



## Coast Dispatcher #207

**March, 2020**

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

Click [HERE](#) for Officers, Directors and Chairpersons of the Coast Division



**1<sup>st</sup> Place ties** – Ken Martin's Sudbury Brewing on an HO MDC freight car.



**1<sup>st</sup> Place ties** – Steve Wesolowski's HO<sub>n</sub>3 Boxcar by Rail Line.



See the rest of the contest entries on pages 11 to 14. Enter **YOUR** model in this month's contest or the Show and Tell (you can show and NOT tell if you want). It's a great way to participate, and all the members will appreciate it. It's fun to see what everyone else is doing, and makes the meeting a lot more interesting.

### Next Division Event: March 1, 2020

Elks Lodge, 2255 Santa Clara Avenue, Alameda, CA. [\(MAP\)](#)

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

9:30 AM – 12:15 PM:

Model Contest -Steam, Traction, MoW/non-Passenger cars and Structures

Photo Contest – Trains in action, model or prototype

Allen Fenton Timesaver Switching Contest (until 3:15)

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

10:00 AM.....TBD

11:00 AM.....TBD

11:15 AM.....Round Table Discussion, if available.

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.

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## Vice President Frank Markovich report to the Coast Division – March 2020

It is hard to believe that it is already 2020. The PCR convention is just a few months away and already looks to be an excellent convention. As I reported last time the venue is excellent and the prices for rooms are very reasonable. I just looked at the clinics that will be presented and they look very exciting. Mike Blumensaadt and I will be doing a clinic on the layout we built for the Magic of Model Railroading. This is a demonstration layout. In our clinic, we will cover how you can build a layout yourself using the techniques we will talk about and in some cases demonstrate. The Sacramento Train Museum should have the Magic of Scale Model Railroading exhibit open sometime in February. I have seen many of the displays and I am sure you will be impressed with them.

One issue that the board is dealing with is the dwindling pool of volunteers. As most of you know the Coast Division was without a Superintendent for almost six months. Now the Daylight has a similar situation.

There are many shows coming up in the first part of this year, following are some of them:

**January 24, 25, & 26, 2020** – [Bay Area Layout Design & Operations Weekend](#),

**January 26, 2020** - 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, Model Railroad Open House, Carquinez Model Railroad Society,

**January 31, 2020** - 8:00 pm to 10:00 pm, Monthly Model Train Show, Walnut Creek Model Railroad Society Also February 28, March 14, 15.

**February 8, 2020** - 9:00 am, Sierra Division Winter Meet, Sacramento Model Railroad Historical Society – Chris Palermo and I will be at this meet to talk to members.

**February 15, 2020** - 11:00 am to 4:00 pm, Redwood Empire Division

**February 22 & 23, 2020** - 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, Great Train Show, Santa Clara County Fairgrounds

**March 7 & 8, 2020** - Sat: 10:00 am to 5:00 pm; Sun: 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, Golden Empire Historical & Modeling Society's

**March 7 & 8, 2020** - 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, Spring Model Train Show & Open House, San Leandro Historical Railway Society

**March 21 & 22, 2020** - 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, Great Train Show, Alameda County Fairgrounds

**April 17, 2020** Sierra Seminar – Sonora Senior Center.

**April 18, 2020** West Side Reunion April 18th 9:00 am until 5:00 PM. Sonora Elks Lodge located at: 100 Elk Drive, Sonora, CA 95370. Vendor tables, 5 talks, door prizes and model contest. For more information contact me [frank@frankmarkovich.com](mailto:frank@frankmarkovich.com)

Well that is all for now. Happy Model Railroading.



**Director's Report**  
**By Lisa Gorrell, MMR**  
**March, 2020**

**COAST DIVISION, PACIFIC COAST REGION, NMRA**

Upcoming this April is the region convention from April 30 to May 3 in Concord, California. I am looking forward to the convention being in our division! My favorite part of conventions is meeting up with friends from around the region and attending excellent clinics.

Part of my duties as Coast Division Director is to attend the PCR Board Meeting, which will be held from 1-5 pm on Thursday, April 30. All members are welcome to attend. If you have any issues you wish me to bring up, let me know. My contact is [snrylisa@gmail.com](mailto:snrylisa@gmail.com). I will also be at the next Coast Meet in Alameda on March 1, and would be happy to hear your issues or concerns.



## Superintendants Report By Phil Edholm March, 2020

This is more of an introduction than a report. I was asked to “run” for the role and agreed, so, here we are. My primary reason for accepting was I was told that the Coast Division includes Hawaii so I assumed I would need to make a least one inspection trip. I did add a bit about my modeling at the end of this note.

One thing I have done is to set up a groups.io group for the Coast Division. This will allow us to

have a much closer communications channel for a range of things. From coordinating clinics to arranging open houses it will enable topic-based communications. If you want to find someone locally to help with a project or start a round-robin group, start a topic. Go to [www.groups.io](http://www.groups.io) and search for NMRA Coast Division. It is moderated and will be limited to Coast Division membership. Unless we get a fairly large sign-up it will not be worth using.

After our first Board get together in January (not a quorum, so not a meeting), we focused a discussion about the financial challenges of our quarterly meets. While the average total sales value of the auction is flat to declining, the rental charges for facilities that are adequate to hold a 3-400 item auction are increasing. For example, the Elks rental is almost double what it was in the past. For the first time in Bob’s memory we may have a budget deficit in 2020. No reason for alarm, we do have adequate reserves for 2020 and there are no planned changes in the meeting/auction structure and timing at this point. However, the board will develop options for future financial balance and share with the Coast Division membership. Together we need to decide the best path forward.

The second area we talked about were clinics. The number and skill of modelers in the Coast Division is amazing. And we have had some great clinics, but recently have been challenged to get clinics set up, especially attracting new clinicians. Each of us has some skills that they can share, especially in the days of DCC and computers. Please drop Richard Brennan an email if you have a clinic topic to propose.

I look forward to meeting anyone I have not met at the March 1<sup>st</sup> meet at the Alameda Elks. Let me know what you think, what is important to you. If not, I will be at the PCR and national NMRA conventions this year.

Model Railroader: As most of you, I started my model railroad careers at a young age, with a Lionel 4-6-2 that at some point became an 0-6-0. My career blossomed with a 4x8 sheet of plywood hinged from the wall in the shed with a loop of HO track and three switches. That lasted until girls. After all, it was the 70s’s.

I returned as my children grew and we moved into a house that could support a railroad. I joined the Niles club and built a 10x12 room layout based on the Sierra Railway (HO standard gauge, small steam). It got to 80% operating and 30% scenery (OK, 50/10%) when work and home rudely intruded. In the mid-90s I joined a large tech company and found myself in a lead role. For the next 15 years I was on a 90 hour week/50%+ travel work life. That and a move to Pleasanton killed model railroading. Tearing out the layout and putting the pieces in a storage cube was very difficult and became an emotional block as well. Around 2014 I went to a train show and met the California Central Coast On30 modular folks. I liked the concept of both On30/modular and the CCC modelers, so I started hanging around. I eventually built a 2x6 module that I brought to a Coast Division meet a while back. I am now building my 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> modules, a combined re-imagining of Moss Landing with a dredged harbor in 1917 and 12 car spots for operations. The CCC On30 will be set up in the ballroom at the PCR Conference in Concord in April. We will be offering on-demand operating/switching on the modular layout. Stop by and check out some of our new modules. Being part of the CCC led to joining the ACCRS club in Pleasanton on the O layout side. The move to O was to focus on improving the layout at the Alameda County Fairgrounds and the eyes. With about 70 thousand visitors every year it is a great representation of model railroading. I am serving a second term as VP for the ACCRS. We are dealing with the issue there of a fairground that is moving from a rural cultural center to a major events center and the model railroad and current building do not fit into the long-range strategy.

I enjoy all aspects of modeling. I generally model California narrow gauge (with license), but also like WP/SP both in transition and more modern. I have been trying operations and find it to be both interesting and challenging. My focus at this point is in building modules and equipment for the CCC On30 and some new projects in Pleasanton. More than enough to keep busy.



No t Available..

***Richard Brennan***  
***December Clinics***

## **WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS**

This month we welcome new member

**Fred Sauer,**

who joined February 1. Fred, we hope to see you at the March meeting, and hope you will introduce yourself to several of us and get acquainted with people in the division with similar interests in the hobby.



**Registrar's Report  
By Ronnie LaTorres**

Meet in SAN LEANDRO / DEC 2019		
Number from COAST (COA) or Hawaii (HI)		57
Number from REDWOOD EMPIRE DIVISION (RED)		3
Number from SIERRA DIVISION (SIE)		1
Number from DAYLIGHT DIVISION (DAY)		
GUESTS: JOHN B., ROBIN F., GIOVANNI R., TONY S., GUEST OF FRANK M.		5
FIRST TIMERS: (NONE)		0
*joined this meet <u>Joined previous to this meet</u>		
<b>/TOTAL REGISTRANTS -----</b>		<b>61</b>
JUNE 17, 2019 = renew 1YR@\$75 with NMRA magazine, \$47 without mag (no Reg mag) CK		0
Rail Pass (0): = \$19.95 / 6 mos: ( )CHARG / (Y)CK / (Y) CASH \$		0
New Membership(family=+\$9 per person otherwise): ( )CHARGE / ( )CHECK / ( )CASH		0
<b>TOTAL MEMBERSHIP MONEY IN: -----</b>		<b>0</b>
NEW Badge Request: (2) MARK, ANNA POGGENDORF (STILL)		
Past Badge request(s):		
<b>(2) BADGE X \$5 EACH: TOTAL BADGE MONEY IN</b>		<b>0</b>
UNPAID COST FOR DOOR PRIZES: (\$50 / REIMBURSED: YES)		0
Door Prize Donations? YES// IF SO, WHAT ___ CASH- \$3_____		3



## **Auction Report**

### **By Craig Matoza**

December 8 2019 Auction

Items in auction..... 336

Items No bid.....76

Items that sold .....260

Last auction had some great items in auction in Dec. We are looking forward for more great trains at next auction At Elks Club.

Please ask for auction card in an email if possible. Cards can be picked up day of meet or send auction cards to you 1 weeks prior to auction.

Please bring stuff your not using anymore or changing motive power and auction stuff off. All in good fun and club has a chance to carry on.

sandman2297@yahoo.com

Thanks  
Craig M

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

*Excerpted by Pete Birdsong*

*From Issue #7, March, 1970, of the Coast Dispatcher*

- ⇒ ***Held at the Lockwood Model Railroad Club in Sunnyvale***
- ⇒ ***Diesel Switching Clinic by Milt Soronsen***
- ⇒ ***Traction Display by Jim Tangnoy***
- ⇒ ***Door prizes: HO mine building, spikes; O boxcar kit: N Atlas Diesel loco; All Scale Alco diesel book***
- ⇒ ***Next Contest: all categories of kits***
- ⇒ ***First place contest winners wer Bob Silverin, Jim Tanguay, jim Kennedy, Bob Silverin and Frank Slater***
- ⇒ ***The third annual Coast Banquet was scheduled for March 21 at the Red Coach Inn, Cupertino***
- ⇒ ***The ;ast auction had 255 items, 205 sold for \$958.50, netting \$95.85 for the division***



## Publicity Report

By Steve Wesolowski

December, 2019

Happy New Year/New Decade!  
Welcome to the Roaring 2020's!  
GTS returns to Coast Division!

The Great Train Show returns to Santa Clara County Fairgrounds Saturday, 2/22/2020 & Sunday, 2/23/2020, 10AM - 4PM, 344 Tully Road, San Jose 95111. As usual, a few Coast Division volunteers plan to staff NMRA table(s) at the show, trying to recruit members.

I started volunteering at the 2000 Pleasanton show after I resumed model railroading and NMRA after 32 years. Coast Division volunteers have been at most train shows before I started. During nearly 20 years as Coast Publicity Volunteer, there've many discussions why few NMRA members join/rejoin at train shows, and few volunteer for train shows. Some reasons: model railroading and people who like trains are always changing.

At 20 years of shows, we've tried many different ways to recruit. What seems to work best is when two people talk. The noise level at train shows makes talking difficult. but when someone stops to talk with someone modeling, conversations often last awhile. We should recognize it take time to explain to anyone why/how they'll benefit from NMRA membership enough to join: explaining why we are members takes time. I've noticed that longer conversations more often occur during/watching modeling.

Although I enjoy the Timesaver, at train shows it mainly 'babysits' kids, who can be rough and don't sign up for NMRA memberships! Timesaver also requires at least one volunteer most of the show, whose time & energy may be better used explaining why they are an NMRA member. So, for the San Jose train show, let's not have a Timesaver -- unless enough people want to volunteer to run it.

Similarly, because of considerable effort needed to transport, set up, take down and transport, let's not set up the Build a Memory display-- unless enough people want to volunteer to staff that.

Instead, volunteers are encouraged to bring modeling project(s), like painting figures, making trees, building models: any project(s) that don't need too much table space. When volunteers aren't working on their project(s), they're encouraged to talk with anyone watching modeling. Train people enjoy watching train modeling, they ask questions, learn & see how much fun modeling is.

Please email me about what/if you plan to model, so we can plan our room, or if you need electrical power.

So far, I think Jesse Walden plans to make trees Saturday morning/early afternoon, I plan to bring projects to work on, Tom Vanden Bosch has brought projects to other shows.

Volunteers are NOT required to bring projects to work on: there are always questions to be answered, they're usually easy questions about how to get started in model railroading, from new or returning model railroaders at all skill levels.

Volunteers take turns taking breaks to see the show. Volunteers enjoy free admission to GTS for volunteering at the NMRA tables: parking is not free.

Currently, I'm unable to attend the Pleasanton show. Currently we still need more volunteers to have enough. Sometime after the San Jose train show, likely at the March Coast Meeting, we should know IF we have enough volunteers to adequately staff the March GTS in Pleasanton, @ Alameda County Fairgrounds, on March 21 & 22, 10AM - 4PM.

If you are interested in Volunteering for either show or if you have any questions, email me at [swezzATcomcastDOTnet](mailto:swezzATcomcastDOTnet) , talk to me at the San Jose train show or the March Coast Division meeting.

Steve Wesolowski  
Coast Division Publicity Volunteer





# 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



## “The Test Bench”

**Larry:** Hey, Rivets, howya doin’?

**Rivets:** Pretty good, Larry; how ‘bout you?

**Larry:** Great! Whatcha doin’?

**Rivets:** I’ve been testin’ and tunin’ my engines, Larry.

**Larry:** Sounds like work. How do you go about it, Rivets?

**Rivets:** It ain’t work, Larry. I put ‘em on my test bench and run ‘em through the tests. You do have a test bench, don’tcha?

**Larry:** Well, uh, sure, Rivets. Whatcha got on yours?

**Rivets:** Just a few things, Larry – a test track with a power supply, voltmeter, ammeter, ohmmeter, scale, oscilloscope, dynamometer, radio i s o t o p e t r a n s p o n d e r, metallurgy stress inducer – what about you?

**Larry:** Uh....same as you.

**Rivets:** Really?

**Larry:** Naw, not really. I’ve never even heard of some of the things you said, Rivets. Are you serious?

**Rivets:** Not really, Larry. I’ve got some of those things, but some I just made up. But seriously, how do you test your engines?

**Larry:** I put ‘em on the track, and if they run, they pass. Whatta you do?

**Rivets:** Mainly I check to see if they need a little lubrication, but I usually also weigh ‘em and check their pullin’ power with a scale, and their amperage at various voltages, like the product reviews in some of the magazines.

**Larry:** That’s interestin’, Rivets. Whatta you do with all that information?

**Rivets:** I keep it in a log, Larry, and calculate how many cars the engines can pull. How do you figure that?

**Larry:** I hook up as may as I want, and if it won’t pull ‘em, I add another engine, or take off some cars.

**Rivets:** How’d we ever get to be friends, Larry?

**Larry:** I dunno, Rivets, but that’s the great thing about this hobby, when two people as different as you and me can be friends, right?

**Rivets:** Yeah, but sometimes you just make me wanna cry, Larry.

**Larry:** Go ahead, Rivets, it’ll do you good



## Editor's Notes

By Pete Birdsong

You may have noticed some changes to the front end of the Dispatcher:

- Pictures of a model and photo from the last meeting
- Elimination of the map and directions and inclusion of a link to an on line map
- Elimination of the Call Board and inclusion of a link to it.

This should make for a more interesting front page and quicker access to the articles. I'd appreciate knowing what you think/

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. Let me know if you're interested.

Thanks.

*Pete*



## Model and Photo Contest Report December 8, 2020

Jim Eckman

March, 2020

This issue includes the regular model contest, Show and Tell, and The Special Russell Clover Contest. Best of show was a tie between Ken Martin and Craig Matoza, these were models or photos with the highest vote total in a competitive contest. These are shown on the front page.

## Model and Photo Contest Report December 8th, 2018

Jim Eckman

## Clover House Transfers Special Contest

1<sup>st</sup> Place – Ken Martin's Sudbury Brewing on an HO MDC freight car. One of Russ' funnier transfers.



## Other entries:

Steve Wesolowski's OR&L boxcar an HOn3 kit by Aztek and others, Doubles as a track cleaner.



Jim Eckman's Central Pacific boxcar, a modified, very old school O scale boxcar kit.



Diesel and others, Caboose, Display

No entries.

Freight Cars

1<sup>st</sup> Place – Steve Wesolowski's HO3 Boxcar by Rail Line.



## Show and Tell

Earl Girbovan brought in a Foundry kit he built.



I brought a T-Trak module I had built with a few structures.

