

THE ORDER BOARD LITE

THE CAJON DIVISION NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 49 NO. 1.2

MAY, 2021

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Time Table

PSR Convention
Orange Blossom
Special
Irvine Sept 8-11



From The Director

Richard Hock
Cajon Division Director



This is really the first month that I have struggled with something write about. As I ponder several topics to put pen to paper, or more so type to a page, my mind is going blank. So, I thought about providing a blank page... something that the editor would have a problem with.

I can easily report about the great time and success at the Cajon Spring Meet at Buena Park. How the swap meet tables filled the morning courtyard with plenty of buyers and sellers of all that model train stuff that we collect and horse trade. A picture of the numerous models that cleaned up in the contest room, keeping the judges on their toes. I could talk about the wonderful lunch and conversation under the tents in the midday sun. The robust Show 'N Tell of many of the models displayed in the contest room. The introduction of Cajon Connect and the discussion groups that facilitated in the afternoon. Of course, the fun of the hobo auction that competed the day.

But, I am sure that this edition of the Order Board will be filled with reports and pictures from the well-attended day's events.

Then I thought about talking about the 50th anniversary of Amtrak. However, as a kid, I was fortunate to ride on those great passenger trains of the past. The California Zephyr from Oakland to Chicago. The El Capitan from Chicago to and back from Los Angeles. The San Diegan along the coast. Unfortunately, at that time, the New York Central to and from Chicago was already in disrepair from neglect. Had to laugh at one of the flyers I saw for the introduction of Amtrak and its modernization of passenger service. A dining car reoutfitted with the popular colors of orange, yellow, purple on the walls and seats. The tables were covered with white and blue check tablecloths. Those are images that I would rather forget about and just reminisce of Pullman service! However, Amfleet, the Bi-level Super Liner and Acela are vast improvements over that sad, old and worn-out New York Central and other railroad passenger service of the 1960s.

The month of May celebrates the railroad connecting the entire country coast to coast with a golden spike in some obscure place in Utah. Oh, that was a big celebration two years ago.

Hey! The PSR Orange Blossom Special Convention is just about three short months away! Get registered <http://www.psrconvention.org/OrangeBlossomSpecial2021/index.php>

Envision the excitement of the convention. Another topic of conversation? Hmmmm...

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Fully Steam Ahead! Looking for that High Ball!

With optimism, we move into the month of May. Forward, somewhere...

CAJON DIVISION DIRECTORY

Division Director

Richard Hock

P.O. Box 3441

Cypress, Ca. 90630

562-822-0055

Director@CajonDivision.org

Division Superintendent

Joel Morse

11891 Tunstall St

Garden Grove, Ca. 92845

714 614-5401

Superintendent@CajonDivision.org

Asst Superintendent-NV

Edwin Hall, MMR

702-564-6176

AsstSuper-NV@CajonDivision.org

Asst Superintendent-Ca.

Carl Heimberger

1256 Old Hickory Road

Corona, CA. 92882

951-256-1319

AsstSuper-CA@CajonDivision.org

Chief Clerk/ Paymaster

Dan Moran

Paymaster@CajonDivision.org

Membership Chair

Per Harwe

2182 Sycamore Ave.

Tustin, Ca. 92780

714 482-5404

Membership@CajonDivision.org

Contest Chair

Mike Allee

23627 Cahuilla Road



“ From the Brass Hat“

by Joel Morse Superintendent



If you weren't at the Cajon Event on April 17th, boy, did you miss a great day out with your fellow model railroaders! It was a beautiful day for a COVID safe outdoor gathering for the approximately 75 folks that came out to enjoy it! Registration was only \$10.00 and you got a raffle ticket for a chance to go home with one of two high quality prizes: an HO Steam Locomotive or an N Scale Steam locomotive.

This was our second outdoor-only event and we hope it will be our last under COVID restrictions, because we were not able to have clinics in the classrooms. Even so we did have a great time and attendees got to learn some useful information with the introduction of a new meet component called “Cajon Connect”, which was very well received. and a repeat of the popular “Modeler's Show and Tell” segment, which we introduced for the first time back in October.

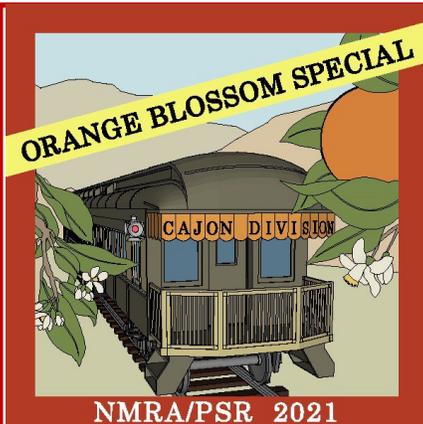
We started the day with very busy Swap Meet: 12 very excited venders, most of whom showed up well before we were ready for them! There was a wide variety of new, and not so new items on their tables at terrific prices and quite a bit of N scale, I was happy to see. Sales were brisk from 8 to 11.

We opened the Contest Room from 8 to 9:30 for attendees to view models brought in for Merit Award judging as well as for the “Modelers Show and Tell”. There were some very impressive models including a 2-foot square dock scene with multiple structures, finely scratch-built rolling stock, a kit-bashed locomotive and more. Judges spent a number of hours considering the models entered for Merit Award consideration with contest winners and Merit Awards presented during the Membership Meeting late in the day. Congratulations to Harold Helland, who not only received Merit Awards for models judged that morning, he also earned two Certificates of Achievement (one for Master Builder-Cars, the other for Model Railroad Engineer – Civil) which brought him very close to becoming a Master Model Railroader! Harold said he was very busy during his COVID isolation period! Now that's making lemonade out of lemons!

The “Modeler Show and Tell” was well received and to make it more informative to the audience and a little less intimidating for the presenters, we provided each modeler with a cue card of key subjects to talk about during their 3–4-minute presentation. If you have never done it, take my word for it that talking without a script for 3-4 minutes straight (and staying on point) is no easy feat, even if you are talking about something you are passionate about. The cue cards reminded presenters to cover subjects like: “what is it a model of”, “why did I build this model”, “what were the major challenges” and “what did you learn from the effort”.

Far and away the most enjoyable and educational segment of the day was the introduction of the “Cajon Connect” discussion groups. Originally conceived as an online opportunity for

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National Model Railroad Association

Pacific Southwest Region

2021

MODEL RAILROAD CONVENTION

“Orange Blossom Special”

September 9—11

Hilton Irvine/Orange County Airport Hotel
Irvine, California



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

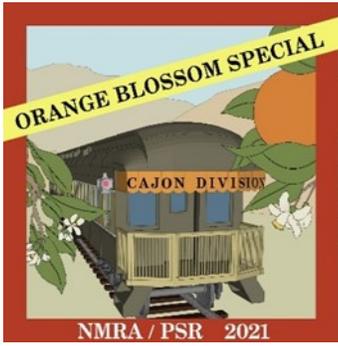
Hotel Reservations: You can now reserve your room on-line by going to the convention website and clicking on the ‘Hotel’ link. The convention rate rooms at the Hilton are guaranteed to fill up, and you don’t want to miss out on the discount, or worse, be trying to find a last-minute hotel deal. Hilton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

Convention Tours: The Convention staff is working on securing both rail and non-rail tours. Currently, the list of tours include 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, as well as our special run model railroad cars.

Registration: The full fare rate of \$125 covers your convention registration and the awards banquet.

www.PSRConvention.org



2021 Orange Blossom Special Presented by the Cajon Division of the Pacific Southwest Region of the NMRA

Critical Registration Information Please Read

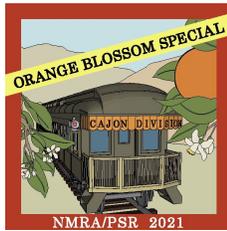
The Orange Blossom Special Website is completed and up and running. If you have any questions about the convention this site should answer them. The site contains information about the hotel, a final convention event schedule, clinic descriptions, extra fare tours and items, layouts and Op's sessions,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

For those members who had your 2020 LA Convention registration transferred to the 2021 Orange Blossom Special there has been some confusion as to what was actually transferred. The 2021 Orange Blossom Special convention only accepted your convention and banquet registrations. You should have been given a refund for all other items you purchased for the 2020 convention. 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. If you can't find that email, please contact 2021registrar@psrconvention.org and it will be resent 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.

If you have not registered yet, well now is the time. Simply go to the convention website www.psrconvention.org. and 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), if you 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



ORANGE BLOSSOM SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Attention Orange County Home Layout Owners

The 2021 PSR/NMRA Regional Convention "Orange Blossom Special" committee is looking for layout owners who live in Orange County and are willing to show their layouts on our layout tours in September 2021. Any size or type layout indoors or garden, and any scale layout is fine, be it Z, N, HO/HOn3, O, On30, or G. Here is a chance for you to show off your modeling skills to likeminded modelers. It can be a layout in a spare bedroom, layout room, garage, or your back yard. In fact, they do not even need to be 100% finished but do need to be running. The days we will have layout tours are September 8th, 9th, 10th, and 11th 2021, from noon to 5 PM. You can pick the day or days you would like to be open. One of the highlights our convention is the opportunity for members to visit home layouts and we would love to have your layout on our tour. If you are interested in showing your layout at the 2021 PSR/NMRA Regional Convention "Orange Blossom Special" please contact our layout tour managers for more details. Paul Stoner or Scott Kahle at 2021layouts@psrconvention.org. because of the virus issues right now it would be helpful if you send them a few photos and a short description of your layout, telling the size, era, type of operating system, parking, and access. Visiting layouts is always one of the high lights of any model train convention so we would love to have your participation.

Carl Heimberger

2021 PSR Convention Chair

The Editor's Column

by Morrie Fleishman
Editor: Cajon Division



Welcome to the May issue of the **Order Board Lite**, the monthly newsletter for the Cajon Division. As always we are looking for items to include. This is your chance to talk about what you are doing and to show off a little in this time of non-socialization. Not everyone can publish an article for Model Railroader. However, this publication is available for everyone and if needed I can help you organize your thoughts. So, 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

The PSR One-Foot Challenge at the Orange Blossom Special

So, you planned to attend the NMRA, PCR, PSR, or other regional conventions that were canceled due to the Coronavirus. And you had planned to bring a one-foot challenge diorama to display? Well, not all is lost since in 2021 the Orange Blossom Special PSR Convention will have the One Foot Challenge. A page will be made available in the near future for you to sign up and bring your diorama.

So, what is a one-foot challenge?

A fun way to show off your creativity and modeling skills, and yes there are a few rules. And face it you will probably still be somewhat restricted in the next few months so use the time at home to build something fun. It will take your mind off of all the drama.

RULES

- The diorama must be a square 12 inches by 12 inches.
- The diorama can be any scale, any era, and any theme.
- The diorama must be railroad-related and must include a railroad track of any length.
- The diorama must have a flat bottom, stand on its own, be easily moved and nothing can overhang the edge.
- You must be a member of the NMRA.

And the diorama must be new and not have been entered in any previous contest.

JUDGING

Judging will be by popular vote of members attending the convention. Remember, the WOW factor plays a big part in getting votes.

PRIZES

Yes, there will be first, second, and third place cash prizes: \$50, \$30, and \$20.

So, you have a choice: sit at home and wonder what to do with your time or have some fun and work on a diorama for the one-foot challenge. See you at the PSR Convention in 2021.

If you want to see what this is and can find a copy of March/April *Narrow Gauge Gazette* look at Brian Block's MMR "The Wedge" one-foot square diorama. It will knock your socks off.

[Continued from page 2](#)

Cajon Members with similar interests to meet, and, with the assistance of a "facilitator", learn from one another about a variety of model railroading subjects. We did not get enough steam up in time to launch this online before the meet, so we thought we would try it in a live small group discussion forum at the meet. And it sure was successful; we had 5 different interest groups seated around 5 big tables talking about Electronics, Operations, Scenery, T-Trak Modules and building Merit Award Models. Taking our cue from the response we got at the event, we are looking forward to adding coal to the fire box so we can launch this via monthly individually scheduled Zoom meetings in the next few weeks. Keep on the lookout for an email from the Division on this subject!

Thanks to everyone who came to enjoy the day and company, and thanks to your Board of Directors, and the judges, who did the lions share of the work to make it such a successful event!

Report on Buena Park Event

The Cajon Division held the first event of 2021 in Buena Park on April 17.

There 78 attendees who browsed the swap meet tables, viewed the contest and for show items, put their tickets in the hobo auction cups, broke into small groups as part of the Cajon Connect program, and enjoyed the comradery of being with fellow modelers while wearing masks and social distancing. See the photos below;



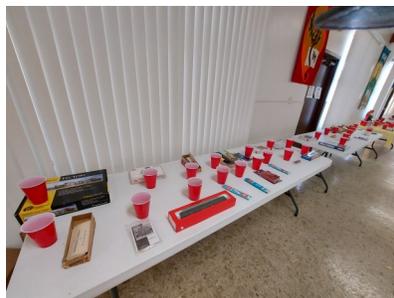
Participants in Cajon Connect Discussions



Harold Helland Receives Achievement Award



Show & Tell Presentations



Hobo Auction Layout



Loading Dock—for Show & Tell

FROM THE CONTEST ROOM OF CAJON SPRING MEET

Mike Allee, Contest Chair

A good number of models and photos were presented in the contest room with several submitted for merit judging with others submitted only for display. All the models were available for judging by the attendees under either Locomotive & Rolling Stock or Structure Popular Choice categories.



Sean Williams' (LA Div.) Open Cab 2 Truck Shay (S scale) in the judged category Steam Locomotive received first place as well as a Merit Award and first place in the Popular Choice Loco & Rolling Stock



Kevin Spady's (LA Div.) Yellow Pine Mining Co. Engine 18 (On30?) in the judged category Diesel & Other Locomotives received first place as well as a Merit Award and second place in the Popular Choice Loco & Rolling Stock category.



Paul Stoner's (Cajon Div.) Coca Cola Bottle Works (HO) in the judged category Structures received first place as well as a Merit Award and third place in the Popular Choice Structures.



Dave Arendas' (Cajon Div.) Kimball Print Shop (HO) in the judged category Structures received third place.



Yellow Pine Mining Co. Work Train received third place in the Popular Choice Loco & Rolling Stock. (See below for more photos.)



Harold Helland's (Cajon Div.) Steve's Building Shop (HO) in the judged category Structures received second place and second place in the Popular Choice Structures



Steve Cole's (Cajon Div.) Freight cars (S & HO) in the judged category Rolling Stock received first place.

Ron Varnell's (LA Div.) Westside Pier (HO) received first place in Peoples Choice Structures as well as Most Humorous/Clever



OTHER ENTRIES TO BE JUDGED



Sandy Butts' (Cajon Div) Caboose (HO)



Barney Rosen's (Cajon Div.) Tidel River (N)



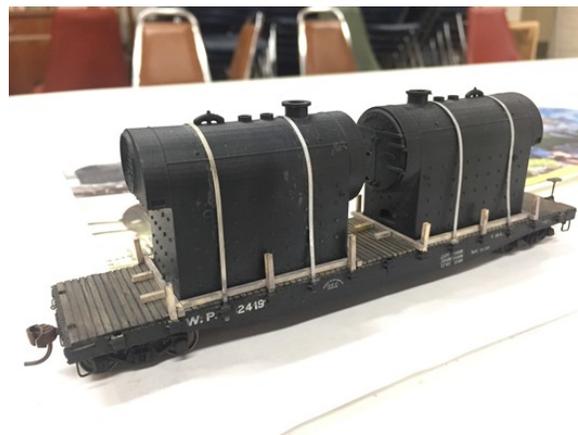
Barney Rosen's (Cajon Div.) Barge (N)



Dave Arenda's (Cajon Div.) Reese Tools (HO)



Lloyd Leher (LA Div.) displayed the Viaduct (HO)



James Keena (LA Div.) displayed Flat Car with Bowler Load (HO)



Gary Butts (Cajon Div.) displayed Snow Plow (HO)

PHOTOS



Annette Palmer Submitted the attached photos. The upper two are scale 12" to the 1' while the lower two are of models. Unfortunately we have not had photos to judge for some time and did not come prepared to do so.



Miniatur Wunderland / Miniature Wonderland A Model Railroad Dream in Hamburg, Germany

By Per Harwe

Back in 2014 I took my daughter on a train trip through Europe and one of the absolute requirements from me was to visit *Miniatur Wunderland* in Hamburg. We allocated one full day to the visit and that was not at all enough. If (when) you go plan for at least two days.

I first heard about this layout at a clinic at an NMRA Convention (I think it was in Atlanta). The presenter shared his pictures and experiences and I will pass these two on: Stay at Hotel Fürst Bismarck (Count Bismarck – which is temporarily closed as so many other places right now) across the street from the main train station, AND book your tickets in advance – you get to skip an hour-long line of visitors trying to get in! And you should also book your behind-the-scenes tour, it's a must!



Once you are there the first impression is “This is BIG!” It is a third of an acre (16,000 square feet) today but it was a bit smaller back in 2014; they are constantly expanding the layout). There are 96 miles of track, 1,040 trains, 260,000 little people and they have spent 760,000 hours building it so far. Take a look at their web page <https://www.miniaturwunderland.com/> for more interesting facts and future plans.

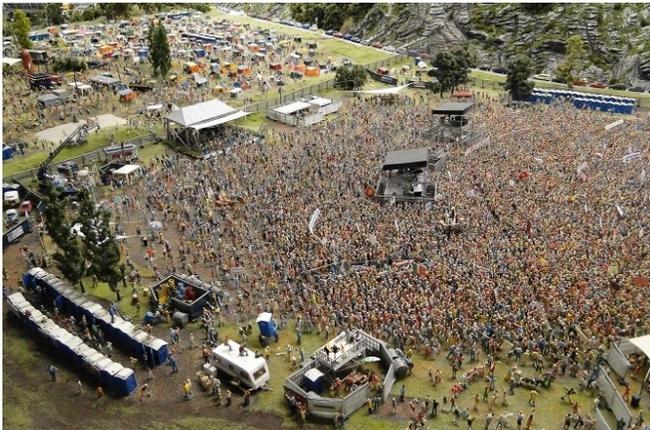
Much (most) of the layout is fully automated. It's controlled from a large dispatcher area out in front for everyone to see.



The big trucks that drive along the highways do go to have their batteries recharged when the system deems it necessary. The only part that wasn't automated then (but is getting close to become so now) are the ships



sailing on their ponds; these are radio controlled by an operator hiding behind a screen in the harbor. See <https://www.miniatur-wunderland.com/discover-wunderland/technologies/ship-control-system/> for the plans for a fully automated ship control system.



I mentioned 260,000 people on the layout. Everywhere you turn you see them. Outdoor music festival or a soccer game, are just two examples of this. Or look at all the taxi cabs waiting for passengers at the airport, most of them with working head and tail lights.



Speaking of the airport. The Knuffingen airport is a marvel in itself. They have designed a system where the airplanes take off and land (250 times a day). They didn't want pictures taken of the mechanism but the result is stunning. The most popular flying device (at least with the younger audience) is the bee. It didn't fly when I was there so I had to make do with a picture of it I found in the restaurant.



The layout is divided into several areas, such as USA, Switzerland, different parts of Germany, etc. An interesting way to connect areas is where they run the track inside a step on one of the stairways something some of us may be able to duplicate.



The USA area shows their free interpretation of real life, or how about a train bridge across the Grand Canyon tunnel where there isn't one, but who can resist a name like Zzyzx, or a space shuttle launch



Hamburg und Küste		Amerika	
Bauphase	November 2001 – 27. November 2002	Bauphase	Januar 2003 – 8. Dezember 2003
Modellfläche	ca. 200 qm	Modellfläche	100 qm
Gleislänge	2.600 Meter	Gleislänge	1.400 Meter
Züge	190	Züge	140
Waggons	2.200	Waggons	3.000
Signale	260	Signale	120
Weichen	550	Weichen	300
Computer	9	Computer	6
Lichter	ca. 60.000	Lichter	70.000
Häuser und Brücken	1.000	Häuser und Brücken	450
Figuren	50.000	Figuren	30.000
Autos	1.300	Autos	800
Bäume	15.000	Bäume	30.000
Arbeitsstunden	109.000 Stunden	Arbeitsstunden	99.000 Stunden

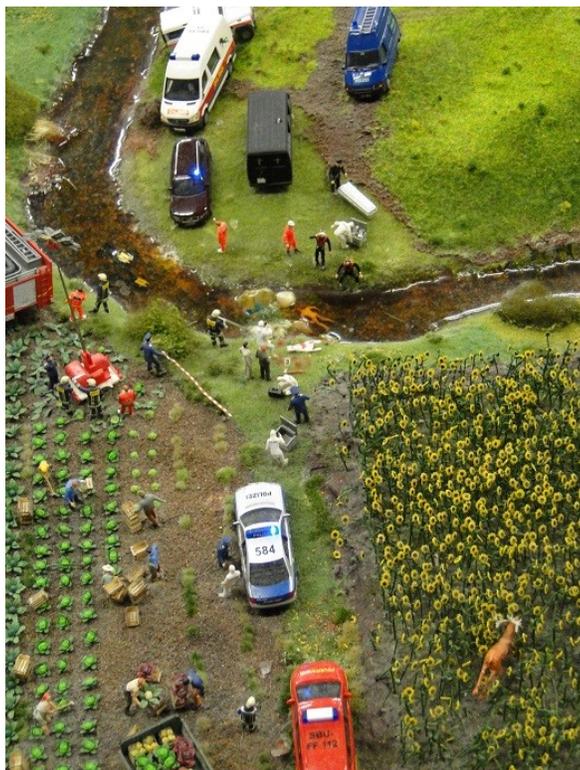
Hamburg und Küste
Hamburg ist die Heimstadt des Miniaturländerlands und die größte und am dichtesten bevölkerte Stadt im ganzen Wunderland - hier leben im Schnitt ca. 250 Einwohner pro Quadratkilometer. Knapp ein Viertel der insgesamt rund 50.000 Einwohner versammelt sich täglich in der Inselstadt, um den knappen Sieg des 2011 gegen den Stadthafen St. Pauli zu sehen. Es gibt aber noch viele andere Sehenswürdigkeiten wie den Hagenbeck-Tierpark, die Köhlbrandbrücke, den Michel oder das Miniaturländerland im Wunderland zu sehen. Dort fährt übrigens der mit einem Maßstab von 1:900 kleinste Zug der Welt.

Amerika
Der Amerika Abschnitt wurde 2003 nach elf Monaten Bauzeit eröffnet und ist mit 100 qm nur halb so groß wie der bereits fertig Hamburg Abschnitt. Die Schienenanordnungen stellen er dessen jedoch in keiner Weise nach. Die beiden Abschnitte sind durch einen gläsernen Tunnel miteinander verbunden. Ein absolute Highlight ist Las Vegas, dessen Leuchtturm er allen in den Nachmittagsstunden beleuchtet an. Rund um Zahnel aller Wunderland Lichter sind hier installiert - über 33.000 LEDs. Auch den Grand Canyon mit seinen tiefen Schluchten und dem bewundernden Felsteinformationen sollte man sich anschauen und vielleicht entdecken der ein oder andere Besucher ja auch das geheimnisvolle Labor innerhalb Area 51 im südlichen Nevada.

site in a populated area.

Here are some vital statistics for the USA section (and a language lesson).

All isn't big. There are several small scenes, some of which you have to look for to find. A macabre scene with a drowned person in a creek or a garbage truck that took on more than it could carry. One question is "How do you



reach the areas in the middle of the layout". Of course they have an answer for that too. Think

of an ironing board that is recessed in to a wall, flip it down fold it out, note the two supports that are built in to the city scene and



you have a surface that you can crawl out on and reach any point of the layout. This is also something else that we can use at home, maybe.



After a full day of walking around you will get hungry. There is a restaurant on site and here is my last tip: Locate the out-of-the-way smaller dining area. It was completely empty when we were there at the same time as the main dining area was packed with guests. As a bonus you get to sit in a train seat, which our traveling companion, Eeyore the Globetrotter, really appreciated. It's not easy to pick a few pictures for the newsletter out of the almost 300 I took but I hope that you have

gotten a taste of awaits you when you visit Minuatur Wunderland. *Per Harwe*



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. Please support these stores.

Arnie's & Milepost Come in and shop around!

Arnie's & Milepost 38 HOURS:

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

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

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

Saturday - 10:00am to 5:00pm

Sunday - 12:00pm to 4:00 pm

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