



Coast Dispatcher #208

June, 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



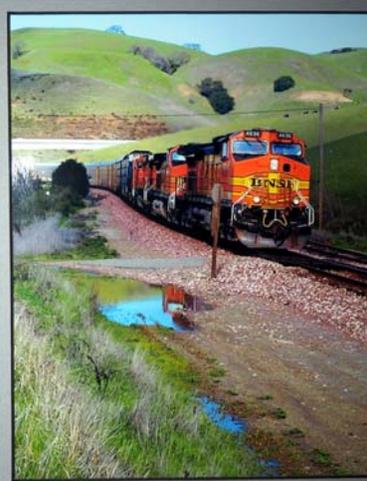
NO JUNE MEETING

Be sure to join the virtual meetings on Saturday nights. See the Superintendent's remarks and the website for this and the latest news about the Corona virus impacts on Division events and planning.

1st Place Steam— Mark Schutzer's ESPEE C-9



1st Place Photo – Pat LaTorres' Franklin Canyon



See the rest of the contest entries on pages **11 to 13**.

Now, during the shelter orders, is a great time to work on models and photos for our next meeting, or to exhibit in virtual meetings.

There will be no postcards mailed after May. You need to have an email address for future notices. *If you are not receiving emails from the Coast Division now, add or correct your email address at nmra.org in the Member Info section (you'll need to sign in), or contact Bob Ferguson, who will do it for you:*

Phone: 925-228-6833; Email: BobPCRCDA@aol.com; 530 Fig Tree Lane Martinez, Ca 94553

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- Announcements about future meetings and other communications will use only emails and the web site.
- If you don't have an email or access to the web, call a friend or board member for updates

More Information

- o At the July video board meeting, the board will consider future physical Divisional events based on state and local guidelines.
- o During the Covid-19 crisis, the Coast Division has established a weekly video meeting and is exploring other virtual events, including clinics, tours, or other features and content.
- o We are exploring options for future meeting structures and organizations for distancing and options for the auction, etc.
- o All these ideas are exploratory at this point. As future decisions are made we will communicate via email and the web site:

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Vice President Frank Markovich
Report to the Coast Division – June 2020

At this time I was looking forward to the PCR in Concord, not only was that cancelled but West Side Reunion, Sierra Seminar, O Scale West, the NMRA national and who knows what else. I am looking forward to when this is over. For West Side and the Sierra Seminar the plans will come out in the Fall of this year. The PCR next year will be in Fresno and should be a great convention. I expect lots of models.

I have tried to look into doing online clinics and they may still happen. If they do we will let you know. But, there are lots of clinics online at the NMRA site that you can watch in the comfort or your confinement (prison – or whatever you call this sheltering in place). There are also some excellent YouTube videos for both modeling and prototype viewing. I have been doing more and more of that.

Both my wife, Susie, and I have found it difficult to get anything done, we are just lazy during this time. I have started one model and am doing some work on my layout but not as much as I had hoped to do.

While judging for the Achievement Awards can't be accomplished at this time, it would be an ideal time to work on paperwork. I know a number of you only have to do the paperwork in order to qualify for awards. For scenery, you could set up a zoom meeting where you show off your layout. It could even work for civil engineering. I would be happy to judge and am sure that I could get others to help. We have to be creative during this shutdown.

Frank



Director's Report
By Lisa Gorrell, MMR
June, 2020

Due to the Covid-19 and the cancellation of the PCR Convention, we met virtually as a board. The biggest concern was the declining membership but no decisions were made on how to solve that. More virtual meetings are being considered for the Region, and our Coast virtual meetings were highlighted.

The Annual Meeting will be held virtually as well on May 29 at 1 pm. More details about how to attend are explained elsewhere in the Dispatcher. A quorum of 30 members is needed, so please consider attending. The Coast Division Member of the Year will be announced.



Superintendents Report By Phil Edholm June, 2020

Who knew model railroading could save your life? Model railroaders tend to be known as weird folks who spend lots of time in their basements or garages building all sorts of funny stuff. In other words, model railroading has always kind of been a bit like sheltering in place or even social distancing.

But we model railroaders do enjoy socializing together about trains, railroads in general, our

models and operations. While a big part of model railroading is the individual pursuit of hobby goals, the social aspects of the hobby, whether during a club event, a round robin, a modular group, a convention, an open house, or an operating session, model railroading is a very social hobby. And unfortunately, the Covid-19 outbreak has driven a wedge between our social activities and promises to for some time to come.

Before I talk more about the division, our virtual events now and plans for the future, I would like to do a shout out to all of the local hobby shops in our division. We feel for you in this time and we want to support you and your businesses. I know many of our local hobby shops are still open for orders/pick-up and some are even delivering. For our members, please support your local hobby shop. Call them up, they can order things for you and save shipping costs on many orders. It is a great time to order a new engine or a DC upgrade. Having local hobby shops that carry model railroading supplies as more than a three-foot-wide rack in a craft store is critical for new entrants into the hobby and for us experienced modelers as well. If we all buy \$50 worth of products from our local hobby shops next week, they will really appreciate it, and you will get something new for your modeling!

As you have no doubt heard, the Coast Division Board decided in late April to cancel the June meeting. This was based on three factors, governor Newsome's comments about large gatherings through the summer (we had 97 at our last event), the Scouts not being open and not contacting us, and an abundance of caution due to the average age of the Coast Division membership. Based on the available data, the Board concluded there is no reasonable way to have any face to face meetings during the summer. We agreed to revisit physical events at the upcoming July Board Meeting, and to stop sending postcards announcing meetings after a final one in May to make sure all members have a good email with the NMRA and to provide Covid-19 info to the members.

Based on the available data, we concluded the earliest we could resume a face to face event is in the fall. The board will consider at the July Board Meeting whether a Divisional event is possible under the health orders that are in place at that time and whether we have a facility available that can accommodate us based on social distancing requirements that may be in effect at that point. To accommodate 50 people in a room with a minimum of 6-foot social distancing becomes a large room. Unfortunately, there are so many variables that it is difficult to define today what the options may be in September or October. For example, an outdoor event may be more feasible than an indoor event. The Coast Division Board will provide an update after the July meeting and will provide any new information available.

In the interim, the model railroad community has responded by providing a range of virtual social events to attend. Those events are listed in the newsletter. We have a regular Coast Division/PCR Meetup on Saturdays. This meetup can be found on the PCR groups.io site. Also, several clubs and other NMRA groups are having meetups.

Finally, I hope all the Coast Division members are taking advantage of this prolonged isolation to do wonderful modeling. When we do get the opportunity to have a face to face event, we will have to have a Corona-model contest to see what was built during the virus shelter time. I expect to see some great work that was done without all the distractions.

Finally, I would like to extend the thanks of the entire division to Tom Van den Bosch. Tom served for 20 years as the publisher of the Dispatcher and printed our postcards and announcements. Now that we have gone all

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

digital, he can finally retire and model in peace. Seriously, thank you Tom for all your years of contribution. It is volunteers like you that are the backbone of the NMRA.

Stay Safe and see you on-line by video, Phil

Clinic information not available.

COAST LAYOUT TOUR SIGNS

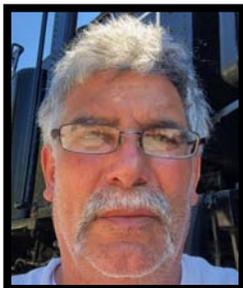
In preparation for the now cancelled 2020 PCR Convention additional signs for use by Layout Hosts were needed (Yes we have a number of layouts in Coast Division that have never been on a Layout Tour!) Coast Division picked up the cost of some hard ware and paint and most of the materials were donated by Bill Gibson, Phil Edholm, Mike O'Dorney, Pete Birdsong and Dave Connery. Thanks to these members and some physical help from Rod Smith, Dan Rom and Brian Booth building the signs we now have a supply of layout tour signs to use once we are able to again schedule a layout tour weekend or as a part of future Coast Meets/Conventions.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

This month we welcome, on behalf of the Coast Division Board and the entire membership, new members

Robert Rosenbauer and Eva Grubbs

who joined May 1. Robert and Eva, we apologize that current conditions preclude meeting you in person, but we hope to see you at a future 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.



Auction Report **By Craig Matoza**

March 2020 Auction

March 1 2020 Auction. Elks Club

Items in auction..... 321 Items No bid.....54 Items that
sold321 Totals of Auction 321...3680.....Profit.....1276.10

Due to the current stay in place, We have canceled auction in June. The club at this time is putting virtual meeting together until all shelter in place and gatherings are gone. There are a lot of ideas to keep things going with clinics up coming via internet. Not sure when next auction will be, I will be ready with bid cards to distribute.

Happy rail roading for now.

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 (June issue not in the archives)

- ⇒ ***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 were 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 ;last auction had 255 items, 205 sold for \$958.50, netting \$95.85 for the division***



Publicity Report

By Steve Wesolowski

June, 2020

Longtime readers know this isn't my first publicity report & I've little or nothing to publicize, LOL. Although I'm certain many of us have speculated silently and/or out loud (virtually) to ourselves & others about when, where & what in-person live model railroading social events will become, all I'll say is, when we have something, I'll help/publicize/attend it.

Meanwhile, as others have already urged us, we might do more modeling so we'll have more cool stuff to share when we can gather again & share more of what we enjoy modeling.

Alone more lately and more on-line, I find no end of virtual photographic & video creative inspiration, along with more materials, kits, tools, etc. still available. Duh! Although I already had enough projects to keep me busy for years, I've found a few more I just had to have. Finding/acquiring more model projects doesn't surprise me, but some new obstacles/excuses I have for not starting/finishing them right away have.

As I spend more time home under virtual house arrest, I'm finding even more chores I want/don't want/must/need to do which all take more time, including: trapping/disposing of 3 rats in 8 days, shopping safely even for food takes longer, washing hands lots more often, etc. ad nauseam: you get it. We all get only 24 hrs/day; many are more efficient using theirs than I. I'm a creative guy with several/many hobbies, so I daydream more than most: that takes time. Like most hobbyists, I've too much stuff ("possibilities"). To start any projects, first I'm sorting through stuff I want to donate or sell to get rid of, NOW! But no place is accepting donations. So, I 'temporarily' move unwanted stuff around to get anything done. It's much less efficient.

So, what's my point? You are not alone. Many/most of us have real problems which can/do/should interfere with modeling daily. Please, don't give up. Although we are currently apart, we are/can be together using email, zoom, posts, texts, telephone— to help each other if we get stuck working on something or just want to hear a friendly voice. We may not agree on everything, but we'll always enjoy talking about trains. So, reach out and say "Hi!", even if All you want/need to talk about is just trains. Trains are something we all can agree on, mostly. ;-)

Happy Trains to You, Until we Meet again! ;-)



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 A.P. Program”

Larry: Hey, Rivets, what's up?

Rivets: Nothin' much, Larry. How's by you?

Larry: I've been strugglin' with the AP program, Rivets.

Rivets: How's that, Larry? I've got a couple of certificates. Maybe I can help.

Larry: There's just not a certificate for my specialty, Rivets. It's frustratin', spendin' a lot of time and money on somethin', and not gettin' any recognition for it.

Rivets: What specialty do you mean, Larry?

Larry: I'm talkin' about BUYIN' stuff, Rivets. Here I've accumulated all these engines and rolling stock and structures, and I can't get a single credit for any of it.

Rivets: But you haven't DONE anything to 'em, Larry! The structures ain't even on your layout. In fact, you haven't even put 'em together yet. They're still in the boxes, just sittin' on shelves.

Larry: So what! I BOUGHT 'em, didn't I? And some-day I'm gonna build 'em, Rivets. Honest! So why can't I get some kind of certificate?

Rivets: Well, maybe you're right, Larry. The Achievement Program probably needs a certified idiot award.

Larry: You're hurtin' me, Rivets!

Rivets: Just kiddin', Larry. How 'bout if I give you a hand buildin' some of those kits, to get you started?

Larry: That'd be great, Rivets. When can we begin?

Rivets: Right now, ol' buddy. Get 'em out, and get out the glue, and some clamps, paint, etc.



Editor's Notes

By Pete Birdsong

What a change since the last issue! No clinics. No contests. No auction. No MEETING! About all that's left is the newsletter and the web site. But we adapt. Phil has been very creative in trying new venues to keep us all together. I appreciate his efforts and those of the entire board to this end, especially since I'm in the group the most at risk (81 and compromised immune system), as many of us in the division are.

And at least we have a hobby that allows us to continue to enjoy it, even in isolation. I've made some good progress on fixing gremlins on my layout, and consequently enjoying running it all the more. I hope you all are adapting well.

I'd like to add my thanks to Tom Van den Bosch for his service as Publisher for the Dispatcher over the last twenty years. You've been very helpful to me during these last few, Tom.

Thanks.

Pete



Model and Photo Contest Report December 8, 2020

Jim Eckman

March, 2020

This is my last report as contest chair, it's been an interesting six plus years though I suspect the rest of this year will be far more challenging. We had a fair turnout of models and photos, they were all excellent.

Model and Photo Contest Report March 2020

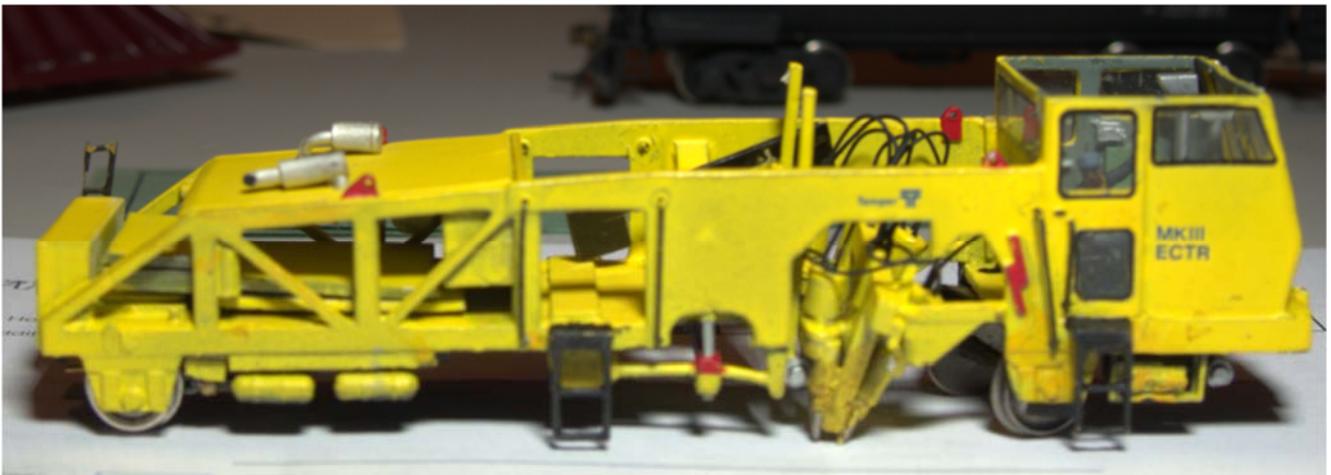
Jim Eckman

Other Entries: Steven Wesolowski's 1:24 HLW Princess #2, a bitsa locomotive that Steve repaired.



MOW/Non-Revenue

1st Place – Bob Wirthlin's MOW Track Leveller and Tamper, a modern car.



Passenger

1st Place – Bob Wirthlin’s Pullman “Chinatown”, City of San Francisco, lighted with a fully detailed interior, lovely.



Other Entries: Robert Kessler’s PRR Parlor Car “Jenny Lind”, there was interior detail and the painting and lettering nicely done.



Structures

1st Place – Bob Wirthlin’s scratchbuilt copy of SP station Dunsmuir, ca. 1939, an inspirational model.



Other Entries: Steve Wesolowski's Hardware Store, ca. 1890, a Timberline kit that was a basket case that Steve fixed up. I love these old structures.



Chris Palermo's AT&SF Hermosa Beach Station, reimagined as SP. Built up from a Microtech kit, it's a delightful little model.



Photo Contest – Train in Action, Model or Prototype

Other Entries: Jeffrey Klurfield Jr.'s *Capitol Corridor Arriving in Martinez*



Show and Tell

Nothing this time