



Coast Dispatcher December 2015

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

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

Next Coast Division Event

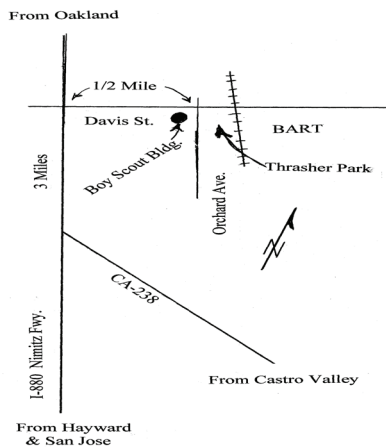
December 6 2015

Boy Scouts of America Headquarters

1001 Davis St, San Leandro, CA.

- 9:00 AM.....Doors open. Free Door Prizes. Buy Raffle Tickets.
- 9:30 AM.....Get Auction Cards.
- 10:00 AM.....Hands-On! Modeling with Paper - Jim Eckman Jim will lead a hand-on clinic on building structures with a wood core and printed paper exteriors. Everyone will leave with a new building for their pike!!!
- 10 AM.....NMRA Achievement Program - Golden Spike Award An overview of the most readily obtainable modeling award from the NMRA...followed by a criteria discussion (and assessment) of some portable modules/displays. See <http://www.nmra.org/golden-spike-award> ...Bring YOUR modular section (8 square feet)... and have it assessed on-the-spot!...or schedule a future time to have a portion of your layout & equipment considered.
- 11:00 AM.....Civil War Railroads Mike Blumensaadt Mike will discuss modeling Civil War railroads...featuring his N scale diorama as written-up in the September 2015 Model Railroader.
- 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– Favorite Model
- Photo Contest– Favorite Photo
- Allen Fenton Timesaver Switching Contest (until 3:15)
- * Contest results immediately after business meeting. Auction actually starts immediately after contest results.

Directions to the Boy Scout Headquarters



From the North:

Take Highway 880 south.

Take Exit 34, Davis St.

Turn Left on Davis. Go 0.7 miles to the BSA Headquarters, 1001 Davis St.

From the South:

Take Highway 880 North

Take Exit 34, Davis St.

Turn Right on Davis St. Go 0.7 miles to the BSA Headquarters, 1001 Davis St.

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Editor's Notes

We had some glitches which have now been fixed. Sorry for the delay

Tom Crawford
 Coast Dispatcher Editor

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.

Taking it to the Streets 2016 Convention

Steve Wesolowski

We're now within 6 months of **April 20 to 24, 2016**, when our 72nd PCR Convention, [Taking It To The Streets](#), will happen in/around the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel in Modesto, on 1150 9th Street.

For all Volunteers busy "**assembling**" your 2016 Convention -- always **without** any instructions -- the final 6 months is always "Crunch Time", when most decisions are made & implemented.

For example, you've maybe noticed "for the latest details on all Convention activities Convention and Hotel Registration" I always recommend our convention web page at <http://www.pcrnmra.org/conv2016/index.html> However, as is often true in the last months before ANY convention, the website ALWAYS needs more information, but **keep checking** there and **answers will** come!

Remember, we're all Volunteers, including our Webmaster, and it takes time to keep any website updated, especially with the many changes & additions while all we're planning for us all to enjoy in Modesto is still being organized, scheduled & nailed down. Many facts are constantly changing. So please be patient while our website catches up to our constantly solidifying and changing reality.

Meanwhile, you have my bulletins from the trenches, including this one, also trying to keep you up to date, while the facts are still growing & shifting beneath my feet: literally, Surf's Up!

Just before I last wrote, we'd decided to co-host/co-locate PCR's 2016 convention with the Western Pacific Rail Road Historical Society's Annual Conference. While this promises us all more train fun in April, it also requires coordination between and within both groups. I assumed this requires more planning than a usual convention; it has and will, so many details are taking longer to plan/coalesce.

Last time I wrote here If you have any questions, either email the appropriate committee member -- our addresses are on the webpage -- or, email me & I'll get your question to the right person.

So, Tom Knapp emailed me: When is Convention Rate Hotel Registration available? In **January**.

Meanwhile, you can today print the mail in form or register online for PCR 2016. I understand the cost will be the same for both WPRRHS or PCR/NMRA registration.

We plan separate banquets in adjoining rooms due to our group's differences with possibly a no-host combined mixer beforehand; otherwise everyone registered should enjoy equal access to any/all of our combined inside and outside activities. I know One exception: NMRA rules require any WPRRHS member entering any judged NMRA contest to be an NMRA member. But for models, photos or other items brought for Non-Judged Display, membership isn't required.

As I've written before, our combined conventions should mean we enjoy more Presentations and Clinics on a wider range of topics, and there should be more outside activities for all, but these details are still being worked out.

We are still planning on Modesto & Empire Traction Company tour(s), plus Scott Inman is also working on other Prototype Tours nearby, including the Central California Traction Company, the Sierra Railroad, the Sugar Pine Railroad and others. Keep your fingers crossed: Not All plans work out, but there are enough train and industrial sites nearby some should. I hope maybe we'll tour one or more train connected industries, agricultural or whatever: I'm always curious to see how anything is manufactured or produced.

Please contact Mary Moore-Compagna if you're interested in presenting any clinic(s) and Scott Inman if you have outside activities you'd like to help Scott facilitate for us all to enjoy! Maybe you know the right

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person who can get us in to tour some place interesting in or around Modesto?

We've also decided on a Convention car: an Atlas HO 53' Double Door Evans Box Car lettered for M&ET, in 4 M&ET road numbers, \$25 for one car and \$90 for a set of all 4, with separate PCR 2016 Logo Decals -- to satisfy those who don't want PCR 2016 logo 'graffiti' on their cars! What-Ever!

As I always say: Register as early as you can so we can plan better for the total who plan to attend.

Our Early Bird Registration Special of \$89 includes Full Registration, Banquet, & PCR Breakfast. There is no fare differential between Rail & Non-Rail registration. We have Youth Registration at \$50 & Single Day Registrations at \$40. Registration web page at <http://www.pcrnmra.org/conv2016/registration.html>

If you haven't enjoyed a PCR Convention in over 5 years, a special "First Timer" \$79 fare is for anyone who hasn't enjoyed the last 5 PCR conventions. Why? Our committee plus many other members find most valuable benefits of NMRA membership are the opportunities we enjoy when we gather at events & conferences.

We share what we've learned, we enjoy trains (prototype and models) during Clinics, Layout and Prototype Tours, plus the joy of being with and sharing our various enthusiasms for & interests in trains with train minded others. Enjoying trains with friends, both new and old! My close train friends today I met at train events since PCR 2001 in SLO, my first. It is the wonderful humans I've met enjoying trains at these events who are responsible for most train fun I've enjoyed the last 15+ years.

For most, our hobby dollars are limited; I've always found one of my best investments are attending the train events I could find both the time & money to enjoy.

Modesto isn't as far away as Portland from where I live; PCR events are shorter than NMRA ones. IMO, the quality of the Layouts, Tours, Clinics and Contest Entries at PCR conventions are 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 April 20th, I wish you many happy trains AND: Keep building models, taking train pictures and creating railroad art and crafts to share with us all in Modesto. The more entries in every category the more train fun for us all!

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

We had a great event on September 27, 2015, Coast Division Event/Meet, BPOE Elks Lodge in Alameda. There were over 500 items in the auction and even I picked up a few. There were two clinics that were packed. Painting Figures - Mass Production, by Mike O'Dorney and Timesaver 102, by Eric Moe. I heard nothing but very positive feedback from members on both clinics. I had to meet with a couple of members on other items so I missed both clinics – really wish I could have made both of them. Due to Howard being out of town we didn't have a round table at this meet.

I had to leave early as I was not feeling well. I missed some items that I had wanted to bid on. I did not take pictures but can report that there were many of the prize winning models from Portland including some by Pat LaTorres and Ronnie LaTorres and I had a couple on display.

Next meet will be December 6, 2015 at:

Boy Scouts of America Headquarters
1001 Davis St, San Leandro, CA.

Directions to the Boy Scout Headquarters

From the North:

Take Highway 880 south.

Take Exit 34, Davis St.

Turn Left on Davis. Go 0.7 miles to the BSA
Headquarters, 1001 Davis St.

From the South:

Take Highway 880 North

Take Exit 34, Davis St.

Turn Right on Davis St. Go 0.7 miles to the
BSA Headquarters,

Model Contest: My favorite Model/My Current Project

Photo Contest: My favorite picture, model or prototype

Allen Fenton Timesaver Switching Contest (un I 3:15)

Clinics for December – I am really excited about this. Starting this event we will have a clinic each time geared to beginners but also hands on for many of them. This time all who attend will go home with a structure for their layout (if in N or HO scale). The division will be providing all of the materials. Jim Eckman will be leading this using some of the techniques he uses to build beautiful models out of paper. The 2nd clinic will be by Michael Blumenstaadt on Civil War Railroads. Mike built that great display that many of you have seen at the PCR or at Portland. I am very interested and know that everyone will not only enjoy the clinic but will learn quite a bit about the Railroads at that time.

The contest results are reported later by Jim Eckman.

Coast Director Nominations

By Dave Connery

In April, 2016 our present Coast Director, Mark Schutzer, will complete his second 2-year term and will be ineligible to run for another consecutive term. The Nomination Committee has secured the nomination of Frank Markovich to run for a two-year term for the position of Coast PCR Director. The election will be held by PCR through a ballot included with your January-March Branch Line and the new director will take his office at the PCR Annual Meeting in April in Modesto. Anyone interested in running for the position of Coast PCR Director should contact Dave Connery no later than November 25th at 925-735-0134 or dgconnery@sbcglobal.net. If there is someone you would like to nominate, please check with them first to assure they are willing to have their name placed in nomination and will commit to performing the function, if elected.

Special Clinic – first in a series on “Make and Take”

At our December meet Jim Eckman will be doing a clinic on building paper structures. Each participant will make a structure and be able to take it home at the end of the clinic. No cost and members are encouraged to bring a guest to participate to show off our division. While everything will be provided it would be ideal if those who participated could bring a healing matt. There will be buildings in “N”, “HO” and “O” scales. So most people will be able to build in the scale they model. Or even build in a smaller scale for background buildings.

If you have seen Jim’s buildings before you know how great they look! He will instruct on techniques to bring paper buildings to life!!

The Director’s Cut

By Mark Schutzer

The mid-year PCR board meeting was held on October 10th in Modesto at the site of next year’s convention. Here are a few items of note from the meeting.

The board voted to revise the PCR convention rotation and change back to a rotation between the four active divisions of PCR. Prior to the change the convention was held in Coast division every other year. The change was made to give some relief to the Coast volunteers who were getting burned out. The revised rotation will be Daylight (2017), RED (2018), Sierra (2019), and Coast in 2020.

The board continued discussions about revising the PCR logo. Some new designs were looked at and work continues to be done on the logo.

Carol Alexander announced that she will be moving out of town next summer and will be resigning as Vice President at that time.

That’s all for now,

Mark

Auction Report***John Marshall***

Here is the Auction Committee report for the Sept Division Train Event.

Total item count: 589

Total Items sold: 402

No Bid items: 187

John Marshall

Auction Committee Chairman

Registrar's Report***Ronnie LaTorres***

Here is the Meeting Attendance from th September Division Event

Coast Division	61
Daylight Division	2
Hawaiian Division	0
Redwood Empire Division	8
Sierra Division	4
Guests	4
New Members	0
Total Attendance	79

Badges	Paid
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Frank Markovich	\$0
Chuck Hakkarinen	\$5
Total	\$5

Door Prizes	\$0?
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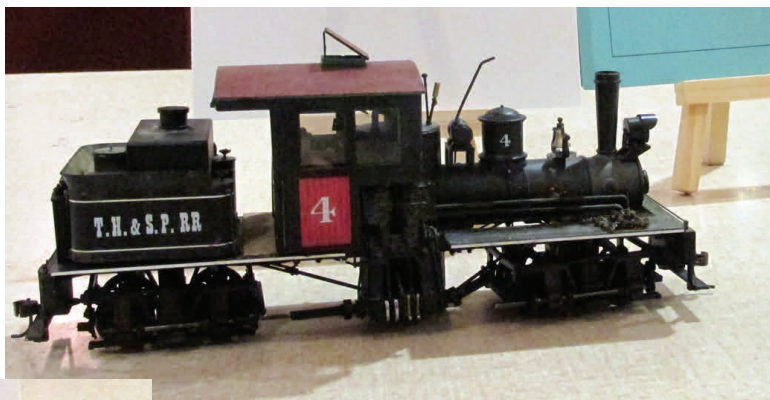
Model and Photo Contest Report September 27th, 2015

Jim Eckman

We had a great show and tell, but only one or no entries in all categories.

Steam

1st place – Frank Markovich's Shay



Diesel/Other



1st place – Mike Coen's Alco RS-1

Passenger

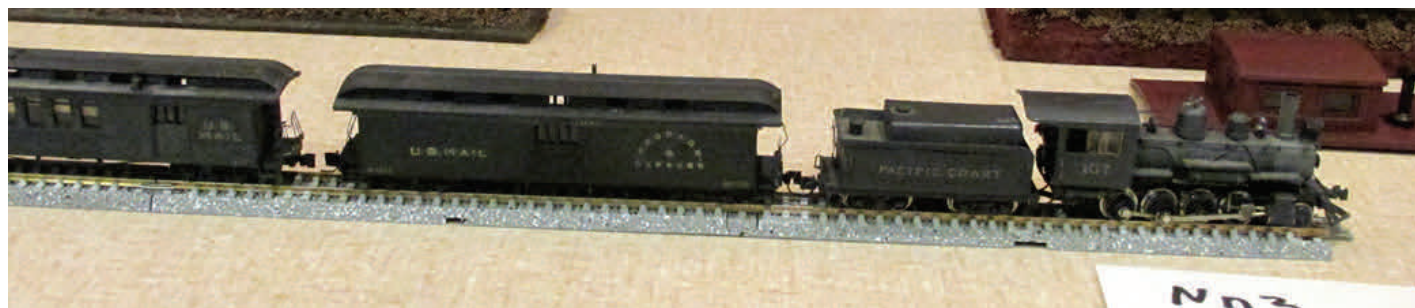
No entries.

Photo Contest

1st place – Steve Wesolowski's - *Caboose on Tail End* (No Picture)

Show and Tell

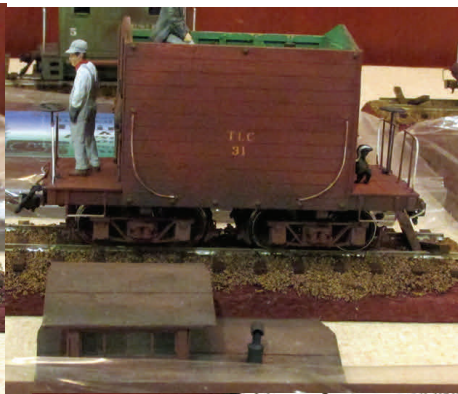
Show and tell models included award winners from Portland. People who contributed were: Stanley B. Keiser, Tom Knapp, Pat LaTorres, Frank Markovich and Marc Parsons.



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More Show And Tell



NMRA InfoNet News For October, 2015

Tom Draper

A message from VP of Administration, Clark Kooning

Well as fall comes upon us in the Northern Hemisphere, most of us turn to our hobby indoors. Some model, all year round, because the climates where we live. However for the majority of us we are dusting off the layout and dreaming of the new modeling season ahead. As the new VP (Admin) of the NMRA I have the same thoughts you do, maybe I should build a new layout and where did I last leave my throttle? I also think how we at the NMRA can promote the hobby and encourage other modelers to participate with us in a very rewarding hobby and the fellowship that provides. If you're a member and know another modeler who is not a member, next time your local Division or Region has an event why don't you take him or her along. This simple introduction to the NMRA can be the start of great lifelong friendships and, of course, our love for the hobby. I know the value in our organization starts with the sole member and those in local divisions and in the fact it is the fellowship and fun that we share at all levels that make us strong.

As I begin to take on my role as the VP (Admin) There are several challenges ahead of us which the NMRA will need to move forward. With good solid leadership from both your executive team and one of the most dynamic group of Board of Directors, I can think of. I will be working with the Headquarters' staff as needed. I have been asked by President Getz to work on some projects along with Gerry Leone our other VP. I hope to have some interesting new initiatives you will like in the very near future.

A big "Thank You" to all the members who directly put on NMRA Portland National Convention and those who volunteered their time and effort during the convention to make this year's convention a lot of fun.

If you have any questions, I happy to hear from any member

Umm has anyone seen my throttle?

Clark Kooning, MMR HLM

NMRA VP (Admin)

In memoriam – G. William Hammer 1922 - 2015

From Mike Brestel – At Large Worldwide Director

I just learned that Bill Hammer died on Sept. 17 in Lexington, Ky. I found his obituary online and have pasted it below. Many of you knew Bill as a major volunteer for the NMRA for a long, long time, serving in a myriad of positions of the years, most notably as VP and for over 25 years as Legal Counsel. He received an HLM, MMR, DSA, and two PAs over his many years of service to the NMRA.

He moved from Virginia to Lexington, Ky. around ten or twelve years ago, and as a fellow MCR member I was able to connect with him several times before his health deteriorated. I had not seen or talked to him over the past five years or so.

The funeral was on September 24 in Lexington, but unfortunately I just heard about his death today. Given Lexington's proximity to Cincinnati, I would probably have been able to represent the NMRA at the visitation and funeral had I known in time. At this point I don't know whether anyone from the NMRA was able to attend.

Mike

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G. William Hammer

1922 - 2015 Obituary

HAMMER G. William, 92, of Lexington, KY (formerly of Centreville, VA) and husband of Imogene Murray Hammer, died Sept. 17, 2015.

He was born Dec. 5, 1922 in Wyandotte, MI to the late Reverends Ernest A. and Jane S. Higley. When he was three weeks old his family moved south to West Virginia and Ohio. He became a Great Lakes sailor and earned his Able Bodied Seaman's certificate in Sept. 1942. He was drafted into the army March 1, 1943. His basic training was a combat engineer and transferred into the Army Corp in the Aviation Cadet program. In early 1944 the Air Corp terminated the program for all of those who transferred from other branches in the army. At that time he volunteered for the paratroops and received his wings in July 1944. He was sent overseas and served in the Philippine Islands and received an honorable discharge with the rank of Sergeant March 10, 1946.

He graduated from Edgewood High School in Ashtabula, Ohio in 1944. In the fall of 1947 he enrolled at Ball State University, Muncie, IN, on a pre-law curriculum. He graduated with BA honors in March 1950. While at Ball State he was a member of Theta Chi Fraternity and Sigma Zeta National Science Honorary. He was Ball State's nominee for a Rhoades Scholarship in 1950. In the fall of 1950 he entered George Washington Law School, Washington, D.C. and graduated with a JD degree with honors in May 1953. He served on the Student Board of Editors of the George Washington University Law Review and a member of Phi Delta Phi Legal Fraternity.

He was admitted to the bar of District of Columbia in Sept. 1953 and was admitted to the bar of the state of Virginia in Feb. 1954. At that time he opened a law office in private practice in the City of Falls Church, VA. He served as prosecuting attorney for the City of Falls Church on a part-time basis from 1959 to 1961. He was appointed to a part-time judgeship in Falls Church in Jan. 1969 and to a like position in Fairfax County on July 1, 1974. He was elected to a full-time judgeship to the 10th District Court in Virginia on July 1, 1976. He continued to serve in that capacity until he retired on July 1, 1985. While on the bench he authored an article on Preliminary Hearings in Virginia which was published in 1980. From 1981 to 1985 he served on the Committee on District Courts who set policy for the entire District Court system for the state.

He was an avid model railroader and was a life member of the National Model Railroad Association. He served on several groups including as Legal Counsel from 1963 to 1976 and again from 1985 until 1998, the regional trustee for the Mid-East region on the National Board of Trustees, Eastern Vice President of the association from 1969 to 1971 and later as the Executive Vice President of the association. He was awarded the three highest awards from the association, the President's Award, Distinguished Service Award and the Honorary Life Member, the highest award and designated as a Master Model Railroader.

Other interests included being a member of the Sons of the Confederate Veterans for over 50 years, Commander of the Robert E. Lee camp of the SCV in Alexandria, VA, Military Order of the Stars and Bars as commander of the Samuel Cooper chapter in Alexandria, VA. He is survived by a daughter Jane Hammer of Lexington, KY from a previous marriage. Gene's son Craig Smith (Hellie) from Paris, IL and daughter Suzanne Adair (Ken) of Lexington, KY and numerous nephews and nieces of Ashtabula County, OH.

Funeral service will be 12pm Wednesday at Kerr Brothers Funeral Home-Main St. Burial will be in Lexington Cemetery. Visitation will be from 11am-12pm Wednesday. In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to the G. William Memorial Scholarship Fund, Ball State University Foundation, PO Box 672, Muncie, IN 47308, account number 30095.

Published in Lexington Herald-Leader on Sept. 20, 2015

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In memoriam – Andy Sperandeo
Andy Sperandeo, former Model Railroader editor, dies

By Kevin P. Keefe | October 5, 2015



WAUKESHA, Wis. – Longtime Model Railroader editor Andy Sperandeo died Oct. 3, in Brookfield, after a long illness. He was 70.

Sperandeo joined the Model Railroader staff in 1979. Over the years he worked his way up through the ranks, becoming editor in 1993 and, later, executive editor. Most recently he was editor of Model Railroader's annual Great Model Railroads issue. He was also a prolific author for Kalmbach Books.

Sperandeo's expertise extended to all facets of the model-railroad hobby, but he was especially known for his command of realistic train operations, as reflected in his popular column in the magazine, "The Operators."

"Andy was an excellent model builder, a diligent researcher, and a meticulous editor," says Model Railroader Editor Neil Besougloff. "We will remember all of that, but mostly we remember that Andy was our close friend."

A renowned expert on the Santa Fe, Sperandeo was active in the Santa Fe Railway Historical & Modeling Society, as well as the National Model Railroad Association. His home layout is a faithful interpretation of the Santa Fe's main line through California's Cajon Pass in the late 1940s.

Sperandeo was a native of New Orleans. He earned his B.A. in English from Loyola of the South, an M.A. from Louisiana State University, and was working on his Ph.D. in English from the University of Texas when Model Railroader lured him to Milwaukee in 1979.

A burial ceremony is planned for Saturday, with funeral details pending.

From Trains Magazine

Amtrak Derailment

An Amtrak train bound for Washington, D.C., derailed in central Vermont on October 5 after hitting a rock slide, injuring seven of the 102 people aboard, one seriously. The incident, which was at least the 17th Amtrak derailment so far in 2015, raised fresh concerns about rail safety less than five months after a derailment in Philadelphia killed eight people.

From Time Magazine

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Railroads finding hidden freight car trackers

By Justin Franz | September 24, 2015



What's in a picture? In this one a brown-painted automatic equipment identification, or AEI, reader barely pokes out of a slope along a Conrail right-of-way in New Jersey. Railroads are alarmed that the AEI readers might be spread throughout the country, gathering and sharing information on freight moves without their knowledge.

A close-up photo of an automatic equipment identification reader found in New Jersey.

METUCHEN, N.J. — Railroads are uncovering hidden freight car tracking devices near rights-of-way around the country.

The discoveries began earlier this month when a Metuchen, N.J., resident found two people installing boxes near a Conrail Shared Assets Operation right-of-way. Unsatisfied with those persons' answers and the local police response, the person called Norfolk Southern railroad police who investigated and found an automatic equipment identification or AEI reader, used to track freight cars by monitoring their built-in radio beacons.



On Sept. 15, the Association of American Railroads' Railway Alert Network issued a security warning to members to keep an eye out for the unauthorized devices. *Trains* NewsWire obtained a copy of the security alert earlier this week.

According to the eight-page report, railroad police investigated further and found that a company called ClipperData had installed the reader. ClipperData was formed about two years ago and sells comprehensive data regarding the energy industry, including the movement of crude oil and other commodities. According to the report, Norfolk Southern police say they have a copy of a "lease agreement" between a homeowner near the right-of-way and ClipperData which gave the homeowner \$500 to use a nearby electrical outlet to power the equipment reader.

In an interview with *Trains* News Wire on Wednesday, ClipperData CEO Sterling Lapinski confirmed that his company installed the first AEI reader discovered in New Jersey. He says his company's work is legal and that ClipperData is currently looking at trying to sell data to and about the railroad industry, which is why it installed the AEI reader. Lapinski says his company sells data

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and information to government agencies, trading groups, and energy companies.

“We do have devices installed but the network isn’t operational yet,” Lapinski tells *Trains* News Wire. “We’re not currently selling data, we’re just trying to see if it’s feasible.”

Railroads around the world use similar equipment reader technology that uses radio waves to automatically identify freight cars at speed. Railroads typically gather the information to update their own records before sharing it with other shippers, such as trucking companies, railroads, or steamship lines, and customers.

Sources close to Class I railroad corporate offices say executives are upset and are ready to take a "scorched earth" approach to dealing with ClipperData and other companies that may have installed readers throughout the country. A second security alert dated Sept. 22, says railroaders have uncovered at least one other equipment reader in New Jersey and one in Sheridan, Wyo. The one in Wyoming reportedly interfered with BNSF Railway track equipment.

The Railway Alert Network report raised concerns that the people who installed the equipment readers trespassed on railroad property to do so. It also raises concerns about selling data on the movement of specific types of rail cars, arguing that the information could be used to “disrupt rail operations through intentional, and potentially destructive, acts.” The security alert asks railroads that find similar AEI readers to inform the alert network immediately so that it can consolidate all of the reports.

In a statement to *Trains* News Wire, AAR spokesperson Ed Greenberg says the organization is keeping a close eye on the developing situation.

“The AAR was aware of this situation and pleased that local law enforcement and railroad police took steps to address the situation as quickly as possibly,” Greenberg says.

Norfolk Southern declined to comment on this topic. *Trains* is waiting for a response from BNSF.

From Trains Magazine

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