



The Order Board

Volume 53 No. 6

December, 2025



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Tracks Ahead for the Cajon Division

Upcoming Events

January 31-February 1, 2026, Time TBA

*Great Train Show
Ventura County Fairgrounds
10 Harbor Blvd., Ventura, CA 93001
<https://www.greattrainshow.com/>*

February 14-15, 2026, Time TBA

*Great Train Show
Orange County Fair & Event Center
88 Fair Dr., Costa Mesa, CA 92626
<https://www.greattrainshow.com/>*

March 6, 2026 1PM-4PM & 6PM-9PM, March 7, 2026 9AM-4PM

*O-Scale West 2026
Portuguese IFES Hall
432 Stierlin Rd, Mountain View, CA
<https://www.oscalewest.com/>*

September 9-13, 2026

*PSR All Aboard for 2026 Annual Convention
Double Tree by Hilton Hotel San Diego Mission Valley
7450 Hazard Center Dr., San Diego, CA 92108 USA
<https://www.sandiegodivision.org/index.php/convention-2026>*



CAJON DIVISION OFFICERS

Division Director

Gary Stenberg

36 Carver, Irvine, CA 92620
(949) 633-8098

director@cajondivision.org



From the Desk of the Director

Gary Stenberg, Cajon Division Director



Division Superintendent

Paul Stoner

6 Riverstone, Irvine, CA 92606
(949) 636-7552
superintendent@cajondivision.org

Asst. Superintendent-NV

Craig McCormick

(702) 606-5916

assistsuper-nv@cajondivision.org

Asst. Superintendent-CA

Open

assistsuper-ca@cajondivision.org

Chief Clerk

Open

clerk@cajondivision.org

Paymaster

Bob Calicchia

(562) 480-1737

paymaster@cajondivision.org

Membership Chair

Patrick Rogan

membership@cajondivision.org

Contest Chair

Mike Allee

23627 Cahuilla Rd.

Apple Valley, CA 92307

(626) 533-9913

contest@cajondivision.org

Achievement Program

Gary Butts, MMR
5991 Kenwick Cir.

Huntington Beach, CA 92648

(714) 842-4980

ap@cajondivision.org

Publications/Web Chair

Kurt Matthews
(657) 243-6226

editor@cajondivision.org

Social Media Chair

Joel Morse
(714) 614-5401

social@cajondivision.org

Donations Chair

Brian Neely

donations@cajondivision.org

Season's greetings to all. 2025 was quite a year. We had twelve Board of Director's meetings where the Superintendent and all the Chair positions discussed and planned for the Division. We had a spring meet and hosted the Pacific Southwest Region's annual convention this past fall in Irvine. We had layout tours and published several editions of the Order Board. All-in-all, we did pretty well. But. We can do better.

Perhaps you've heard of the new NMRA rebranding effort. It is not just presenting us with a new LOGO, but with a business model approach to providing more for the membership. The NMRA national powers-that-be published four key standards that are:

Effective Division Operation: This standard focuses on the foundational structure and consistent communication needed for a division to function smoothly and professionally.

Member/Modeler Skill Growth: This standard focuses on providing opportunities for members to enhance their skills, gain recognition, and deepen their involvement in the hobby.

Building the Organization: This standard focuses on growing NMRA membership, fostering a welcoming community, and maintaining ties with the national organization.

Public Outreach & Visibility: This standard focuses on sharing the hobby with the public, attracting new interest, and ensuring model railroading has a visible presence in the community.

The first part of that model is to enact Division Level Standards, which the members of the Board of the Cajon Division must perform to. The good news for the Board is that most of the requirements are things that we are already doing. The requirements start with leadership.

LEADERSHIP: At the beginning of 2025, the following positions were held: Paul Stoner - Superintendent, Craig McCormick - Assistant Superintendent – Nevada, Harold Helland – Director, Gary Stenberg - Chief Clerk, Robert Calicchia – Paymaster, Patrick Rogan - Membership Chair, Kurt Matthews - Publications / Editor of Order Board, Gary Butts - Achievement Program Chair, Dan Moran – Social Media Chair – Webmaster, Mike Allee - Contest Chair, and Brian Neely - Donation Acquisition Chair. Throughout the year some changes occurred. Dan Moran resigned as social media chair / webmaster after holding the position for quite some time and doing a fine job at it. In September, Director Harold Helland was “timed out” as Director and Gary Stenberg (me) was elected to the position. Since I could not be the



From the Desk of the Director

(Continued)

Director and the Chief Clerk at the same time, the clerk's position had to be filled. Steve Cole was appointed to the position of Chief Clerk in September. Just before Thanksgiving, tragedy struck as Steve passed away unexpectedly. The Chief Clerk position is currently unfilled. At the end of the year, and having served the Division well, Patrick Rogan is stepping down as Membership Chair. As we enter into 2026, we are looking for some qualified people to volunteer to serve.

PLANNING: The goals established by the NMRA will require us to implement several items and to keep track of what we have done. So, we will develop an annual action plan. We will conduct regional support meetings. We'll adopt and review our By-Laws and Manual of Operations. There will be a regular election for Superintendent this fall. The Superintendent will appoint people to the various committees and positions (see the list above). Our Publications Chair will maintain an active website and publish the Order Board at least four times a year. Our Social Media Chair will participate in Facebook and other social media sites as needed. We will hold regular meetings of the Board and of the regular membership. Participation in the Achievement Certificate Program will be encouraged. We also hope to have more layout tours hosted by our membership. The list goes on and on.

PARTICIPATION: The second and third key standards established by the NMRA for the divisions cannot be met without you. The Board members take great delight in seeing their organizing efforts benefitting you the member when you attend and participate. Our meets have had great clinics (classroom lectures and stuff) and we're thinking of some clinics where you build a model under the watchful eye and guidance of a Master Model Railroader. We are also looking into possible meets at Riverside Live Steamers (fully functional live steam model trains that you can ride behind.) On the radar too is a meet at the Southern California Railroad Museum in Perris. Planning for your participation starts now!!!

INPUT: I would like to take this opportunity to invite you to send me your comments and suggestions for the division for the coming year. What would you like to see or do? Do you have a model railroad that you would be willing to show off? Would you like to volunteer to participate in the planning process? Do you have a skill that you would be willing to teach? Please let me know. My contact information is on Page 2.

PAX and High Green- Gary



From the Head End

Paul Stoner, Cajon Division Superintendent



As many of you know, the **Great Train Show – Costa Mesa** will be held at the Orange County Fairgrounds in Costa Mesa on **February 14–15, 2026**. I know that many Cajon Division members will be in attendance to showcase their club or organization's model railroad layout or perhaps participate as a vendor or other exhibitor. If you aren't already planning to attend as part of a group, please come out and show your support for our local modelers. More information can be found at <https://greattrainshow.com>.

The Cajon Division is planning to exhibit a **Membership Table** at this event to encourage more modelers to join the NMRA. I am asking our members to consider volunteering to welcome potential new members, answer questions, and assist with sign-ups. Anyone who helps for a few short hours will receive credit toward their **Association Volunteer Achievement Certificate**.

If you are not already attending as an exhibitor with your organization, the Division will provide an exhibitor pass and pay for one day of parking. We will need volunteers for the table on **Saturday morning and afternoon**, and again on **Sunday morning and afternoon**. If you are interested, please let us know. Feel free to contact me at superintendent@cajondivision.org or Gary Stenberg at director@cajondivision.org.

The Cajon Division currently has **two openings on the Board of Directors**. Sadly, with the passing of Steve Cole, we are in need of a new **Chief Clerk**. The Chief Clerk is responsible for recording and maintaining the official minutes of Board of Directors meetings, as well as maintaining the written and legal records of the Division, among other responsibilities.

In addition, our **Membership Committee Chair**, Patrick Rogan, has resigned effective at the end of the year. Patrick has done an excellent job maintaining Cajon Division membership records and providing monthly updates to the Board of Directors on membership status and trends. Thank you for your efforts, Patrick!

Both of these positions are members of the Board of Directors and attend monthly Board meetings, usually held in the evening via Zoom. Either position counts toward the **Association Official Achievement Certificate**. Again, if you are interested, please let us know. You may contact me at superintendent@cajondivision.org or Gary Stenberg at director@cajondivision.org.

Don't forget that the **2026 Pacific Coast Regional Convention** will be held in **San Diego**, September **9–13, 2026**, at the **DoubleTree Hotel – Mission Valley**. Details and early registration are available at www.SanDiegoDivision.org. You have until the end of this year to register and receive a discounted registration package.

Finally, it is my sincere wish that each of our Cajon Division members enjoys a wonderful **Holiday Celebration** this year.



Remembering Steve Cole

Gary Butts, MMR, Cajon Division AP Chairman

Last Run



Stephen (Steve) Warren Cole

March 15, 1945 - November 20, 2025

Steve, our Cajon Division Secretary, passed away unexpectedly a few weeks ago while swimming for final qualification for his sailing instructor's credential. Besides being an NMRA member, avid HO scale modeler and tin-plate collector, Steve has been heavily involved with the Southern California S-Gaugers modular railroad club, the Alpha Romeo Owners club and was a member of the Alamitos Bay Yacht club. In addition to his S-Gauge modules, Steve has an HO scale layout well under way in his garage featuring 100% hand laid track. Steve was an exceptional modeler and has the NMRA Achievement Program Merit awards to go with his models. Although not a member of the NMRA, his wife of 20 years, Malinda Howell, was supportive of his hobby and model trains in general and has volunteered in the past to help with our local and even our national conventions. Steve was the past president of CW Cole & Company, an international Lighting company first started by his great grandfather in 1911. A regular member of the G&S Railroad op-session crew, his light-hearted presence at these sessions will be greatly missed by all of the crew as well as anyone fortunate enough to have ever met him. High Green! Steve.





Layouts of the Cajon Division

Call for Member Layouts

Paul Stoner, Cajon Division Superintendent

We had seven ***Layouts of the Cajon Division*** Open Houses in 2023 and four in 2024, and we want to continue to schedule these events, which have been well attended and enjoyed by the membership. We need more layouts to feature in 2026.

We are looking for layout owners to join in the fun and host an open house this year or next. Your layout does not have to be the “finished article”, you just have to be interested in showing your fellow members what you have been working on and spending a few hours talking about model railroading. In fact, input from visitors at your Open House may provide you with some new ideas and tricks! The Cajon Division will provide up to \$50.00 to reimburse you for food and drinks that you might serve. If you are interested in hosting an Open House and showing us what you have been doing, please contact me and we’ll work out a date that works for you. Email Paul Stoner at superintendent@cajondivision.org.



Department of Interesting

Labeled as a rail train buffer car. Ex ATSF Refer with BNSF reporting marks, Pueblo, CO, April 2012. Still has the roof walk and high mounted brake wheel. Mark Geller photo.





End of the Siskiyou Line?

Kurt Matthews, Publications/Web Chair

The Southern Pacific Siskiyou Line ran from Weed, CA to Portland, OR. It was built in the late 1880s and served as SP's main trunk route to Portland from California until the Natron cutoff was completed in 1927 from Weed to Eugene, OR via Klamath Falls, OR. The Natron cutoff serves as the current UP main line and hosts Amtrak's Coast Starlight.

The Siskiyou Line consisted of many tunnels, curves and steep grades between Weed and Ashland, OR. The Natron cutoff was built to newer standards with gentler grades. After the Natron cutoff opened, the Siskiyou Line became less important as a through route from California to Oregon.

Shortline Central Oregon & Pacific, a Genesse & Wyoming company, eventually assumed ownership of the Siskiyou Line from Weed to Eugene. The Roseburg Forest Products Plant in Weed was the only significant customer south of Ashland. Roseburg Forest has announced the Weed plant is scheduled for closure. This portion of the line had been closed before due to lack of on-line customers and the amount of maintenance needed for the many bridges and tunnels. The disposition of the line has not yet been officially announced.

Here is a short video made on recent developments: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LPBDDROtYQI>

Here is the website for CORP: <https://www.gwrr.com/corp/>



NMRA Achievement Program

The December edition of the NMRA Magazine (page 55), acknowledged PSR Arizona Division Member Terry Fearn of Prescott, AZ for earning Master Builder-Scenery and Master Builder-Structures. Terry joined the NMRA in 1997. Congratulations Terry!

What is the Master Builder-Scenery?....Master Builder-Structures?....glad you asked!

<https://www.nmra.org/master-builder-scenery>

<https://www.nmra.org/structures>



Membership Report

Patrick Rogan, Membership Chair



Let's welcome our new members since October 2025:

October:

- **Elijah Galinski, Las Vegas, NV (RP)***
- **Daniel Taylor, Tustin, CA (RP)***
- **Denny York, Palm Desert, CA**

November:

- **Eu-Jin Ooi, Anaheim, CA (RP)***
- **Corra Wallace, Fountain Valley, CA**

Cajon Division wishes to recognize the passing of member Henry Graham, of Needles, CA, Lifetime Member since 1969. Our sincere condolences to Henry's family and friends.

*What is RP? It is a Rail Pass (Trial) Membership:

<https://www.nmra.org/trial-membership>

If any of our members know these new members, how about reaching out to them and welcome them with open arms!

Reminder: The Cajon Division communicates with its members by e-mail. If your email address is not on file with the NMRA you are missing valuable communications from the Cajon Division.

To update your email with the NMRA go to www.nmra.org and in the upper left hand corner, login to the Member Log-In Registration (if you have not registered on the NMRA website you will need to register). Once logged in, in the upper left hand corner, click on Member Info. Above your user name click on Edit and then update your email address in the space provided and save your changes. Now you should start receiving email messages from the Cajon division. If that might be too difficult for you can contact me at membership@cajondivision.org and I will have the NMRA office update your email for you.

I would like to thank the following members who have renewed their NMRA membership since the October 2025 Order Board:

David Rollin	Borger Day	Upland Laguna Woods	CA CA	James Alexander	Phillips	Westminster San Juan Ca-	CA
James Charles	Dinwiddie Gasper	Buena Park Laguna Woods	CA CA	Barney Randy	Priest Scott	pistrano Hemet Orange	CA CA CA
Anthony Per	Giusiana Harwe	Yorba Linda Tustin	CA CA	Jim	Sherwood	N Las Vegas	NV
Robert James	Kanaley Lampert	Temecula Fountain Valley	CA CA	Brandy Donald	Simmering Stice	Redlands Henderson	CA NV
Clifford John	Mathews McCool	Rancho Cucamonga Corona	CA CA	Austin	Strenceky	Las Vegas	NV
Paul Art	Mickelson Ortez	Las Vegas Yorba Linda	NV CA	Victor	Thies	Mission Viejo	CA
Michael Loralee	Pacillo Page-Ortez	Las Vegas Yorba Linda	NV CA	James	Van Gaasbeek	Irvine	CA
				John	Wear	Buena Park	CA
				Ronin	Wear	Buena Park	CA



The Editor's Column

Kurt Matthews, Publications/Web Chair



Latest on You Tube

Reading Blue Mountain & Northern's 1776, 250th USA Birthday Locomotive

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-Vn4HtTWTNc>

Rare Trains through Fullerton, CA

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0z5djDDr8Ug>

Three Forgotten Railroads of the Mojave & Nevada Mining Camps

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BwAOWK1mtNQ>

Model This!

Check out this great looking industry to model. It is La Junta Milling & Elevator in La Junta, CO. Not only is the building and its various appendages interesting in itself, an ATSF 3-bay ACF Centerflow hopper is hoisted up on stilts and being used for material storage. La Junta was located on the ATSF main from LA to Chicago and was the junction for the line to Pueblo and Denver. There is still a sizeable yard there and a stop for Amtrak's Southwest Chief. The mill seems to still be active today. Look it up on Google Maps.



Mark Geller Photos





The Editor's Column

(Continued)

In the Magazines

Classic Trains Winter 2025: "Santa Fe Through the Company Lens"

Railroad Model Craftsman December 2025: SP Davis Signal Bridge HO-Scale Drawing

Diesel Era Third Qtr. 2025: "Where the Buffalo Roamed". Union Railroad Baldwin DRS-6-6-1500's rebuilt by EMD. I wrote of these in the November Order Board Supplemental, Page 19.

Under New Ownership

Daylight Sales, specializing in railroad themed apparel, is now under a new owner, Zeb Becker. They are listed as offering an NMRA discount (<https://www.nmra.org/partnerships>). Check with the new ownership if this still applies. You can find Daylight Sales at: <https://www.daylightsales.net/>

Got a Modeling Question?

If you have a modeling or prototype related question you would like to propose to the greater Cajon NMRA community drop me a line at editor@cajondvision.org and I will publish it in the next **Order Board**. Hopefully, someone will provide an answer that I can publish in the following edition. Currently, I publish on a bi-monthly basis, but if I get the answer sooner, I can forward it to you directly before publishing that answer in the following edition.



Call for Model Railroad Donations

Brian Neely, Cajon Division Donations Chair



"One man's trash is another man's treasure" seems like the perfect reason for every model railroad swap meet since the beginning of time. But it also applies to the items that appear for bid at our Cajon Division Hobo Auctions

Many members don't realize that every item that appears in the Hobo Auction was donated by a Cajon Division member or local hobby shop. Our Hobo Auction supplies of donated items are getting low, and we need your unneeded model railroad supplies to the Cajon Division, so we can continue this tradition.

Every one of us has bought and stored items that we know we will never use, not on the current layout and not on the next layout, because our model railroading focus, need, or interest has changed. These items are cluttering up our limited storage space. Sure, you could wait until you get around to selling your items at swap meet after swap meet until it's gone or you can just donate the items to the Cajon Division.

The Cajon Division (and the PSR) are 501(c)(3) Charitable Organizations under the IRS and California tax codes and therefore you may be able to take a tax deduction for the items you donate. When you donate items to the Cajon Division, we provide you with a receipt for your taxes.

If you have items to donate for future meets, contact me directly at donations@cajondvision.org and arrange to donate your items. Thank you in advance for your generosity!



Book Corner

Kurt Matthews Publications/Web Chair

The Great Allegheny Railroad Passage by Kurt Reisweber

I purchased this book recently. I have family from the area of coverage within this book. As I youngster, we used to pass through Connellsville, PA on the way to Uniontown to visit grandparents. I was always amazed at the number of railroads that passed through the small hamlet including B&O, P&LE, WM, PRR and P&WV later NW. Only the B&O, regional W&LE and short-line Southwest Pennsylvania Railroad (a Carload Express road) remain. SWP uses the ex-PRR/B&O lines from a connection at Radebaugh on the NS Pittsburgh mainline south to Fairchance, PA. It mainly hauls frac sand for the local oil industry.

The Allegheny Passage is the name of the rail/trail that runs from Pittsburgh to Washington, DC using abandoned rail lines. The trail utilizes the ex-P&LE Connellsville branch from McKeesport to Connellsville then the ex-WM mainline to Cumberland, MD and beyond.

The book has a chapter each on the B&O, WM and P&LE and has many color photos of the railroads in the 1970s-1980s along with a large collection of railroad post cards of the same area. There are also plenty of maps tracing each individual railroad and its branches. The route follows the Youghiogheny River from its end point in McKeesport, PA into the Monongahela River, eastward to Confluence, PA, then up to the Casselman River to Sand Patch Summit (B&O) and Deal Summit (WM) and into Maryland and on to Cumberland, MD.

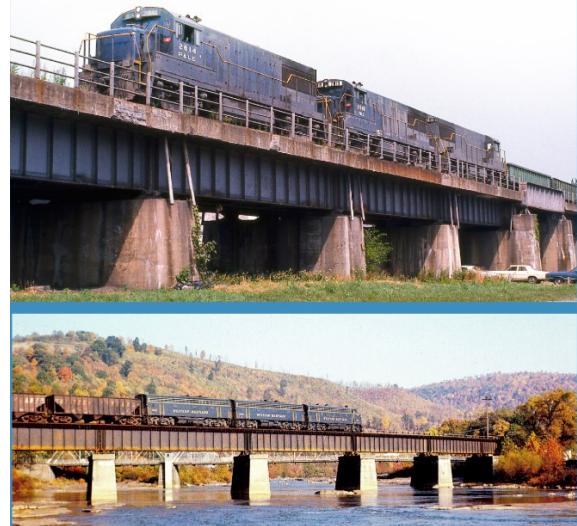
The book is well written and easy to read. Although I have to admit, knowing the area helps, but I did learn many details about some of the local branches, especially Bowest outside Connellsville, where the B&O and WM met in Dunbar, PA. This area was quite a mystery to me personally, since most of the lines were gone by the time I had a driver's license in order to explore. The WM line was abandoned in 1975 after Chessie was formed, and I got my license in 1978.

If you are interested in the B&O, P&LE and WM, I would recommend the book. At a \$65 list price, its a bit expensive for a soft-cover in my opinion, but I was able to purchase it through a dealer at a discount. Total pages are 154, and the photo quality is very good. Maps and station lists are a plus too.

THE GREAT ALLEGHENY RAILROAD PASSAGE

From Cumberland, Maryland, to Youngstown, Ohio

BY KURT REISWEBER





Three Rail O-Gauge Rules!



Well.....maybe not so much. Before my father passed away, he let me ship out the 3-rail Lionel set he was given at Christmas from his parents somewhere (I think) around 1940. He would have been 8 years old. He had the tender whistle repaired a number of years ago and the engine still runs. I did give the wheels and power pickups a good cleaning. I had to buy a new power pack, for when I went to Milepost 38 Trains (to see if the original one could be repaired) they told me "Get rid of that thing! Are you trying to burn your house down??" I set this 'layout' out for the holiday's every other year, alternating with the HO-Scale Aurora Thunderjet slot car track I had as a child.

For all of you (including Brian Neely), who wonder what I do with all the O-Gauge stuff I win at the Hobo Auction (only because no one else bids).....Behold!





Pacific Harbor Line

Your Editor thought this was 'neat'. Fact sheet and map courtesy of the PHL website.
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pacific_Harbor_Line



PHL HEADQUARTERS
705 N. Henry Ford Avenue
Wilmington, California 90744
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www.anacostia.com/railroads/phl

PRESIDENT
Otis L. Cliatt II
(310) 984-5765

VICE PRESIDENT
Stephane Perri
(310) 984-5767

SALES & CUSTOMER SERVICE
Diana Turubanova, Manager
(310) 984-5776
dturubanova@anacostia.com

EMERGENCY SERVICE
(310) 984-5774

CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS
ANACOSTIA RAIL HOLDINGS
224 S. Michigan Avenue, Suite 330
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(312) 341-1026
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Pacific Harbor Line

(Continued)



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Pacific Harbor Line (PHL) keeps international commerce moving through the Ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles with rail transportation, maintenance, and dispatching for more than 37,000 annual freight carloads. With 140 daily intermodal trains, PHL is part of the container port operations in the U.S.

This busy 96 track-mile railroad provides neutral connections with BNSF and UP railroads, providing frequent and fast transportation for area manufacturers and distribution centers to all of North America. For more than two decades, PHL has served a wide range of domestic and global supply chain customers, investing and growing right along with this burgeoning market.

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Strategically located, rail served sites are available for development to provide transloading, manufacturing, and/or distribution services for your goods. Contact us to discover which opportunity best fits your growing business.



The convention registration direct link is here:

<https://sandiegodivisionpsrnma.regfox.com/all-aboard-for-2026>

Additional information and the link for the hotel reservation is here:

<https://www.sandiegodivision.org/index.php/convention-2026>



Pacific Southwest Region 2026 Convention

National Model Railroad Association

Presented by: The San Diego Division

September 9th to 13th, 2026

Come join us in beautiful San Diego for the PSR 2026 Model Railroaders Convention.

The convention has many model railroad activities including an array of clinics, prototype tours, contests, layout tours, hobo breakfast, hobo auction and a swap meet. The introductory event will be held at the famous Model Railroad Museum in Balboa Park. The final event will be the Banquet. The speaker will be SP Author & Historian Jeff Cauthen.

The San Diego Division has some excellent layouts, many of which have been published in popular model railroad magazines. You will be able to view those layouts during the convention. Clinics will include Modeling with the PSR Masters led by Gary Butts, MMR and special guest clinics via Zoom. There will be activities every night of the convention.



Sirius Satellite Radio Show: Well-known radio personality and Hollywood walk of famer, "Shotgun" Tom Kelly will interview model railroaders attending the convention which will be aired on his radio show.

The convention will take place at the **Doubletree by Hilton Hotel San Diego-Mission Valley** at 7450 Hazard Center



Drive, San Diego, California. The hotel is near a trolley stop that provides access to most areas of San Diego. Mission Valley is a centrally located area with access to popular areas of San Diego including restaurants, shopping centers and the beaches.

The convention registration direct link is here:

<https://sandiegodivisionpsrnma.regfox.com/all-aboard-for-2026>

Additional information and the link for the hotel reservation is here:

<https://www.sandiegodivision.org/index.php/convention-2026>

You can also book a room by phoning 800-222-TREE. Make sure to mention that you are booking to attend the Pacific Southwest Region Model Railroaders Convention.

Support Your Local Hobby Store

We like to support local hobby stores when we can. So, we have included a list of local shops for your use.



Arnie's Model Trains & Milepost 38 Toy Trains

Arnie's Hours: Monday - Saturday 10:00 am - 6:00 pm

Milepost 38 Hours: Monday - Saturday 10:00 am - 5:00 pm



Arnie's Trains | arniesmodeltrains.com | (714) 893-1015

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

6462 Industry Way, Westminster, CA 92683

RailMaster Hobbies

Tuesday - Saturday 10:00am - 6:00pm

Sunday 12:00 pm - 4:00 pm

railmasterhobbies.com

(562) 867-5627



9812 Belmont St., Bellflower, CA 90706

Follow us at:

facebook.com/railmasterhobbies

X (formerly Twitter): @RMHobbies

The Original Whistle Stop

Monday - Saturday 10:00 am- 5:00 pm

Sunday 11:00 pm - 4:00 pm

<https://www.thewhistlestop.com/>

(626) 796-7791

2490 E. Colorado Blvd., Pasadena, CA 91107



The NMRA Partnership Program has negotiated discounts from several hobby related manufacturers that are listed in the *NMRA Magazine* and on the NMRA Website. If you order items from the companies on the list, remember to ask for the NMRA Discount.

<https://www.nmra.org/partnerships>