00 pm

Lunch Break 12:00—1:00 pm (Box Lunch Available)

Modelers - Show & Tell: 1:00 pm to 1:45 pm

Cajon Connect—Special Interest Discussion Groups—2:00 to 3:00 pm

TARIFF

Event Registration

- **NMRA Member: \$10.00— Includes a Raffle Ticket**
- **Non-Members: \$10.00**
- **18 and Under *with Adult or Spouse*: FREE**
- **Subway Sandwich Box Lunch—\$10.00**
- ◇ **Sandwich, Chips, Cookie, Drink**

Registration Tariff includes:

- ◆ **You get up to 18 feet of Swap meet Space**
- ◇ **BRING YOUR OWN TABLES, CHAIR, POPUP**

**Messiah Lutheran Church
Parking Lot and Courtyard
6625 Dale St, Buena Park**

**Near the 5 and 91
Free parking**

The Editor's Column

by Morrie Fleishman
Editor: Cajon Division



Welcome to the April 2021 issue of **Running-Lite** the monthly newsletter for the Cajon Division during this current Pandemic situation. The purpose of **Running-Lite** is to keep members updated with modeling opportunities available such as the many Virtual (On-Line) events that have been popping up everywhere. Please send me an email and pictures showing what you are working on and letting us know what on-line events you are aware of so that we could spread the word to others.

Thanks. Morrie Fleishman mefleishman@cox.net

Reminder: Virtual Meetings via Zoom, Skype, etc.

While new to some, IT types have been using products like webex and gotomeeting to do training to remote sites for many years. The NMRA now has a new activity called the NMRA-X. Those involved have created a Week long Virtual Model Railroad Convention in July and, more recently, a one day convention in September. These events include presentations on a variety of topics and are available for viewing after the event. Go to the NMRA website and enter NMRA-X in the white (search) box in the upper right of the page.

The Operations Special Interest Group, OPSIG, held their annual meeting as a virtual meeting on Sunday, July 12 and schedules 2 hour presentations on various Sundays. For times and other information see the OPSIG website opsig.org.

There are other virtual events taking place including periodic broadcasts from the San Diego Division. For more information, go to the San Diego Division website; sandiegodivision.org and go to the youtube channel link to see previous virtual events. See additional information under Meets/Events.

Common elements of all of these meetings are that attendees are provided with the login information, the time and as well as reservation information as there may be limits on the number that can join in. Often the meetings have been recorded and are available on youtube.

Convention Preview: Operations

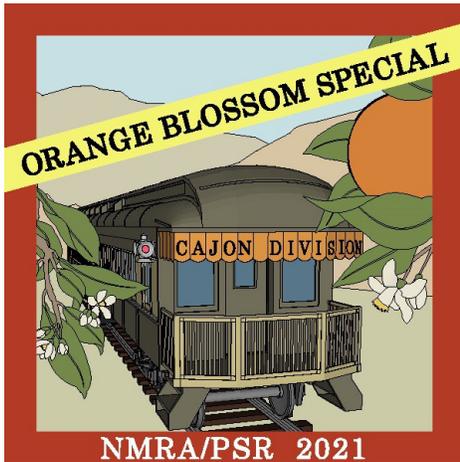


Mark Lestico's LA Harbor RR



Marty Bradley's Oakhurst RR

Both Railroads will be hosting Operating Sessions



National Model Railroad Association

Pacific Southwest Region

2021

MODEL RAILROAD CONVENTION

September 8–11

“Orange Blossom Special”



Railroad Modeling Clinics

Private Layout Tours

Ops Sessions

Prototype Tours

Hobo Breakfast

Non-Rail Activities & Tours

Model Railroad/Railroadiana Swap Meet

Railroad Model Contest Room

Model Railroad Auction

Welcome Reception

Awards Banquet

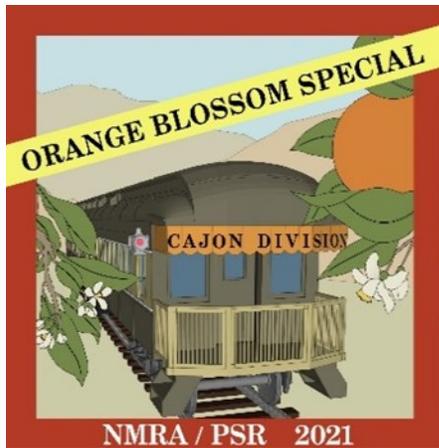
Hotel Reservations: You can now reserve your room on-line by going to the convention website and clicking on the ‘Hotel’ link. The convention rate rooms at the Hilton are guaranteed to fill up, and you don’t want to miss out on the discount, or worse, be trying to find a last-minute hotel deal. Hilton Reservations: 949-833-9999 – Group Name: 2021 PSR Convention / Group Code: PSRC

Convention Tours: Convention staff is working on securing both rail and non-rail tours. Look for updates at www.psrconvention.org

Convention Goodies: Don’t forget to check out the Company Store, where you will find shirts, pins, as well as our special run model railroad cars.

Registration: The cost for registration is \$125 and includes the banquet. You can register on line at our website psrconvention.org. If for some reason you have to cancel, we will refund your registration minus the \$10 transaction fee up until August 8, 2021.

www.PSRConvention.org



Orange Blossom Special

Wow, what a year! The Pacific Coast Region's Sugar Pine Centennial convention in Fresno and the NMRA National Convention in Santa Clara, "Rails by The Bay" have both been canceled. In 2021, the only remaining in person Model Railroad convention on the West Coast will be the Pacific Southwest Region's "Orange Blossom Special" scheduled for September 8 – 11 in Irvine CA. Restrictions are lifting daily and we are returning to normal so, make your first Model Railroad event of 2021 the Orange Blossom Special.

The Orange Blossom Special is only about 155 days away, so if you have not already registered, I would strongly suggest visiting the Orange Blossom Special web site at www.psrconvention.org. There you will find all the information about the convention including events, clinics, tours, layouts to visit, and how to register. I would also encourage you to register online using our "cvent" registration system, as it will send you a response email showing everything you have signed up for. You should save this email as it also gives you a link and a personal confirmation number that you can use to add or modify your registration.

If you have not already registered, you should do so soon as events and tours are filling up as well as the convention hotel discount room block. After all, on September 12th you do not want to look like this model railroader who forgot to sign up and attend the Orange Blossom Special.



One day I was sorting through my collection of home-made plaster rock castings, and I came across a sedimentary rock face, that was just about the right height to reach from top to bottom of the space and long enough to span across the back of the space. The beginning of a scene began to form in my mind, and I was still thinking wooded ravine until I placed the rock face in the location; at that point it became obvious this needed to be a creek or river. Although the prototype NYOW crosses and recrosses the Delaware River and numerous creeks; I had only modeled a couple of water features on the layout including crossings at the high steel girder bridge between Sidney and Maywood, and at Maya Creek. So a river scene it would be.

The first step in construction was to cover the fascia and figure out how to make the transition area between the upper level of Delhi proper and the river scene, where there was both a vertical and horizontal gap. The majority of the layout scenery is plaster soaked paper towels over cardboard lattice, but the gap here was too small to use that technique effectively without making a major plaster mess, and possibly ruining the rock face in the process. I needed an alternative for the transition, and I happened to have a small block of the green floral foam laying around, which turned out to be the perfect solution! I cut the piece to rough size with an old carving knife (my favorite foam tool), and once both the foam and rock face were hot melt glued to the base, it was fast and easy to get the profile I wanted by drawing a razor saw horizontally across the foam (Figure 3).



Figure 3 Basic shapes created

The next step was to add the base texture using Sculptamold. Since this was supposed to be the woods around the creek and was going to be covered with ground cover, smoothing it out wasn't necessary. The Sculptamold was scrapped up before it hardened at the top of the slope, as that area was going to be a road along the top of the cliff (Figure 4).



Figure 4 Sculptamold added for base texture.

I painted the Sculptamold a medium brown color (it turned out darker than I wanted), and covered the top of the cliff with layers of ground cover, including home-made dried ground-up maple tree leaves. At the base of the cliff, I added commercial trees and shrubs along the riverbank beyond the high-water mark. At the top of the cliff, I added a storm water drainage pipe, con-

sistent with the lack of environmental regulation before the signing of the Clean Water Act; this detail was inspired by admiring John Allen's stone work over the years(Figure 5).



Figure 5 Painted Sculptamold, ground cover, trees and shrubs along the riverbank

In the mountains, you will often find surprisingly large boulders, rocks and tree trunks lodged along the outside bend of a riverbank, which were carried downstream when the river was flowing high and fast during the spring thaw in the mountains. These boulders, stones and deadfall become visible when the river goes down later in the year, and since I model the summer of 1954, I wanted to simulate those riverbank details. I used a material in my scenery stash called "Scree" to simulate the rocks dropped along outside of bend of the river as well as some stems from my leaf grinding efforts for the deadfall. Additionally, to simulate the larger boulders and native cliff stone eroded smooth from the river over the millennia, I glued in a few appropriately colored and sized pebbles from my garden (Figure 6).



Figure 6 Stream bank details

To simulate the water itself, I painted the plywood black in the area representing the deeper parts of the river, then shades of green and blue, and finally tan along the banks to represent the sand revealed by the low flow of the river in summer. Once the paint was dry, I brushed on 5 layers of Woodland Scenics "Water Effects". I was happy with the result initially, but after a while, the edges curled a bit and the gloss finish dulled. The curling is not noticeable because of the fascia along the edges of the benchwork, but I may go over it again with another product to get more texture and sheen (Figure 7).



Figure7 Delaware River water at low flow

To finish off the scene, I added two commercial Fly Fishermen figures, one is standing on the big boulder working his way down to the water's edge. The other fisherman is up to his thighs wearing waders, working a small, shaded eddy under the trees at the extreme right edge of figure No. 9(Figures 8 and 9).



Figure 8 Fisherman works his way to the water's edge



Figure 9 Fly fishing on the West Branch of the Delaware

This scene is located on a very busy corner of the layout and is protected from inadvertent elbow damage by operators watching and working their trains, by a pair of acrylic shields screwed to the fascia. Figure 10.



As they say, a “Bad day fishing is better than a good day working”. Sounds good to me! Do you have a small blank space on your layout waiting for a signature scene?

Support Your Local Hobby Store

In these times when Hobby Stores have not been able to function normally, we need to continue to support them when we can. There are 3 Brick and mortar train stores in our area that support our hobby;

Arnie's & Milepost Come in and shop around!

Arnie's & Milepost 38 HOURS: Sunday Closed

Arnie's HOURS: Monday - Saturday 10am-6pm

Milepost 38 HOURS: Monday - Saturday 10am-5pm

Social distancing of 6' will be enforced & we ask that you wear a face-cover for the safety of other customers and employees per OC Guidelines.

Arnie's Trains www.arniesmodeltrains.com 714-893-1015

Milepost 38 Toy Trains | www.milepost38.com 714-892-9471

6462 Industry Way, Westminster, CA 92683

NOTE: There is highway work going on around Arnie's so check with them about the best route.

RailMaster Hobbies, 9812 Belmont St., Bellflower, Ca. 90706 562-867-5627

Monday—Closed

Tuesday - Friday 10:00am to 6:00pm

Saturday - 10:00am to 5:00pm

Sunday - 12:00pm to 4:00 pm

Following us on;

www.railmasterhobbies.com

www.facebook.com/railmasterhobbies

Twitter - @RMHobbies

Restrictions to come into the store:

We follow official health guidelines

We do thank all of you for your support. Stay safe.

Jeff and Leticia Smith and Crew

The Train Crossing, 1113 Baker Street, Costa Mesa, Ca 92626 714-549-1596

Store Hours

Tuesday - Friday 11:00am to 7:00pm

Saturday - 9:00am to 5:00pm

Sunday - 11:00am to 3:00 pm

Closed Mondays

www.TheTrainCrossing.com

Authorized Lionel Repair Dealer

Restrictions to come into the store:

We follow official health guidelines John Amir