



Coast Dispatcher September 2015

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

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

Welcome to the Coast Division of PCR

Division Event
September 27 2015
Alameda Elks Lodge
2255 Santa Clara Ave, Alameda, Ca

9:00 AM.....Doors open. Free Door Prizes. Buy Raffle Tickets.
9:30 AM.....Get Auction Cards.
10:00 AM.....Painting Figures - Mass Production, by Mike O'Dorney
11:00 AM.....Timesaver 102, by Eric Moe
12 Noon.....Business Meeting
~12:30 PM* ...Model/Photo Contest Results
~12:45 PM* ...Auction starts, Roundtable continues

3:30 PM.....Timesaver Results, Raffle – afterward Auction continues if required

9:30 AM – 12:15 PM:

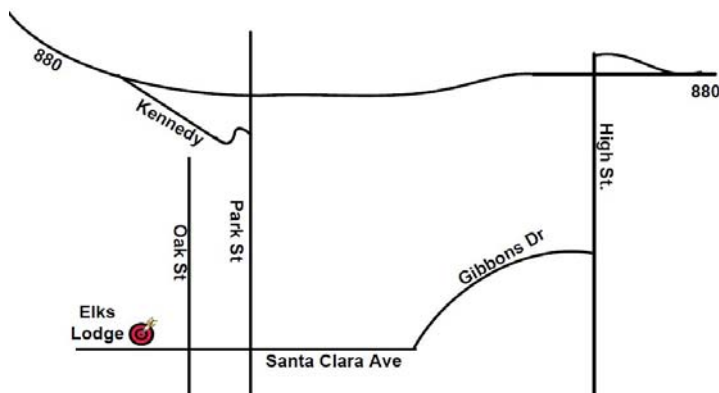
Model Contest– Steam, Diesel/Other Locomotives, Passenger Cars

Photo Contest– Caboose, model or prototype

Allen Fenton Timesaver Switching Contest (until 3:15)

* Contest results immediately after business meeting. Auction actually starts immediately after contest results.

Directions to the Alameda Elks Lodge



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.

Coast Call Board

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In This Issue

September Event	1
Call Board	2
Editor's Notes.....	2
Publicity Report.....	3-4
Notice to Model Clubs.....	4
Superintendent's Report ...	5-7
Registrar's report	7
Model/Photo Contest	8-11
Auction Report	12
Cool Tool.....	12
NMRA Infonet.....	13-14
Railfair Info	Back Page

Editor's Notes

I've been kind of busy this period, so I didn't have time to put together any layout stuff. I did include a cool trick I learned for handling solder when working on small stuff. See Page 12.

Tom Crawford

Notice to Model Railroad Clubs in Coast Division

If you would like your club to be listed on our webpage, please contact our webmaster, Pete Birdsong. His contact information is on our callboard.

(And yes, I put this in 2 places)

Taking PCR 2016 into New, Uncharted, Territory!

Steve Wesolowski

On my plane from Portland, a guy across the aisle from me wore a Doobie Brothers Tie-dye shirt, so their song "Taking it to the Streets" kept playing in my head & I thought a lot about **April 20 to 24, 2016**, when our [Taking It To The Streets, 2016 PCR Convention](http://www.pcrnmra.org/conv2016/index.html), our 72nd PCR Convention, will be at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel in Modesto, on 1150 9th Street. For the latest convention, hotel, registration and other latest details, visit our web page at <http://www.pcrnmra.org/conv2016/index.html> Of course, with over 6 months before our convention starts, our website still needs more information, but keep checking back often: it will come!

Since I last wrote about PCR 2016, our committee decided to combine and co-host our PCR convention with the Western Pacific Rail Road Historical Society's Annual Conference. The WPRRHS had planned their conference for the week after our PCR's in Modesto, so they moved up their conference dates.

I'm excited: this is the first Combined PCR and Historical Society Convention I'll attend! I'm sure there will be many interesting new exciting opportunities, maybe even new challenges! Rather than listing lots of details, many of which I'm still learning, keep checking our website to learn more: If You have any questions, please email the appropriate member of our Convention Committee -- our addresses are listed on the Committee webpage --but, if you don't know whom to ask, email your question to our Chairman or to me & we'll forward your questions to the right person.

While I know many details about our combined conventions are still being worked out, what this means is simple: we'll enjoy more! More Clinics on a wider range of topics, more Outside & Inside Activities for all! By combining our numbers, we all benefit from more tours and other activities: our co-operation will increase the total variety of train fun available to everyone who attends-- A Win-Win!

We plan separate banquets due to different needs, otherwise all registrants should enjoy equal access to any/all our combined activities. Some few exceptions make sense: e.g. I assume a WPRRHS member entering any judged NMRA contest should be an NMRA member, but if their model is brought for Display Only, NMRA membership shouldn't be required, in my opinion. Of course everyone will and should enjoy seeing all our usual PCR Craft, Model and Photo Contests and Displays.

Of Course, during PCR 2016 we will have many clinics, layouts to visit, inside and outside activities -- even more now we are enjoying a combined convention. Most activities are still in early planning stages, we are getting them organized, scheduled and confirmed. I'll have more details as we get closer to April 20th.

I'd rather NOT publicize any specific activities until I'm fairly certain they will happen and I know what they include and when. Given their proximity to Modesto, I know we're working on activities at Railtown and several other nearby locations with trains: we plan a tour of the M&ET shops, the local shortline railroad in Modesto. I'm looking forward to that tour! We also plan to offer an Convention Car; more details will be on our website soon.

As I always urge everyone: Register as early as you possibly can! because then we can plan much better to accommodate the total number who plan to attend. Our Early Bird Registration Special for \$89 includes full Registration, our Awards Banquet and PCR Breakfast. There is no fare Differential between Rail and Non-Rail registrations. We have Youth registration for \$50 & One Day Registration for \$40. For details, see our

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

webpage, at <http://www.pcrnmra.org/conv2016/registration.html>

And, if you haven't been to a PCR Convention in the last 5 years, a special "First Timer" \$79 fare is available for anyone who has not registered for the past 5 PCR conventions. Everyone on our committee plus many other members strongly believe many of the most valuable benefits of NMRA membership are the many opportunities we enjoy when we gather together at our meetings and conferences to share what we know, enjoy and love about trains, both prototype and model trains, during Clinics, Layout and Prototype Tours and the joy of sharing our various enthusiasms for and interests in trains with others attending.

Most of the close train friends I enjoy today I met attending PCR Conventions since PCR 2001 in San Luis Obispo, my first. I met and added some new train friends last week in Portland during the NMRA Convention. I've also been very lucky enough to have enjoyed a few National Narrow Gauge Conventions and one National Garden Railway Convention in Santa Clara. I can honestly say it is the wonderful human beings and friends I've enjoyed meeting and enjoying trains with at these gatherings who are responsible for most of the train fun I've enjoyed the last 15+ years.

I understand, for most of us, our hobby dollars are limited: but I've always found one of my best investments has been attending the train conventions I could find both time & money to enjoy. For me, Modesto isn't as far away as Portland from where I live, and PCR conventions are shorter than NMRA ones.

In my opinion, the quality of the majority of Layouts, Tours, Clinics and Contest Entries at PCR conventions are fairly equal to the national conventions I've attended. I hope you can join us in Modesto **April 20 to 24, 2016**, for [Taking It To The Streets](#), to enjoy some more train fun! Until then, I wish for you many happy trains!

Steve Wesolowski
Publicity Volunteer
PCR 2016, Taking It to the Streets

Have your Club Listed on Our Website

We are adding a section on our website to list the model railroad clubs in our Division. If you would like your club to be listed, contact our webmaster, Pete Birdsong. His contact information is in the Call Board on page 2 of this newsletter.

Coast Division Superintendent's Report

Frank Markovich

Next Event will Be: September 27, 2015 - 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, Coast Division Event/Meet, BPOE Elks Lodge, 2255 Santa Clara Avenue, Alameda, CA 94501. Please don't park in handicapped unless you have the right to.

We met at the Elks 2 meetings ago and the people there really liked the facility.

Come meet other local model railroaders during our free quarterly meet and enjoy two free clinics, model, photo & switching contests/displays, videos, etc.! Bring YOUR questions to modeler's roundtable for answers. You may win a door prize! Enjoy our lively auction of model railroading items & more!

It will start at 9:30 AM. There will be two clinics: Mike O'Dorney will discuss Painting Figures—Mass Production, and Eric Moe will present Timesaver 102.

At the June meet: We had about a dozen models and the same for photos. There were over 400 items in the Auction. There were 103 in attendance with a number of new members. There were over 20 door prizes. Two great clinics – one on the Clayton Branch and one of Scale and Gauge. Charlie Getz spoke briefly on Portland and other things related to national organization.

Dates and locations for next year are all set – mark your calendars:

Sept 27th Elks

Dec 6th back here San Leandro Boy Scouts.

Below are some photos of the Meet:



Clinic on the Clayton Branch

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

Clinic on scale and gauge.



Charlie talking about news from National

Some of the 400
Plus Auction
items



(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

Moe working the Timesaver



Registrar's Report

Ronnie LaTorres

– JUNE 2015

Number from Coast (C)	85 (includes 2 first timers)
Number from Redwood Empire (R)	5
Number from Sierra (S)	4
Number from Daylight (DAY)	3
Number from Other:(Hawaii HI)	0
GUESTS: Mark Hornbeck/Logan Bertolethle/Barbara Parks/Marc Parsons/Josh Truman/John Busby	6
Total Number of REGISTRANTS:	103

Model and Photo Contest Results June 7th, 2015

Jim Eckman

We had entries in every category, thanks contestants!

Traction and Self Propelled

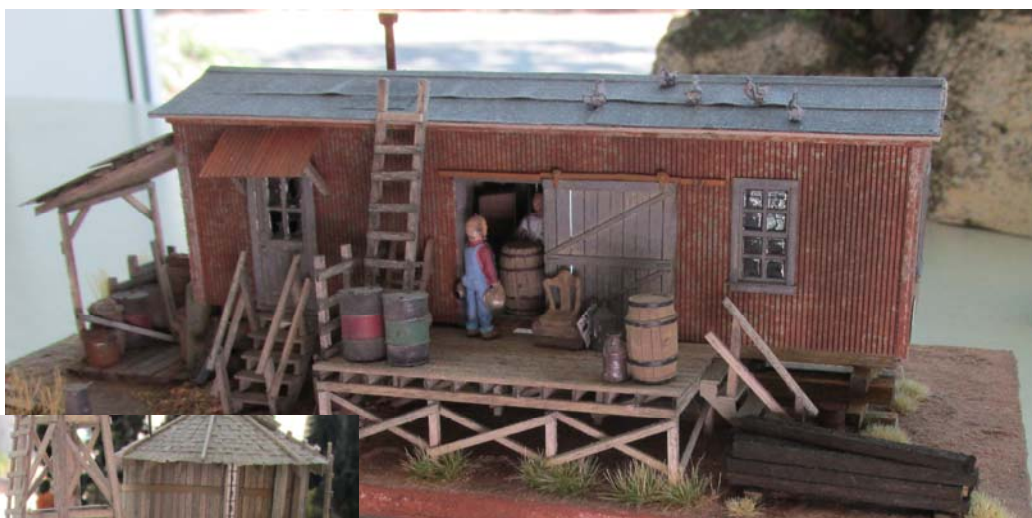
1st place – Bob Wirthlin's California Western "Skunk", something he built up with brass, a nice model of a fun critter.



Structures

The balloting was very close in structures, the difference was one or two votes at most. Easy to see why, they were all great models in their own way.

1st place – Earl Girbovan's Jamestown Water Stop, a lovely pair of buildings that I think are kits, but I forgot to ask. Includes interior lighting.



(Continued on page 9)

(Continued from page 8)

2nd place – Marc Parson's Buildings, a series of T.O.C. background buildings with partial interiors made to sit in front of a window opening. More of a diorama than a building, but it's a popular vote, so OK by me.



3rd place – Al Kuhn's Train Station (Paper Creek), an excellent build of a great, but discontinued kit. Shows the potential of modern printing and cutting.

(Continued on page 10)

(Continued from page 9)

Honorable mention – Bob Wirthlin's Snuffy's Malt Shop. While the outside of the building was nice, the internal dancer animations and music were outrageous.



Dioramas



1st place – Tony Sapienza's Hand Car Stop for Pit Stop? Hopefully this was a G-rated stop.

(Continued on page 11)

(Continued from page 10)

Diesel Photos

We had ten photo entries and the balloting was pretty tight, all the entries were popular.

1st place (tie) – Pat La Torres' *SD9 4441 at Oakland* – in black and white.

1st place (tie) – Mike Coen's *BNSF/UP on Cajon Pass*

2nd place – Ronnie La Torres' *Stan's View*

3rd place (tie) – Micheal Coen's *Going Away Shot of GE Diesels and Steel Cars – Glint Light*

3rd place (tie) – Stanley Keiser's *2 UP Engines*

Honorable mentions – Bob Wirthlin, Kenneth Martin and Eugen Brichacek also entered photos.

Show and Tell

Richard Brennan showed us a couple of TT goodies which I forgot to photograph.



Frank Markovich brought a several models for show and tell.



Auction Report

John Marshall

Here is the Auction Committee report for the June 7th Division Train Event.

Total item count: 505

Total Items sold: 439

No Bid items: 66

We still need volunteers for the auction committee and for the Auctioneer Training Program. Contact me if you can help. My contact information is given on the Call Board on Page 2.

Thanks,

John Marshall

Auction Committee Chairman

Cool Soldering Tool

Tom Crawford

One of the things I've had trouble dealing with after having switched from HO to N is soldering. I'm still learning, but one cool tool I came up with was a solder holder.

It makes pinpoint soldering easier than holding a loose piece in your hand.



First, get some thin solder, specifically. 0.025" solder. I got it at Fry's. Next get a 0.7mm mechanical pencil that has push button on the barrel (as opposed to one that you push down on the eraser). Finding one with the button on the barrel was the hardest part of the job. It turns out that 0.025" = 0.635 mm, so the solder will fit comfortably in the lead path of a 0.7mm pencil.

Remove the eraser and anything else in the path to the tip. In my case it was simply the eraser. Straighten the solder coming off the reel and slowly and

carefully insert it into the pencil. It will take some playing to get the solder to go straight into each of the holes along the path. And at some point you will need to push the button continually to feed the solder through.

Once you have the solder sticking out about ½ inch, you are ready to solder with pinpoint accuracy. Be careful to keep feeding the solder through as you solder to keep the hot tip at least 3/8 inch away from the pencil tip, unless you want to solder your tip closed. (Not a good thing.)

NMRA InfoNet News For August, 2015

Tom Draper

Welcome to the NMRA InfoNet News (Infoblast) For August, 2015

Candidates for the 2016 Election

From John Stevens, NMRA Secretary:

National Nominating Committee Chair Tony Koester has submitted the Combined Nominating Committees' Final Report to the National Board of Directors. The candidates for the 2016 election are shown below.

Atlantic District Director

- Peter Bowen
- Kathy Millat

At Large World Wide Director

- Mike Brestel

Western District Director

- Steve Barkley
- Don Fowler
- Stephen Priest

Members may petition to the NMRA to nominate additional candidates by using the By Petition process which can be found in Sec A 10.1 paragraph 3 of the EHB (Executive Handbook) available as a PDF on our website at <http://www.nmra.org/executive-handbook>. All petitions must be received by the NMRA Secretary by September 15, 2015. For more information, contact NMRA Secretary John Stevens at snevets4@bellsouth.net.

A message from Mike Brestel, NMRA At Large Worldwide Director

The three strikes policy: What is it and what does it mean?

We've been getting a lot of questions about the Visitor Policy that the NMRA Board adopted and publicized in February of this year, limiting visitors to NMRA meetings to three visits during their lifetime.

This isn't really a new policy, since it was first adopted in 2007 and explained in the "President's Car" column in the November, 2007 issue of *Scale Rails*. Then, as now, the needs of our insurance provider played a large part in the adoption of this policy, but there are also issues of basic fairness, as well as tax issues in the U.S.

Here's the policy: Visitors are allowed three visits to an NMRA meeting IN THEIR LIFETIME. If they don't join by their third visit, they cannot attend any more meetings.

(Continued on page 14)

(Continued from page 13)

A lot of the questions we've been getting are from members trying to over-complicate the policy, worrying about this or that exception and making up complicated what-ifs. The policy does not apply to spouses who come along to the meetings so that they can go to dinner afterwards. It does not apply to non-member caregivers who aren't modelers, but who provide a ride to a member who cannot drive himself. It does not apply to events that are organized for the general public, like mall shows, swap meets, beginner clinic series, and the like, nor does it apply to things like joint meetings with another group or family picnics or outings.

Allowing freeloaders to participate as if they were members is unfair because it takes advantage of our members who HAVE paid up. We're all paying to keep the organization going – what are the freeloaders doing, besides getting a free ride on our backs? And tolerating permanent freeloaders can give our insurance providers a reason to cancel your coverage if you have an incident, leaving individual officers and members responsible for paying the claim. The IRS has rules about giving benefits of membership to non-members, too – they say don't do it, and there are tax consequences if you do.

Now, if your Division and Region are already following the rules (which would be a really good idea if you want the protection of our NMRA Liability Insurance policy), this is not the big deal you might think it is. We all know that if someone comes and tries us out three times and still doesn't join, they're not going to join. So after the third turn-down, don't worry about it – just move on to the next prospect.

If you're still wondering whether your group is in compliance, just ask yourself: are you allowing people who aren't members to come to your meetings month after month, year after year, and participate as if they'd paid their dues? If the answer is no, then fine, just keep doing what you're doing. If the answer is yes, then you have some changes to make.

If you have additional questions about this policy or how to implement it, please feel free to contact an NMRA officer, director, or NMRA HQ. We'll get your question to the right person.

Mike Brestel - At Large Worldwide Director

If you have any questions or comments about any of the above, please send them directly to a Director or Officer. You will find those addresses at www.nmra.org or in the NMRA Magazine

If the person holding a region or division office changes, or their email address changes, please contact me at tcdraider@aol.com with the corrected information.

Regards,

Tom Draper – HLM, DSA, FA, MSA, PA
Director – Support Services

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