



## Coast Dispatcher #210

**December, 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 DECEMBER MEETING

No regular Coast Divisions meetings can be held under current government regulations and PCR guideline. In the interim, the Coast Division Saturday Morning Virtual Events will meet every other Saturday at 9 AM.

**PHOTOS: None this time.**

### Editor's Notes



Without meetings, auctions or contests to report on, the newsletter will again be leaner than usual. As before, this would be a great time for you to contribute your model photos (please include a caption) or articles. Tell us what you've been doing to adjust to the confinement, what you're working on, etc.

Thanks.  
Pete Birdsong

### Vice President Frank Markovich

#### Report to the Coast Division – December 2020



A few things:

I did a live hands on clinic. I think we want to try more of them. For anyone doing a Zoom clinic, I could give some advice. Just contact me. It was on "Weathering" with an emphasis on wood and metal.

Highlights of the PCR Board meeting: Board approved insurance policy for officers. Chris will be running for a National position. If elected the Board will have to choose a new President.

Lots of discussion on what to do if we are still under lockdown to serve you.

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For the NMRA national in Santa Clara, I am co-chair for clinics so any ideas would be welcome.

Frank

**A couple of tips:**

- **FLOQUI DRIFTWOOD** Here is a dead ringer substitute for Floquil Driftwood. I have used it and it is very close if not exact. Driftwood formula. Can you imagine 2.5 quarts (yes, I said quarts, not ounces) of Driftwood stain for under 20 bucks? Start with 1 qt of Sherwin Williams "Pickled White" Interior Wood Oil Stain Wood Classic." Have the following tint added: W1-20 B1-16 Y3-11 Y1-2 The only requirement is that the Sherwin Williams outlet you get this from must have the computerized mixing setup.

- **WOOD WRECKERS**

**METHOD ONE**

First experiment was to chuck 5 blades in a vice grip. This worked well as long as the grip was tightened up significantly.

Then did something similar with 5 blades – bolted them together – epoxy over the non blade end. Modified a handle – wood handle drilled out to the size just over the end of the blades. Epoxy on the blades to handle. Used this for years – did every tie on my home layout with this.

Handle was great as it allowed me to work very fast.

Note – use safety glasses when doing this technique.

I finally broke a blade – after doing the entire layout when working on an individual module.

I have also modified an hobby knife tool to do the same. My son did this in school for a class invention project.

Whatever you do dip the handle in something to provide a grip.

The Maple Leaf Mafia Narrow Gauge modeling group in the Toronto area came up with a neat tool for scribing and distressing wood for structures and for railway ties. A description with my modifications is on the next slide. I have made at least 10 over the years.

**METHOD TWO**

Start with a 6 to 8 inch length of rectangular brass tubing by K&S or Special Shapes Co. It needs to measure 5/32" x 5/16" outside dimensions. Use #11 X-Acto knife blades. Some recommend using old blades – I have found that new blades really work best. You can buy blades in large quantities.

The shafts of exactly 6 blades will be an extremely tight fit inside the opening of the rectangular tubing. Use a block of wood or Masonite to force the blades inside the tubing, until they are firmly seated. I tape the ends together (point side). Be extremely careful - those blades are still sharp!! They can go flying so wear safety glasses when doing this!!!! If you are nervous about the blades coming out, use a couple drops of ACC or epoxy to freeze them in the shaft. Now wrap the tubing with something to prevent the edges from hurting your hands. I dipped the handle in the rubber goop they sell at Home Depot for tool handles.

To use the tool, simply scribe in the direction of the grain. Because of the six

blades, one pass will 'grain' an On3 tie, and the lines are perfectly parallel.

Swerve the tool, or make a curved pass to get some variety. Around knot holes make sure that you swerve it appropriately.

You can also use the back of the blades for a variety.

You could also make a tool with a blade then a spacer etc. to get blades further apart.

If you are nervous about the blades coming out, use a couple drops of ACC or epoxy to freeze them in the shaft.

Now wrap the tubing with something to prevent the edges from hurting your hands. I dipped the handle in the rubber goop they sell at Home Depot for tool handles.

## Director's Report By Lisa Gorrell, MMR December, 2020



I hope that everyone has been staying safe and healthy during this pandemic. Are you getting modeling done now in your spare time? I hope if you are, that you plan to share your work during one of the Coast Division Zoom get-togethers. Phil Edholm has done a wonderful job hosting the twice-monthly meetings on Saturday mornings. We have had roundtable discussions, layout tours, and clinics. It's a great way for members to see each other, share what they have been doing, and learn from other great modelers. If you have ideas on topics for discussion or can give a clinic or layout tour, contact Phil. He will be very happy to schedule you in.

On the other hand, you could have your newly-built model judged for the AP Program. Frank Markovich and Earl Girbovan have been judging models and they use any safety protocols you wish. Thank you very much, Frank and Earl!

The PCR board meeting was held Saturday, November 7 via Zoom instead of meeting at the 2021 convention hotel in Fresno. One particular item: Registration for the PCR convention in Fresno is low and we're urging everyone who thinks they would like to go to please register. They have a cut-off date of February 20 on whether it will go or not. If the convention does not happen because of Covid-19, then everyone will get full refunds. So, there is no risk. However, if it is a go—there are some fantastic tours to purchase. You wouldn't want to miss out on them. Check out their website for more details.

I really do miss our Coast Meets and seeing everyone in person, but glad for the technology that allows us to have online meetings. Please do join us and see what everyone has been doing.

Lisa

## Super indent's Report By Phil Edholm December, 2020



### Divisional Update

As I sat down to write this report I had the feeling I was in groundhog day. Every day seems the same as the last. Clearly the grip of the coronavirus pandemic is not loosening for the remainder of the year. The national NMRA has indicated that there will be no sanctioned NMRA events in the remainder of 2020. We look forward to 2021.

But what makes my days different is the modeling projects I am doing. And based on what we have seen in our Coast division Virtual Events, there is lots of great modeling going on in the Coast Division. To see what is happening in the division, join our Saturday events, the next will be 11/21 at 7 PM. You should be receiving regular emails from me about the timing and content of our events. All of the events and clinics are available on the Coast Division YouTube channel here: [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCpKgBn\\_Dcaf1gOA8nGvWDBGQ](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCpKgBn_Dcaf1gOA8nGvWDBGQ) If you are not receiving emails, please contact Bob Fergusom or myself to get your correct email in the NMRA directory.

I want to do a big shout out to our members and their support through the pandemic. The Coast Division had almost 100% NMRA membership renewals in the latest reports. In October we had a 94% renewal rate. NMRA membership is important both for your own enjoyment, but also for the overall activities and efforts to support the hobby. Thanks to everyone who renewed recently!!!!

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## Division Congratulations

The NMRA Achievement Program is an ideal way to both hone your model railroad skills and be recognized for your efforts. Dave Adams has been busy with his modeling efforts, recently he achieved both the Chief Dispatcher and Model Rail Author AP Certificates. Huge congratulations to Dave and all the best for completing more certificates on his path to MMR.

Fran Foley has been working hard using 3D printing to create a range of On30 critter models he sells under the Foley Locomotive Car Shops brand. Two of his kits were recently reviewed in the Narrow Gauge Gazette. Both reviews were very complimentary of the overall design, the clean parts and assembly, the completed products and the final unit operation. I have a couple of Fran's kits (on my future projects shelf) and the design and detail are excellent. I am looking forward to completing them. You can find out more about Fran and his models on his Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/Foley-Locomotive-Car-Shops-863206290712324/>

Finally, a big shout out to our members and their support through the pandemic. The Coast Division had almost 100% NMRA membership renewals in the latest reports. In October we had a 94% renewal rate. NMRA membership is important both for your own enjoyment, but also for the overall activities and efforts to support the hobby. Thanks to everyone who renewed recently!!!!

## Conventions

I know talking about conventions when we are worried about going out seems a bit strange, but we are hopeful that by April we will be in a much better place. That is when the PCR "Highball to the Coast" convention in Fresno is scheduled for April 21-24, 2021. See what is in store on this video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-IfWHPfmv94&t=21s> The convention is celebrating the centennial of the Sugar Pine Railroad and will feature an exciting excursion into the Sierras to the narrow-gauge railroad. <http://www.pcrnmra.org/conv2021/excursions.html> 22 clinics will be featured; a number are already planned. During the discussion on Saturday, The convention is going as planned, with full refunds if there is a cancellation. One key point is that unless there are at least 100 sign-ups by February 20, 2021 the convention will be cancelled. The \$80 early bird rate for the convention is available until December 31<sup>st</sup> but sign up as soon as you can. <http://www.pcrnmra.org/conv2021/index.html>

The NMRA Convention in Santa Clara is going strong. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Chris Palermo.

## Thoughts

While we have been apart for the last months physically, it seems the model railroading community is coming together virtually and growing. If you have friends that are not participating in the NMRA events, ask them to join one of our Saturday events. This is a great opportunity to see how being part of a community can enhance model railroading. For those of you that have missed our events, we miss you as well. While having an open house is fun and a great way to share your work, doing a presentation in a Coast Division event allows a great dialog and focus that is generally missed in a layout tour. Doing a virtual layout tour or clinic is a great way to get started in sharing your accomplishments.

Until we "see" each other again (in a couple of weeks at a virtual event) or until we can be together in person, may both your modeling and your health be top notch. While we are apart physically, we can be together virtually and all learn and grow though sharing our experiences and modeling successes.

Phil

**Registrar's Report  
By Ronnie LaTorres  
December, 2020**



There was no June meeting, so nothing to report

**Publicity Report**

By Steve Wesolowski December, 2020



No report.

**Auction Report**

**By Craig Matoza**



**No auction.**

**WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS**

No new members came on board this period. We will report subsequent additions in later issues of the *Dispatcher*.

**CONTESTS**

No Model and Photo Contest



# 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



### "Building Rome"

**Rivets:** Hey, Larry, what's happenin'?

Larry: Oh, hi, Rivets. Not much - howya doin'?

**Rivets:** Pretty good. Whatcha workin' on there?

Larry: Well, Rivets, I've decided to try to get on with some scenery for the layout. So I pulled some of these structure kits I've been accumulatin' for years, and started tryin' to put some of 'em together.

Rivets: That sounds good, Larry; how's it goin'?

Larry: Terrible! Rivets: What's the problem? Larry: For starters, most of these kits don't have any real instructions, Rivets—just a picture. And there must be a bazillion parts. And you've gotta cut 'em all loose from a big web (but they call it a "sprue" for some reason).

Rivets: Anything else?

Larry: You bet! If you glue the pieces together before you paint 'em, they're too hard to paint, but if you paint 'em first, the glue don't stick!

Rivets: Uh-huh. And you said this was for "starters"?

Larry: Yeah. And then even if you get one of the little boogers built, you need about a hundred more, and nobody's got that much time OR money! And that's just if you're buildin' standard kits. If you want to kit-bash or scratch-build, it's even worse! I tell ya, Rivets, it's too much!

Rivets: Well, Larry, ya don't reckon you're tryin' to do too much at once, do ya?

Larry: Whatcha mean, Rivets?

Rivets: I mean, lotsa people work on one structure at a time, and some of 'em may take months just on one building, and they still seem to enjoy it. "Rome wasn't built in a day," as they say....

Larry: What are they, nuts? I wanna get these buildings done NOW!

Rivets: Easy does it, Larry. Don't you enjoy buildin' the kits?

Larry: Well sure, if I didn't have so many of 'em to do.

Rivets: Then just enjoy each one as you do it, and don't worry about the rest.

Larry: But what will people think when they see how much I haven't done, Rivets?

Rivets: They'll think they're not the only ones in the same boat, Larry. We've all got more projects than we have time or money for.

Larry: Gee, Rivets, sometimes you make a little sense. Maybe there's hope for you yet. While you're here, why don't you help me put together ten or twenty of these kits..... Thanks

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

*Excerpted by Pete Birdsong From Issue #8, September, 1970, of the Coast Dispatcher*

- ⇒ ***Meeting was held at Kelly Park in San Jose***
- ⇒ ***Clinic on working with styrene by Jim Kennedy***
- ⇒ ***A "Traction and Steam" movie was shown by Don Olson***
- ⇒ ***It was the last issue for editor Ralph Marcus, who would be succeeded by Don McCord***
- ⇒ ***Thirteen new members were acknowledged***
- ⇒ ***Contest category were: diesel, passenger, MoW, traction and display***
- ⇒ ***The auction had over 300 entries with about 275 sales. For a gross of \$1375.65***
- ⇒ ***The newsletter was 4 pages long***