



# Coast Dispatcher

## #205

### September, 2019

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

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



Next Division Event: September 22, 2019

**Elks Lodge, 2255 Santa Clara Ave, Alameda, CA.**

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

9:30 AM – 12:15 PM:

Model Contest – Steam, Traction, MOW/Non-Revenue, Passenger Cars and Structures

Photo Contest – Steam Locomotives, model or prototype

Allen Fenton Timesaver Switching Contest (until 3:15)

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

9:30—10:00..... Meet with the PCR President and Vice-President

10:00 AM—12:00 Noon: Five Mini-clinics by Dave Connery, Earl Girbovan, Frank Markovich, Seth Neumann, Jesse Walden, covering a number of modeling and scenery topics

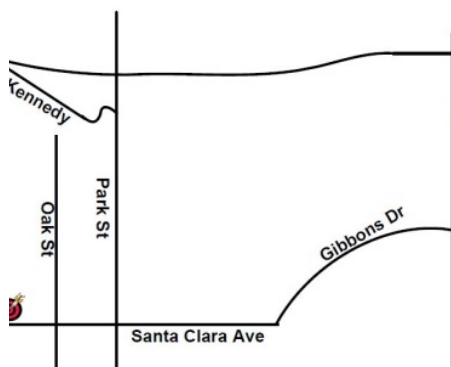
12 Noon ..... Business Meeting

~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 #39B/23rd Avenue/Alameda onto Kennedy St.

Turn right onto 23rd Ave and then bear right onto 29th which becomes Park. Turn right on Santa Clara.

From the South:

Take Highway 880 North

Take Exit 38, High St. Turn left on High St.

Bear Right on Gibbons. Turn right on Santa Clara.

The Elks Lodge is on the right just past Oak St.

There is parking in the back.

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**Coast Call Board**

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**Director's Report**  
**By Frank Markovich, MMR September, 2019**

(Editor's note: Frank is now the PCR Vice-President, and Lisa Gorrell was elected Director of the Coast Division.)

If you need or want to contact me it is best by email: [frank@frankmarkovich.com](mailto:frank@frankmarkovich.com).

Chris Palermo and I will be available at the next Coast event in September from 9:30 AM until 10:00 AM. We are trying to meet with each division at least twice a year. We have already met with the Daylight Division and have a meeting with Redwood in late September. Bring questions, concerns etc. to the discussion. I am not sure where we will meet but most likely in the clinic area.

A number of us went to the NMRA National convention in Salt Lake City and some of us won contests. We will have models and photos to show at the September meet.

You can also contact either one of us with comments or questions via email.

We have started ask a Master Model Railroader. You can submit questions and they will go to the Master Model Railroaders in the region that have agreed to participate. Just email your question to:  
[askmmr@pcrnmra.org](mailto:askmmr@pcrnmra.org)

Thanks,

Frank

**Superintendent Nominations Solicited**  
**By Dave Connery, Coast Division Nominations Chair**

Due to a family medical situation, our Superintendent, Doug Smith, has asked to be relieved of his duties. As a result, we are looking for candidates for the position of Coast Superintendent to complete the current term of office, extending from now to March 2021. We would like to hold an election for this position at the September 22, 2019 Coast Meet. If you are interested in running for this important position, or have a suggestion of someone who would make a good Superintendent, please contact Nomination Chair Dave Connery at [dgconnery@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dgconnery@sbcglobal.net)



## Superintendent's Report

### Doug Smith, September, 2019

Our most recent meet was at the Scout's in San Leandro on June 2nd. It was a busy day in many ways for me, mostly outside of model railroading. Mid-morning my wife had to go to the Emergency Room, so I missed most of the meet. Just a day visit, but in the next few weeks some other things became apparent. She is suffering from a nerve disease in the family of Parkinson's. This means that my time budget for any given day, week, month, etc., has changed. Some activities that have to change include my involvement with Coast Division. I'm going to have to step down as Superintendent.

I'll try to continue working as a 2020 Convention co-chair with Chris and Earl, and hope to see that through to a good finish. But the Sup't job was one thing that had to change. First, thanks to all of the folks who have done the many things that have to happen for a Division to function. Far too many to thank here, but if you're reading this you're probably one of those folks. It's been a lot of fun.

After announcing this at our Board of Operations meeting recently Dave Connery explained what happens next. At the following meet, September at the Elks, an election will be held for a successor. Please contact Dave if you would like a shot at this busy but rewarding job. (Ed.: See Dave's note on page 1.)

On to a quick review of the June meet. Some of this is second hand, but as right as I can get it.

**Clinics:** Before the business meeting two excellent clinics were presented by Earl Girbovan and Ray Davis. Earl presented a follow-on to his earlier LED clinic, with good new techniques as usual. Very informative and well received as you might imagine. Ray has been working with a Cricut machine, used in other hobbies to cut out multiple copies of shaped materials. Any railroad applications there? You bet. Lots of great ideas and thoughts from a well presented topic.

Looking forward to September we have a different clinic approach planned. We are going to try mini-clinics. There will be several shorter clinics rotating the audience past tables set up for each. At least that's the most current plan I've heard. These 20 minute presentations with a 5 minute shuffle time will let folks see up to 6 short clinics in the 2 hour span. This is a test run for a similar format being planned for the 2020 PCR convention. We're a little short on space to have folks be able to repeat one or more clinics if they like, but that's the future plan. If you have something that can be presented in a short time but don't want to stretch it to a full hour, give it a try. Rich Brennan is our clinic lead and he'll be happy to hear from you.

**Convention Updates:** Diamond Rails Forever in Sacramento was a success. Great clinics as you might imagine. Lots of tours and operating sessions. I sat in with the Sacramento Modular group for their evening ops session at the convention site. When you consider that every layout variation that is made changes the operating scenario, this was a pretty good trick pulled off very well. Jim Collins and his team get top marks for hosting a fun weekend. Awards included Pete Birdsong as Member of the Year for Coast Division, and Pat LaTorres receiving the John Allen Award.

Planning continues on the 2020 convention in Concord. The host site will be the Crowne Plaza Hotel. The committee membership is pretty well filled with energetic and professional Coast Division members. We just have to get everyone back from summer and pointed in the right direction !!! It should be a good one. Dates are April 30 through May 3, 2020. The web site is up and running, so make your plans soon and be there.

**Contests:** Please see Jim Eckman's report tucked in elsewhere in these pages.

*(Continued on page 5)*

**And the Auction:** Also I have to refer everyone elsewhere.

So the next Sup't report will be from a different keyboard. Thanks again everyone. 'Wish it could have lasted a little longer.

Cheers, Doug



***June Clinics, By Richard Brennan***

Come join us for something different in the way of clinics for the Coast Meet. Instead of two 1-hour long clinics, we're going to be running a series of parallel mini clinics.

The format will be:  
20 minutes of presentation  
5 minutes of Q&A  
5 minutes to go to the next clinic.

Right now we have 5 clinics planned :

- |                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| Dave Connery    | Adhesives  |
| Earl Girbovan   | Weeds, Dirt and Disrepair                        |
| Frank Markovich | Distressing Wood / Making Plastic Look Like Wood |
| Seth Neumann    | Getting Started with Eagle CAD                   |
| Jesse Walden    | 3 Sort of Easy Background trees                  |

All of these clinics run in parallel and will be presented 4 times. Think of it as someone sitting at a table presenting a technique to a small group. With 2 hours available, and 5 clinics, at most you will be able to attend 4. This allows you to choose the clinics that interest you the most.



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

Table 1

Meet in SAN LEANDRO / JUNE 2019			
Number from COAST (COA) or Hawaii (HI)		66	
Number from REDWOOD EMPIRE DIVISION (RED)		10	
Number from SIERRA DIVISION (SIE)		5	
Number from DAYLIGHT DIVISION (DAY)			
GUESTS: EDSON L., ROBIN F., ANDREA T.		3	
FIRST TIMERS: MICHAEL L.		1	
*joined this meet <u>Joined previous to this meet</u>			
<b>/TOTAL REGISTRANTS</b>		84	
JUNE 17, 2019 = renew 1YR@\$75 with NMRA magazine, \$47 without mag (no Reg mag)	CK	47	
Rail Pass (0): = \$19.95 / 6 mos: <input type="checkbox"/> CHARG / (Y)CK / (Y) CASH\$	\$	102	
New Membership(family=+\$9 per person otherwise): <input type="checkbox"/> CHARGE / <input type="checkbox"/> CHECK / <input type="checkbox"/> CASH			
<b>TOTAL MEMBERSHIP MONEY IN:</b>			
NEW Badge Request: (none)			
Past Badge request(s):			
<b><input type="checkbox"/> BADGE X \$5 EACH: TOTAL BADGE MONEY IN</b>			
		0	
UNPAID COST FOR DOOR PRIZES: (\$ 55 / REIMBURSED: YES)			
Door Prize Donations? IF SO,			
WALLET			
COPY TO PETE BIRDSOING: Y / N COPY TO DOUG SMITH/ DAN ROM June 2019			



## **Auction Report**

**By Craig Matoza**

Profit Statement from June, 2019
----------------------------------

Items Auctioned - 323	Sales - 4094.00
No Bid Count - 49	Profit - 580.00

Auction coming up in Sept will be a great auction with more items. I have sent out 300 auction cards already. Please send e mail to me for auction cards you can pickup at meet or I can send them to you.

## ***The Coast Division 50 Years Ago***

*Excerpted by Pete Birdsong*

*From Issue # 5, September, 1969, of the Coast Dispatcher*

- ⇒ *September meet at the Peninsula Model RR Club*
- ⇒ *Wade Pellizzer's collection of over 80 S. P. Diesels on display*
- ⇒ *Skip Hayden's collection of RR Post Cards on display*
- ⇒ *Clinic by Stu Ruggles on "cast Roadbeds for Quieter Operation"*
- ⇒ *Movie "A&LP Freight"*
- ⇒ *Contests for steam—freight—caboose— structures (open kit or scratch) and kit flat with load*
- ⇒ *The Coast Constitution was published as a four page insert*
- ⇒ *Proposed changes to the by-laws Article 3 were published*
- ⇒ *Notice of the 1970 Convention April 24—26 was given, and volunteers requested*
- ⇒ *Congratulations given to new PCR V. P. Eric Bracher and Tom Towner at Coast Director*
- ⇒ *Membership was 371*





## Publicity Report

By Steve Wesolowski

'Some people' say "Timing is Everything". Maybe not always, but I've noticed more often lately in MY daily reality/life, more often than not good/fun stuff seems to happen for/to me every day because I happen to be in the right place about/at the right time. Often even seconds difference is enough to make my life either continue flowing well or, really clog up, like totally, man. You may substitute your fave 'action word' for 'clog': LOL! Maybe I'm Just Lucky or Have Good Karma?

I've definitely noticed the "Timing is Everything" theory really seems to apply when I'm driving. Many times in my life, seconds or less than a foot one way or another are why I'm alive to write this today. I've only wrecked a couple vehicles in 50+ years driving, but that's still maybe more than anyone should. "Life's been good to me, so far..." (thanks, joe walsh)

Why I brought up driving? To escape the heat last week, we enjoyed an excellent movie "The Art of Racing in the Rain" . Ahhh, A/C!. Yes, I've wished to drive Formula One and/or@ LeMans since before I was licensed. That dog really understood cars, people & driving. Bring tissues if you see this fine movie. I ENJOYED it, and I cried.

You may ask What does ANY of this have to do with model railroading or publicity? HAS Steve 'lost it'? (Again?) I won't answer That question, but I couldn't find any model train shows in Coast Division until 2020. I couldn't think of anything timely to write about, in/near Coast Division.

Except the National Narrow Gauge Convention 2019 in Sacramento, September 4-7. See [nngc2019.org](http://nngc2019.org) for registration and more information. From pleasant experience I bet they likely are still looking for more volunteers. I highly recommend NNGC, and may go if I can. Most models of the hundreds you'll see are museum quality. A mostly narrow gauge modeler, I find always more clinics, layouts and models to enjoy than any other modeler event I've attended. This year, they even have scheduled events as far away at Roaring Camp in Felton. You may Come Early and Stay Late, to enjoy more train stuff before and after the convention. Go enjoy the NNGC was all I had to say, until yesterday:

My Snail Mail invitation to the 44th 2019 Good Sam Show Showcase of Miniatures, Oct. 12 & 13, Doubletree Hotel, near SJC Airport, 2050 Gateway Place, San Jose arrived! The Good Sam Show is always one of the model highlights of every year for me! It is so much more than a Model Dollhouse show. Adult Admission is only \$7, and Benefits PlaneTree Health Library. See <http://goodsamshowcase.miniature.net> for many pictures and lots more information.

You may recall I've recommended the Good Sam show before. Over 100 Dealers from around the world (including Europe, Japan and more) have their truly amazing mostly museum quality products for sale. They say it's the largest Miniature Show west of the Mississippi and I believe them. Sadly, this is the first year The Grandt Line sisters won't be dealers selling larger scale stuff.

Like model railroaders, miniaturists will model anything that interests them, real or imagined. Mainly in 1" scale, but also 1/4" & even 1:144 scale, which are 1:12 modeled inside 1:12 scale. The free display of dozens of miniature scenes in the hallway outside the show are always fun to see. As I write this, there's still time to sign up and pay to attend most of the Workshops, Friday, Oct. 11 at the Doubletree Hotel, and Monday, Oct. 14th, in Morgan Hill.

Mostly you learn how to make something in their workshops by making yourself one. In one Friday workshop, for \$120 you'll build your own snowy log cabin kit in 1/4" scale with battery operated lights and flickering wood stove, or learn Basic Soldering and Lighting Techniques in another and take all the tools home to keep soldering.

I always enjoy the Sunday 9:30 to 10:50 AM Free Tools & Techniques program, where at 6+ tables vendors demonstrate different tools and techniques. There are some children's free & \$10 workshops, a silent auction Saturday, dealer's donation

**(Continued on page 9)**



**(Continued from page 8)**

drawing Sunday, and white elephant sales both days. Of course, I always find useful stuff at the white elephant sale.

But, a Really FUN reason to attend the Good Sam Show is Holodeck 3D Studios will be there! Have you ever imagined yourself riding in the cab of a model loco you're operating, or standing on a caboose, passenger car or station platform? Well, down to 3" tall, about G scale, a Mini-You can! Look at <https://www.holodeck3dstudios.com/>

Holodeck 3D Studios will have their 3-D cameras set up in the Doubletree foyer to scan you in 3-D to create a GIF file, for \$20. The scanning fee is waived if a sculpture/figurine is purchased, for as low as \$69 for just you, or \$139 for 2 people. If a 3-D mini-you selfie interests you, visit <https://www.holodeck3dstudios.com/tips-to-make-your-3d-selfie-awesome>

I strongly recommend you check out their website before getting a selfie, because some clothing, props or poses don't scan and print as well as you may like. For example, a lantern wire handle wouldn't print enough for your selfie to hold; a model one would look better for your selfie to hold. Holodeck 3-D Studios are glad to help you get your best Mini-You. Even if you don't get a Mini-You, I hope you can enjoy the Good Sam Showcase of Miniatures Show this year.

Happy Trains to You, Until we meet again.

### Missing Emails

Next year the PCR Branchline newsletter will no longer be mailed. This and other changes to accommodate increasing expenses and the digital age mean we need an email address for you. We do not have them for the following list. If you are in the list or know someone who is, please submit your own and encourage your friends to submit theirs, so we can continue communicating with you. Thanks for your cooperation. Log in to the NMRA site (NMRA.org) and click on Member Info at the upper right. From there you can edit your member information. This will update the national database and in turn flow to the regions and divisions.

Beall	Steve	Good	Don	Nosek	Ralph
Beard	Kim	Griffin	Sally	Palmer	Jack
Beck	Bernhard	Hanson	Paul	Perry	Julie
Berio	Robert	Harrison	Jim	Randig	Alfred
Bettinger	Richard	Hunt	Ronald	Refy	Tom
Boswell	Frederick	Johnson	Ken	Richardson	R
Christiansen	L	Kane	Peter	Rogers	Kristine
Cope	Stephen	Kennedy	Kenneth	Sapienza	Anthony
Davis	Eugene	Klein	Jerry	Schwab	Mike
Davis	Stanford	Lavender	Bill	Semichy	Robert
Davis	Carole	Louie	William	Siemsen	Arnold
Dufresne	Robert	Markovich	Susie	Vartanoff	David
Dupont	George	McAskill	Bruce	Verducci	Jack
Ellis	John	McGarvey	Ellen	Weil	Richard
English	Robson	Narcisso	Joseph	Williams	Alan
Erskine	Albin	Nerelli	A	Woodworth	Robert
Franklin	Hal	Ness	Edwin	Wriedt	Jeffrey
Gillispie	James				



# 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*.  
Created by Pete Birdsong and sustained by Mike Armstrong



**Rivets:** Yo, Larry, buddy! Howya been?

**Larry:** Pretty good, but I get frustrated a lot, Rivets.

**Rivets:** Frustrated by what?

**Larry:** My time is just unmanageable, Rivets.

**Rivets:** Whattaya mean, Larry?

**Larry:** Too many things interfere with what I want to do. I'll get absorbed with somethin' I'm doin' on the layout, and I'll lose track of the fact that I drank 4 cups of coffee earlier, and just ignore Mother Nature's calls until I just can't stand it any more, and I'll resent having to take a time out when I can't put it off another second.

**Rivets:** Yeah, well, lots of luck with your problem, Larry.

**Larry:** Thanks, Rivets. What's up with you?

**Rivets:** Actually, I've got kind of a time management problem of my own. I've been experimenting with "fast time" for operatin' the layout.

**Larry:** Yeah? What kinda experiments, Rivets?

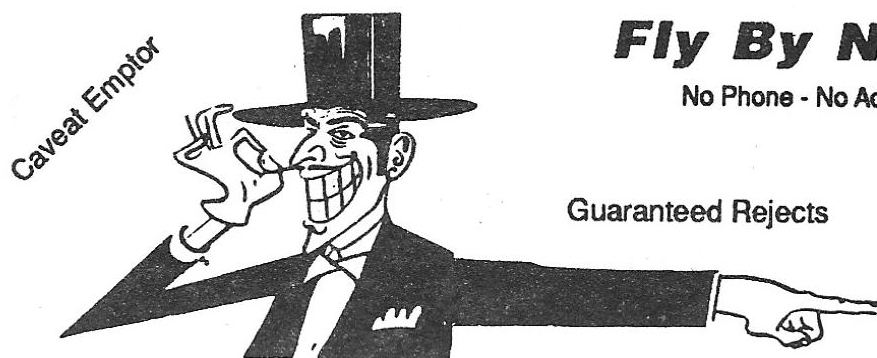
**Rivets:** I've been trying to decide between modifying a regular clock, or buying some PC software, or opting for DCC with an integrated fast time function. But my biggest problem is tryin' to decide on a ratio. I can't decide on 6 to 1, or 8 to 1 or 12 to 1, etc. You got any ideas on that, Larry?

**Larry:** I'm glad you get into all this stuff, Rivets, so I don't have to. I decided a long time ago on slow time instead of fast time. I use a 1 to 6.

**Rivets:** Slow time? What good is that?

**Larry:** It's great, Rivets. When Linda calls down to the basement and says, "Come on back upstairs, Larry; you've been down there for two hours," I can say, "Aw, honey, I've only been operatin' about 20 minutes."

**Rivets:** Get outta here.

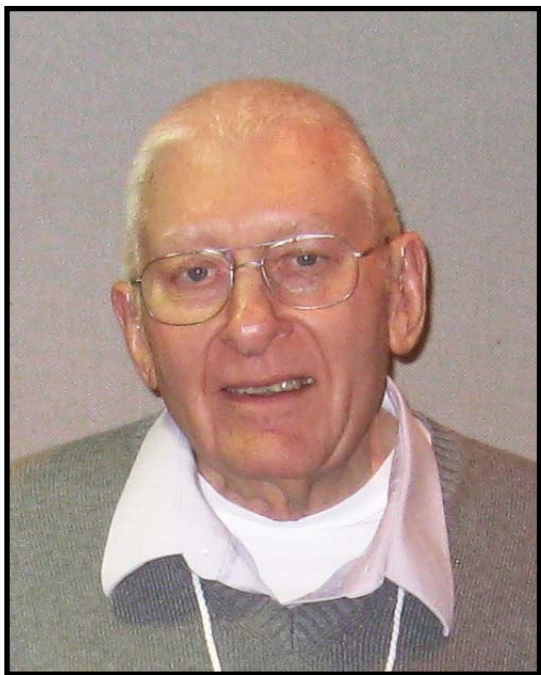


## ***Fly By Night Industries***

No Phone - No Address - No Guarantee - No Returns

Use Fly By Night  
Products  
With Confidence

A Hopelessly Owned Subsidiary of Clover House



**Russ Clover**  
**1926 - 2019**

With Russ Clover's recent passing, and given his long participation in the Coast Division, We would like to propose a special 'Russ Clover Memorial' contest for the December meet.

This would be a non-judged popular vote, for any railroad item in any scale, lettered with Clover House dry transfers.

Participants should fill out a brief description card detailing:

- Item Description (car, engine, structure, etc...)
- Clover House lettering set(s) used
- Date the model was built... (older models encouraged)
- other notes of interest.



## Editor's Notes

By Pete Birdsong

Several of the articles this month deal with transitions in the division. These are sometimes challenging and call for dealing with circumstances either unforeseen or ignored. They lead us down (or up) new pathways, and have a way of changing our outlook. I salute all those dealing with issues, problems and opportunities.

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

We had a nice turnout with a generous showing of show and tell models as well as contest entries.

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



Diesel and others  
**1<sup>st</sup> Place – Bob Wirthlin's** scratchbuilt E2 A-B-B City of San Francisco



**Other Entries:**  
**Mike Coen's** WP SD40-2



**Tom Knapp's SP Narrow Gauge Locomotive 1**



Caboose  
**No Entries**

## Display

**1<sup>st</sup> Place – Bruce Feld's Pacific Oxygen**, a very large module filled with homemade structures and details.





**Other Entries:**

**Chris Palermo's** Old Reefer Club, what to do with old freight cars!

**Freight Cars**

**1<sup>st</sup> Place – Pat LaTorres' SHPX Tank Car**



Other Entries:

Chris Palermo’s PFE Class R-30-9 Reefer, an old 1960s Ambroid kit, with upgrades.



Pat LaTorres’ PFE Ice Service Reefer





## Photo Contest – Favorite Photos

1<sup>st</sup> Place – [Richard Weil's](#) UP4014&844 May 2019

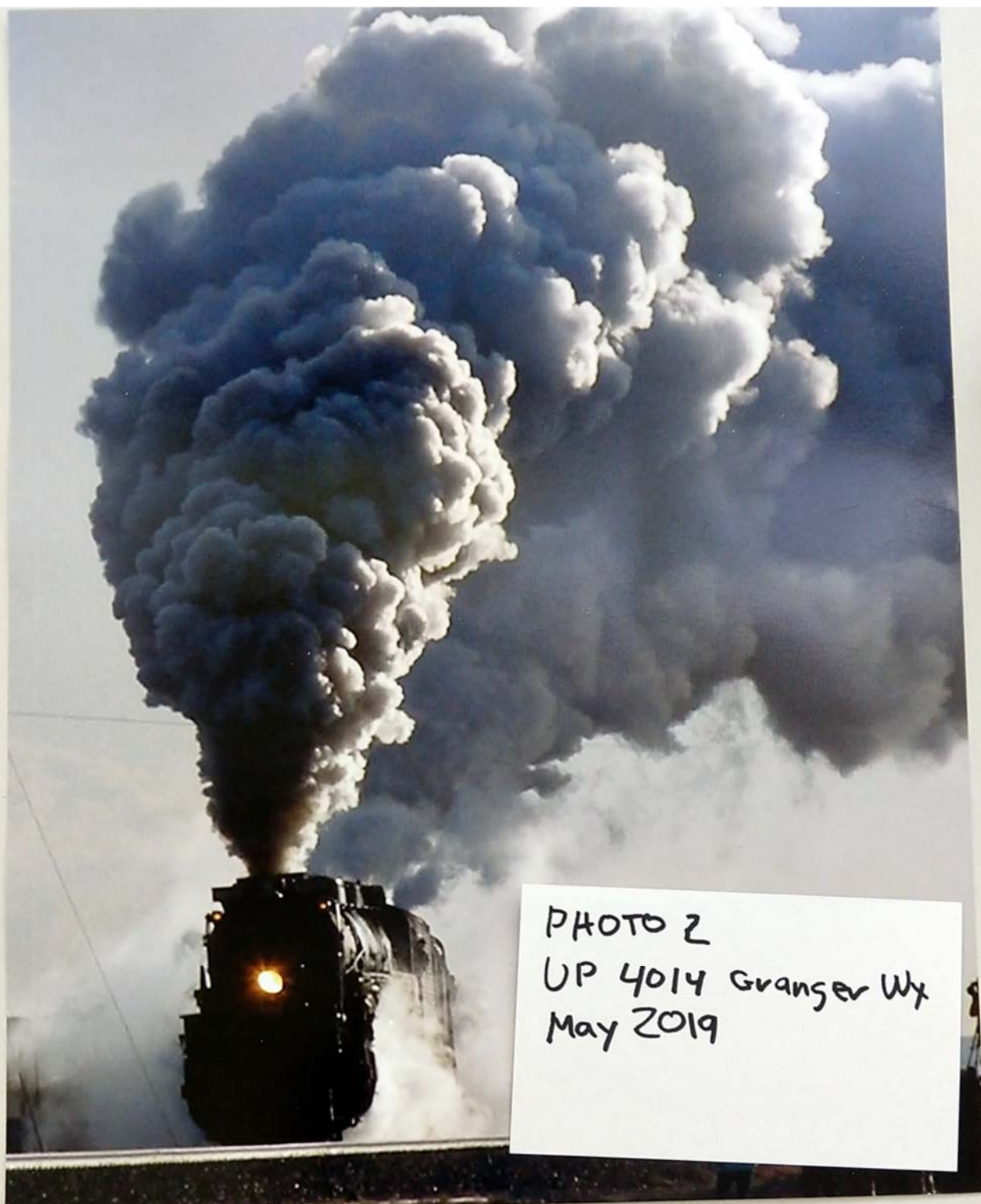
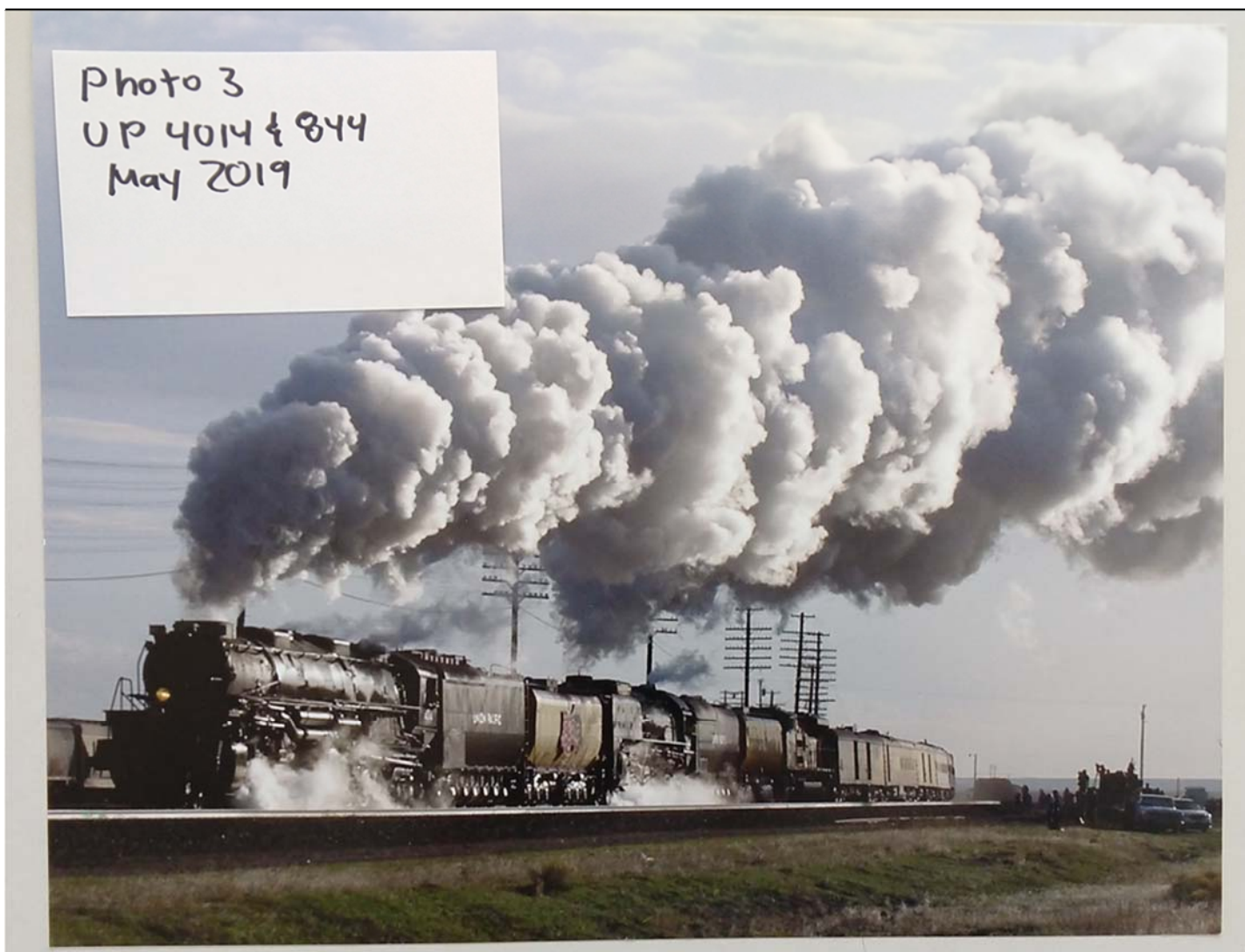


PHOTO 2  
UP 4014 Granger Wx  
May 2019

Other entries:

**Richard Weil's** *UP4014 Granger Wyoming May 2019*





Eugene Brichacek's *The Loop*



## Show and Tell

We had a fair amount of show and tell, several of our PCR members won awards at Diamond Rails and brought their contest winners and Earl Girbovan brought in a building that was a demonstration of lighting that he used for his clinic.

**Frank Markovich's** contest winner





Pat LaTorres' contest winner

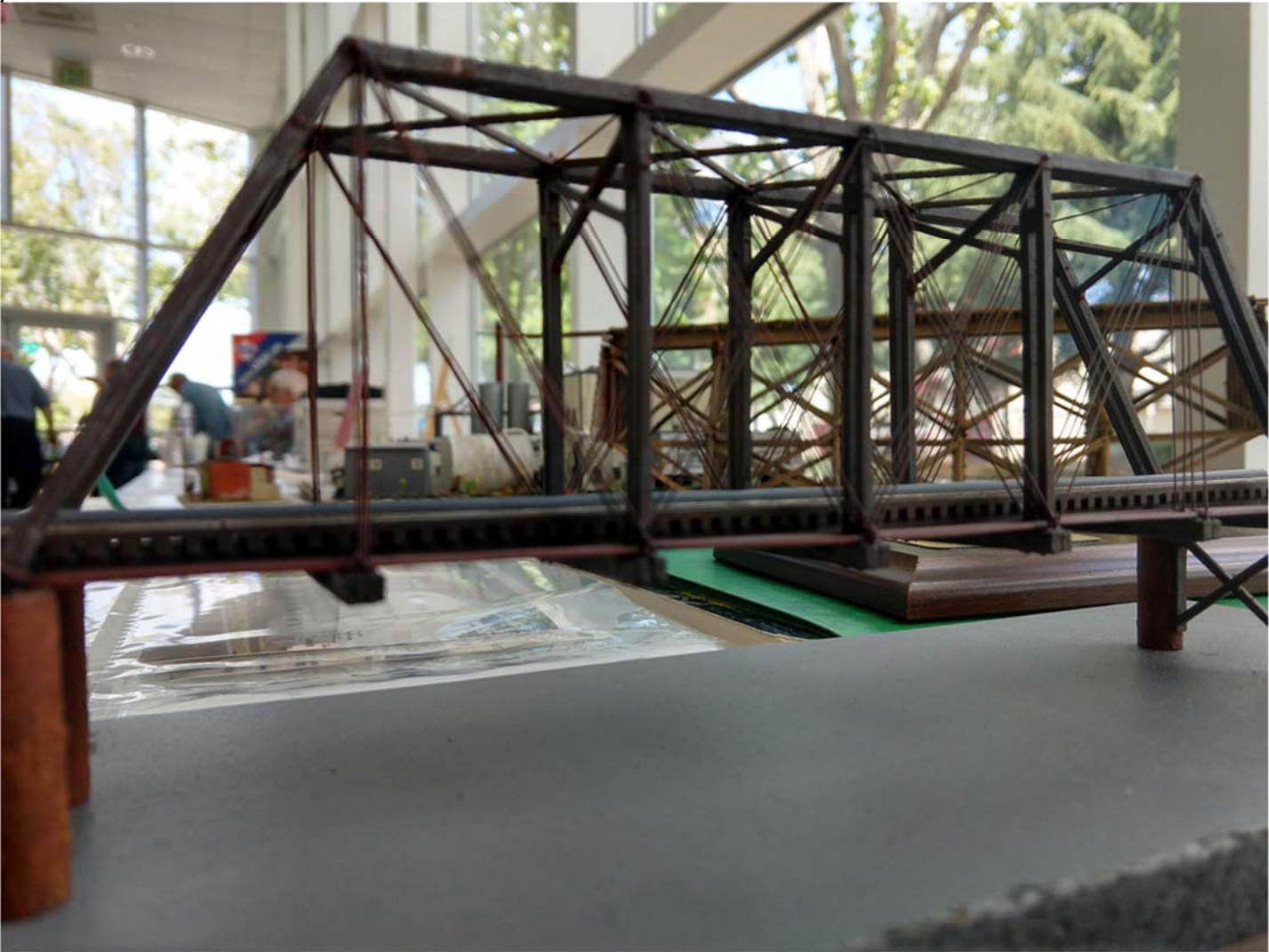




Ronnie LaTorres' contest winner



Tom Knapp's contest winner and Best of Show





Pat LaTorres' contest winning photo and Best of Show



**Earl Girbovan's** lighting demonstration model won First Pplace in Structures and the Popular Vote in Sacramento

