

LA Coupler

The Newsletter of the Los Angeles Division of the NMRA



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"Back on Track in 2022"

Celebration of Models

Layout Tours

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





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On the Cover...

The 2022 PSR Convention Celebration of Models and Layout Tours

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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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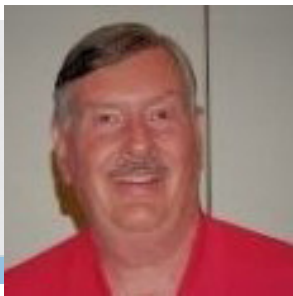
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Thank you for supporting the LA Division!



Superintendent's Report

- Vic Cavalli

2022 In Review

With only a handful of weeks left in the 2022 calendar year, I thought it a good time to look back and review our Los Angeles (L.A.) Division's accomplishments, or setbacks, these past 10+ months. If I was to pick a single phrase to describe the year, it would be "a wild and turbulent rollercoaster ride."

The year started with the number of new coronavirus (COVID-19) cases surging throughout the Pacific Southwest Region (PSR); easily preventing our Division from holding its annual Membership Meeting and Banquet in person. So, the "banquet" portion was lost. But the meeting was still held, with many attending via a virtual, Zoom-based session.

A significant message delivered during the meeting – as well as throughout the year – was the critical need of volunteers to help with the planning and execution of upcoming in-person events. Regrettably, none of our nearly 200 members have stepped forward to help. The result: our Division's ability to hold all-day events, such as SpringRail or FallRail, have been temporarily shelved.

Not to be deterred, your L.A. Division Advisory Board came up with the idea of holding smaller, simpler home/club layout tours instead; events which could be executed by only 3-4 people. In fact, by April, two (2) home layout owners had already signed-on; ready to sponsor visitations,

one in May, the other July. That is, until the highly communicable AB.4 and AB.5 COVID-19 subvariants hit greater Southern California; then, both owners expressed second thoughts. So went the way of spring and summer.

Fortunately, at least in my opinion, COVID-19 is starting to play itself out! September saw the PSR hold its annual Regional Convention in San Diego – a very successfully executed 4 day gathering with more than 200 NMRA members, their friends and/or families attending. October saw the Cajon Division hold a well received all-day meet, and we, the L.A. Division, will be holding FallRail 2022 (albeit virtually – remember what I've shared about our lack of volunteer manpower needed to hold face-to-face gatherings?) on Saturday, November 12th.

To summarize: 2022 has been a year of many ups-and-downs. I believe 2023 will be a much kinder, gentler year however. I expect we will hold a true in-person annual Membership Meeting and Banquet in the first quarter of next year. I'm also looking forward to attending every other month open houses in both Ventura and Los Angeles Counties. Trust you will be too.

In closing, I wish you and your families an enjoyable holiday season. May 2023 bring happiness, great times, and good health to you all.

As always, I welcome your thoughts or comments.



**The 2024 NMRA National Convention
"SurfLiner 2024"
will be in Long Beach from August 4 to 11, 2024**

Did you know that the Pacific Southwest Region will be hosting the National NMRA Convention in Long Beach in 2024? Do you have a layout that you would like to share during the convention layout tours?

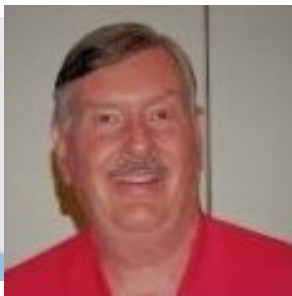
WE NEED LAYOUTS FOR THE LAYOUT TOURS!!!!!!!

If you would like your layout to be on the tour or, if you are building a layout and think it will be tour ready by August of 2024, please contact Kevin Spady at Layout_Chair@surfliner.org (818-644-7170), or Morrie Fleishman at mefleishman@cox.net (949-351-7715) to get your layout added to our layout list. We will be reviewing all potential layouts over the next year to develop our layout tours and are looking for those awesome layouts that are hiding away in your basement or spare room! Detailed requirements for inclusion in the layout tours will be coming out in the next couple months. This is a first call for layouts and there will be plenty of time to finalize your participation over the next year.

This convention is attended by a huge audience from around the globe and this is a chance to show off your modelling skills and railroad creations! In addition to the recognition of your peers, your layout may qualify for an NMRA Golden Spike award and can earn credit for other NMRA MMR Achievement Awards.

If you, or anyone you know, may be interested, please have them contact Kevin or Morrie.





Director's Report

- Vic Cavalli

Hope you were one of the nearly 200 NMRA associates, friends or family members able to attend this year's Pacific Southwest Region's (PSR) Annual Convention, "Back on Track in 2022", hosted by the San Diego Division, September 7th-10th. It was superbly packaged; resulting in an overwhelming 4 days of fun! My favorite "new" addition was the introduction of clinics presented by off-site clinicians via the Zoom app.

In this report, I'm going to focus on selected highlights from the PSR's annual Board of Directors (Board) Meeting held Wednesday afternoon, September 7th – as the debate and decisions which come out of these gatherings impact the direction the Region, and its Divisions, take going forward.

Committee reports started with Pete Steinmetz (Membership) sharing the Region's total enrollment was up 33 members from 2021's numbers. Also, that the Cajon, Los Angeles, and San Diego Divisions each experienced double digit increases. A discussion followed on how to attract more members. Two (2) ideas put forth included: Divisions offering discounted "trial-run" RailPass memberships, and having local NMRA members personally invite non-NMRA friends to Division-sponsored events and/or layout tours as their guests. Follow-up with new members was considered critical.

Vic Cavalli (Nominations and Elections) delivered results from the PSR President and Vice President election held in August. Results were approved, i.e., certified, by the full Board. Pat Raymer was re-elected as PSR President. Gary Butts, MMR re-elected as PSR Vice President.

Later during the meeting, procedures on how to handle anomalies during next year's Directors election – due to moving the PSR's 2023 Annual Convention to June rather than the prescribed Region's By-Laws prescribed September / October time frame – were agreed upon. To wit, the Region will hold its nomination period in March (rather than the usual June/July time frame) so elections may occur in May (rather than August). This will allow election results to be available for certification by the Board during their June 7, 2023 annual meeting, although winning candidates will likely not formally start their terms until September/October 2023.

Mike Allee (Contests) outlined how he is reworking Judges' assessment paperwork so that their "feedback" might become a better post-evaluating tool for model submitting members. That is, being able to understand a judge's "mindset" should allow modelers to generate better contest / AP forms in the future.

A lengthy discussion occurred thereafter on how submitted photography should be evaluated, and by whom.

Director's Report

- Continued

Per Harwe (PSR Historian) is requesting all members submit photographs, along with brief descriptions: event, location, date, names of individuals in photo, etc..., from past Regional events and ceremonies so they might be preserved within the Region's website.

While reviewing, and approving, the PSR's 2023 budget, it was reaffirmed the Region's newsletter, the PSR Dispatch, will no longer be offered to members in paper format. Cost savings: approximately \$1,000.00 annually.

PSR President Pat Raymer shared that he is seeking a "Virtual Media/Social Media" chairperson. The thought being, the Region's future lies in reaching its next generation through social media outreach. If interested, contact Pat at president@psrnmra.org.

Don Fowler (Past PSR President) offered his thoughts on why each Division needs to align its By-Laws to better reflect modifications recently approved to the Region's By-Laws – primarily due to the PSR becoming a 501(c)(3) entity. In concept, universal policies would be established which cover the purpose, organization, and operation of both the PSR and its Divisions. Should a Division require an exemption(s) outside this "umbrella", appendixes, one per Division, would document these exceptions.

A benefit of this restructuring would be to reduce the number of special elections necessary, i.e., 1 Regional + 4 Divisions elections combined into a single referendum, each time a policy change is presented to membership for approval. It should also simplify the manpower/effort required every two (2) years when it comes time to review each organization's individual By-Laws. Don will oversee this project with the assistance of each Division's Director, Superintendent, and/or leadership team.

A longer than usual column – some items of significance; others, possibly less – but news I believe all L.A. Division members should want to know.

Should you want, drop me a line. Otherwise, happy holidays to you and yours,

Vic Cavalli
Director, Los Angeles Division, PSR, NMRA

Model Railroad Festival

APRIL 15 - 16

HEMET, CALIFORNIA

FOUR SEASONS HEMET COMMUNITY LODGE

The FESTIVAL will be held in the 5400 square foot lodge ballroom and outside patio in a beautiful private gated community. We are located 8 miles east of Highway 215 on highway 74 east.

Friday the 14th is set up day and the event will be the 15th and 16th from 10AM to 4:00PM. General admission including complimentary parking is \$5.00 for adults and kids under 12 are free.

The following groups will be exhibiting:

***California South Coast On30 Modular**

***Orange County HO Module Railroaders**

***ZoCAL Z Scale Modular**

***Ntrak Express Modular including SODOR Thomas the Train**

MINI LAYOUTS

***Gary Beatty – Puerta Margarita On30**

***Scott Carter – Cinnamon Mining Company On30**

***Robert Kurner – Typhoon Lagoon On30**

***Justin Rasas & Duncan McCree – Arizona Dreaming On30 DeadRail**

ON THE PATIO

***Riverside Live Steamers and Chula Live Steamers – Locomotives**

***Self Propelled Handcar train for the Kids**

***Mini Car Show featuring neighborhood street rods**

***Live entertainment Solo artist with Guitar**

ACTIVITIES

***FRANCISCOS BISTRO” Serving delicious food and Bar**

***Saturday and Sunday Clinics**

***Railroad movies on a big screen**

***Background Railroad Music**

***Door prizes**

***Select Vendors**

Model Railroad Festival

MODEL CONTESTS

“All Scale Contest” Locomotives, Rolling Stock, Buildings, Bridges, Critters and Complete Trains. 1st - \$50. 2nd - \$30. 3rd - \$20.

*** “3 BY 5 Contest” The base of the model can be no larger than 3” by 5” Model must be railroad related. Creativity encouraged. 1st - \$50. 2nd - \$30. 3rd - \$20.**

Judging and awards will be on Sunday at 2PM.

LOCAL INFO

The nearby Hampton Inn will provide a group rate with two very good restaurants across the street, Los Vacaros Mexican or Rockin K Steak and BBQ. Temecula wine country with over 40 wineries is only 30 minutes down the road. Southern California Railroad Museum in Perris is 20 minutes away. Hemet Golf course surrounds our community. The weather forecast is going to be pleasant.

BULLETINS

Complete list of Clinics, Vendors and Activities will be published when confirmed. For more information or to become an exhibitor, clinician, or vendor, contact David Balser at On30man@gmail.com

Note that this event is not hosted by the LA Division of the NMRA

Around the Division

Compiled by Vic Cavalli

James Keena

Los Angeles Division's 2022 Member of the Year

First joining the NMRA in 1979, James has long been a “cornerstone” of the Los Angeles Division. Providing countless years of volunteer service, he has been a clinician (How many of you have attended one of his hands-on weather clinics?), authored numerous articles in the pages of our *LA Coupler* newsletter, as well as being a frequent Celebration of Models contributor.

James also has served with distinction as the Division's Chief Clerk/Paymaster for 8 years, chaired both its Contest and Achievement Programs, presided as Registrar at both the 2016 and 2020 annual PSR conventions, and been the primary driver (along with wife, Edna) of multiple *SpringRail* and *FallRail* meets.

Congratulations James. Recognition well deserved.



Please welcome our newest Los Angeles Division members:

Jay Stevens of Covina, CA. Jay joined 8/1/2022

Mark Yoshida of La Mirada, CA Mark joined 10/1/2022

As of October 1st, our Division's membership stands at 195.

L.A. Division Focus Survey Coming Soon:

Be on the lookout! Arriving in your USPS mailbox soon, a survey addressed to every individual Division member requesting their input on what/where/how L.A. should be applying its resources – both people and money. Please take the time to respond. The survey shouldn't take more than 10 minutes to complete and comes with its own return-address, stamped envelope. Your replies will shape the direction the Division takes going forward into 2023, so make your voice heard.

Around the Division

- Continued

Los Angeles Model Railroad Society finds a New Home:

Announcement from Mike Garey: “Should you live in the Los Angeles area, and are interested in getting in on the ground floor of a new HO club layout, come join the Los Angeles Model Railroad Society (LAMRS) as we start to build our new layout located in Harbor City.” Interested parties may contact Mike at: trainmanmike@yahoo.com.

Looking for Event Hall(s):

A popular event previously held each year by the L.A. Division has been its modular layout invitational “*Freight Fright*” / “*Frosty Freight*”. Traditionally held at the Los Angeles Botanic Garden, the location has not be available for several years now and, from what the Advisory Board understands, may not become available any time in the near future either.

So we’re asking you: *Do you know of a public or private event hall that the Division can rent for future shows?* Ideally, we would have access for approximately 3 days – Friday, Saturday and Sunday – so as to provide time for set-up and break-down. Should you have any suggestions, please contact Vic Cavalli at VicCavalli@comcast.net.

A Small Sampling of the Celebration of Models from *Back on Track 2022*

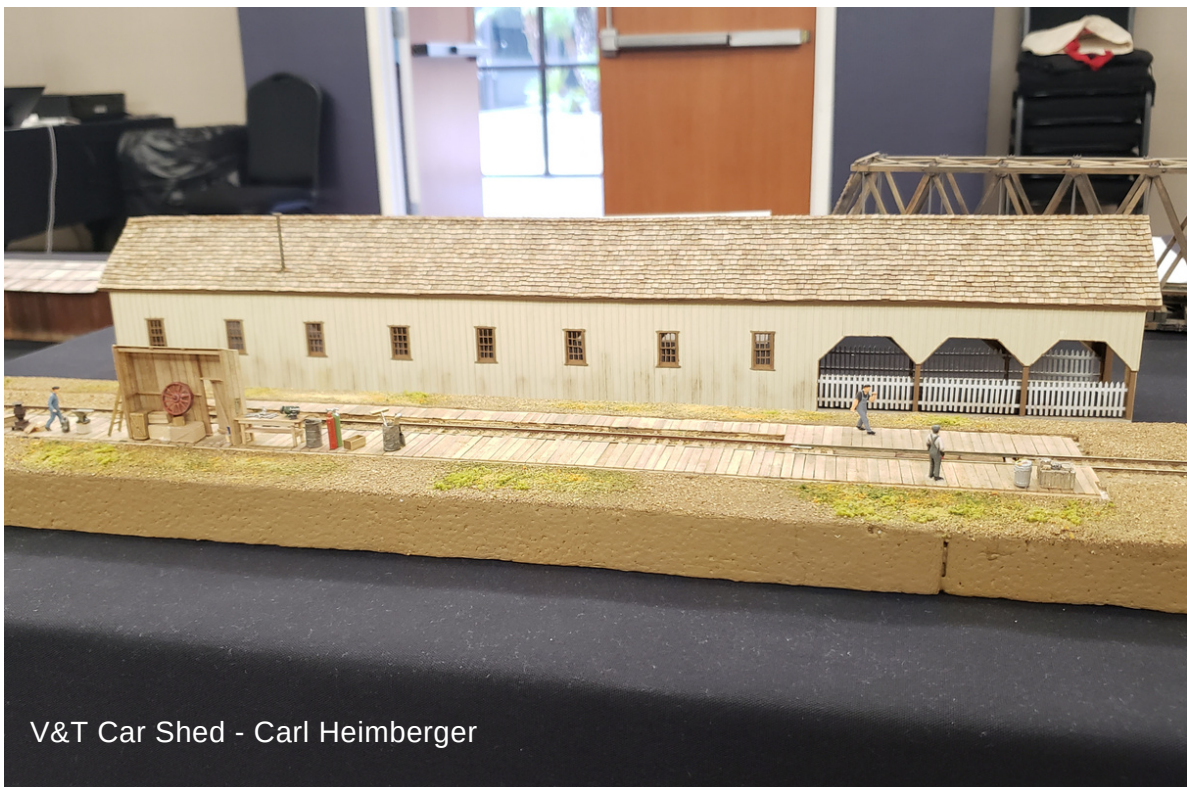


Greenwood Mills Co. - Christopher Greenwood



NCNG RR Box Car 50 - Vic Cavalli

A Small Sampling of the Celebration of Models from *Back on Track 2022*



A Small Sampling of the Layout Tour Visits from *Back on Track 2022*

I visited this year's *Back on Track 2022* convention in San Diego with hopes of visiting a number of layouts. Unfortunately, work got in the way and I ended up spending most of the time working from the lobby of the hotel. However, the layouts I did visit were really well done, and I wanted to share a few photos I took along the way. If I got a name incorrect, I apologize. - Nick Lisica



Dick Roberts, MMR
Nevada County RR
HO Scale



Mike "Komo" Komosinski - Santa Fe "Needles Division" - N Scale

A Small Sampling of the Layout Tour Visits from *Back on Track 2022*



Wayne Pierce "Minieton RR & Lumber Co." - On30 Scale (Note the fascia on this portion of the layout was designed to look like a narrow gauge boxcar)



Wayne Pierce "Minieton RR & Lumber Co." - On30 Scale

A Small Sampling of the Layout Tour Visits from *Back on Track 2022*

Chuck Molnar - Rio Grande Southern, HO_n3 Scale



I liked Chuck's simple and informative fascia





Los Angeles Division PSR NMRA



NEEDS YOUR HELP!

The Los Angeles (L.A.) Division of the Pacific Southwest Region, NMRA currently has the following volunteer positions open. Each appointment is open ended, i.e., offered without any long-term obligation. Your participation and contribution of time will be greatly appreciated; helping to insure the continued success of the Division; possibly earning you some AP points too!

Assistant Superintendent (new) – working with, and as an extension of, the L.A. Division Superintendent, the assistant superintendent performs tasks assigned him/her that are normally completed by the Superintendent himself. These assignments may include budget generation/review, event definition/approvals, conducting Division Advisory Board meeting in the absence of the Superintendent, as well as performing many other duties of the office.

Assistant Webmaster – working with the L.A. Division Webmaster, the assistant webmaster helps to keep the Division's website working smoothly, its contents up-to-date; adding new or removing outdated contents to its pages in a timely fashion.

Division Events/Calendar Tracking Coordinator (new) – a member of the Membership Committee Team, this individual oversees the creation, scheduling, organizing, and advertizing of events held or sponsored by/within the L.A. Division.

Newsletter and Website Contributors – all L.A. members are encouraged to submit articles and/or photos of their model or prototype railroading interests. Contact liscan@gmail.com (LA Coupler Editor) or kspady@att.net (Webmaster) for details.

Division Historian – responsible for physically collecting and archiving Division history, as well within the pages of the Division's quarterly newsletter, the LA Coupler, and/or on the pages of the Division's website. History may include, but not limited to, previously published issue of the LA Coupler, tracking of members' honors (such as MMRs, Officers, Golden Spike recipients, Member of the Year recipients), or photos from meets, conventions and/or gatherings.

Contest/AP Evaluators (new) – working with the Division Contest/AP Chairperson, Evaluators are taught how to assess models and/or layouts per NMRA Achievement Program standards. Contact gary.cajon@gmail.com for details.

Please Contact Superintendent@ladiv-nmra.org



Financial Report

11/30/2022

-Kevin Spady

Los Angeles Division - Pacific Southwest Region - National Model Railroad Association Banking Reconciliation						
Starting Balance	Deposits This Period	Checks Cut This Period	Checks Cleared This Period	Outstanding Checks This Period	Ending Balance	Notes
\$17,090.82	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 17,090.82	
\$ -					\$ -	
	\$ -		+		\$ -	
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		
				Total	\$ 17,090.82	Consistent with statement 11-30-2022

The *NMRA Magazine* Has Gone Digital!

Did you know that starting in April, 2022, you are now able to access the *NMRA Magazine* digitally?

That's right! From your phone, computer, or tablet, you can now enjoy everything the *NMRA Magazine* has to offer. Don't worry, the print addition isn't going anywhere.

However, if you would like to access the magazine digitally, you will need to register with www.NMRA.org. This is *free* for NMRA members and only requires an email address. Once subscribed to the website, you'll have access to all of the conveniences of a digital magazine.

Advisory Board Contact List

OFFICERS

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Vic Cavalli

director@ladiv-nmra.org

(805) 680-5826

Paymaster

Kevin Spady

kspady@att.net

(818) 644-7170

Chief Clerk

Nick Lisica

Lisican@gmail.com

(831) 594-7640

TEAMS, COMMITTEES, and CHAIRS

Assistant Superintendent - Vacant

Members' Services Team

Membership Retention Chair - Vic Cavalli

viccavalli@comcast.net (805) 680-5826

Membership Recruitment- Robert 'Bob' DeMoss

bob.SFSCRR@yahoo.com (562) 760-5387

Membership Services Chair - Mike O'Brien

mike@corbu.us (626) 487-8768

Events Scheduling - Vacant

Communications Team

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lisican@gmail.com (831) 594-7640

LA Coupler Assistant Editor - Vacant

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 – Vacant

Achievement Program Chair – Gary Butts, MMR

gary.cajon@gmail.com (714) 842-4980

Contests Chair - Vacant

L.A. Division Historian - Vacant

Nominations and Elections Chair - Vic Cavalli

VicCavalli@comcast.net (805) 680-5826

Non-Rail Coordinator - Vacant

Schedule of 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: 12/05/2022

Due to the ongoing public health concerns, we recommend checking with organizers to confirm event status.

Recurring

Saturdays - Belmont Shore Model Railroad Club Visitation, San Pedro

1st Monday of Each Month - Glendale Model Railroad Society's Verduga Valley Lines Open House, Glendale

1st Thursday of Each Month - Los Angeles Division "Sand House Chat" Zoom Session

2nd Saturday of Each Month (starting October 2022) - Trains & Coffee Swap Meet, Placentia

3rd Thursday of Each Month - 2024 NMRA National Convention, the *Surfliner*, Zoom Planning Sessions

3rd Saturday and Sunday of Each Month (weather permitting) - Orange County Model Engineers Train Rides, Costa Mesa

4th Sunday of Each Month - Southern Pacific Division of TTOS Meet, Anaheim

Last Thursday of Each Month - "Cajon Connection" Zoom Session (w/ Breakout Groups)

Last Saturday of Each Month - "Model Railroad Fellowship Day" - RailMaster Hobbies, Bellflower

2022

December 10 & 11 - Pasadena Model Railroad Club Open House, Pasadena

2023

January 14 - San Diego Division S-Gaugers Layout Tour, La Mesa

February 11 - San Diego Division Winter Meet, TBD

February 11 & 12 - Great Train Show, OC Fair & Event Center, Costa Mesa

February 18 & 19 - Great Train Show, Ventura County Fairgrounds and Event Center, Ventura

February 25 - Los Angeles Division Annual Membership Meeting and Banquet, TBD

February 25 - Roundhouse Gang Model Railroad Club Swap Meet, Moreno Valley

March 11 - San Diego Division Bob Treat's Garden Snow Creek Railroad Layout Tour

March 18 & 19 - Great Train Show, San Bernardino Fairgrounds, Victorville

March 25 - Arizona Division Spring Meet, TBD

Schedule of Events

April 8 - Joel Shank's Sn3 Rio Grande Southern Railroad Layout Tour, Brawley

April 15 & 16 - Model Railroad Festival, Hemet, CA (Add'l info: On30man@gmail.com)

May 13 - San Diego Division Spring Meet, TBD

June 7 - 10 - PSR Annual Convention, the *"Grand Canyon Special"*, Flagstaff, AZ

July 22 - Roundhouse Gang Model Railroad Club Swap Meet, Moreno Valley

August 20 - 26 - NMRA National Convention, the *"2023 Texas Express"*, and Train Show, Grapevine, TX

October 21 - Roundhouse Gang Model Railroad Club Swap Meet, Moreno Valley

2024

August 4 - 11 - NMRA National Convention, the *"SurfLiner 2024" and Tran Show, Long Beach*

For inclusion, please send announcements 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!

