



# Coast Dispatcher

## #204

### June, 2019

Coast Division Web Site: <http://www.pcrnmra.org/coast>

Pacific Coast Region Web Site: <http://www.pcrnmra.org>



Next Division Event: June 2, 2019

Boy Scouts Headquarters 1001 Davis St, San Leandro, CA.

9:00 AM..... Doors open. Free Door Prizes.

9:30 AM – 12:15 PM:

Model Contest – Diesel and others, Freight Cars, Display/Diorama and Caboose

Photo Contest – Favorite Photos, model or prototype

Allen Fenton Timesaver Switching Contest (until 3:15)

9:30 AM..... Get Auction Cards.

10:00 AM..... LEDs - New approaches for modeling - Earl Girbovan. LEDs have become an integral part of scale modeling; Earl will demonstrate some of his innovative ways of using LEDs in his award-winning models.

11:00 AMV..... Scratch Building Structures with a Cricut - Ray Davis. Ray will demonstrate ways to use the Cricut die-cutting machine to cut various materials for building structures.

11:00 AM ..... Modeler's Roundtable - Bring your Modeling Questions...discuss... get Answers.

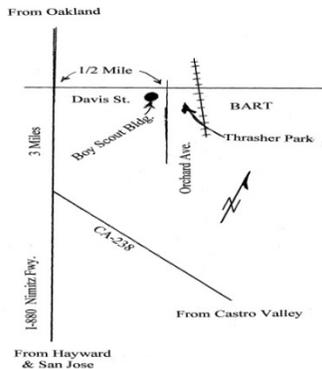
12 Noon ..... Business Meeting

~12:30 PM\* ..... Model/Photo Contest Results

~12:45 PM\* ..... Auction starts, Roundtable continues

3:30 PM..... Timesaver Results, Door Prizes– afterward Auction continues if required

\* Contest results immediately after business meeting. Auction starts immediately after contest results.



From the North:

Take Highway 880 south.

Take Exit 34, Davis St.

Turn Left on Davis. Go 0.7 miles to the BSA Headquarters, 1001 Davis St.

From the South:

Take Highway 880 North

Take Exit 34, Davis St.

Turn Right on Davis St. Go 0.7 miles to the BSA Headquarters, 1001 Davis St.

#### In This Issue:

- |   |                                 |       |                                |
|---|---------------------------------|-------|--------------------------------|
| 1 | June Event                      | 6     | Registrar's Report             |
| 2 | Call Board                      | 7     | Auction Report, 50 Years Ago   |
| 3 | Director's Report               | 8     | Publicity                      |
| 4 | Superintendent's Report         | 9     | Witless vs. Clueless           |
| 5 | Super's Report, cont., Clinics, | 10    | Editor's Notes, Contest Report |
|   |                                 | 11–36 | Contest Entries                |

**Coast Call Board**

Director: Frank Markovich, MMR  
Ph: 408-505-2727  
email: [frank@frankmarkovich.com](mailto:frank@frankmarkovich.com)

Superintendent: Doug Smith  
Ph: 925-989-0207  
email: [funrun27@yahoo.com](mailto:funrun27@yahoo.com)

Chief Clerk: Brian Booth  
Ph: 925-324-2181  
Email: [carcrazy832@yahoo.com](mailto:carcrazy832@yahoo.com)

Paymaster: Bob Ferguson  
Ph: 925-228-6833  
email: [BobPCRCD@aol.com](mailto:BobPCRCD@aol.com)

Achievement: Earl Girbovan  
Ph: 650-248-9255  
email: [egirbovan@netzero.com](mailto:egirbovan@netzero.com)

Auction: Craig Matoza  
Ph: 510-701-9771  
Email: [sandman2297@yahoo.com](mailto:sandman2297@yahoo.com)

Clinics: Richard Brennan  
Ph: 510-895-9852  
email: [rbrennan@tt-west.com](mailto:rbrennan@tt-west.com)

Publisher, Coast Dispatcher:  
TomVanden Bosch  
Ph: 650-369-8305  
email: [tom-marian@att.net](mailto:tom-marian@att.net)

Editor, Coast Dispatcher:  
Pete Birdsong  
Ph: 859-552-5467  
email: [rrpeteb@gmmail.com](mailto:rrpeteb@gmmail.com)

Roundtable Facilitator: Open

Model Contest: Jim Eckman  
Ph: 650-996-6728  
email: [jim\\_eckman@roninengineer.com](mailto:jim_eckman@roninengineer.com)

Nominations: Dave Connery, MMR  
Ph: 925-735-0134  
email: [dgconnery@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dgconnery@sbcglobal.net)

Photo Contest: Jim Eckman  
Ph: 650-996-6728  
email: [jim\\_eckman@roninengineer.com](mailto:jim_eckman@roninengineer.com)

Publicity: Steve Wesolowski  
Ph: 408-252-4192  
email: [swezz@comcast.net](mailto:swezz@comcast.net)

Quartermaster: Open

Registration: Veronica LaTorres  
Ph: 510-317-7456  
email: [veronicashadlow@yahoo.com](mailto:veronicashadlow@yahoo.com)

Switching Contest: Eric Moe  
Ph: 510-425-4915  
email: [moerailroadstation@gmail.com](mailto:moerailroadstation@gmail.com)

Web Master: Pete Birdsong, MMR  
Ph: 859-268-1462  
email: [rrpeteb@gmail.com](mailto:rrpeteb@gmail.com)

Meeting Sites: Steve Wesolowski  
Ph: 408-252-4192  
email: [swezz@comcast.net](mailto:swezz@comcast.net)

Layout Tours: Michael O'Dorney  
Ph: 025-998-6226  
email: [modorney@gmail.com](mailto:modorney@gmail.com)

Membership: Veronica LaTorres  
Ph: 510-317-7456  
email: [veronicashadlow@yahoo.com](mailto:veronicashadlow@yahoo.com)



## Director's Report

### By Frank Markovich, MMR June, 2019

This will be my last report as Director as I have been elected to PCR Vice President. I want to thank all of you for the support I have received the last 7 years as Superintendent and then as Director. I will still be coming to the Coast Division events and will still be representing all members at the PCR board. If there are issues you would like me to bring up at this year's board meeting please contact me: [frank@frankmarkovich.com](mailto:frank@frankmarkovich.com). I have already heard about two issues and will be bringing them up at the board meeting.

The March meet was slightly smaller than usual with less than 80 in attendance. The auction was also about ½ of normal. I had a great time and it seemed everyone did. The contest was excellent with seven members entering the square foot challenge. All of the entries were excellent and all very different.

The PCR election went well with a large percentage voting. If you are one that had a paper ballot it is because we don't have a valid email for you (and the national does not either). Please update your email. You can do this on the NMRA site or if you let me know I can see to it that you are updated in the roster. In 9 months the Branchline is going to be online. Without a valid email you won't know when it is coming out.

That is all for my last column in the Dispatcher. Thank you all again!!

Frank

There were over 400 items in the auction. Numbers for the auction are beginning to decline. Since this is the main revenue generator for the Coast this could be an issue.

Contest entrees were small again.

Nominations for officers was opened up.

Two well attended clinics: Earl Girbovan gave one on fences – part 1 of 2 parts.

Auction was smaller at both meets – the March meet particularly low at around 325 items. Attendance were less than 80 at the March meet.

At the March meet we had an election here are the results:

Superintendent – Doug Smith – 2<sup>nd</sup> term

Chief Clerk – Bryan Boothe

Paymaster – Bob Ferguson

For filling the 1 year remaining term for Director Lisa Gorrell was elected.

We had a special contest – Square Footer – this drew 7 entrees. All very good. Many have said that they will be bringing them to the PCR. This shows that we may want to consider special contests going forward for each convention or even meet.

The regular contest had a number of models and photos.

There were two clinics and both were well attended. I was able to go to Earl Girbovan's clinic on fences part 2. I had to miss Jack Burgess's clinic on his layout. I wish I could have seen it.



## Superintendent's Report Doug Smith, June, 2019

Our most recent meet was at the Elk's in Alameda on March 3rd. It was a busy day. Election of officers, a square foot modeling challenge, our regularly scheduled contests, updates on not one but two PCR Conventions, and the locally famous Coast Division Auction. This is based on but not identical to my recent Branchline column, so please follow along.

**Elections:** Dave Connery led our bi-annual Division elections. There was one candidate for each of the three Division positions. Elected by motion for two year terms were Bob Ferguson as treasurer, Brian Booth as Chief Clerk, and myself as Superintendent. I would like to thank Dan Rom, our outgoing Chief Clerk, for his service to the Division in that capacity. Frank Markovich has one year remaining on his term as Director. In breaking news Frank has been elected as PCR Vice President. Anticipating this Lisa Gorrell was elected to fill the remainder of Frank's term. Lisa will assume the Director position after the Sacramento convention. Congratulations to both Frank and Lisa. Thanks to everyone who has agreed to serve in Division leadership positions.

**Clinics:** Before the business meeting two excellent clinics were presented by some of our more acclaimed modelers, Earl Girbovan and Jack Burgess. Earl presented a follow-on to his earlier fence clinic, this time discussing metal fences, both chain link and other varieties. Very informative and well received as you might imagine. Jack gave an overview of his fantastic Yosemite Valley Railroad. Having been fortunate to see the railroad in person a few times, I still learned new things from his presentation. Thanks to both for sharing their skills and insights.

**Convention Updates:** A quick update for Diamond Rails Forever was presented by Tom Crawford, PCR Convention Manager. All is on track for that convention in Sacramento this May. If you have yet to register please visit their web site linked on the PCR site, calendar, and references many places in this Branch Line issue An impressive slate of clinics both from PCR and the Feather River Rail Society.

Earl Girbovan presented an update on the 2020 convention which will be hosted by Coast Division. The host site will be the Crowne Plaza Concord. The committee membership is being filled with energetic and professional Coast Division members. It should be a good one. Dates are April 30 through May 3, 2020. The web site will be up and running at the 2019 convention. Not before, as we don't want to possibly detract from the 2019 team's efforts. But 2020 is coming together. Thanks to all of our extremely capable 2020 team. Stand by for more, both at and after Sacramento.

**Contests:** Our regular contests for March were joined by a Square Foot Challenge. Suggested and executed by Jesse Walden the contest was a great success. Briefly, the rules were that the diorama had to have a base dimension of 12" by 12". Height, scale and era were open. The only other requirement was that there had to be some track involved. Modelers were not identified with their entry. Voting was strictly by popular vote. Some great modeling skill and creativity were on display. HO, N and On30 scales were represented. First place went to Don Burch. Pictures and descriptions of all contest entries are further along in this issue, courtesy of Jim Eckman. Take a look and enjoy. The regular contest was graced with two scratch-built brass locomotives. So there was great eye candy on every table. Pictures and descriptions of the winners are further along also. Thanks to all who participated in the events.

**And the Auction:** There were fewer than average items crossing the block, but many treasures to be had. I scored an SPSF box car to add to those of several other fantasy roads on my layout. So you never know what you'll find.

*(Continued on page 5)*

## Outreach

Outside of the March meet our members manned tables at Great Train Show events both in San Jose and Pleasanton. The Timesaver drew many young operators-to-be. Modeling displays drew compliments from show goers and started many discussions usually starting with "How do you do that? It's so cool". We can always make space for more participants, so plan something to show for the November show in Richmond.

Related GTS news is that Steve Wesolowski is looking for a little help as coordinator of our Great Train Show presence. He writes about that in his column a few e-pages on. The next local show is not until November, but don't wait that long. The efforts before the show are what makes the difference. Drop him a line if you can help a little or a lot.

In other outreach news I learned that the Los Altos Train Days event will not be held this year. Construction adjacent to the facility will make parking unavailable – for this year. They hope to return for 2020.

Our next meet will be June 2 at the Boy Scouts facility in San Leandro. Hope to see you there.

Happy Modeling, Doug



### *June Clinics, By Richard Brennan*

10:00 LEDs - New approaches for modeling - Earl Girbovan  
LEDs have become an integral part of scale modeling; Earl will demonstrate some of his innovative ways of using LEDs in his award-winning models.

11:00 Scratch Building Structures with a Cricut - Ray Davis  
Ray will demonstrate ways to use the Cricut die-cutting machine to cut various materials for building structures.

11:00 Modeler's Roundtable  
An ad-hoc discussion of topics as they arise...



**Registrar's Report**  
**By Ronnie LaTorres**

(Meet in Alameda /MAR 2019 )

Number from COAST (Coa) OR Hawaii (HI)	64
Number from RED (RED)	5
Number from SIERRA (S)	3
Number from D A Y (DAY)	0
GUESTS: DON B., WAYNE F. ,	2*
<b>joined this meet</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Joined previous to this meet</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>TOTAL REGISTRANTS:</b>	<b>79</b>
Door Prize Donations?: YES, N-Scale Bldg \$18.00	



## **Auction Report**

### **By Craig Matoza**

The March Auction did not have many items in lot, the lowest I have seen in a while. The auction cards are ready for next auction. Anyone wanting auction cards should E Mail [sandman2297@yahoo.com](mailto:sandman2297@yahoo.com) with following info...Name, Address, Number of cards, Auction number.

Profit Statement from March 3, 2019

1. Items. 284
2. Sales. 2781.00
3. Profit. 279.00
4. No Bid Count 96

### ***The Coast Division 50 Years Ago*** ***(From Issue # 4, May, 1969, of the Coast Dispatcher.)***

- ⇒ *Next meeting at Golden Gate Model RR Club*
- ⇒ *Tod Steinmetz was to show color movie of West Side Lumber Co.*
- ⇒ *Jim Kennedy was to present a clinic on the use of plastics in detailing models*
- ⇒ *Bob Brown was to display about 25 issues of "Fine Scale Models"*
- ⇒ *Door prizes: HO observation car and Jordon Old Time Auto kits; O UP box car kit and stock car kit*
- ⇒ *A PFM SP A3 Atlantic was to be raffled off.*
- ⇒ *Note on the 25th PCR Convention in May*
- ⇒ *4 Achievement Certificates were awarded*
- ⇒ *Bob Dupont was nominated for Superintendent*
- ⇒ *The Railettes provided snacks*
- ⇒ *A report was given on the annual banquet*



## Publicity Report

By Steve Wesolowski

Very Big Thank Yous to all Volunteers who shared their enthusiasm for model railroading with everyone who stopped by our tables during the 2019 Great Train Shows at San Jose Fairgrounds on February 22nd & 23rd and Alameda County Fairgrounds on March 23rd & 24th, including Mike Blumensaadt, Dave Connery, Phil Edholm, Stanley Keiser, Ronnie LaTorres, Pat LaTorres, Frank Markovich, Daniel M. O'Connell, Michael O'Dorney, Chris Palermo, Doug Smith, Dennis Stokeley, Tom Vanden Bosch, Jesse Walden. If YOU volunteered & I did not Thank You, please let me know, because all of us contributed to making volunteering and the train shows more fun!

I also want to especially recognize:

- 1) all those who brought projects to demonstrate & share, including Pat LaTorres, Jesse Walden, Tom Vanden Bosch,
- 2) Chris Palermo, Phil Edholm, Frank Markovich and Mike Blumensaadt for hauling the beautiful Build a Memory N-Scale layout to and from the shows, setting it up, taking it down and answering many questions, and
- 3) Eric Moe, for bringing the Coast Division John Allen TimeSaver to/from both shows.

Thanks to everyone who volunteered, Coast Division, PCR and NMRA had a very visible presence at both shows, because Build a Memory, the Time Saver and members making stuff were all popular at drawing people in with questions. After 19 years of attending many train shows, I know it's not possible to know how many new or returning NMRA members we actually recruit at shows, as I re-joined NMRA at the Fall 2000 Pleasanton GATS after 32 years away. However, I SEE our volunteers impacting attendees of all ages, whether actually running a train on TimeSaver perhaps their very first time, or learning modeling by watching us model and asking questions, like: "How do I get Started in Model Railroading?", along with too many other questions to recall or list here.

At Pleasanton, Frank Markovich, MMR, asked me if volunteering at train shows is worth all the effort? I said "Not if 'success' is measured by how many NMRA members we recruit." Maybe he asked because for some time I've griped about organizing local train shows, hoping maybe someone else would volunteer. However, now, a month later, I have realized I enjoy the company of my train friends at shows, I don't mind paying for parking because I get in Free, but the bottom line for me is: I get to help others enjoy trains! After 19 years, I'm more efficient at the tasks involved, they're not hard for me. Overall, train shows ARE a good deal, they always include much train fun, and helping others enjoy trains is Good Karma!

Our volunteers make a difference: just being there to answer questions of new/returning modelers, their parents, spouse, significant other, other family members IS very helpful. This is a big and often confusing hobby. We encourage others to pursue and enjoy their passion for trains. Our main impact is helping others get started or re-started enjoying trains. Model Railroading's never going to be everyone's hobby, but we can and DO help connect others who share our passion for trains: to local hobby shops, train groups, perhaps someday to NMRA. You never know what effect answering any question will have. Any question, including, Frank's! My Final Answer?: "Yes! Our volunteering makes a difference; its worth it"

And. so it goes: if someone else wants to volunteer to coordinate train shows, I can tell them everything I know in a few minutes. But, if no one else wants to do it, I guess I'll keep doing it. It's easy, always includes some train fun and it's Good Karma! Perhaps some of you would enjoy sharing your love of train operations by volunteering to help staff the TimeSaver at PCR 2019, Diamond Rails Forever, next month in Sacramento? Let me know, I volunteered to coordinate.

Happy Trains to you, until we meet again,

*(Continued from page 4)*



# WITLESS vs CLUELESS

*The adventures of Rivets O'Reilly  
and Larry Loungecar*

As originally published in the Mid Central Region Division 10 Newsletter, *The Lantern*.



**Larry:** Hey, Rivets, Howya doin'?

**Rivets:** I'm doin' O.K., Larry, but kind of frustrated. How about you?

**Larry:** I'm doin' pretty good. What's got you frustrated?

**Rivets:** It's this whole business of the next generation in the hobby, Larry. You know, all this talk about how we need to pass it on to younger guys, and preserve the great shape the hobby's in now, with such a wealth of products and services bein' offered, and to tell the truth I'm not sure how I can pass it on. I don't know very many young guys.

**Larry:** Well, I can give you a few ideas on that subject, Rivets. First of all, don't do what Johnny did recently.

**Rivets:** It's a pretty safe bet I don't follow anything that clown does, Larry. But what'd he do this time?

**Larry:** He was on this same kick about popularizin' the hobby, so he took a bunch of pictures of his layout, pinned them inside his overcoat, and was arrested for walkin' up to people on the street, opening his overcoat, and sayin', "Let me tell you about my layout." Rivets: You're kiddin'! No, you're not kiddin'! Of all the stupid things he's ever done, this has to take the cake!

**Larry:** Yeah, Rivets, he's done some pretty weird things alright!

**Rivets:** You got that right. But what about some things I can do to spread the word.

**Larry:** The best thing I know of is to participate in the shows when they come along. They draw a lot of interested people already, and if we can enhance their experience with some interesting displays or modules, that'll go a long way.

**Rivets:** I'm ahead of you on that one, Larry. I'm already working on a portable layout that sets up and takes down in five minutes.

**Larry:** Five minutes? That's impossible, Rivets! How can you do that?

**Rivets:** Simple, Larry, it folds up and down like an umbrella.

**Larry:** Wow! Can I see it, Rivets?

**Rivets:** Soon as I get it finished, Larry. I'm having a few engineering problems with it.

**Larry:** You're pullin' my leg again, aren't you Rivets?

**Rivets:** Who, me?



## Editor's Notes

By Pete Birdsong

With this issue we complete the transition to single-column format for the Dispatcher, with the Rivets column. With Distribution of the newsletter being on-line, the single column format makes it easier to read longer articles without having to scroll up and down across columns.

The Call Board will remain double column, since it is for reference purposes, not an article that is read end-to-end.

If you have any suggestions for the format or content of the newsletter, be sure to let me know. And as always, I'd love to have your articles.

Thanks.

*Pete*



## Model and Photo Contest Report

By Jim Eckman

March, 2019

This is the best turnout we've had for a show in a long time, it was awesome, also almost 40 people voted. Several models were scratchbuilt brass rolling stock.

### Special Square Foot Contest

This is the first time we have run this and we had eight models show up, all of them imaginative and interesting. I suspect that this will be a yearly event.

See all the entry photos and descriptions on the following pages.

1<sup>st</sup> Place – Don Burch's 12"x12" module.



77 12"x12"

Other Entries:  
Earl Girbovan's Mining Scene



With a little peek-a- boo

Tom Knapp's Pacific Coast Railway Port Hartford Asphalt.



Chris Palermo's 1/48, 1943, Licata, Sicily, tank destroyer crew at ruined village above railway.



Jesse Walden's Route 22 General Store.



Pat LaTorres' 12"x12" Challenge: Switching Yard.



Bill Holst's Untitled



Tom Vanden Bosch's Bridge Street Tower.



Steam

**1<sup>st</sup> Place** – Bob Wirthlin's Mogul Southern Pacific #448 won by one vote, scratchbuilt in brass!



**Other Entries**

Steve Wesolowski's D&RGW #298 built from reject Accucraft parts! Many people liked it as well.



Ken Martin's CB&Q G\* 0-6-0 A lovely little brass loco and another crowd favorite.



**Traction**

**1<sup>st</sup> Place** – Bob Wirthlin’s Birney, Scratchbuilt in brass.



**MOW/Non-Revenue**

**1<sup>st</sup> Place** – Frank Markovich’s West Side Powder House Snowplow another scratchbuilt model.

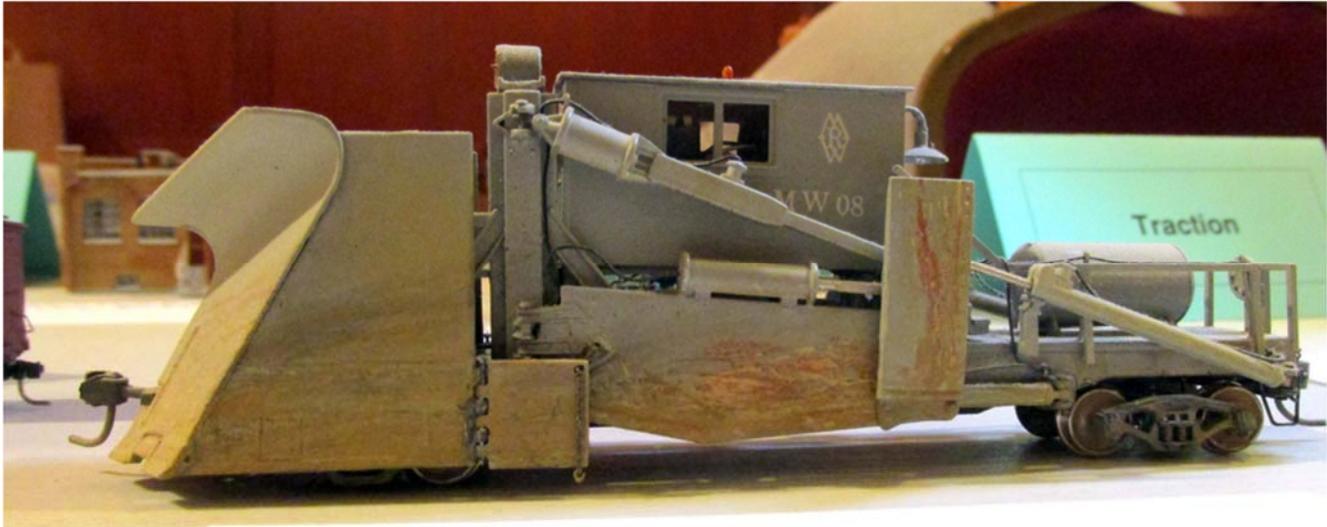


**Other Entries**

Ken Martin's C&S Outfit Car #70



Bob Wirthlin's Plow/Grader



**Passenger**

No entries **Structures**

**1<sup>st</sup> Place** – Ronnie LaTorres entered two structures, Section House and Industry Bldg which tied for first place.



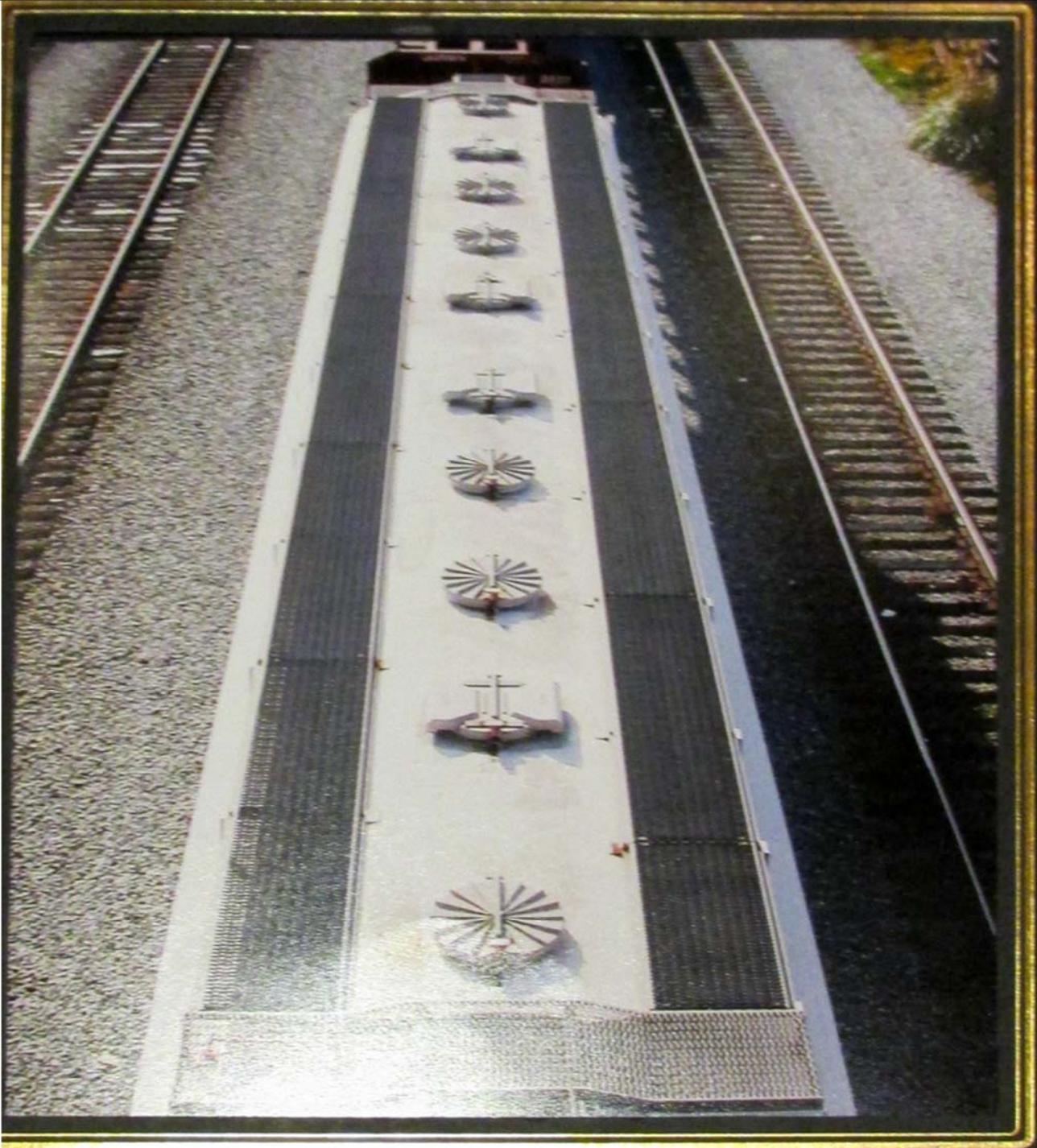
## Photo Contest – Unpowered Rolling Stock

1<sup>st</sup> Place – Stanley Keiser's *Rotary*.



**Other Entries**

Stanley Keiser's *Hopper*.



Dave Barron's *Layout Picture 2018 NMRA Convention.*



Dave Barron's *Layout Picture 2018 NMRA Convention.*



Kenneth Martin's CB&Q *Spreader*.



Tom Vanden Bosch's *Carbonic Tank Car BOCX 3630*.



Tom Vanden Bosch's *WP Flanger WPMW6*.



Tom Vanden Bosch's *Calcium Chloride Tank Car DOWX 3131*.



Ronnie LaTorres *Davenport.*



## Show and Tell

Jere Ingram Brought in this nifty Freemo signaling module, these modules are inserted in a layout to provide signaling and some are only a few inches wide. There's a standard so everyone can get their signals straight.

