

SDMRRRA GM Report/ Newsletter

May 2026 Board and general meeting

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Club trains –Use and care

All club owned trains are or will be available for members to use on the layout. Either stored in the storage tracks under the branch line or sometimes stored in the dispatch office if not on the layout.

We are building up an inventory of nice equipment and expensive locomotives including prototype steam locomotives with sound. Our members have put a lot of time and effort and our club has expended funds to put these locomotives together for operations.

Recently our Santa Fe Southwest Chief lead F7 melted down just a couple weeks after it was set up and put on the layout at the Santa Fe depot in Downtown. Someone that operated it left it parked over a block gap and both trucks melted. Charles is now trying to source parts for it but getting parts out of Athern nowadays is not like it used to be.

Please be cognoscente and aware while operating club trains and take care of them so that we all can enjoy them. Since some of them like the Southwest Chief may be left on the layout please take extra care to make sure they safely are parked within the block and isolated for passing operations.

Projects

Mike Pulling has installed a loading dock at Cima as well as continued work on the oil facility.





Paul Wilfong has been working on the canyon area in Mexico past Redondo. He has been chipping away the cast rock cuts to remove them and smooth the area out so it more closely matches photos of the area.

Charles is working on plans to build the downtown SDG&E power plant.

Tom Utschig is still working on the Tecate depot.

DCC System

TCS evaluated the new NCE system and the boosters we bought and concluded the fix was to adjust the frequency range of the output of the new NCE system to communicate with their boosters and they sent them back. The NCE system didn't arrive so they are sending us another one.

Lockers

We have a few built-in locker cabinets which can be leased from the association for \$10 a year. And remember to pay your locker dues annually please. If you have a rolling cart style locker please check with me and get a site issued before you bring one down to the club to leave here, we are very short on space.

Donated equipment

Swapmeet/ raffle committee

The swapmeet group has been mostly taking a break working on other things lately though we have evaluated a few incoming donation lots.

As always our SOP, any donated equipment is first reviewed for possible use by the club pool or youth program before it is relegated to swap meet and meeting raffle equipment.

Club pool of equipment

Earl is setting up our 3 Santa Fe 3750 class Steamers with dcc and sound.

Equipment left on the layout

Just a reminder, please do not leave private equipment on the layout if you are not going to operate the following day.

Installing and placing things on the layout as scenery

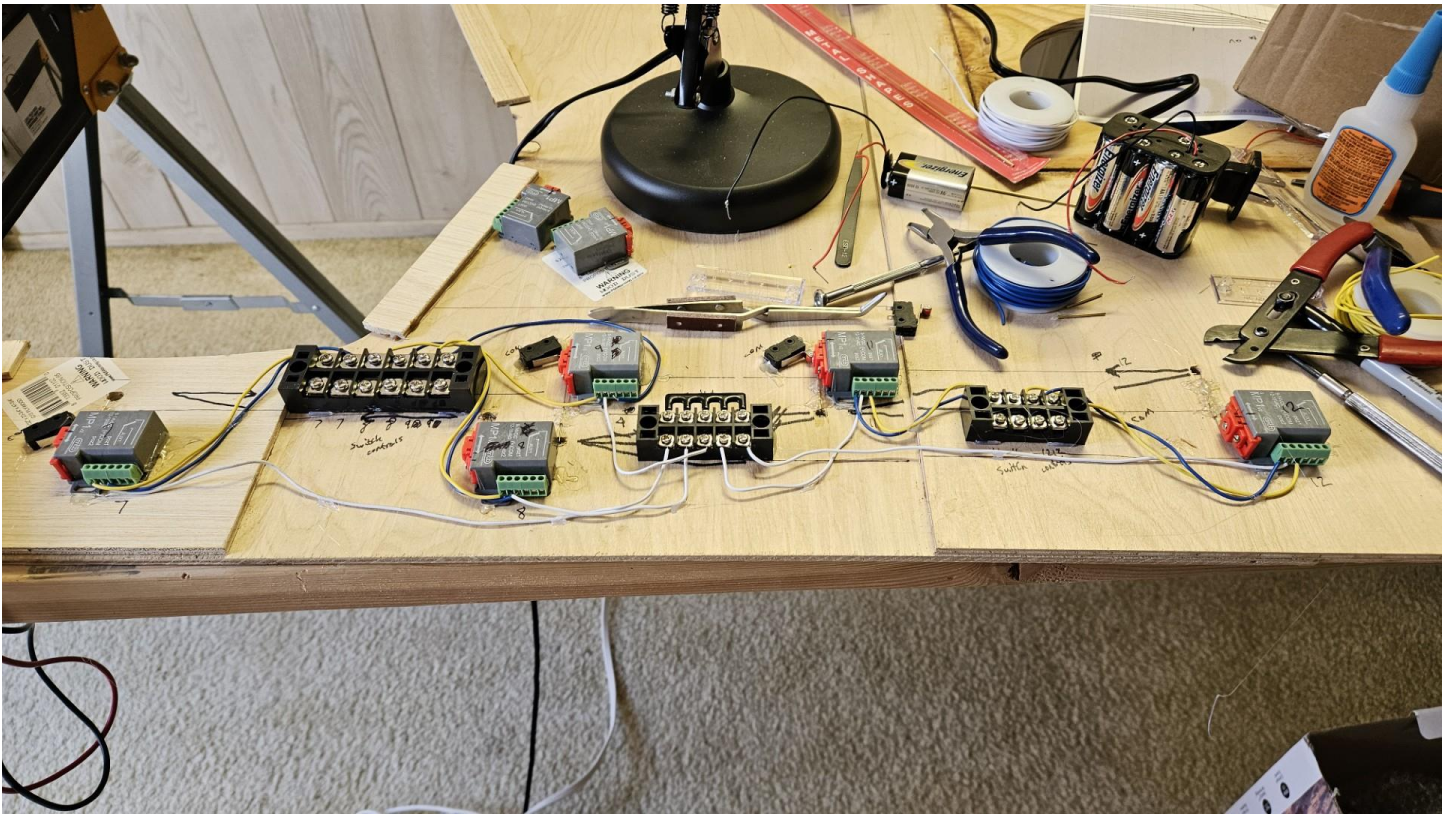
PLEASE do not place any new scenery anywhere on the layout without checking with me first. If it's a good idea I will probably let you do it. If its more serious or involved I may take it up with the Board or the Layout Design Committee if necessary

Friday night work sessions

Please consider coming in on Fridays nights to work on the layout. We can find things for people to do that need to get done.

Z scale

Dave Lancaster has the next module of the Z scale layout moving along and expects to have it installed hopefully in May. He also has a motion activated system that will allow for point to point automated train operation on the main of the couple sections that will have been installed at that time to at least have some more train operation displayed for the public. This is the next module upside down being wired up for power and turnout control.



O scale updates

The gears that I bought from North West Short line and then had a machinist bore out worked out well in the two atlas diesels we tested them in that Phill Floyd rebuilt. I am going to order a horde of them next as we still have almost a dozen locos down for gears.

I have been working on track and switch wiring as well as block wiring on the narrow gauge logging camp while Bill built the panel and is wiring up everything behind it in preparation for running track and switch power.

Adam has been building some structures for the narrow gauge as well as taking care of other things around the O scale layout.

I just got a donation in from the 2 rail O scale logging layout that I toured at O scale West that was torn down right after the show. It consists of various donkeys, structures and vehicles that were around the layout. It was very nice of Chris Holumbo to donate them to us.



Youth program

John was working with the kids on scenery around Seeley this last meet while other operated on the layout. One member, Elizabeth has taken on a special project for the museum. Restoring an old depot that had been donated to the museum from the Pacific Beach and Western club. The museum has a couple pieces from that clubs layout as well myself and I proposed an exhibit in the PB room but the depot needed to be restored.



Museum Display cabinets

The Don Laddenberger estate made a generous donation to the museum to fund some kind of exhibit in his memory and I had a proposal to build display cabinets to get the museum model collection on display and out of the archive storage so timing worked out well to bring this together. Our own member Steve Studor was contracted to build these lovely cabinets with polycarbonate fronts while Ken and Earl helped engineer and install the lights in them. So far one museum train has been set in the display. In all there are 10 cabinets of this first project and I'm hoping that in the future we can expand and add more as needed and as funding permits.

