



## Coast Dispatcher #212

**June 2021**

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

**See The Superintendent's Report on page three for important information on future Coast meetings.**

The members of the Pacific Coast Region are pleased to announce a multi-day video virtual event. Scheduled to run from Tuesday, July 6 through Saturday, July 10, 2021. This five-day event will include, but is not limited to:

- Video Clinics
- Model Showcase
- Virtual Operating Sessions
- Video Layout Tours
- Q&A Sessions
- Layout Owners Panels
- Prototype Tours

Birds of a Feather Breakout Rooms for live discussion

- Each convention day, clinics will run from 9:00 AM to 9:00 PM Pacific Daylight Time. A dedicated team of volunteers is working to make this a great convention:
- by building on the knowledge from those who have pioneered virtual events
- high production quality
- high clinic quality
- a structure, schedule and staff to promote a social atmosphere similar to an in-person event
- access to the videos for the length of the convention and 2 weeks after
- it is virtual... dinner and sleep at home!
- all for a cost of just \$49.00
- For more information on the convention, go to the website+. See the next page for how to join these volunteers. See you there!

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## Greetings!

This year's annual convention (July 6-July 10) will be a virtual event with the added bonus of providing as much of the social interaction/elements of a traditional in-person convention as possible. We have incorporated many opportunities to mix and mingle with friends into a schedule packed with great clinics and other presentations. Because of our commitment to bringing well-produced clinics with many socializing opportunities, we also need a great crew of volunteers to help make it happen!

Many of you are already skilled in volunteering at live rail events, virtual meetings and other live virtual events, and that means you are the perfect person to volunteer! Check out our Volunteer Page (<http://www.pcrnmra.org/NMRA2021/volunteers.html>) for details about the volunteer opportunities the virtual convention is offering. There will be online training prior to the convention as well as training documentation to support you. If you are part of a group or club, please feel free to share this email. This will be a lot of fun, so check it out, and sign up today!

We look forward to **YOU** joining the team that's bringing a great virtual convention to our members.

Cydney George-Abatecola, Volunteer Coordinator

[volunteers@nmra2021.com](mailto:volunteers@nmra2021.com)

Rails By The Bay 2021 NMRA Virtual Convention

Cydney George-Abatecola

## Super indent's Report

By Phil Edholm

June, 2021

### Divisional Update

#### Superintendents Report



There are two topics that are top of mind for me these days, the 2021 NMRA national convention RAILS By The Bay and how the Coast division returns to physical events later this year or early 2022.

### 2021 NMRA Convention RAILS By The Bay

Have you registered for the national convention yet? If not, please consider that this is a great opportunity. The convention has gone virtual and offers a great opportunity to attend a national convention. Also, as the convention is representing the PCR, it is a great event for all of us. These are great reasons to attend.

#### The Modeling

RBTB 2021 will feature a global array of clinicians. With over 70 clinics in total, there will be an amazing amount of information. And, as it is virtual, all clinics will be viewable after they are presented and for up to two weeks. One key advantage of the virtual convention is the interaction with the clinicians. Each clinic will be followed by an extended meeting with the clinician in the "The Clinic Goes On" virtual room. This will allow extended conversation and discussions.

RBRT 2021 is spotlighting 30 model railroad layouts, many from the western US, but also some from around the globe. While we will not be visiting these railroads physically, we will get a virtual experience like no other. Each railroad will be featured before and during the event in high quality videos that will let you experience the modeling and overview of each layout. Then, during the convention, each layout owner will have live discussions about their layout. These will enable deep discussions about what modelers are doing and how.

As in any live event, the discussions with clinicians and the layout owners are being done in spaces that do not lend themselves to recording, so this part of the program will only be available to attendees of the actual events.

#### It is the BIG NMRA Gathering

The NMRA national convention is the biggest gathering for model railroaders. It will be no different this year. As always, the best modelers that can come will come, and this year it is easier than ever to attend, so everyone will be there. At the convention we will have two simultaneous clinic tracks along with a large gathering Great Hall (in Zoom). From that hall, there will be a range of breakout rooms available all through the convention. In addition to the clinic discussion rooms, there will be focuses such as Op and LDSig, narrow gauge, N and Z scales, Cool Tools, Modular Modeling, Small Layouts, and many more.

This, along with other social tools will make connecting with old friends and making new ones based on your hobby interests easy.

#### It is the best value of 2021

This will be the only time, probably in history, you will be able to attend a complete NMRA National Convention for only \$50. For that you get not only the best new model railroad information and techniques, but you also get to see and discuss some of the leading layouts in the world. And throughout you will be able to make new friends and long-term relationships as you only can in a social environment.

Normally it would cost at least \$500 to attend a local convention. If you are traveling and staying in the convention hotel, a typical convention will cost \$2,500-\$2,500. You have 5 or 6 nights of hotel, airfare, parking, cars, etc. And, of course the hassle and time away from work and family. Now, we all have a once in a lifetime opportunity to attend and meet and talk to the large NMRA community.

Register Now for RAILS By The Bay – It is easy to register on-line [HERE](#).

#### Volunteering at RBTB 2021

As you know, this year's annual convention will be a virtual event with the added bonus of providing as much of the social interaction/elements of a traditional in-person convention as possible. We have incorporated many opportunities to mix and mingle with friends into a schedule packed with great clinics and other presentations. Because of our commitment to bringing well-produced clinics with many socializing opportunities, we also need a great crew of volunteers to help make it happen. Many of you are already skilled in volunteering at live rail events, virtual meetings and live virtual events. That means you are the perfect person to volunteer! Please take a look at the volunteer opportunities and sign up to help.

The volunteer positions are listed below. They include training so that volunteers have the information they need and they feel comfortable volunteering. All shifts take place in the Zoom webinar/meeting environment. They have breaks as part of the volunteer shift as well.

**Clinic Track Moderators** - moderate the chat window (keep the chat on topic, promote discussion on the topic, encourage questions for clinician), share needed links with attendees, and encourage attendees to visit the breakout rooms. Sign up [HERE](#).

**Clinic Goes On Moderator** - moderate the meeting (keep the chat on topic, promote discussion on the topic, encourage questions for clinician, ensure all attendees get to ask questions), share needed links with attendees, notify attendees when

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next clinics are starting and encourage attendees to visit the breakout rooms. Sign up [HERE](#).

**Information Desk Operator** - Share important information on screen, help direct attendees to breakout rooms and answer questions as attendees enter the Great Hall. Sign up [HERE](#).

**Information Desk Operator Assistant** - assist the Information Desk Operator. Sign up [HERE](#).

**Breakout Room Moderator** - Circulate among the breakout rooms assisting attendees. Promote discussion among attendees, introduce people in breakout rooms, be welcoming, helpful and promote social interaction among attendees. Sign up [HERE](#).

More information can be found on the [volunteer page](#) of the convention website. To volunteer, please contact:

Cydney George-Abatecola

Volunteer Coordinator

Rails By The Bay NMRA 2021 Virtual National Convention

## Coast Division Future Event Planning

As we consider how to return to physical events, we have kicked off a planning committee. We have had one meeting and have defined a course of action to plan future physical events and virtual activities. In our first meeting we agreed to do a survey of the membership. The survey will enable the committee to understand the preferences and desires of the membership and assure future meet member needs. The survey should be in place by the time you read this. If you have not replied, please do as soon as possible, your input is critical.

We are considering a number of factors, location and timing of events, content/clinics/layout tours during events, and how to manage the auction going forward.

We currently have 9 members on the committee. If you are interested in participating in the planning exercise, please contact me. If you are interested in participating.

### Director's Report By Lisa Gorrell, MMR June, 2021



I presented Phil Edholm as Coast Division's Member of the Year at the PCR Convention the Sugar Pine Centennial. Phil is very deserving of this award. He stepped forward to replace our Superintendent who had to leave mid-term. Once the pandemic started, it became clear that we would not be able to have in-person meets. Phil began hosting Zoom meetings in May 2020 and there have been meetings every other week since. Thirty-two of the meetings can be found on our YouTube channel. These meetings have been well-attended. Phil has rounded up many modelers to talk and share about their models, layouts, or modeling techniques. Some weeks there has been a roundtable with many participating. It has been well-received and very likely Zoom meetings will continue in some manner even when we can meet again in person. I want to thank Phil for keeping the members of our division engaged during the pandemic.

I also volunteered on the tech side during the PCR Convention and it was a lot of fun. I recommend that you to volunteer to assist with the upcoming NMRA Convention Rails by the Bay being held online July 6–10. It's a great chance to interact with others attending, see many of the clinics, and just know that you helped put on a great online convention. Check out the volunteer page on the convention website for the types of positions. Can't wait to "see" you at the convention.

## Vice President Frank Markovich

June, 2021



Well, due to Chris Palermo leaving and his being elected to the NMRA Board, I became the PCR President a few weeks ago. During a PCR Board meeting that week, I was voted into filling the remaining term. Chip Meriam will take over the Vice President's Job and Mike O'Dorney will be the Secretary.

Also, Mark Poggendorf has been appointed as Store Keeper for the PCR.

It is getting close to the "Rails by the Bay" and Earl Girbovan and I are looking for people to show their models in the "Modelers Showcase". If interested please contact either Earl or me.

Still no in-person meetings, but that should change in the Fall. We will be sure to let you know when we can go back in person.

Thank you,

Frank Markovich

If you have any questions or need to contact me my email is: [frank@frankmarkovich.com](mailto:frank@frankmarkovich.com)

## Editor's Notes

June, 2021



There is a lot up in the air for the Coast Division , both from the impacts of the coronavirus and its winding down, and from events that happened before and after that: personnel changes at the region, elimination of the possibility of the Boy Scouts building, increased rates at the Elks club, long-term volunteers reaching the end of what they can do and more, as you have heard from Phil and others. Sadly, I am part of that, since my increasing vision problems mean I have to resign as Webmaster and newsletter editor, so this is my last Issue of the *Coast Dispatcher*

As you also probably know, a volunteer committee is in place and working on recommendations for how the division adapts to all these changes. Part of that is the survey you recently received, so be sure to respond to that.

In addition, there have been all the changes in plans and preparations for the regional and national conventions. A lot of hard work and dedication has been put forth by our regional and divisional officers and other volunteers.

So Phil and Frank and the others really need your help in volunteering; try to do some of that, and, at the very least, let them know you appreciate all their efforts, without which we would not have a division.

Thanks.

Pete Birdsong



**Registrar's Report  
By Ronnie LaTorres  
June, 2021**

There was no March meeting, so nothing to report



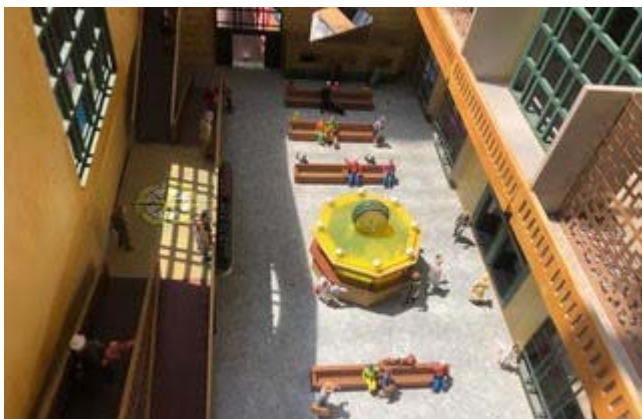
**Auction Report  
By Craig Matoza  
No March auction.**

Hi all; its been a while since the last auction. Hopefully we will be able to have a Day to have our clinics and auctions back. Sure would like to see model contest, clinics, auction.

Here is a pic of the Union Station Built by Kermit Paul few years back and is really nice.



Thought I would share photo of the station model I have acquired.



# Publicity Report

June, 2021

By Steve Wesolowski



As I write this, public health pandemic guidelines for social gatherings are changing daily. Therefore, perhaps the best information I can share on upcoming events is to encourage you to check online, on PCR and NMRA websites, etc. Here is a quick sample of upcoming events:

## NMRA Convention

July 6 – 10, 2021 - Rails by the Bay, NMRA's 2021 National Convention, is Virtual via Zoom. This multi-day video virtual event is under development on a NEW website <http://pcrnmra.org/NMRA2021/>.

Check on the web site: along with 65+ clinics, many virtual layout tours, the other activities offered continue to grow. Along with all the volunteers on the organizing committee planning for a unique on-line experience, as part of going on-line, this convention also will need volunteers for the operations and production roles during the clinics and all other virtual activities. I understand one thing clearly from the April 2021 PCR Virtual convention: we need many “guides” to be in the Zoom meetings with links and help for attendees to get around. These are not high-tech roles and are ideal for most of us. The roles required are being revised based on learning from the 2021 PCR. There's still time to register for \$49, and Please volunteer if you can. I'm sure they can always use more volunteers.

## Coast Meetings

Phil Edholm has been hosting bi-weekly Coast Virtual Meetings/Zoom Events every other Saturday at 9AM. The next one should be May 29th.

If you are not already receiving Phil's emails of these Zoom meetings and other virtual events, email Phil Edholm at [<pedholm@pkeconsulting.com>](mailto:pedholm@pkeconsulting.com)

Phil is very involved in planning future in person Coast Division events when gatherings are possible again, so make sure he has your email address.

## PCR 2022 Convention

April 21-24,2022, Return to the Redwoods, Doubletree Hotel, Rohnert Park, <https://pcrnmra.regfox.com/pcr-nmra-2022-convention>

Registration is now open for the PCR 2022 Convention! You can take care of registration, all purchases and hotel reservations all at once. The link for hotel reservations is in the upper right corner of the registration page. All merchandise and tickets are available during registration.

Many 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



"If Alan and Tony can do it, I can do it"

RIVETS: Hey, Larry, watcha got in that long box there?

LARRY: What else would be in a box like this, Rivets? Track, of course.

RIVETS: Yeah, but why so much? LARRY: Well, I've been readin' 'bout all these guys tearin' up decades of model railroadin' to begin all over again and make it better. And I'm gonna do the same thing, Rivets!

RIVETS: Geez, Larry, how long you been thinkin' 'bout this? You haven't said anything to me about it.

LARRY: Well, you know that MEMBER PROFILES Joe Doe. Joe lives with his wife and their cat at 123 Main St. in San Francisco. He's retired. His grandfather was an engineer on the Illinois Central RR., and Joe believes that was what got him interested in model railroading. It has been an on and off thing (mostly off) since he was in grade school. But it should be easier now that he is supposed to have more time for himself. Joe enjoys best watching the trains run, and piling up more boxes of "stuff" than he will ever be able to use. Remembering a conversation at

one of the recent meetings, in which someone said most of us tend to model the railroads we saw when we were growing up, layin' track is one of the parts of the hobby I like most. And you know I've been designin' layouts with CAD software. So I've designed the perfect layout and I'm gonna tear up my old one and begin again. If Koester and McClellan can do it, so can I. I'm gonna be just like the big guns, Rivets, not afraid to tackle a new layout at an older stage in life.

RIVETS: You got a track plan in mind?

LARRY: Yep. I've been workin' on this baby for months. Got it right here. Wanna see it?.

RIVETS: Yeah, show it to me... uh, Larry, this looks like exactly the same layout you have now!

LARRY: I really like that plan, Rivets.

RIVETS: Be careful, Larry...

LARRY: I'm only layin' track. What's to be careful about?

RIVETS: I'm not talkin' about track! Someday, somebody's gonna put you away, Larry. soon.



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

*Excerpted by Pete Birdsong From Issue #11, May, 1971, of the Coast Dispatcher*

- ⇒ ***Meeting was held at the Lockheed Model Railroad Club***
- ⇒ ***Clinic on Building Models from Styrene by Jim Kennedy***
- ⇒ ***Model Railroader magazine provided two movies: "Fun with Model Trains," and "Along the Right-of-Way"***
- ⇒ ***A business meeting was followed by an auction, which sold just under 500 items for a total of \$1300, netting the division \$130.***
- ⇒ ***The raffle was for a choice of a UP 2-10-2 or a Nevada County Narrow Gauge 2-8-0***
- ⇒ ***Contest category were kit structures. The previous contest had 334 entries***