



Coast Dispatcher

#195

March 2017

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

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

Next Division Event
March 5, 2017
Alameda Elks Lodge
2255 Santa Clara Ave, Alameda, CA

9:00 AMDoors open. Free Door Prizes.

9:30 AMGet Auction Cards.

10:00 AMBuilding a New Layout using Foam - Frank Markovich, Mike Blumensaadt

11:00 AMScratch-build a Locomotive - Pete Birdsong

11:00 AMModeler's Roundtable - Bring your Modeling Questions...discuss... get Answers.

12 NoonBusiness Meeting

~12:30 PM* ...Model/Photo Contest Results

~12:45 PM* ...Auction starts, Roundtable continues

3:30 PMTimesaver Results, Door Prizes– afterward Auction continues if required

9:30 AM – 12:15 PM:

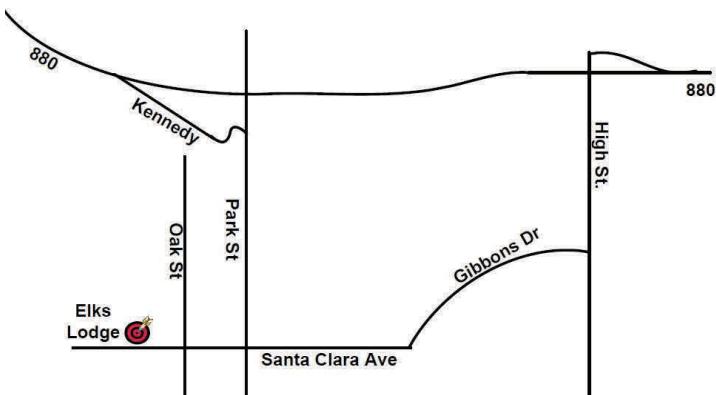
Model Contest– Steam, Maintenance of Way, Structures, Traction and Passenger

Photo Contest– Tracks and Structures

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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Ph: 408-505-2727
email: frank@frankmarkovich.com

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Editor's Notes

The Board had an interesting discussion about identifying our MMRs in the Dispatcher. At one extreme, someone wanted the MMR after their names in every location, including in the middle of a paragraph. The other extreme was to leave it off.

I am doing the great experiment here, and I want your feedback.

For this experiment, I am using the title MMR after their names in titles and headers, to acknowledge them but not in the text of articles unless it is appropriate to the article. There is an example of this on page 4.

What do you think? Let me know.

Coast Division Superintendent's /Director's Report

By Frank Markovich, MMR

Before I do my report I want to wish you all a Happy New Year and thank all who have helped during my tenure as Coast Superintendent. It has been a real pleasure being the Coast Division Superintendent the past 4 years. Particular thanks to the Coast Board that have supported the work we do but also to all of those who step up at events to help. Some help with setup at each event. Remember the organization is only as good as the members and the members who help make it better for all of us. I will run the meeting in March but at that time you will have the opportunity to vote in a new Coast Division Superintendent. Those of you that would like to work toward the MMR award can earn volunteer credit helping run the division

I would also like to thank the Boy Scouts and the Alameda Elks for providing excellent venues for us to have our events.

This past year we pretty much broke even – spending just as much as we took in with a slight increase in our bank account for the year (less than \$40).

To start our next event (meet) will be at the Alameda Elks Club, 2255 Santa Clara Ave, Alameda, CA 94501 on March 5th. Doors open at 9:00 AM. Two clinics, contests, the Auction, Roundtable, Door Prizes.

There are going to be additional changes to the Auction policy. The Coast Board has been discussing the problems that are a continuing problem for the people running the auction. Following are the changes:

At our last meet the Auction Crew was dealing with several problems which the board feels need some correcting. There are several related items I would like to discuss with you, as Coast Division members.

Help needed – We need at least one additional member to work “behind the Auction Committee” – moving items to the back table after the bidding into the appropriate buyer’s pile or the “no-bid” sellers pile. If you are willing to help see either John Ameling, Auction Chairman or myself. This help is important and if we cannot find someone to step up and regularly help at this task we will have to slow down the auction to prevent mistakes from being made.

Item quality – the number of “no-bid” items have been noticeably increasing in recent auctions. One of the reasons is we have seen a growth in “junk items” – things that no longer are needed by the seller and are things no one really wants. If we want the auction to remain vibrant it is up to all sellers to be sure the items they are offering for sale will be attractive to prospective buyers. The nature of our hobby is changing and things that might have attracted a minimum bid in years past are no longer viable in today’s hobby.

Buying “no-bid” items - Items that are “no-bid” and then purchased off the “no-bid” table cause delays for the Auction Committee and can lead to mistakes. Beginning at the March Meet we will no longer sell “no-bid” items for the starting bid. Once an item has passed through the bidding process that item is complete and it returns to the seller. If you want an item you need to be alert and bid on the item when it is offered.

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We met December 4th at Boy Scouts of America Headquarters 1001 Davis St, San Leandro, CA.

Another great event (meet). Some of the highlights:

Over 500 items in the Auction

Close to 100 in attendance

Great model contest and photo contest

Well attended Round table

Switching contest had many entrée's – it was busy all day

Good business meeting

Presented Mike Blumenstaadt with his MMR Plaque – getting a MMR is quite an achievement. If any of you would like to talk about what it takes please come and see me at any future event.

Next Coast Division Event March 5, 2017 at the Alameda Elks Club.

Summary of the previous event below:

Had two great clinics:

Modular Signal System - MSS, by Jere Ingram – I missed this as I was setting up for the auction. But it was very well attended.

Logging in N-scale, by Tom Knapp MMR #101 – This was the first in a series of clinics to honor the late John Allen. The idea is to have some of the excellent MMR modelers give clinics. This is in the memory of John Allen a Coast Division modeler who set the standard for model railroaders. Rod Smith spoke about meeting John Allen and being an operator on the Gore and Dephetid RR. I was able to attend this clinic and it was standing room only. This is part one of a two part clinic by Tom. He will do a follow-up a year from now. He is building a modular N scale layout with another modeler to show at the National Narrow Gauge Convention in Denver next summer. Part two will be on the finished model.

Highlights of the business meeting:

Charlie Getz reported on the NMRA National – slight decline in NMRA national membership, but very slight.

Wished all a great holiday. Things are moving ever so slowly on the museum project with the state.

Upcoming events: PCR in Bakersfield, West Side Reunion April 29, 2017, Sierra Seminar April 30, 2017 both

in Sonora (write me at frank@frankmarkovich.com for more information on these events). These events are filling fast and if you want a table at the West Side Reunion you better sign up soon as the tables are going fast.

Presentation of the MMR award to Mike Blumenstaadt – I don't have a useable picture. But here is Mike with Tom Knapp presenting Tom with a special clinic award.



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We need people to work the Great Train Expo in San Jose on February 25th and 26th – contact me if you would like to work the show. Also looking for 2 to 3 people to take over the build a memory project – again contact me if interested. The PCR will pick up materials costs.

Other Coast Division help needed:

2 more people to help with the Auction.

Someone to take over for Stanley Keiser for the Quartermaster position.

Also someone to help Ronnie LaTorres with Registration.

All of those positions will earn ½ a unit per month for the Association Volunteer Achievement Award. You would be surprised at how soon it adds up to getting the award when you add other items that earn units.

West Side Reunion / Sierra Seminar Weekend April 28-30, 2017

By Frank Markovich, MMR

Friday Afternoon – Train rides and BBQ at Patrick Karnahan's Table Mountain Railroad, a 7 -1/2" gauge ride-on railroad with spectacular views using two live steam locomotives and two diesels.. Limited to those pre-registered for either the West Side Reunion or the Sierra Seminar. (Meal extra fare),

Saturday – West Side Reunion at Sonora Elks, 9 AM to 5 PM. A full day of Clinics on West Side and other logging and mining topics, Contest with beautiful plaques, fellowship, Vendor Tables and displays.

Advance registration \$25 to Frank Markovich, 1904 Chula Vista Dr., Belmont, CA 94002. Registration at the door \$35. Refreshments available. Contact Frank at frank@frankmarkovich.com for registration form and/or vendor table reservation information. <http://www.westsidereunion.com/>

Sunday – Sierra Seminar at Sonora Senior Center. Presentations on Tuolumne County railroads including a show by Dr. Nick Muff on his trips to the West Side in the early 1960's. Displays, sales and fellowship – lunch included. Late afternoon visit to Railtown 1897 for a presentation about and ride behind newly rebuilt Sierra #28 (ride extra fare). Advance registration \$15 to Glenn Sutherland, PO Box 124, Mariposa, CA 95338. Registration at the door \$20. Contact glennsutherland@sti.net for more information and registration form.

COAST ELECTIONS

By Dave Connery, MMR

During the Business Meeting on March 5th we will hold elections for the leadership positions in Coast Division for the coming two years. The following slate of candidates has been nominated by the Division Nominating Committee:

Superintendent – Doug Smith

Pay Master – Bob Ferguson

Chief Clerk – Dan Rom

Additional candidates can be nominated by contacting the Nominating Chair. Nominations will be open to the floor prior to the election. The new officers will take the reigns at the close of the Business Meeting.

Dave Connery, Coast Nominating Chair

March Clinics

By Richard Brennan

10:00-11:00+ Building a New Layout using Foam - Frank Markovich, Mike Blumensaadt

Frank and Mike will talk about completing a foam based layout... concluding this Build-a-Memory series

11:00-12:00(ish) - Roundtable Discussion

11:00-12:00: "I Think You Can... I Think You Can..." (Scratch-build a Locomotive) - Pete Birdsong

This clinic describes scratch-building an On30 Davenport locomotive in brass, including DCC with sound,

and extends on the article in a 2013 NMRA Magazine issue.



Registrar's Report

By Ronnie LaTorres

Here is the Meeting Attendance from the December Division Event

Coast Division	72
Daylight Division	5
Redwood Empire Division	4
Sierra Division	0
Guests	0
Total Attendance	81
First Timers	0
Money in:	
4 Badges @\$5	\$20.00
Ticket Sales	\$40.00
Expenses:	
Prizes	\$50.00

Auction Report for 12/04/16

John Ameling

Here is the Auction Committee report for the December 4th 2016 Division Train Event and the Board of Operations meeting on Jan 9th

Total Items Sold	419
No Bid Items	140
Auction net	\$ 346.70

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Thanks

John Ameling
Auction Committee Chair

Publicity Report ***Steve Wesolowski***

Every New Year brings new/returning Train Shows & other gatherings of crafty type people, including Maker Faires and Planetree's Miniatures Show, which many of us enjoy attending.

After the Golden Gate Lionel Railroad Club's Train Show in Mountain View today, the next local public train show/ train event I know about is the Great Train Show at the Santa Clara County Fairgrounds February 25 & 26.

It is most often at Train Shows where many of us set up our modular and other types of operating layouts to demonstrate and share with others some of the many different ways we enjoy sharing our enjoyment of model and full size trains. Of course we always hope to attract new members to our groups, by demonstrating some of the many ways we enjoy trains of scales, sizes and gauges and ways of building and operating them.

Mainly Train Shows is where we meet other modelers & train loving people, some of whom would benefit from NMRA membership-- but Only if they somehow learn about NMRA, PCR & Local Divisions' activities & opportunities which exist. That is why we need Volunteers like YOU for our booths at Train Shows. Because you are reading this you most likely are an NMRA member. We need YOU to tell others WHY you belong to NMRA, if they ask. Unless you belong already, it's not really obvious why you or anyone else should join NMRA: in order to learn about and enjoy more train fun than you could otherwise. It's not always what you know but the others you've met through belonging to NMRA who keep you informed about train fun events happening nearby.

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Some former volunteers have told me they've stopped volunteering for & attending train shows because there's nothing they need to buy any more. But you don't need to buy anything! You're still Welcome to join us to meet new people with new ideas. Volunteering & talking to others about trains is a great way to regain more enthusiasm for our hobby.

And, When you're not talking to new people and answering their questions, you may get your questions answered while talking with other volunteers.

In return for volunteering, you get in the show for free. You may have to pay for parking, if you don't come with someone else, but you still enjoy a Train Show: seeing some trains and talking trains with whith others, for about half the cost otherwise. You're also welcome to practice the Timesaver Switching Puzzle to improve your times! These are only some of many reasons why you 'llenjoy volunteering a couple hours in a train fun place. Contact Frank Markovich or me if you have any questions, or to volunteer. Come & enjoy the show with us!

Steve Wesolowski, Coast Division Publicity Volunteer

Model and Photo Contest Report December 4th, 2016

By Jim Eckman

Diesel and others

No entries

Caboose

1st Place – Bob Wirthlin's old narrow gauge caboose, heavily modified from a Woodland Scenics kit!



Display

1st Place – Earl Girbovan demonstrates his board on board prowess with his section house and storage shed.

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Freight Cars

1st Place – Bob Wirthlin's NCNG Ore Car in HOn3, it was scratch built from wood.



Other Entries:

Kenneth Martin's CB&Q flat with load was also well liked by the voters.

Bob Wirthlin's NCNG box car in HOn3, it was scratch built.



Models built at the Structure Clinic, special award

1st Place – Tom Vanden Bosch's *Henry's Machine Shop*.

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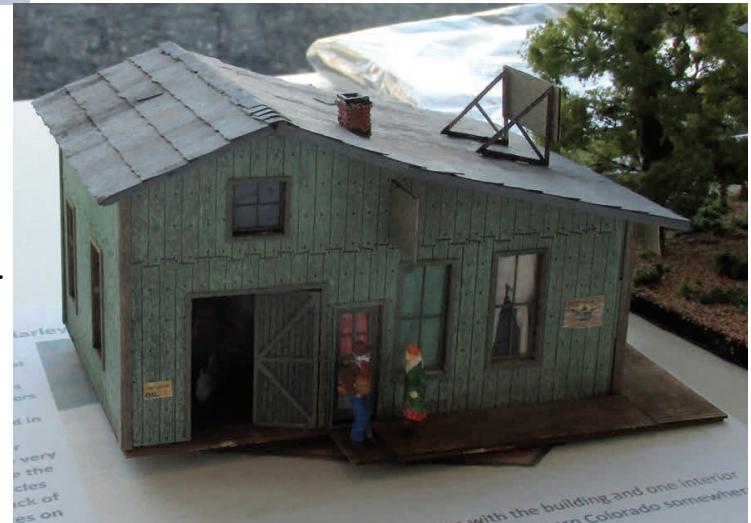
Other Entries and Show and Tell

Seth Neumann's *Modernized Bar Kit.*



Doug Smith's *Oil Dealer Office and Shop.*

Marc Parson's *Hog Heaven Saloon & Terry's Harley.*



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Frank Markovitch built an O scale version and Jim Eckman an N scale version shown together here.



Richard Brennan started on a TT version.



And the mysterious unknown modeler showed his work in progress.

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Photo Contest– Unpowered rolling stock, model or prototype

1st Place – Tom Vanden Bosch's *Cryogenic Tank Car, Tulsa, OK*



Show and Tell



Bob Wirthlin displayed the Hall-Scott #21 *Yerington*, he won an award for it many years ago, a nice share!

Tom Knapp had one of his Nn3 gems.



Earl Girbovan had an example build for the upcoming board on board clinic.

Welcome to the NMRA InfoNet News (Infoblast) For January 2017**2016 Regional Advisory Council (RAC) Director Election**

The RAC Director election opened on Saturday, December 10. 2016 and closed at the end of the day on Tuesday, December 20, 2016.

The election was run using electionbuddy, An online voting system.

Election administrator Rick Coble sent an email prior to the opening of the election. The email included an example of the election announcement email and instructions to begin voting.

Electionbuddy then sent an email to all RAC members at the opening of the election on December 10. The announcement included a unique voting key and instructions to begin voting.

Ballots were submitted by 16 of the 18 RAC members. Results of the election were:

Steve August - 9 votes

Steve Barkley - 4 votes

Paul Mangan - 3 votes

Based on the results, Steve August was elected RAC Director.

Model reviewers wanted for “Research & Test Car column

Ever thought you'd like to do product reviews for NMRA Magazine?

We're looking for individuals who want to share their knowledge and passion for models with other NMRA members..

You'll have fun doing it and you'll be paid author rates!

For more information, contact editor Cynthia Priest at sreditor@pairedrail.com

Patent and trademark attorney needed

The NMRA needs a volunteer patent and trademark attorney to manage the various patents and trademarks owned by the NMRA.

It will not entail a significant amount of time – most likely just one to two hours a month on the average. The attorney would monitor the patents and trademarks to meet all deadlines for renewal and to maintain the intellectual property. This position would report to the NMRA General Counsel, Robert J. Amsler, Jr.

Please contact Robert Amsler at nmralegal@charter.net if you're interested.

Reminder – NMRA Winter BOD meeting is in Atlanta, GA on February 18-19, 2017

The Winter Board of Directors meeting will once again be held in Atlanta, Georgia, on February 18, and 19 at the Drury Inn & Suites. The Budget and Operations meeting will begin at 2:00 PM on Friday, February 17, and the Board will be in caucus that evening. Both of those meetings are only open to invited guests.

The regular, open session of the BOD meeting begins at 9:00 AM on Saturday, February 18. Because the agenda is not yet finalized, there's no way to tell if the meeting will continue on Sunday. All members are

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invited to attend the open sessions. Watch www.nmra.org for details.

Registration for the NMRA 2017 Convention in Orlando, FL is open

Register for the convention on line at www.nmrastores.com and choose the 2017 convention tab. If you'd like a paper registration form, visit www.nmra2017orlando.org.

From Trains Magazine

'Greatest Show on Earth' ends in May

Fate of 120-car-strong Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey circus train fleet undetermined

By Chase Gunnoe | January 15, 2017

Chase Gunnoe

ELLENTON, Fla. — When the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey circus drops its big top for the last time in May, the classic passenger cars and equipment it moves by rail will return to Florida to face an uncertain future.

In a late Saturday news release, managers with Ringling parent company Feld Entertainment say high operating costs and declining ticket sales are forcing them to stop both "Red" and "Blue" tours of the circus in May. The company's Red unit will make its final performance in Providence, R.I., on May 7 and the Blue unit will finish up in Uniondale, N.Y., on May 21.

Stephen Payne, vice president of corporate communications at Feld Entertainment, tells *Trains News Wire* that both the Red and Blue trainsets will be deadheaded to Florida at the end of their tours. Payne says a final disposition for the trains and associated equipment has yet to be determined.

The Red unit consists of 54 cars: 34 coaches and 20 flat cars. The Blue unit includes 35 coaches and 21 equipment flat cars. Each unit travels independently across North America.

In addition, the company has five equipment flat cars and three passenger coaches in storage, while six stock cars previously used to haul elephants and other animals are also in storage near the company's headquarters in Palmetto, Fla.

The company owns and operates more than 120 railcars and is among the largest passenger car operators in North America. The cars operate under "RBBX" reporting marks.

Between 250 and 300 performers and other circus workers travel on each of the two circus trains for more than 40

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weeks each year.

Both trains recently started their 2017 tours. The Red unit is in Orlando, Fla., and will be traveling to Jacksonville, Fla., for shows the week of Jan. 16, while the Blue unit will be leaving Miami on Sunday, Jan. 16 headed for Birmingham, Ala.

The Red unit will use CSX Transportation rails to get to Jacksonville, while the Blue unit will travel Florida East Coast rails once departing Miami.

The decision to eliminate both circus trains comes in the wake of the circus' 2016 announcement to stop using elephants in shows. The elephant stock cars have been in storage in Florida since being removed from the train last summer.

The circus, which owners have billed the "Greatest Show on Earth," has roots in Delevan, Wis., that date to 1875 with a traveling circus headlined by P.T. Barnum; and a separate circus started by Baraboo, Wis.'s Ringling Brothers in 1884. The Ringlings bought Barnum & Bailey in 1907 and officially merged the operations in 1919. The Circus World Museum in Baraboo, Wis., displays circus and railroad artifacts from the early years of circus entertainment.

On Sunday, Circus World Museum Executive Director Scott O'Donnell fielded a continuous steam of media queries. In an interview, he said the museum would welcome rolling stock from the current circus trains.

"This comes as an absolute surprise," he said about the decision to end the show. "It's not only the end of an American institution, it's also the end of an American brand that's been around longer than baseball, and around longer than Coca-Cola. They're all iconic American imagery."

— Jim Wrinn contributed to this report.

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